

Trump rejects calls to slow AI development, attacking critics as warnings grow over the technology's potential risks to humanity | P6-7



Trafficking Awareness Campaigns



The Anti-Human Trafficking and Public Morals Protection Directorate has conducted awareness campaigns across Bahrain to highlight the risks of human trafficking and encourage the public to report suspected cases.

The campaigns included distributing awareness materials in several languages and providing information on reporting suspected trafficking cases before or after a crime occurs.

Labour Equality Committee Meets



The Labour Market Regulatory Authority's Equal Opportunities Committee held its regular meeting, chaired by Nora Isa Mubarak, Vice President of Legal Compliance and Protection and chairwoman of the committee.

The committee discussed initiatives to strengthen equal opportunities, develop the institutional work environment and support employees and national competencies. It also highlighted the progress of Bahraini women and the contributions of the Supreme Council for Women over its 25-year history.

Coast Guard Joint Inspection



The Coast Guard conducted a joint inspection campaign in several coastal areas of Muharraq Governorate to enhance maritime safety, address violations and protect Bahrain's marine resources.

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Hormuz Must Guarantee Unrestricted Transit

TD | Manama

The Cabinet stressed that any arrangement concerning navigation through the Strait of Hormuz must guarantee free and non-discriminatory transit, as the Deputy Prime Minister chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting at Gudaibiya Palace.

His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister, chaired the meeting, during which the Cabinet reaffirmed Bahrain's position on the principles that should govern any future arrangement concerning navigation through the strategic waterway.



The Cabinet stated that any such arrangement must be based on the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and adopted by the International Maritime Organization.

It stressed that the right of transit passage must be preserved for all vessels without discrimination, fees or permit requirements. The Cabinet also called for the involvement of all Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, given the direct connection between the security of the Strait of Hormuz and the security of their supplies.

The Cabinet further affirmed that lasting peace depends on ending attacks, ensuring international accountability and providing redress for resulting damages, respecting state sovereignty, ending support for armed groups and resolving outstanding issues through legal means.

During the meeting, the Cabinet congratulated the winners of the 2026 UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education.

It noted that the support and patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa have strengthened the prize's international standing and recognition.

The Cabinet also highlighted Bahrain's achievements in strengthening constitutional institutions and advancing their role in the Kingdom's comprehensive development process under the leadership of His Majesty the King.

GCC Governors Step Up Banking Cooperation



TD | Manama

As part of the Kingdom of Bahrain's presidency of the 46th Session of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), His Excellency Khalid Humaidan, Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain, chaired the 87th meeting of the Committee of Central Bank Governors of the GCC on September 14, 2026.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency Jassim Mohammed Al-Budaiwi, Secretary General of the GCC, along with the governors of the central banks of the GCC member states.

In his opening remarks, Humaidan praised the continued



Khalid Ebrahim Humaidan, Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain

commitment of GCC countries to strengthening cooperation and coordination among their central banks to support financial and monetary stability.



Jassim Mohammed Al-Budaiwi, Secretary General of the GCC

He also highlighted the ongoing development of the financial and banking sector across the GCC, stressing its important role in supporting economic growth

and advancing sustainable development.

The committee discussed several issues related to strengthening cooperation among GCC member states, including recommendations from committees and working groups on the implementation plan for GCC payment systems, supervision and oversight of the banking sector, and financial technologies across the region.

The meeting also addressed the exchange of cybersecurity information within the banking sector and efforts by GCC member states to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

Tourism Sector Eyes Fresh Partnerships

Bahrain is showcasing its growing tourism potential and investment opportunities at the Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2026 in Dubai, highlighting its diverse tourism offerings, advanced infrastructure and high-quality projects to international markets.

Minister of Tourism Fatima bint Jaafar Al Sairafi participated in the event, held at the Dubai World Trade Centre under the theme "Travel 2040: New Frontiers Through Innovation and Technology."

Al Sairafi said Bahrain's active participation in ATM reflects the Kingdom's commitment to engaging directly with tour-

ism partners and international markets. She highlighted the importance of using the global platform to promote Bahrain's tourism offerings and strengthen its presence on the regional and international tourism map.

The minister said Bahrain's diverse attractions, advanced infrastructure and high-quality tourism projects can help attract more visitors and investment, while supporting the continued development and competitiveness of the Kingdom's tourism sector. She described ATM as one of the leading global platforms for the travel and tourism industry, providing opportunities to strengthen international coop-



Tourism Minister Fatima bint Jaafar Al Sairafi met UAE Minister of Economy and Tourism Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri for discussions on tourism and economic cooperation.

eration, build partnerships, exchange expertise and explore the latest trends shaping the sector.

The minister added that such engagement supports sustainable tourism growth and helps

enhance the competitiveness of tourism destinations.

Bahrain is participating in ATM 2026 with a pavilion bringing together 28 entities from the public and private sectors.

Day of Democracy



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received a congratulatory cable from Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh on the occasion of the International Day of Democracy.

Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh affirmed Bahrain's commitment to strengthening its democratic progress and the role of constitutional institutions, while highlighting the importance of freedom, justice, the rule of law and human rights.

He also praised the efforts of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to advance cooperation between the legislative and executive branches.

Interior Ministry Wins Stevie Awards



General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science won two Stevie Awards for its "Munasaha" (Guidance) and "Ta'afi" (Recovery) programmes. "Munasaha" received the Gold Stevie Award in the Thought Leadership Campaign of the Year category, while "Ta'afi" won the Silver Award in the Achievement in Innovative Public Engagement and Community Impact category.

Director-General Major-General Abdulaziz Mayouf Al Rumaihi praised Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa's support for modern and innovative security initiatives, as well as Chief of Police Lt-General Tariq Al Hassan's follow-up.



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Police Go, Drifters Move In

Families driven off as weekend stunts hit beach car park



TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Drifters wait for police patrols to leave Abu Subh beach before tearing round its car park on weekend nights, a councillor has said, as families stay away over the racket.

‘They know when the patrols leave. They wait, and then they start,’ Northern Municipal Council member Basem Abu Idrees told The Daily Tribune.

Youths in sports cars and on sports bikes rev engines, spin tyres and drift across the open lot, mainly on Thursday and Friday nights.

Police in uniform and plain clothes patrol the beach, but Abu Idrees said there were not enough officers to watch the site around the clock.

‘This has driven families away,’ he said. ‘Some women do not feel comfortable coming



Basem Abu Idrees, Northern Municipal Council member

without a man from the family.’

The municipality has now turned to kerbs and rubber speed humps to stop the car park being used for stunts.

Its entrance has been changed so drivers meet a kerb and must turn instead of shooting straight into the open lot at speed.

Rubber humps have also been placed between parking bays, breaking up stretches once used for drifting.

‘We took the residents’ suggestions and put in the rubber humps,’ Abu Idrees said. ‘If they

find another way round them, we will add more.’

The beach, a popular open-air spot for nearby families, has also faced vandalism.

Public toilets had been damaged. The toilets were later redone, cameras were fitted and a 200-fils entry fee was brought in.

‘The toilets are now clean 24 hours a day,’ Abu Idrees said, adding that the fee had also helped ward off vandals.

One guard watches the beach, while the municipality is seeking extra guards for Thursday and Friday nights.

Safety fears were also raised after a young girl fell from an iron playground dome and broke her arm. The structure was removed at once.

Abu Idrees said tougher safety rules would be used in planned playground work overseen by engineer Doha Al Madhoob.

BD10 Choice ‘Should Not Decide Safety’

Al Ramli block fell short of sign-up threshold before August fire

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Fire safety in housing blocks should no longer hinge on residents agreeing to pay BD10 a month, a Northern Municipal Council member said yesterday.

Dr Salman Mohsen called for the people running each block to be legally bound to keep smoke detectors, extinguishers and other fire gear in place and working.

He raised the call as the council met for the first time after its summer break, less than a month after the August 18 Al Ramli fire in which a mother and her three children died.

The Housing Ministry has since installed three permanent maintenance cabins inside the housing block as a precaution after the fire, Dr Mohsen said.

The cabins, brought in about two weeks ago, will house maintenance teams so faults can be dealt with from within the block.

Around 80 pc of housing blocks have signed up to the Owners’ Union framework, he said.

Residents pay BD10 a month and the Housing Ministry adds BD15 for each flat, giving BD25 per apartment for the upkeep of the building.



Fire-hit Al Ramli flat sealed off after the August 18 family tragedy



Three permanent maintenance cabins installed at the Al Ramli housing area after the August 18 fire



Dr Salman Mohsen, Northern Municipal Council member

Eskan Bank contracts cover fire gear, lifts, water pumps, doors, guards, CCTV and cleaning.

But the Al Ramli block was outside the scheme.

Dr Mohsen said a 24-flat building needs 19 households to sign up before the service can start. Only 14 applications were secured at the block.

‘Some did not want the BD10 deducted from their bank accounts every month,’ he told The Daily Tribune.

He questioned why basic

fire protection should rest on enough neighbours agreeing to pay, particularly when, he said, ‘the residents are mainly government employees’.

Dr Mohsen said the head, deputy head and treasurer of each block should carry a legal duty to keep fire-safety equipment working.

Some blocks outside the scheme already pay for cameras, extinguishers and other equipment through agreements among residents, he said.

Residents of the Al Ramli block had said there were no fire extinguishers or smoke detectors in the building when the blaze broke out.

Dr Mohsen also welcomed the committee ordered by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to examine the circumstances of the fire.

99.98% Compliance With Summer Midday Work Ban

TDT | Manama

Bahrain recorded a 99.98% compliance rate with its summer midday work ban in 2026, Labour and Legal Affairs Minister Yousif bin Abdulhussain Khalaf said as the restriction period ended.

The decision, No. (5) of 2026, was implemented from June 15 to August 31, prohibiting work in open areas under direct sunlight between 12pm and 4pm during the summer months.

The Ministry of Labour carried out 30,246 inspection visits throughout the enforcement pe-



“Workplace safety strengthens productivity and performance.”

LABOUR AND LEGAL AFFAIRS MINISTER YOUSIF BIN ABDULHUSSAIN KHALAF

riod. The inspections identified six establishments violating the decision, involving 17 workers who were found working during the prohibited hours.

The violations were referred to the competent judicial authorities for the required legal

action.

Minister said the results reflected Bahrain’s continued focus on proactive workplace protection and strengthening occupational safety and health standards. He also praised the high level of compliance

among establishments with the midday work ban.

The minister said Bahrain remains committed to developing measures to protect workers’ health and safety by improving preventive procedures and strengthening relevant policies and legislation.

He also stressed that the Ministry of Labour would continue its inspection and awareness efforts to improve workplace safety and promote a stronger culture of occupational health and safety, in line with sustainable development goals and international labour standards.

Justice Ministry Upgrades School Fee Service

New service cuts processing time to seven working days and reduces documents and approvals for eligible minors’ education payments.

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments has upgraded its service for monitoring the ongoing education requirements of minors, aiming to simplify and organise the payment of regular school fees for eligible students.

The service-level agreement has been reduced by at least 25%, cutting the processing time from 14 working days to seven. Required documents have also been reduced by 50%, while the service is now provided automatically.

The ministry has also standardised service information across all channels, reduced required approvals by 25% and made application forms available electronically.

Basma Mohammed Al Khayyat, Director of the Minors’



Affairs and Funds Directorate at the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, said the launch forms part of the ministry’s efforts to develop proactive services centred on beneficiaries’ needs and ensure procedures are completed on time.

She said the initiative will enhance service efficiency and improve the experience of those under guardianship and the in-



dividuals responsible for their affairs.

Al Khayyat explained that the service proactively monitors eligible cases and payment due dates. The ministry contacts educational institutions to obtain invoices and confirm that students remain enrolled, while notifying the parent or person responsible for the student to begin the payment process.

The approval and transfer

procedures are then completed, with fees transferred directly to the educational institution.

The service is designed to reduce the procedures required from parents and guardians while ensuring school fee payments continue on time. It also enables direct coordination with educational institutions to verify students’ continued enrolment and obtain updated invoices.

10 Suspects Arrested, 14kg Drugs Seized



TDT | Manama

Anti-Narcotics Directorate arrested 10 suspects, including a woman, of various nationalities in six separate drug-related cases, the Ministry of Interior announced.

The suspects possessed around 14kg of various narcotics and psychotropic substances, with an estimated market value of approximately BD116,000.

The ministry stated that investigations based on information received by the authorities led to the identification and arrest of the suspects and the seizure of the drugs in their possession.

Legal procedures are complete to refer the cases to the Public Prosecution.

The General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science stressed the



importance of community partnership in combating drug-related crimes and urged the public to report any information via the 996 hotline or by email at 996@interior.gov.bh.

The authorities assured that all provided information would be treated with complete confidentiality.

KPMG in Bahrain Announces Leadership Succession

Jalil AlAali appointed Managing Partner as Jamal Fakhro assumes Chairman role

TDT | Manama

KPMG in Bahrain announced a significant leadership transition with the appointment of Jalil AlAali as Managing Partner, effective 1 October 2026.

Jalil AlAali succeeds Jamal Fakhro, after nearly four decades as Managing Partner and will continue to serve as Chairman; providing strategic oversight and driving long-term sustainable growth, while preserving the firm's strong client and stakeholder relationships. The transition represents an important milestone in KPMG in Bahrain's history, reflecting the firm's commitment to long-term succession planning, stewardship, and sustainable growth.

A Legacy of Leadership

Jamal Fakhro has played a pivotal role in shaping KPMG in Bahrain since becoming a partner in 1982 and assuming the role of Managing Partner in 1987. Under his leadership, the firm has grown into one of Bahrain's leading professional services organizations, known for its commitment to quality, integrity, and client service.

His influence has extended beyond Bahrain through service on KPMG regional and



Mr. Jamal Fakhro



Mr. Jalil AlAali

international leadership bodies, including membership on KPMG's Global council, International Board, Europe Middle East and Africa (EMA) board and regional governance boards.

Leading the Next Chapter

Jalil AlAali brings more than 31 years of experience with KPMG in Bahrain to the role of Managing Partner. He currently serves as Audit Partner and Head of Risk Management and has held a range of leadership positions across Audit, Advisory, Risk Management, and Financial Services.

A Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, UK (FCCA). Jalil is widely recognized for his expertise in financial services, risk management, regulatory matters and professional standards. His extensive experience and deep understanding of the firm's people, clients,

and markets position him well to lead KPMG in Bahrain into its next phase of growth and development.

A Transition Built on Continuity and Progress

The leadership transition reflects KPMG in Bahrain's commitment to combining continuity with renewal. By retaining Jamal's experience and institutional knowledge while entrusting executive leadership to Jalil, the firm is reinforcing a leadership model that upholds their commitment towards delivering quality, maintaining the highest standards of integrity, investing in its people, and supporting the continued growth and development of Bahrain's economy and the wider business community.

Commenting on his appointment, Jalil AlAali said:

"KPMG in Bahrain has been my professional home for

more than three decades. I am deeply honored by the trust placed in me and grateful to Jamal Fakhro for his exceptional leadership, guidance, and friendship. His contribution has helped shape not only our firm but also the broader profession in Bahrain."

"We have a strong firm, a highly talented team, a respected market position, and longstanding relationships that provide an excellent foundation for the future. Building on these strengths, my focus will be on investing in our people, enhancing collaboration across our businesses, embracing innovation, and delivering sustainable growth that creates lasting value for our clients, our people, and the communities we serve."

Commenting on the transition, Jamal Fakhro said:

"It has been a privilege to serve as Managing Partner of KPMG in Bahrain for almost four decades. I am proud of what we have achieved together and confident that the firm is exceptionally well positioned for the future. Jalil is a highly respected leader whose commitment to our people, clients, and values makes him the right person to lead the next chapter of our journey. I look forward to supporting him and the firm in my role as Chairman."

DEEPAL Bahrain Partners with Not a Cult to Host Indoor Run for World EV Day



TDT | Manama

DEEPAL Bahrain partnered with Not a Cult to host an indoor run at its showroom in celebration of World EV Day.

During the event, participants ran on treadmills powered directly by DEEPAL cars, combining fitness and electric mobility in an en-

gaging showcase of the possibilities of EV technology.

Through the activation, DEEPAL Bahrain highlighted its commitment to advancing electric mobility and showcasing EV technology through innovative experiences that engage the local community, moving people through the power of electric innovation.

ICAI Bahrain Chapter Hosts Technical Seminar on Impactful Investing

TDT | Manama

Pradeep Puravankara

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) Bahrain Chapter hosted a technical seminar titled "Impactful Investing" on September 12, 2026, at the Royal Saray Resort in Seef. The event brought together chartered accountants, finance professionals, and investment experts for an in-depth session on modern trading and portfolio strategies.

The event opened with a welcome address by CA Viinod Rathi, Chairperson of the ICAI Bahrain Chapter, who highlighted the organization's recent achievements throughout August and previewed upcoming initiatives.

The technical program featured prominent industry speakers covering data-driven investing, statistical arbitrage, and regulatory protections.



Sourabh Sisodiya, CFA Charter Holder, presented "The Quant Edge: Using Data, Algorithms & Options in Investing," focusing on practical options strategies and disciplined, data-backed market participation.

Kamlesh Ramchandani and Asad Hussain, Partners at Hedgium, delivered a session on "Statistical Arbitrage Using Options – A Smarter Approach to Portfolio Returns," detailing methods to optimize returns while managing risk exposure. Additionally, Manik Talwar, Gulf Partner

at Max Estates, alongside Kanv Bhalla, Director of Sales at Black Opal Consultants, presented "How is RERA Protecting Your Money & Investment Options," outlining regulatory safeguards and emerging opportunities within the property market.

The seminar concluded by reinforcing the ICAI Bahrain Chapter's ongoing mission to foster continuous professional development and knowledge-sharing across the Kingdom's financial sector.

Egyptian Businessman Faces Drug Charges

TDT | Manama

Rehab Mohammad

A 43-year-old Egyptian businessman is standing trial before the High Criminal Court on charges of possessing hashish and psychotropic substances for trafficking and personal use. The case followed confidential information received by the Anti-Narcotics Directorate about a network allegedly importing and distributing drugs for financial gain.

Police searching the de-



fendant's home allegedly found 145 bottles containing a liquid substance believed to be manufactured hashish, weighing more than 3,000 grammes, along with nearly half a kilogramme of manufactured hashish, drug-con-

taining sprays and more than 100 drug-soaked sheets. Investigators also found suspected drug-related photos, videos and financial transaction records on his mobile phone, while forensic tests detected psychotropic substances in his urine.

The Public Prosecution referred the defendant to trial, and he denied the charges at yesterday's hearing. The court adjourned the case to September 21 to allow the defence to review the documents and obtain a copy of the case file.

Medgulf Takaful B.S.C. (c)			
Condensed interim statement of financial position as at 30 June 2026			
Condensed interim statement of financial position As at 30 June 2026			
	30 June 2026	31 December 2025	
	BHD	BHD	
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	1,822,580	2,406,855	
Islamic placements with financial institutions	2,185,599	2,185,599	
Investments	11,386,664	11,716,051	
Retakaful contract assets	4,812,692	5,086,541	
Other receivables	171,568	222,666	
Prepayments and other assets	392,104	356,102	
Statutory deposit	193,302	193,302	
Property and equipment	21,083	24,648	
Intangible assets	74,402	96,439	
Total assets	21,059,994	22,288,203	
Liabilities, policyholders' fund and shareholders' equity			
Liabilities			
Takaful contract liabilities	17,664,225	19,140,140	
Retakaful contract liabilities	462,589	425,492	
Payables and other liabilities	1,818,280	1,888,269	
Provision for employees' leave and end-of-service benefits	115,438	106,091	
Total liabilities	20,060,532	21,559,992	
Policyholders' fund			
Deficit in General Takaful fund	(5,652,555)	(5,762,329)	
Investments fair value reserve	(22,388)	-	
Total deficit in Policyholders' Fund - General Takaful	(5,674,943)	(5,762,329)	
Deficit in Family Takaful fund	(1,252,873)	(1,022,320)	
Takaful finance reserve	319,638	40,312	
Investments fair value reserve	(154,738)	(183,656)	
Total deficit in Policyholders' Fund - Family Takaful	(1,087,973)	(1,165,664)	
Total policyholders' fund	(6,762,916)	(6,927,993)	
Shareholders' equity			
Share capital	6,667,000	6,667,000	
Retained earnings	982,284	865,477	
Statutory reserve	91,852	91,852	
Investments fair value reserve	21,242	31,875	
Total shareholders' equity	7,762,378	7,656,204	
Total liabilities, policyholders' fund and shareholders' equity	21,059,994	22,288,203	
Condensed interim statement of policyholders' revenue and expenses For the period ended 30 June 2026			
	Six months ended		
	30 June 2026	30 June 2025	
	BHD	BHD	
	General Takaful	Family Takaful	General Takaful
Takaful contributions	2,850,530	517,281	3,747,353
Takaful service expense	(1,983,962)	(150,914)	(5,066,062)
Takaful results before retakaful contracts held	866,568	366,367	(1,318,709)
Net expense from retakaful contracts held	(730,119)	(494,308)	(82,423)
Takaful service results	136,449	(127,941)	(1,401,132)
Net finance expense from takaful contracts	(78,557)	(287,725)	(77,522)
Net finance income from retakaful contracts	-	110,063	109,487
Net takaful operations results	57,892	(305,603)	(1,478,654)
Investment income	49,183	58,581	97,909
Other income/(expenses)	2,699	16,469	3,339
Surplus/(Deficit) of takaful revenue over expenses for the period	109,774	(230,553)	(1,377,406)
Other comprehensive income/(loss)			
Items that may be reclassified to income in subsequent period			
Change in fair value of FVOCI investments	(22,388)	28,918	-
Takaful finance income	-	279,326	-
Total other comprehensive income/(loss) for the period	(22,388)	308,244	(84,926)
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the period	87,386	77,691	(1,377,406)
The financials have been reviewed by BOC, Kingdom of Bahrain, and approved by the Board of Directors on 10 September 2026 and signed on their behalf by: Mr. Andrew Woodward Chairman			
Mrs. Sahar Alajawi Vice Chairman			
Interested parties may contact the Company at the below address for full financial statements. Registered Office: 14th Floor, Bait Al Tijjar Building 019, Road 1010, Block 410, Sanabis, PO Box 31397, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. Tel: +973 1 7218891 Medgulf Takaful B.S.C (c) are authorised by Central Bank of Bahrain. C.R. 65716			

Beyon Connect Partners with Rain to integrate the Revamped eKey 2.0 Ecosystem

TDI | Manama

Beyon Connect, part of the Beyon Group, announced the successful integration of Rain, a leading regional cryptocurrency exchange, into the revamped eKey 2.0 ecosystem. eKey is Bahrain's Digital Authentication of National Identity platform developed by Beyon Connect in partnership with the Information & eGovernment Authority (IGA).

To mark the occasion, a signing ceremony was held at Beyon Headquarters in Hamala, Bahrain, in the presence of Beyon Connect Chairman Shaikh Mohamed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa and Rain Chairman Talal Al Zain. The partnership was signed by Beyon Connect CEO Richard Budel and Rain General Manager Geoff Stecyk.

The integration of eKey 2.0 enables new customers to verify their identity, complete electronic Know Your Customer (eKYC) procedures, and make their first trade



within minutes, creating one of the fastest digital onboarding experiences available in Bahrain.

Through the integration, customers can authenticate and securely verify their identity using the revamped eKey 2.0. Following successful verification, key application details, including the customer's full name and National ID number, are automatically pre-filled, helping to streamline and accelerate the process. Once approved, customers can use BenefitPay to complete their first trade in under two minutes.

By leveraging Bahrain's Digital Authentication of National Identity platform and its eKYC solution, Rain helps overcome

many challenges associated with traditional digital onboarding processes, including manually entering identity document details and waiting for verification codes. This provides a faster and more secure onboarding experience, strengthens customer trust and supports Bahrain's broader digital transformation agenda.

Richard Budel, Chief Executive Officer of Beyon Connect, said: "Rain's adoption of the revamped eKey 2.0 demonstrates the role Bahrain's Digital Authentication of National Identity platform and eKYC solution play in enabling organisations to deliver faster, more secure digital experiences while strengthening customer

trust. We're proud to support Rain in leveraging this trusted national platform to simplify customer onboarding and contribute to a more connected, secure and innovative digital ecosystem in Bahrain."

Geoff Stecyk, General Manager at Rain, highlighted what the partnership means for its customers: "Integrating the revamped eKey 2.0 into our sign-up process is one of the goals we have been working toward. It enables us to provide customers in Bahrain with a faster and more secure way to get started. Now, a new customer can begin trading within two minutes of downloading the Rain app using eKey 2.0 and BenefitPay's purchase service."

Enabling Easy and Flexible Purchase and Sale of Silver through the Bank's Electronic Channels

KFH - Bahrain Launches "Silver Account" to Enhance Customer Investment Options to its Clients in Addition to the Sale and Purchase of Gold

TDI | Manama

Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain (KFH) announced the launch of its "Silver Account," a new banking product that enables the purchase and sale of silver with ease and flexibility through the bank's digital channels. This initiative reflects the bank's commitment to delivering innovative banking and investment solutions that align with customer aspirations, offering expanded savings and portfolio diversification options, all in accordance with Islamic Shari'a principles.

Following the successful introduction of the "Gold Account" earlier this year, the Silver Account responds to growing customer interest in precious metal investment. This reflects the ongoing efforts of KFH - Bahrain to develop comprehensive financial products that grant customers greater flexibility in managing and growing their wealth.

The Silver Account can be in-

stantly opened through the KFH - Bahrain app, enabling customers to buy and sell silver starting from 50 grams around the clock, with immediate transaction execution and settlement. The silver valuation is continuously updated, giving customers real-time visibility into the value of their holdings to support informed investment decisions.

The account enables customers to buy and own silver with no storage fees, and the option to request physical delivery of 500-gram and 1000-gram silver bars of 99.99% purity. Customers can also monitor their holdings in grams, access digital valuation reports, transaction history and certification documentation.

On this occasion, Bassam Alali, Deputy Group CEO for Treasury & investments at KFH - Bahrain, commented, "The Silver Account is a valuable addition to our suite of investment solutions, reflecting our dedication to developing innovative banking services that meet our clients' needs and offer broader options for diversifica-



Bassam Alali, Deputy Group CEO for Treasury & investments at KFH - Bahrain

tion of savings and portfolios. We designed this account to be easily accessible, flexible, and transparent, allowing clients to securely and conveniently manage silver investments through our digital channels."

He added, "Building on the success of the Gold Account, this new product exemplifies our commitment to expanding investment opportunities in precious metals. The Silver Account provides diversification and saving benefits, offering clients increased flexibility in managing their holdings and



leveraging this asset class within their portfolios."

The Silver Account is fully compliant with Islamic Shari'a principles and adheres to the standards set by the Accounting and Auditing Organisation for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI). Through this account, the bank offers a reliable banking channel that combines investment in precious metals with Sharia-compliant controls.

Binance Bahrain Expands Access to Digital Assets

Easier fiat access, familiar funding methods and a seamless user experience, supporting Binance's broader Financial Super App vision.



Binance Bahrain is expanding the ways eligible users can access crypto, with easier fiat access, familiar funding methods and a clearer onboarding journey through Binance Bahrain B.S.C., a crypto-asset service provider licensed and regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain as a Category 4

The development reflects Binance Bahrain's focus on making it easier for users to get started, fund their accounts and access supported Binance products and services, where available and permitted. It also supports Binance's broader Financial Super App vision of creating a more connected financial experience for users.

Binance Bahrain provides eligible users access to crypto services. Users can fund their Binance Bahrain accounts using supported local fiat currencies through available fiat channels, including card and bank transfer options.

Users can also benefit from Binance's zero deposit fees on eligible fiat channels, providing a straightforward way to fund their accounts and access crypto through Binance

Bahrain.

Together, these elements provide users with more ways to access crypto through supported fiat currencies, familiar funding methods and a user experience provided through Binance Bahrain platform.

Bayan Jaber, General Manager of Binance Bahrain, said: "Our focus at Binance Bahrain is on making it easier for users

to access crypto through user-friendly experiences. From supported fiat channels and funding methods to a clearer onboarding journey, we want users to have more ways to get started and access digital assets through Binance Bahrain. By bringing together easier fiat access, familiar funding methods, we are continuing to develop the Binance Bahrain experience while supporting Binance's broader Financial Super App vision."

Binance Bahrain will continue to focus on providing eligible users with access to crypto through supported local fiat currencies, easy funding methods, and a clearer onboarding experience, while providing flexible access to the Binance ecosystem.

Global Oil Prices Surge Above \$100

Global oil prices surged on Monday as supply fears intensified following a shutdown of Saudi Arabia's East-West crude pipeline and a severe slowdown in shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. Brent crude climbed 3.7% to \$108.26 a barrel, while WTI rose 2.5% to \$102.77. Murban crude jumped 9.8% to \$131.21. The

disruptions have raised concerns over a potential global supply deficit, with already limited inventories offering little cushion. Markets are also reassessing monetary policy, with investors pricing an increased chance of a Federal Reserve rate hike this week as higher energy costs threaten to add further inflationary pressure.

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain Students Strengthen Research and Clinical Skills Through Partnership with Keele University

Students at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) - Medical University of Bahrain continue to strengthen their research, clinical and practical skills through international learning opportunities provided by Keele University, our longstanding partner in the United Kingdom.

This summer, our medical students participated in a six-week research training programme at Keele University throughout July, gaining valuable exposure to internationally recognised biomedical research environments. Through the programme, our students developed core research competencies while contributing to projects across a diverse range of disciplines, including neuroscience and neurodegenerative disease, cancer biology and therapeutics, cardiovascular and platelet research, tissue engineer-

ing and bioengineering, stem cell and disease modelling, women's health, infectious diseases, and rare neuromuscular and skeletal disorders.

The international programme also provided hands-on practical learning through an accelerated Human Anatomy dissection course at Keele University's Anatomy and Surgical Training Centre. The specialist course enabled our students to consolidate and deepen their anatomical knowledge through practical dissection and direct anatomical exploration, complementing their medical education with immersive, experiential learning.

Dr Maikki Cullen, Lecturer in Science - Medical Commencement Programme & Academic Director of Undergraduate Research, commented: "International academic partnerships offer prac-



tical learning opportunities for our students in diverse academic and healthcare environments. Beyond the academic benefits, these programmes encourage students to adapt to new learning environments, engage with academics and peers outside their home institution, and gain insight into different approaches to healthcare education. We value such experiences, which contribute to the development of confident, adaptable and

internationally minded healthcare professionals, and we are grateful to Keele University for providing such valuable opportunities."

Since the first cohort of our students travelled to Keele University for research training in 2019, the partnership has continued to expand, creating international learning opportunities. Dr Khadija Matrook, Lecturer in Nursing



Dr Khadija Matrook, Lecturer in Nursing and Nursing Year 4 Director RCSI Medical University of Bahrain



Dr Maikki Cullen, Lecturer in Science, MCP & Academic Director of Undergraduate Research RCSI Medical University of Bahrain

and Nursing Year 4 Director, is supporting undergraduate nursing students participating in opportunities offered through this partnership. Programmes have included biomedical research training, student exchanges, clinical observerships and specialist educational programmes. In 2025, our medical students became the first cohort to participate in Keele University's accelerated Human Anatomy

dissection programme alongside biomedical research training.

Further strengthening our international outlook, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Queen's University Belfast, United Kingdom, to expand opportunities for international exchange and immersive learning.

Through strategic partnerships with leading international universities, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain is committed to delivering a globally connected medical and health sciences education and preparing future healthcare professionals with the knowledge, adaptability and international perspective required to contribute to the advancement of healthcare and patient care in the Kingdom of Bahrain and beyond.

Multi-car crash kills 21 in South Africa



AFP | Cape Town

At least 21 people were killed when two mini-bus taxis and an SUV collided on a highway in South Africa's Western Cape province, a government road safety partnership said yesterday.

The crash happened between Leeu-Gamka and Prince Albert, about 380 kilometres (236 miles) northeast of Cape Town, the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) said.

"According to the information 21 persons sustained fatal injuries," the RTMC said in a brief statement. Local media reported that the vehicles collided at around 2130 GMT on Sunday, forcing the closure of the highway.

China's spy chief warns of national security risks from AI

AFP | Beijing

The head of China's spy agency has warned that artificial intelligence endangers the country's national security, with foreign powers potentially using the technology to threaten social order.

"Hostile forces" were abusing generative AI technologies to "fabricate political rumours and spread harmful information", Minister of State Security Chen Yixin wrote in an article published online.

Beijing to ban drone possession, citing security

AFP | Beijing

Beijing will ban the possession of drones within city limits under new rules from November, further tightening regulations that already prohibited the sale of the devices.

The rules, announced on Sunday and due to take effect on November 15, forbid possessing or storing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in the Chinese capital and ban flights in its airspace.

Transporting drones or their components into Beijing will also be forbidden.

Airspace safety fears in the city of 22 million were raised in June when a small plane crashed into its tallest skyscraper, killing the pilot and injuring 13 others.

Trump blasts 'sick conspiracy' against AI

US president attacks Anthropic boss over calls to slow down AI development

● Trump rejects AI guardrails

● OpenAI backs calls for caution

● China warns of AI security risks

● UN warns of unprecedented AI risks

AFP | Washington

US President Donald Trump yesterday attacked what he called a "sick conspiracy" against artificial intelligence, dismissing calls for guardrails despite warnings that it threatens humankind.

Trump lashed out at the boss of AI giant Anthropic, who called on Saturday for a slowdown in the development of the technology. Trump said the United States needed to keep its AI lead over China.

Global tech stocks fell on the calls to hit the brakes on AI, which has fueled fears that superintelligent computer systems could go rogue and wipe out humanity by creating pathogens or triggering nuclear war.

"The only control or 'guardrails' that AI needs is a STRONG AND SMART (High IQ!) PRESIDENT, and the U.S.A. has that, in spades!" Trump said in a post on his Truth Social network yesterday.

"WHOEVER WINS AI, WINS! We are leading China, and all others, and will continue to do so. Conspiracy Theorists, Treasonists, Traitors, and Leakers, BEWARE!"

'Perfect little angel'

Trump has pushed back repeatedly in the past week against the warnings about AI,



US President Donald Trump speaks to the press aboard Air Force One

3 of the world's leading AI figures—Anthropic's Dario Amodei, OpenAI's Sam Altman, and Elon Musk—have called for slowing AI development

which reached fever pitch after Claude-maker Anthropic's CEO Amodei urged a halt in development.

Amodei's call to "slow the pace" was backed by OpenAI boss Sam Altman and Elon Musk, the SpaceX and Tesla boss who also owns xAI and was previously part of Trump's White House team.

But Trump trained his fire on Amodei, accusing him of playing both sides of the debate.

"The Trump Administration has stopped AI 'people' from doing bad, or potentially bad,

'things,' like Dario (Anthropic!), who is now pretending to be a 'perfect little angel!'," the US president wrote.

Speaking on Air Force One on Sunday, Trump said he had heard directly from tech insiders the previous week on the issue.

Asked if he was downplaying their concerns, he said: "No, we are not downplaying, but you know it's going to be more good than bad by a lot."

Trump has long portrayed AI as crucial for maintaining America's technological, economic and security lead over China, whose President Xi Jinping is due to visit the White House next week.

China's spy chief warned on Sunday that artificial intelligence endangers the country's national security, saying foreign powers could use the technology to threaten social order.

Minister of State Security Chen Yixin wrote in an article that AI was now "the main battleground for global technological competition and a new track for

“The only control or ‘guardrails’ that AI needs is a STRONG AND SMART (High IQ!) PRESIDENT, and the U.S.A. has that, in spades! WHOEVER WINS AI, WINS! We are leading China, and all others, and will continue to do so. Conspiracy Theorists, Treasonists, Traitors, and Leakers, BEWARE!”
DONALD TRUMP

major power strategic rivalry”.

He singled out Anthropic's Claude Mythos and OpenAI's ChatGPT-5.5-Cyber for their advanced hacking capabilities that potentially "pose serious risks to China's critical information infrastructure".

Leaders urge EU to boost Arctic role to tackle Russia 'threat'

AFP | Rovaniemi

Twelve European countries meeting in Finland urged the European Union to beef up its presence in the Arctic, a geopolitical battleground caught between Russia and US President Donald Trump.

"We call for the European Union to take on a more strategic and proactive role in the European Arctic," the countries' leaders wrote in a joint statement following a European-Arctic Summit in the town of Rovaniemi in Finnish Lapland, attended by Denmark, France, Germany, Greece and Sweden, among others.

Trump's repeated threats to bring Greenland -- a vast, autonomous Danish territory -- under US control have triggered a diplomatic crisis among Washington's allies.

US blocks Iran nuclear chief from Vienna meeting

AFP | Vienna

Iran's nuclear chief was blocked from attending an annual conference yesterday at the headquarters of the UN's nuclear agency in Vienna after US pressure, both Washington and Tehran said.

US Energy Secretary Chris Wright confirmed to reporters that Washington had applied pressure to stop Mohammad Eslami from entering Austria, saying "he's a sanctioned individual and we don't want sanctioned individuals evading their sanctions."

Beds too short in 'worst-ever' Asian Games rooms, say South Korea

AFP | Tokyo

Accommodation at the Asian Games starting this week in Japan is the "worst ever", South Korean officials told AFP yesterday, also warning of "a serious shortage" of rooms.

Beds in shipping container-style huts are too short for players to stretch out, a South Korean basketball chief said, while officials from the Philippines resorted to Airbnb.

There is no dedicated athletes' village at the Games, with organisers instead relying on a cruise ship, temporary wooden cabins and hotels in a bid to cut costs.

The Games in the city of Nagoya and Aichi prefecture officially open on Saturday but



A view of the Nagoya City General Gymnasium Rainbow Hall

football and basketball is already under way.

Jung Jae-yong, vice president of the Korea Basketball Association, said he was deeply un-

happy with the cabins where the men's basketball team are staying.

"Based on my experience this is the worst it has ever been,"

he said.

"Athletes who are over two metres tall cannot even stretch their legs out on the beds. It's unreasonable."

Byeon Jun-hyeong, from the basketball team, posted a video on social media showing a leaking sink and soaked floor in his hut.

He posted the caption, "Please help us".

The huts are set to be home to 2,000 athletes and officials over the more than two weeks of the Games.

Indian sports chiefs are so worried about the cabins that they built replicas to help get their athletes used to them.

The vice president Jung accused organisers of failing to respond to South Korea's con-

cerns.

"The organisers have still not said anything," said Jung.

"We are very concerned and discussing extensively with the Korean Sport and Olympic Committee what to do about this."

Hundreds of athletes were briefly evacuated from their accommodation last week as record rainfall lashed Nagoya.

More rain has been forecast in the coming days. More than 17,000 athletes and officials are expected at the Games -- a bigger number than the Olympics.

Local organisers were initially expecting 15,000 and argued last month that they had "neither the manpower nor the budget" to deal with ballooning numbers.



Irish, Scottish, Welsh parties unite to challenge UK union

Leaders say their nations belong in a future European Union

● Three nationalist parties sign agreement

● Leaders demand self-determination rights

AFP | Cardiff

Leaders of the main Scottish, Northern Irish and Welsh nationalist parties yesterday declared their right to choose whether to remain in the UK, with all three seeing their future as nations within the European Union.

The rare meeting in the Welsh capital comes just days after US President Donald Trump waded in on the issue saying he would back a united Ireland.

His comments showed "the unity debate is very much alive", Northern Ireland's Michelle O'Neill said alongside fellow party leaders as they announced a memorandum of understanding.

All three parties -- the Scottish National Party (SNP), Plaid Cymru in Wales and the pro-Irish unity Sinn Fein -- want to break away from the UK.

"Our nations have the right to self-determination. No Westminster government (the UK government) has the right to block democracy or undermine the principle that our people will decide their own future," the agreement said.

SNP leader John Swinney, Rhun ap Iorwerth, leader of Plaid Cymru in Wales and Mary Lou McDonald and O'Neill, lead-



Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP) leader John Swinney, Rhun ap Iorwerth of Plaid Cymru in Wales, Mary Lou McDonald, president of Irish Republicans Sinn Fein and Michelle O'Neill, vice president of Irish Republicans Sinn Fein pose together with a memorandum of understanding as they attend a meeting in Cardiff, Wales to press for self-determination votes in their territories



er and deputy leader of pro-Irish unity Sinn Fein met in their capacity as party leaders, rather than as officials in their respective governments.

O'Neill is also Northern Ireland's first minister while Iorwerth and Swinney are first ministers of their respective nations.

Announcing the agreement, Swinney said the three parties were "absolutely united by that principle of self-determination".

'Independence'

For the first time, the nations each had first ministers "committed to independence from the United Kingdom", the agreement said, adding: "The future of our nations belongs in the European Union."

The independence parties are the biggest in both the Scottish and Welsh parliaments for the first time since devolution measures began in 1999. Sinn Fein has been the biggest party in Northern Ireland's assembly since 2022.

Israeli minister urges probe into sources in award-winning Gaza film



Director Yuval Abraham and Director Rachel Szor winners of the Special Jury Prize for "Naza" at the 83rd Venice Film Festival

AFP | Jerusalem

The Israeli culture minister yesterday called for an investigation to identify the anonymous military sources featured in the award-winning documentary "NAZA" who accused the army of mass civilian killing in Gaza.

In the film, directors Yuval Abraham and Rachel Szor spoke to 24 anonymous Israeli military whistleblowers who outlined the AI-powered targeting systems used to bombard Gaza that have killed tens of thousands of civilians.

The 80-minute documentary won a special jury prize at this year's Venice Film Festival.

In a post on X, Culture Minister Miki Zohar said he had asked authorities to "investigate how the materials were

obtained, who is behind them, and whether in the process of obtaining or publishing them, actions were taken that amount to aiding the enemy during wartime".

He also said he had requested the interior ministry to consider revoking the citizenship of the two filmmakers on account of "treason".

"Freedom of expression is not a licence to betray the state. Anyone who acts against Israel during wartime should know that there will be a price to pay," Zohar wrote.

The revocation of nationality is legally possible in Israel, although it is rarely applied.

In 2022, Israel's Supreme Court confirmed that the state may strip people of their nationality for a breach of "loyalty to the State", for example by committing acts of espionage or treason.

Rights group says Israel trying to 'eliminate' Palestinian nationhood

AFP | Jerusalem

Israeli rights group B'Tselem said yesterday that Israeli actions in the occupied West Bank form part of a greater project designed to eliminate Palestinians as a people.

In a report titled "The Elimination Project", the group alleged that five Israeli tactics and policies in the West Bank were connected -- "violence, ethnic cleansing, movement restrictions,

economic strangulation, social and political destruction".

The report pointed to violence by settlers and the military against Palestinians, which has left 1,108 dead -- both civilians and militants -- since October 7, 2023, according to an AFP tally based on data from the Palestinian health ministry.

It applied the term "ethnic cleansing" to the process by which dozens of small isolated Palestinian com-

Potential new TB vaccines could save millions of lives: Gavi

AFP | Geneva

New tuberculosis vaccines expected to become available from 2029 could save over seven million lives over a decade, Gavi said yesterday, but only if sufficient supply is ensured to the countries most in need.

New TB jabs in the pipeline have the potential of becoming the "next blockbuster immunisation tool", said Sania Nishtar, head of the Gavi global vaccine alliance.

"However they will only realise their potential if we are

able to ensure sufficient, predictable and affordable supply for those countries with the highest disease burden," she said in a statement.

Tuberculosis, or TB, remains the world's leading infectious killer, claiming an estimated 1.23 million lives in 2024, according to the latest statistics available from the World Health Organization.

The only vaccine currently licensed to protect against the disease is the Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine, which is over 100 years old.

Sweden faces political uncertainty after election thriller

AFP | Stockholm

Sweden faced political uncertainty yesterday, after an election thriller that saw the left-wing opposition holding a slim lead with votes still left to count.

Sunday's election also served up a surprise setback to the far-right Sweden Democrats, who lost ground for the first time since entering parliament 16 years ago.

The leader of the left-wing opposition, Magdalena Andersson of the Social Democrats, and outgoing conservative Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson have each said they want to explore coalition options to secure power, but both would have to make major concessions to obtain a majority.

Both the Social Democrats and Kristersson's Moderates held party meetings yesterday to hammer out their strategy.

While the left-wing held a slim lead, the bloc was expected to face thorny negotiations to form a government, with the talks expected to drag on for



Social Democratic Party leader Magdalena Andersson walks on her way to cast her vote

several weeks.

Parliament can vote on a new prime minister on September 29 at the earliest.

After the 2022 election, it took 37 days to form a government, much shorter than the 134 days it took to do so in 2018.

Political analyst Mats Knutson told public broadcaster SVT that both blocs were likely to end up in a "stalemate that

paves the way for a long and troublesome process of forming a government, which could end in a snap election".

"One or several parties may have to abandon their 'red lines'," he said, a point echoed by Kristersson yesterday.

"If all the 'red lines' remain, then Sweden will not get any government at all," he told reporters.



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TWEETS

01



Cluster munitions kill & injure civilians indiscriminately. Their consequences haunt people & communities for generations. Countries must strengthen political commitment & scale up resources to clear contaminated land & support survivors. Let's act decisively for a safer future.

@antonioguterres

02



From a rapidly expanding reactor fleet to SMRs and fusion, China is advancing across the nuclear sector. Just opened its #IAEAGC exhibit, a chance to see the scale and range of China's nuclear programme.

@rafaelmgrossi

03



@WHO 's 69th mpox situation report is available. Global risk remains moderate. DG @DrTedros standing recommendation for #mpox have been extended to Aug 2027

@mvankerkhove

04



At the #BRICS Leaders' Summit I spoke with Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla about the health situation and urgent medical needs in #Cuba, and how @WHO can extend its support.

@DrTedros

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

Campus

Over 370 Student Delegates Gather for BMUNIS'26 at The Indian School Bahrain

The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) hosted the Bahrain Model United Nations Conference (BMUNIS'26) at its Isa Town campus, bringing together around 370 student delegates from Grades 6 to 12 representing leading schools across the Kingdom to debate pressing global issues and hone their diplomatic skills.

The two-day conference was officially inaugurated by ISB Hon. Chairman Adv. Binu Mannil Varughese, alongside Principal Santha Kumar Dasari, Junior Wing Principal Pamela Xavier, Academic Administration Vice-Principal Rajesh

Nair, and MUN Director Chhaya Joshi.

Participating institutions included The Indian School, Abdul Rahman Kanoo International School, Al Noor International School, The Asian School, Bahrain Bayan School, Bahrain Indian School, Ibn Al Hytham Islamic School, New Horizon School, New Indian School, New Millennium School, and St. Christopher's School.

Led by Secretary-General Joel Shaiju, Deputy Secretary-General Evana Rachel Binu, Student Director of the Organizing Committee Aryan Sathyan Das, and Student Di-

rector of Research and Training Sanjay Preji, the event stood out as a completely student-led conference. Student chairs presided over individual council chambers, guiding delegates through rigorous debates following authentic United Nations procedures.

In his inaugural address, Adv. Binu Mannil Varughese highlighted ISB's legacy as the first CBSE institution in Bahrain to host its own MUN.

The conference concluded with an awards ceremony recognizing exceptional delegates across categories including Best Delegate, Best Speaker, Best Researcher, and Most Diplomatic.



Asian School Invests New Student Council for Academic Year 2026–2027



The Asian School formally inducted its newly appointed Student Council for the academic year 2026–2027 during its annual Investiture Ceremony held on September 10, 2026. The ceremony marked the official handing over of responsibilities to the student leaders, who took a solemn pledge to serve their peers and uphold the core values of integrity, dedication, and teamwork.

The newly inducted council is led by Head Boy Tanish Mukherjee and Head Girl Ann Binu, along with Deputy Head Boy Sakshaat Guhan and Deputy Head Girl Nayla Muhammed. A total of 40 student leaders across the Junior Council (Grades 3–5) and Senior Council (Grades 6–12) were invested with their badges of office.

The school's athletic wing will be spearheaded by Sports Captain Aaron Koshy Dennis and Sports Vice Captain Darshika Uday.

House Captains, Vice Captains, Cultural Secretaries, and Prefects representing various grade levels were also formally sworn in during the event.

The ceremony commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp, accompanied by a ceremonial Guard of Honour presented by the school band. Following the parade, the newly appointed leaders took the Oath of Office, pledging to carry out their duties with utmost sincerity, commitment, and courage.

Chairperson and Managing Director Mrs. Elizabeth Joseph presented the official School Flag to the leadership team, formally sealing their induction. Addressing the assembly, Principal Mr. Antony Jude highlighted the true essence of student leadership, urging the council members to focus on service, personal growth, and positive community engagement throughout the academic year.

NHS Celebrates Foundation Day, Teachers' Day, and Onam



New Horizon School in Jannusan marked a major milestone by combining its 26th Foundation Day, Teachers' Day, and Onam celebrations in a vibrant gathering featuring traditional performances, competitive games, and a grand feast.

The tri-event was attended by Chairman Mr. Joy Mathews, Director Mrs. Jaya Joy, Princi-

pal Mrs. Vandana Sateesh, New Horizon Kindergarten Principal Mrs. Nisha Rajesh, and New Horizon English School Principal Dr. Monika Mathur, alongside PTA members and the Braincraft International team. The occasion highlighted the school's 26-year legacy and its growing footprint in Bahrain, which now includes the Jannusan campus, the Kindergarten school, and the new-

ly added New Horizon English School in Zinj.

Educators were honored for their dedicated service, while the Onam festivities brought Kerala's cultural traditions to life through music, dance, and a Tug-of-War contest involving staff and parents. The celebration concluded with a traditional Onam Sadhya shared by the entire school community.



Sacred Heart School Hosts Orientation Session



Sacred Heart School, Isa Town, organised a comprehensive orientation programme designed to equip parents of Junior 5 and 6 students with vital information for the upcoming academic year.

Biju Thomas, Career Counsellor and Director of PixGen Framework W.L.L., served as the keynote speaker, offering practical insights and guidance to help parents navigate their children's academic progress. The event drew strong engagement with around 260 parents.



GSA Launches Clubs Excellence Award

● New initiative among measures aimed at improving Bahrain's sporting sector

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's sports clubs will now compete for a new award recognising excellence in how they are run.

The Khalid bin Hamad Award for Institutional Excellence for Clubs was approved at the General Sports Authority's (GSA) ninth board meeting at Al Wadi Palace on Sunday. It aims to raise standards across clubs' administrative, financial and technical operations, while encouraging better management.

The meeting was chaired by His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports



first deputy chairman, GSA chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee president. GSA vice-chairman His Highness Shaikh Salman bin Mohamed Al Khalifa and other board members attended.

Shaikh Khalid praised the GSA's executive team, led by chief executive Dr Abdulrahman Askar, for its work in developing sport in the kingdom.

Alongside improving how clubs are run, developing young

talent was a key focus of the meeting. The board discussed activating a schools and universities sports unit to increase participation, strengthen links with organised sport and help identify promising athletes.

The focus on young Bahrainis extended beyond the playing field, with plans reviewed to create more opportunities for them to work in sport and improve how sporting organisations are structured and run.

Safety at sports facilities was another area addressed; first-aid provision at clubs, federations and other venues was discussed as a way to improve their response to medical emergencies.

Attention then turned to the GSA's facilities, with the Juffair Youth Centre hall set to be offered for commercial naming rights. It follows Khalifa Sports City and Isa Sports City as the authority seeks to generate greater value from its venues.



HH Shaikh Khalid chairs the GSA board meeting in Riffa

Hedin names Bahrain's Asiad squad

Golden generation target the one major title still missing

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain have named their 16-player handball squad for the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

The nationals will be led by Swedish coach Robert Hedin as they look to win the men's title for the first time.

Captain Hussain Al Sayyad, Mohammed Abdulhussain, Mohammed Habib Hasan, Mohammed Habib Al Nasser, Hassan Madan, Hisham Al Ustadh, Hassan Mirza and Ahmed Jalal have all been selected.

The squad also includes Jassim Khamis, Ahmed Kadhem, Ali Mahmood, Mohammed

Hameed, Sayed Ali Shubber, Abdulla Abdulkarim, Salman Al Showaikh and Ahmed Eid.

Nine teams will contest the competition, which begins on Saturday and runs until September 29.

The Warriors have been drawn in Group B alongside South Korea, Kuwait, Iran and Kazakhstan. Hosts Japan, China, Hong Kong and three-time defending champions Qatar make up Group A.

Bahrain begin their campaign against Kazakhstan on Sunday at 6.30am, Bahrain time, before facing Iran the following day at 8.30am.

The nationals then take on



Bahrain handball coach Robert Hedin

South Korea on Wednesday at 11.30am before completing the preliminary round against Kuwait on Friday at 7.30am.

The top four teams from each group will advance to the quarter-finals on September 26. With only four sides in Group A, all are guaranteed a place in the knockout stage, while only the bottom team in Bahrain's five-team group will be eliminated.

The semi-finals take place two days later, followed by the medal matches on September 29.

The kingdom enter the Games after winning three major titles in the space of seven months.

Their successful run began

with gold at the Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh last November. Bahrain then claimed their maiden Asian Men's Handball Championship crown in Kuwait in January before triumphing at the fourth GCC Games in Doha in May.

The Asian Games crown is the one major title still missing from the kingdom's recent collection. Bronze in 2014 was followed by silver medals in 2018 and 2022, leaving the reigning Asian champions aiming to go one better in Japan.

Preparations included a training camp in Egypt, where the squad played several friendly matches ahead of the continental showpiece.

Jaber Claims Portugal Endurance Crown

Hussain Almaskati

Royal Endurance Team rider Jaber Bader Jaffar claimed victory in the 120.6-kilometre junior and young riders race during the team's participation in the Portugal International Endurance Races.

Jaber produced a strong performance across the different stages before completing the distance in first place to secure the title.

The Bahraini outfit also celebrated a podium finish in the 120.6km open race, where Loay Tareq Ahmed finished runner-up.

UAE rider Hazza Mohammed Al Sayari took victory, while Portugal's Maria Prazeres completed the top three.

The results came after the Royal Endurance Team had earlier competed in the FEI Endurance World Championship for Young Horses in Barroca d'Alva, where Fahad Helal Al Khatri led Bahrain's challenge with a fourth-place finish.

Royal Stables and Royal Endurance Team director general Dr Khalid Ahmed Hassan



Action from the race

praised the latest results, saying they reflected the work carried out by the team in the build-up to the races.

He said the Portugal programme had achieved several of its objectives, particularly in preparing both riders and horses for upcoming competitions while providing further international experience.

Dr Khalid added that the results would provide further motivation as the team continues its preparations for forthcoming assignments, and wished the riders success in their next appearances.

Zverev holds off Shelton to win US Open title

AFP | New York

Alexander Zverev held off Ben Shelton to win the US Open on Sunday, capturing the second Grand Slam of his career just months after winning the French Open.

The top-seeded German ruthlessly snuffed out a late surge by Shelton to triumph 6-3, 7-6 (7/2), 5-7, 6-2, ending the eighth seed's bid to become the first US man in 23 years to win a Grand Slam title.

Zverev expunged the bitter memory of his 2020 US Open defeat, when he was two points from victory before falling to Dominic Thiem in five sets.

It would be six years -- with two major finals disappointments -- before he would break through this season.

"I think God has seen how hard we worked, how much we suffered, how much pain we went through and I think 2026 is the outcome of all the years that happened before," Zverev said at the trophy presentation.

The 23-year-old Shelton was one month shy of his first birthday when Andy Roddick hoisted the 2003 US Open trophy in the last major triumph for a US



Germany's Alexander Zverev hugs the trophy

man.

Hopes were high that Shelton could end the drought after his epic five-set quarter-final victory over defending champion Carlos Alcaraz, and a come-

from-behind win over compatriot Frances Tiafoe in the semi-finals.

But Zverev's all-court excellence proved too much for Shelton, despite the support of

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Zverev's victory erases the memory of his 2020 US Open final loss, when he came within two points of beating Dominic Thiem

a star-studded Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd trying to will the American to victory.

With their backing, Shelton surged in the third set, eliminating the errors that Zverev had ruthlessly exploited.

Serving to extend the set, Zverev fell behind 0-40. Shelton fired long on his first set point but on the second Zverev's forehand volley went wide. Shelton had his first break of the match and they were headed to a fourth set.

Zverev, however, responded immediately and decisively.

Bahrain storm into Asiad last eight

Cagers overpower Kazakhstan to set up Iran showdown

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior basketball team booked their place in the quarter-finals of the 20th Asian Games with an emphatic 101-78 victory over Kazakhstan in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, yesterday.

The result, coupled with China's 105-61 rout of defending champions the Philippines, saw Slobodan Subotic's side finish second in Group C with two wins from three matches.

The nationals will now face Group B winners Iran at Aichi International Arena tomorrow at 7am, Bahrain time, for a place in Friday's semi-finals.

Bahrain recovered from a slow start against Kazakhstan, overturning a 12-7 deficit with a devastating 21-3 run to close the opening quarter ahead 28-15.

Their opponents reduced the gap to eight midway through the second period, but the Reds responded by scoring 19 of the next 30 points to take a 55-39 advantage into half-time.

The contest remained firmly in their control after the restart. They extended their lead to 21 by the end of the third quarter and moved as many as 27 clear



Post-match celebrations in the dressing room

during the fourth before passing the century mark in the closing minute.

JaKarr Sampson led the way with 23 points, nine rebounds and six assists, while Mustafa Hussain contributed 20 points and eight assists. Elijah Thomas added 16 points, Ahmed Haji scored 14 off the bench and Uros Ilic chipped in with eight.

Daniil Severgin paced Kazakhstan with 16 points, while Anton Bykov finished with 14

points and 10 rebounds.

Bahrain also forced 21 turnovers, converting them into 24 points, and scored 23 fast-break points during an energetic all-round display.

The victory completed an encouraging preliminary-round campaign for the kingdom, which began with an 89-85 upset of the Philippines before a 105-59 defeat to unbeaten group winners China.

Iran reached the knockout

stage after recovering from a 59-53 opening defeat to Qatar with successive victories over Chinese Taipei and Jordan.

The other quarter-finals will see Chinese Taipei face hosts Japan, China meet Saudi Arabia and South Korea take on Jordan.

The semi-finals take place on Friday, followed by the bronze and gold-medal games on Sunday.



Mustafa Hussain on the ball



Bahrain Olympic Committee vice-president HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa congratulates coach Slobodan Subotic after the game

HH Shaikh Nasser Marks Comeback with Podium



Shaikh Nasser, right, alongside UAE rider Salem Mohammed Al Ketbi

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa finished second in the 161.8-kilometre Portugal International Endurance Race as he continued his preparations for this year's World Endurance Championship.

The six-stage event served as an international qualifier for the global showpiece and attracted riders from several countries.

Belgium's Louna Schuiten claimed victory, with Shaikh Nasser crossing the finish in second for Bahrain's Royal Endurance Team.

UAE rider Salem Mohammed Al Ketbi took third place, followed by Saudi Arabia's Faisal Mohammed Al Qurashi in fourth, while Shaikh Nasser's teammate Abdulrahman Khalid Al Khatri finished fifth.

The result represents another important step towards the FEI Endurance World Championship, which will be held at Butheeb International Endurance Village in Abu Dhabi from December 14 to 20. The main 160km championship ride is scheduled for December 19.

For Shaikh Nasser, however, the podium carried significance beyond qualification.

The Royal Endurance Team captain suffered a fracture after falling from his horse during the Summer Spirit Race in Slovakia this July. He had warned fellow riders about the uneven ground moments before he fell.

Despite the injury, he continued for the remaining nine kilometres. After losing movement in his arm, Shaikh Nasser pinned it in place and rode one-handed, before beginning to drift in and out of consciousness as he made his way to the finish.

Looking back on the incident after his latest result, Shaikh Nasser wrote on social media: "The fall was never the end of the story. I fell, I got hurt, I rebuilt, and I came back to stand on the podium again. "The lesson is simple. Falling doesn't defeat you, quitting does."

Shaikh Nasser, His Majesty the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, said international qualifiers such as the Portugal race are an important part of completing the team's requirements for December's championship.

He added that the Royal Endurance Team will continue its programme in the coming months, focusing on preparing its riders and horses for the challenges ahead.

Muharraq Begin Asian Quest

Two-time champions face Arkadag in Turkmenistan opener

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Muharraq begin their AFC Champions League Two campaign today when they face Turkmenistan's Arkadag at Arkadag Stadium.

The Group B opener kicks off at 4.45pm, Bahrain time, with the Red Wolves arriving on a high after picking up their first domestic win of the season last Thursday.

The Bahraini champions share the group with the UAE's Al Jazira and Iran's Gol Gohar Sirjan, with the four sides playing each other home and away.

Interim coach Adnan Ayoub put the finishing touches to his plans during the team's final training session in Turkmenistan.

"We know that we are facing a strong team with a number of

quality players, some of whom represent their country," Ayoub said at yesterday's pre-match press conference.

"We have analysed the team and prepared for the match in the required way. We expect a tough contest and will go into it with focus and confidence to produce our best."

Ayoub also stressed the responsibility that comes with representing the club.

"Our aim is to represent Muharraq in a way that reflects its history and stature, and to produce a good match and a performance worthy of the club's name and supporters."

That history includes two triumphs in Asia's second-tier club competition. Muharraq first lifted the AFC Cup in 2008 before winning it again under Isa Al Saadoon in 2021.

Al Saadoon's second stint in



Goalkeeper Sayed Mohammed Jaafar in training

charge recently came to an end after the side took just one point from the opening two matches of their domestic title defence.

The AFC Champions League

title-winning sides and knows better than most what success in Asia requires.

"We know how important the start of any competition is, especially the first match," Jaafar said.

"We know our opponents have good players and we have the information that will help us approach the game in the right way. We came here to perform well and will give everything we have to achieve the result we are looking for."

The veteran is among a 24-player travelling squad that also includes Vladan Dekic, Ashraf Waheed, Husain Jameel, Amine Benaddi, Bruno Santos, Ahmed Bughammar, Ahmed Rabee, Mohamed Al Banna, Abdulla Al Khalasi, Hasan Al Karrani, Mohamed Al Hardan, Abdulwahab Al Malood, Soufiane Mahrouk, Ahmed Al Sheroo-

qi, Hanan Abdulwahab, Anderson Leite, Arthur Rezende, Rijad Kobiljar, Abdoul Karim Diarra, Facundo Tobares, Husain Abdulkarim, Edimar da Ribeiro da Costa Junior and Abdulla Jamal.

Venezuelan midfielder Bryant Ortega, who recently joined on loan from Saudi Arabian side Al Ittihad until the end of the season, was not included in the travelling list published by the club.

Meanwhile, the kingdom's other representatives, Al Khaldiya, open their Group A campaign against Uzbekistan's Nasaf tomorrow at Bahrain National Stadium at 7pm.

Goran Tomi's side enter an internal camp today before holding their official training session at the National Stadium at 5.30pm. Nasaf, who were due to arrive in Bahrain last night, are scheduled to train at the same venue at 7pm.