

**Tamkeen
announces the
launch of 2026 -
2030 strategy**



P7

**Tamkeen raises
Bahrainis' average
wages by BD87**

TDT | Manama

The Labour Fund, Tamkeen, has announced an average increase of BD87 in the wages of Bahrainis under its "Wage Increase" program during 2025.

The Fund also reported supporting more than 23,500 career development opportunities, during a press conference held to launch its 2026-2030 strategic plan.

Speaking at the conference, Maha Abdul Hameed Mofeez, CEO of Tamkeen, outlined the new strategy's four main priorities. (*Detailed report on Page 7*)

**Kingdom unveils
strategic plan to
bolster aviation**

TDT | Manama

His Excellency Dr. H Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, has announced the launch of the National Aviation Strategy (2026-2027) under the slogan "Building Bridges to the World and for the World."

The strategy aligns with the government's efforts to develop the civil aviation sector and enhance its contribution to the national economy, in line with Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030.

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Bahrain and Oman boost cooperation



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HRH Prince Salman highlights bilateral progress across various sectors

tions and the progress achieved across various sectors. HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he met yesterday with His Majesty Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, Sultan of Oman, as part of his visit to the Sultanate.

His Royal Highness highlighted the strength of the partnership between Bahrain and Oman, affirming the Kingdom's commitment to advancing cooperation to achieve shared aspirations, in line with the visions of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and HM Sultan Haitham.

Greetings

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister conveyed the greetings of HM the King to HM Sultan Haitham, along with His Majesty's best wishes for Oman's continued progress and prosperity.

In return, HM Sultan Haitham conveyed his greetings to HM the King and expressed his wishes for the Kingdom's continued growth and prosperity.

During the meeting, avenues



HRH Prince Salman with HM Haitham bin Tariq Al Said



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister returns to the Kingdom

to advance cooperation across sectors and issues of common interest were discussed.

A lunch banquet was then held by HM Sultan Haitham in honour of HRH Prince Salman and the accompanying Bahraini delegation's visit to Oman.

Return

His Royal Highness yesterday returned to the Kingdom following a fruitful visit to Oman. During arrival, he was received by several senior officials.

Upon departure from Oman, His Royal Highness was bid farewell by His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Oman's Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, along with several senior officials.

Market reassurance

Prices stable, shelves fully stocked ahead of Ramadan

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

With Ramadan approaching, Bahrain's retail markets are sending a clear message of reassurance: prices remain stable and shelves are fully stocked.

A field tour across major supermarkets shows no signs of shortage or supply pressure.

Essential food items continue to be available in abundance, even as shopping activity intensifies ahead of the Holy Month.



Shelves remain packed with essentials across the Kingdom

Traders confirm that preparations began weeks in advance.

One retailer told The Daily Tribune that he imports significantly larger quantities than usual before Ramadan to meet the expected surge in demand.

"We increase our shipments early to ensure the market remains comfortable and balanced," he said, noting that consumer demand rises sharply during this period but supply planning prevents disruption.

The result is visible across stores, where purchases are tak-

ing place without any strain on availability.

Promotional campaigns and seasonal offers are playing a decisive role in maintaining price balance. High demand items such as fish, meat, fruit, vegetables and flour are recording stable prices, with some products even offered at lower than usual rates due to competitive discounts.

Retailers are actively competing for customers, and that competition is helping to protect household budgets.

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Financial security

Shura passes GCC insurance amendments adding unemployment cover for Bahrainis

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Shura Council members yesterday passed, on an urgent basis, a draft law backing amendments to the GCC's unified system for extending social insurance cover to citizens working in another member state.

The move brings Bahrainis employed across the Gulf under Bahrain's unemployment insurance branch and directs new wage deductions into the Unemployment Insurance Account.

Under the change, a Bahraini working in a GCC country will pay 1 per cent of their insured wage towards unemployment insurance, with the employer paying a matching 1 per cent, in line with Article 6 of Decree-Law No. 78 of 2006 on unemployment insurance.

Shura Council committees said the measure would add cash inflows to the Unemployment Insurance Account, without a direct effect on the state budget, either on public revenue or re-



Jamal Fakhro
curring spend.



Sahar Al Mannai



Hala Ramzi



Ebtisam Al Dallal

been 'ahead' in this field. She said unemployment insurance began in Bahrain in 2006 and the new law would "secure the rights of citizens working in GCC states", while the details of how it will work "will become clearer after the law is issued".

Rules

The lawmaker said GCC states would study unemployment insurance rules together 'to ensure the right details for each state, while respecting each state's systems and laws'.

Al Mannai said the organisation publishes figures every quarter and that the latest data shows 4,473 Bahrainis working in GCC states.

She said the organisation is explaining the measure and its duties through formal notices to employers, social media and online channels, along with workshops and guidance material, alongside joint awareness work among GCC states.

On enforcement, she pointed to Article 12 and said it will need focused work with Bahrain's private sector.

She said the rules include 'calculating additional amounts on private-sector employers when they delay paying the insurance contributions due for GCC citizens', adding that the organisation aims to play 'an awareness role' in raising compliance.

Under the change, a Bahraini working in a GCC country will pay 1 per cent of their insured wage towards unemployment insurance, with the employer paying a matching 1 per cent.



Court appeal filed in stolen bank card and phone purchase case



Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court of Appeal has set February 22 to appoint a lawyer for one of the appellants, after the Court of First Instance sentenced a man and a domestic worker to three years in prison and fined each of them BD3,000.

The court also ordered their permanent deportation after serving the sentence, following their conviction for stealing a bank card and withdrawing nearly BD300. According to case details, the two defendants agreed to steal the victim's bank card and PIN number.

Phone
iPhone 16 worth BD294.900 by entering the PIN code to complete the transaction.

After the crime was discovered and he was summoned to the police station, he destroyed the phone and disposed of the bank card.

The incident came to light when the victim's grandson noticed a significant drop in her bank balance.

Phone
After contacting the bank, it was confirmed that the card had been used to buy a mobile phone.

The phone number linked to the purchase led to the female defendant, and the case was reported to the authorities.

The Public Prosecution charged the first defendant with unlawfully using the victim's electronic signature (PIN) to fraudulently obtain money through a technological means.

He later used the card at a shopping mall to purchase an

Shura approves binding Gulf rules on plant genetic resources

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Shura passed yesterday a draft law adopting a unified Gulf system for plant genetic resources used in food and agriculture, and agreed to send it on under an urgent track for completion through the usual state channels.

The bill approves the GCC Unified System (Law) on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, attached to Royal Decree No. 65 of 2025.

It sets out rules to record, classify, assess, document and protect plant genetic resources, control their movement into and out of GCC states, and ensure fair sharing of benefits from their use, while backing research linked to them.

Framework

Redha Munfardi, rapporteur of the Public Utilities and Environment Committee, said the law was meant to complete Bahrain's legal framework for protecting agricultural and food plant resources.

He said it seeks to protect the Kingdom's plant and farming heritage and ensure Bahrain secures a 'fair and equal share' of benefits when these resources are used in research or industry, inside the country or abroad.

The lawmaker told members the draft also backs food security by putting in place a legal



Redha Munfardi



Dr Mohammed Ali Hassan

framework for protecting and using plant genetic resources in line with Bahrain's regional and international obligations.

Crops

Dr Mohammed Ali Hassan, chairman of the Public Utilities and Environment Committee, credited the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture and its agriculture arm for its work on crops and related laws.

The lawmaker said the GCC system under discussion falls within Gulf coordination to protect agricultural heritage, following a 2022 GCC Supreme Council decision adopting the system.

He also pointed to Bahrain joining the related international treaty in 2024, and asked members to back the bill so the system can take effect.

The lawmaker told members the draft also backs food security by putting in place a legal



Asim AbdulLatif

would be set out in the executive regulations.

Plant genetic resources include material of plant origin that carries genetic traits, such as seeds, tissues and pollen.

The ministry has said these materials underpin food production and help develop crop varieties with stronger resistance to disease and better ability to cope with climate conditions.

Under the draft, the body in charge of applying the system would be named by decree, and a national committee for plant genetic resources would be formed.

The law also sets penalties for working with these resources without a licence, including bringing them into Bahrain, taking them out, or collecting them without permission, with courts able to order confiscation or destruction of offending materials.

Aisha's 'record hair' helps cancer patients

Heartfelt message: Stay strong, stay positive, and know that you are supported

Ghadeer Alkumaish
TDT | Manama

Can I donate my hair to make them happy and get their blessings?" said six-year-old Aisha Mateen Karam, whose heartwarming decision turned her record-length hair into a gift of hope for cancer patients.

At just six years old, Aisha has transformed a personal milestone into an inspiring act of compassion.

Known for holding a record for the longest hair in Bahrain, she chose to donate it to support cancer patients, turning a symbol of beauty into one of hope.

"After seeing how cancer patients, especially children and women, lose their hair during treatment, I felt a deep urge to do something meaningful," said Aisha's mother.

Emotional

"Hair is so special to many of us, and for them, losing it is not just physical but emotional. When I read about the initiatives supported by Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa and Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa encourag-

After seeing how cancer patients, especially children and women, lose their hair during treatment, I felt a deep urge to do something meaningful

AISHA MATEEN KARAM'S MOTHER

ing support for cancer patients, I wanted to be part of this noble cause. And when we sought permission from her father, he was overjoyed to know that this habit of humanity has been transferred to his generation."

For six years, Aisha's hair was carefully protected.

She cherished it deeply and never allowed it to be cut, even making a record for the longest hair in the country.

Innocence

Her mother recalled, "Everything changed the day she saw a child without hair and asked why. When I explained that cancer patients lose their



Aisha Karam donates her record-length hair to support patients at Bahrain Cancer Society

hair because of treatment, she immediately said in her innocence, 'Can I donate my hair to make them happy and get their blessings?'"

That moment revealed a maturity and kindness beyond her age.

"Helping others means shar-

ing something that is precious to us, not just giving away what is extra. That is what makes it truly special," her mother added.

Kindness

As a parent, she hopes to raise Aisha with compassion, empathy, and a spirit of giving — not only in monetary ways but in kindness and humanity.

"I am incredibly proud of her. Seeing her let go of something she loved so much for the sake of others made me emotional," she said.

Aisha's story has already begun to inspire others.

Journey

"Just after seeing Aisha's experience, two of my friends are planning to donate as well. This journey has taught us that kindness and compassion have no age limit. When it comes from the heart, it can inspire an entire community," her mother explained.

To all the cancer warriors, Aisha and her family send a heartfelt message: stay strong, stay positive, and know that you are supported and prayed for.

minds of the fasting.

These airy, golden spheres, fried with love, become the stars of the gathering after Maghrib prayers.

Their deliciousness is only complete when drizzled with date syrup or honey.

Thareed

If every table has a king, then Thareed is the main course of the Ramadan table.

This dish combines pieces of thin Regag bread with salona — a rich tomato-based stew made with meat and a variety of seasonal vegetables, delicately flavoured with the traditional spice mix known as Bezar.

Thareed is more than just a meal; it is an ancient heritage that brings young and old together for an unforgettable Iftar.

Essentials

In parallel with kitchen preparations, grocery stores are crowded with shoppers securing essentials that no table can do without.

"Vimto" bottles with their famous deep red color, boxes of premium dates, and Luqaimat flour mixes top the shopping lists.

These products have become visual symbols that officially announce the approaching Holy Month, completing the elegance of the Ramadan table.

Ministry steps up price monitoring for Holy Month

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce is intensifying its regulatory and field efforts to ensure the availability of consumer goods and maintain price stability as part of its proactive plan for the Holy Month of Ramadan.

The ministry stated that public awareness campaigns are running parallel with strengthened market inspections covering commercial outlets across the Kingdom on a regular and intensified basis.

Seasonal regulatory measures have already been activated, combining awareness initiatives targeting both traders and consumers to reinforce understanding of rights and obligations.

Visits

Inspection teams are conducting extensive field visits to verify that shops operate within their licensed activities, that promotional campaigns and discounts are genuine, and that prices before and after offers are



Field inspections to safeguard supply and price stability

accurately displayed.

Officials are also ensuring that shelf prices correspond with those registered in point of sale systems.

The ministry confirmed it is closely monitoring misleading practices, manipulation or commercial fraud.

It is also issuing immediate periodic reports on any indicators of unjustified price increases to examine their causes

and take appropriate action to safeguard market stability and protect consumers.

Inspection

Mid-Ramadan will see further intensified inspection rounds, particularly targeting high-demand activities such as food outlets, fruit and vegetable shops, meat and fish markets, tailoring services, gold shops and sweet retailers.

The ministry stressed that serious violations will face firm legal action, including financial penalties, administrative closure, license cancellation, and referral to the Public Prosecution.

Consumers are urged to report violations through the national complaints system Tawasul, via WhatsApp on 1711225, or by email at inspection@moic.gov.bh.

Abd Alrasool's world of traditional Bahraini chests

Ghadeer Alkumaish
TDT | Manama

Since 1992, Abd Alrasool has dedicated his life to crafting traditional chests, known as "sanadeeq mubayata", which are far more than decorative pieces.

In the past, these chests were used to store clothing and per-

sonal belongings, but their distinctive appearance, highlighted by hammered-in nails forming intricate patterns, makes them true works of art. "These chests are made from real wood," Abd Alrasool explained. "We use various types, including oak, maple, and walnut, sourced from India,

He emphasized that high-quality teak comes from trees over 100 years old, giving it exceptional durability.

"India has even stopped exporting old teak to Bahrain," he noted, "making it rare and highly valuable."

When asked about the challenges of his craft, Abd Alra-

soul said, "Mood is the hardest thing."

He explained that if he isn't feeling well, he can't produce the chest to his highest standards. Over the years, however, he has learned to overcome this by committing to his work regardless of his mood, letting time and dedication guide the process.

Ramadan is near... and the table is ready

From kitchen rituals to timeless Iftar traditions



The spirit of Ramadan on a table: dates, Vimto, and all your Iftar favorites

Ghadeer Alkumaish

TDT | Manama

With the countdown to the Holy Month of Ramadan officially beginning, life is bustling in markets and kitchens alike.

Only ten days separate us from the most beautiful thirty nights of the year. Families have already begun shaping their menus—not just to satisfy hunger, but to revive authentic social and traditional rituals.

The Ramadan table is never complete without Sambousa, Luqaimat, Thareed, Vimto, and dates.

The Ramadan table is never complete without a platter of golden (Sambousa) taking center stage.

It is the one dish fasting people never tire of throughout the month.

Sambousa

Since most families prepare Sambousa exclusively during Ramadan, the "freezing race" has already begun.

Pastry sheets are being stuffed with seasoned minced meat or cheeses and carefully frozen to be ready for daily frying, a ritual of early preparation that saves time for worship.

Despite the short time remaining, the image of golden "Luqaimat" (Sweet Dumplings) is already dancing in the

Don't delay your Eid thobe

Hasan Barakat

TDT | Manama

As Ramadan approaches, tailoring shops across Bahrain begin witnessing one of their busiest seasons of the year.

For many families, preparing an Eid thobe is not a last minute errand but a cherished tradition.

Yet every year, customers are surprised to discover that bookings have already closed before they have even selected their fabric.

Most men's tailoring shops across the Kingdom close their Eid order lists either shortly before Ramadan or within its first days.

Tailors explain that early closure allows them sufficient time to complete measurements, stitching and fittings to ensure delivery before Eid.

Tailors consistently advise customers to place their orders well before mid-Shaaban.

Waiting until Ramadan often means encountering fully



Busy days for tailors ahead of Eid

booked schedules and limited options.

During the holy month, official working hours are reduced, although many shops extend their evening openings after Iftar.

Despite longer night hours, production capacity remains restricted due to intense demand.

During a recent tour of men's tailoring shops, fabric prices ranged between BD15 and BD20 for standard materials.

Higher quality fabrics, including Japanese textiles, ranged between BD20 and BD30 depending on texture and finish.

Eid carries joy and tradition.

Young parliamentarians conclude fruitful UK visit



Bahrain delegation

TDT | Manama

The delegation of the eighth edition of the Young Parliamentarian Program has concluded its official visit to the United Kingdom, which aimed to enhance diplomatic and parliamentary awareness and strengthen concepts of community engagement among youth.

During the visit, the delegation met with His Excellency Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, where participants were briefed on the Embassy's responsibilities and the key priorities of Bahraini diplomatic work in the United Kingdom.

Discussions also covered the role of youth in contributing to policymaking and building bridges of dialogue and cooperation between nations.

The delegation also met with Mr. Mark Sims, Chief Executive of Rugby Portobello Trust and P3 Charities, as well as a board member of the Charity Commission.

Discussions focused on sustainable community work models, best practices in managing non-profit organisations, and the role of civil society.

organisations in supporting various segments of the community.

Support

As part of the programme, the delegation met with Ms. Jane Emerson, Chief Executive of Get Kids Going!, an organisation specialising in supporting children and young people with disabilities through sport and physical activity.

Participants were introduced to pioneering experiences in social inclusion and empowerment of people with disabilities.

The delegation also met with leadership representatives from One Million Mentors, an organisation dedicated to connecting young people with volunteer mentors through one-to-one mentoring programmes that support their academic and professional development.

Additionally, meetings were held with representatives of The Adam Foundation, which focuses on developmental and awareness programmes aimed at building youth capacities and enhancing their skills.

Derasat takes part in Munich security forum

Munich

Abdulla Mohammed Al Ahmed, Executive Director of the Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat), participated in the 62nd Munich Security Conference, held in Germany.

The conference convened heads of state and government, ministers, leaders of international organisations, as well as a distinguished assembly of experts and directors of leading think tanks from around the world.

During the conference, Al Ahmed took part in several plenary and subsidiary sessions that examined a range of significant international

issues and addressed key contemporary global challenges.

Maturity

He emphasised that Gulf think tanks' participation reflects the region's research maturity, enriches international discourse with regional insights, and supports collective security, multilateral action, and efforts to address global crises at their roots.

The Executive Director also conducted a series of bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the conference, discussing matters of mutual interest with leaders and senior officials from various countries.

More than just racing

Dragon boat team to organise free medical mission for Filipino community

TDT | Manama

In the waters of the Kingdom of Bahrain, a unique team is blending athletic excellence with a heartfelt commitment to service.

Hurricane Alpha Racing Dragons (H.A.R.D.) is not only dedicated to the sport of dragon boat racing but also to uplifting the Filipino community through various outreach programs.

The Hurricane Alpha Racing Dragons (H.A.R.D.), in partnership with Al Hilal Multispecialty Medical Center in Al Hidd, Bahrain, has organized a Free Medical Mission titled "Strength That Serves" scheduled on February 27, 2026 (Friday), from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

The initiative aims to provide accessible and compassionate healthcare services to Filipinos living and working in Bahrain.

Wellness

Through this outreach program, organizers seek to promote overall wellness and ensure that Filipinos in Bahrain have access to essential medical care and professional health consultations.

The medical mission will be conducted at the Al Hilal Multispecialty Medical Center, where volunteer healthcare professionals will render services to members of the Filipino community.

The collaboration highlights the shared commitment of H.A.R.D. and Al Hilal Medical Center to community service and public health advocacy.

Initiative

Leading the initiative are the officers of H.A.R.D.: Fidel Bandalan, President; Coach Iyah



The initiative aims to provide accessible and compassionate healthcare services to Filipinos living and working in Bahrain.

Antonino, Team Coach; Donna Santos, Vice President; Charma Valenzuela and Christine Jor-

Loar, Admin – External; Dhela C. Solidad, Sponsorship and Re-

cruitment; Rodel Badajos, Team Captain; and Jeremiah Manego, Team Leader.

Their collective efforts demonstrate the organization's dedication not only to excellence in sports and teamwork but also to meaningful social responsibility.

According to the organizers, "Strength That Serves" reflects the group's mission to use their strength and unity to serve the

community.

By extending medical assistance to the Filipino community, the program emphasizes compassion, solidarity, and the importance of proactive health management among overseas Filipinos.

Hurricane Alpha Racing Dragons (H.A.R.D.) is a dynamic Filipino dragon boat racing team based in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Composed of dedicated athletes and community-minded

The Hurricane Alpha Racing Dragons is championing health initiatives for Filipino workers

individuals, the team promotes discipline, teamwork, and excellence in the sport of dragon boat racing.

Guided by strong leadership and a spirit of unity, Hurricane Alpha Racing Dragons continues to embody strength, resilience, and service – both on and off the water.

Members of the Filipino community are encouraged to participate and take advantage of this valuable healthcare opportunity.

BIBF, Veolia, and TAI to launch Terra Academia Bahrain

Middle East's first 'green university'

Institution to create thousands of jobs in green sectors

Ghadeer Alkumaish, Neethu Vayalakkara

TDT | Manama

Veolia, Terra Academia International (TAI), and the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) yesterday announced the launch of Terra Academia Bahrain, set to become the Middle East's first university focused on ecological transformation, industrial innovation, and sustainability.

The announcement was made at a high-level conference at BIBF Bahrain Bay, attended by H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education and Chairman of the Higher Education Council,

Mr. Khalid Ebrahim Humaidan, Chairman of BIBF and Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain, and Mr. Eric Giraud-Telme, Ambassador of France to Bahrain.

Terra Academia Bahrain aims to become the Middle East's first green university dedicated to ecological transformation,



H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, Mr. Khalid Ebrahim Humaidan, and Mr. Eric Giraud-Telme, along with other dignitaries at the event

noting that Terra Academia Bahrain's mission aligns with Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030 that includes promoting sustainability, competitiveness, and social fairness.

He stressed that investing in human capital and key sectors such as renewable energy, artificial intelligence, green finance, and circular economy practices is central to sustainable development.

Initiative

Estelle Brachlianoff, CEO of Veolia, added: "This initiative reflects our strong belief that education, skills development and the creation of local jobs in the environmental sector are key enablers of sustainable growth in the Middle East. Through Terra Academia, we aim to contribute to building the talents, innovations and solutions needed to accelerate the region's ecological transformation."

The institution is expected to create thousands of jobs in green sectors by 2030, supporting Bahrain's broader goal of becoming a regional hub for sustainable development and aligns with the Kingdom of Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030 and its climate ambitions, including its commitment to net zero by 2060.

Training

By 2030, it plans to train 5,000 students and professionals through a state-of-the-art campus hosting multiple partner universities, alongside a comprehensive online learning platform.

The initiative seeks to position Bahrain as a regional hub for talent, knowledge, and sustainable growth, emphasizing that the future begins in classrooms, where young minds learn to build a different, more sustainable world.

H.E. Dr. Juma reaffirmed the

Kingdom's commitment to a sustainable, low-carbon economy.

"Education is a fundamental driver of societal, technological, and economic change," he said also highlighting the Forever Green campaign, which aims to double tree coverage and quadruple mangrove areas by 2035.

Jean-Michel Blanquer, Chairman of Terra Academia and former French Minister of Education, highlighted Bahrain's strategic role in global ecological transformation.

"The ecological transition should not be seen as a constraint but as an engine for economic prosperity," he said,

Hilton Bahrain's The Dome returns in a stunning new Sea-Side location

Manama

Hilton Bahrain is thrilled to announce the return of The Dome, now in its stunning new location beside Al Najma Club by the sea. Framed by the tranquil waters and city skyline, with sunsets casting a golden glow behind it, The Dome offers a truly enchanting setting for families, friends, and colleagues to celebrate the spirit of Ramadan.

Building on the overwhelming success of last year, Hilton Bahrain is grateful for the continued patronage of its guests and is excited to elevate the experience even further.

"Last year, many told us that building The Dome would



be challenging," says Tamer Farouk, General Manager of Hilton Bahrain. "It was no small task, but we did it – and the success we achieved has inspired us to reach even greater heights this year. Moving to this beautiful sea-side location has its challenges, but I truly believe it will all be worth it when we see the smiles of our guests as they experience the magic of The Dome – the glowing lights, the serene sea, and the sunset behind it – creating an unforgettable Ramadan ambiance."

Guests can look forward to Iftar and Ghabga offerings that feature authentic Bahraini Ramadan favorites alongside delicious international dishes, thoughtfully prepared to delight every palate. Priced at BHD 28 net, with special group rates available, The Dome welcomes corporate gatherings, family groups, or friends celebrating together, making it an ideal destination for shared experiences.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, live entertainment will enhance each evening, creating a magical and immersive Ramadan experience for all. The Dome combines exquisite cuisine, captivating décor, and live performances, transforming each night into a celebration of tradition, togetherness, and joy. Hilton Bahrain invites everyone to experience this extraordinary Ramadan setting – a perfect blend of heritage, hospitality, and enchanting seaside ambiance.

Al Baraka Islamic Bank concludes 'RISE' to train individuals on Autism Spectrum for Banking Careers

In Collaboration with Alia Rehabilitation Centre

Manama

Al Baraka Islamic Bank, one of the leading Islamic banks in the Kingdom of Bahrain, has successfully concluded the "RISE" training programme, implemented in collaboration with Alia Rehabilitation Centre, as a pioneering initiative aimed at professionally empowering individuals on the autism spectrum by providing them with a practical, real-world experience within a banking work environment. The event included the trainees' relatives and families, showcasing the initiative's inclusive spirit. The initiative reflects the Bank's ongoing commitment to developing training programmes with a strong social and developmental dimension that create long-term positive impact for individuals and the wider community.

The programme was delivered as part of Al Baraka Islamic Bank's strategy to design inclusive training initiatives that embrace diversity and support social inclusion. By offering hands-on opportunities that



build skills and enhance professional readiness, the programme aligns with the Bank's sustainability and corporate social responsibility priorities, and its focus on human development as a key pillar of sustainable institutional growth.

The programme saw the participation of four trainees from Alia Rehabilitation Centre, who undertook a two-month practical training placement across several departments of the Bank,

including banking operations, marketing, quality assurance, and Administration. The experience enabled participants to apply professional skills in a real workplace setting, contributing to the development of their practical capabilities and self-confidence, and enhancing their readiness for sustainable integration into the labour market.

Commenting on the occasion, Dr Adel Salem, Chief Executive Officer of Al Baraka Islamic

Bank, said: "The successful conclusion of the RISE programme marks an important milestone in our journey towards embedding the principles of empowerment and social inclusion. Through this initiative, we were keen to provide participants on the autism spectrum with a practical training experience in the banking sector. This pioneering programme reaffirms the Bank's commitment to adopting sustainable initiatives that create

genuine impact and contribute to building development models capable of long-term continuity, based on our firm belief that investing in people is the foundation of institutional sustainability."

For his part, Mr Abdullah Suwaileh, Head of Human Resources and Administration at Al Baraka Islamic Bank, stated: "The RISE programme represented a valuable addition to the Bank's training ecosystem,

offering a realistic training experience that enabled participants to gain insight into the requirements of banking work and acquire practical, applicable skills. The programme also enhanced institutional awareness of the importance of adopting inclusive practices as an integral part of a sustainable and motivating work environment."

Meanwhile, Dr Shaikha Rania Al Khalifa, Director of Bahrain Society for Children with Behavioral and Communication Difficulties (Alia for Early Intervention) commented: "The RISE programme marked an important step in the rehabilitation journey of our trainees, with the experience having a positive impact on their professional skills, workplace behaviour and confidence in their abilities. Training within a real banking environment provided them with the opportunity to test their potential and broaden their future horizons, supporting their transition towards more advanced stages of professional employment."

Al Salam Bank in an Exceptional Year: 7 Awards Consolidate Its Position as a Leading Regional Financial Institution in 2025

Manama

Al Salam Bank marked 2025 as an exceptional year, achieving significant milestones that further cemented its position as one of the region's fastest-growing financial institutions. The Bank was recognized by the Euromoney Awards for Excellence as the Best Retail Bank in Bahrain for 2025, a distinction regarded as one of the most competitive and respected honors in the global financial industry. With more than one thousand institutions vying for

Euromoney's awards annually, this accomplishment reflects the Bank's strategic commitment to redefining the retail banking experience through advanced digital capabilities, enhanced customer-centric services, and a forward-looking operational model.

The prominence of this award lies in its affirmation of the Bank's substantial progress within retail banking. Al Salam Bank has succeeded in establishing an integrated and innovative banking ecosystem characterized by sophisticated digital offerings,

diversified financing solutions, and an expanded suite of premium credit cards designed to enrich customers' daily financial interactions. The initiatives collectively positioned the Bank as the fastest growing and most innovative retail banking institution in Bahrain.

Parallel to the distinguished Euromoney accolade, Al Salam Bank's broader achievements further strengthened its institutional standing and market position. The Bank was named Bank of the Year 2025 by The Banker, published by FT Special

ist, one of the financial sector's most authoritative and globally recognized awards honoring institutions that demonstrate excellence in innovation, governance, financial performance, and long-term value creation. Additionally, Group CEO Mr. Rafik Nayed was selected among the Top Influential CEOs for 2025 by Forbes Middle East, in recognition of his transformative leadership and his efforts to embed a human-first, intelligence-driven approach across the Bank's operations.

Further affirming its leader-

ship in Islamic finance, the Bank received the Best Islamic Bank in Bahrain 2025 award from International Business Magazine Awards. This was complemented by two recognitions from the World Business Outlook Awards, naming Al Salam

Bank both Best Islamic Bank Bahrain 2025 and Best Islamic Retail Bank in Bahrain 2025, distinctions that underscore its continued commitment to pioneering innovation within the Islamic banking sector. The Bank's accomplishments were additionally acknowledged by Global Business Outlook, which honored Mr. Rafik Nayed as Best Islamic Banking CEO - Bahrain 2025, while also recognizing the Bank as Most Customer-Centric Islamic Bank in Bahrain 2025, further highlighting its dedication to service excellence.



Tamkeen announces the launch of 2026 - 2030 strategy

Celebrates 20th anniversary

● Prioritizing areas with the highest returns for the economy and Bahrainis

● Supporting the design of career pathways through initiatives that link skills with available labor market opportunities

● Adopting innovative approaches to stimulate private sector growth and access to financing

● Delivering programs that enhance the Fund's operational effectiveness and efficiency while further strengthening governance

Manama

The Labour Fund "Tamkeen" announced the launch of its new strategy for 2026 - 2030 during a press conference, outlining its vision for the next phase of growth. The event also highlighted Tamkeen's key achievements over the past two decades since its inception, underscoring its pivotal role in driving national development and empowering



the private sector to serve as the main engine of Bahrain's economy.

The new strategy was unveiled with a focus on directing support toward priority sectors and future skills. This approach is intended to maximize the impact of support and generate positive returns with direct benefits for the national economy and Bahrainis in line with national priorities and the evolving requirements of the next phase of development.

The press conference was held on the sidelines of an event organized by the Labour Fund "Tamkeen", and attended by ministers, chief executives and business leaders from both the public and private sectors. During the event, details of the 2026 - 2030 strategy were unveiled in addition to the achievements of the past two decades, reflecting the significance of the occasion in unifying efforts, supporting national priorities and achieving the desired economic impact.

BHD 2.6 million

Her Excellency noted that over the past two decades, "Tamkeen" has contributed more than BHD 2.6 million to the national economy through direct and indirect financing. Tamkeen's programs have supported over 300,000 opportunities to support Bahrainis and more than 92,000 opportunities to support enterprises across

various sizes and sectors. In addition, the Labour Fund has facilitated financing approximately BHD 920 million in loans and funding support.

Her Excellency also reviewed the key features of Tamkeen's 2026 - 2030 strategy, which is built around four main priorities: prioritizing areas with the highest returns for the economy and Bahrainis; supporting the design of career pathways through initiatives that link skills with available labor market opportunities, adopting innovative approaches to stimulate private sector growth and access to financing; and delivering programs that enhance the Fund's operational effectiveness and efficiency, while further strengthening governance. She also highlighted that the strategy was developed using a multi-faceted methodology, including an assessment of Tamkeen's current position, incorporating feedback from beneficiaries, benchmarking against regional and international best practices

Chief Executive for Strategy and Insights at the Labour Fund "Tamkeen", noted that the priorities for the 2026 - 2030 will be translated into a bundle of carefully designed initiatives to ensure the achievement of the desired positive impact, guided by clear performance standards and defined measurement indicators. She also highlighted that work is underway to launch the "Tamkeen Bahrain" mobile application, which will offer an integrated digital experience aimed at facilitating access to services and enhancing the beneficiary experience.

For his part, Mr. Khalid Al Bayat, Deputy Chief Executive of Program Design and Delivery at the Labour Fund "Tamkeen", noted that newly developed programs currently under design will be announced in the coming period, ensuring their alignment with the new strategic priorities and the evolving needs of the labor market, both present and future.

Mr. Al Bayat also added that "Tamkeen" will operate under an updated structure for its programs and initiatives, centered on achieving qualitative indicators across six key objectives: developing and enhancing the skills of Bahrainis, enabling access to the labor market, providing incentives for employment and career progression, supporting the launch of startups, driving the growth and expansion of Small and Medium Enterprises and reinventing business models.

and analyzing future trends, in addition to developing a labor market supply-and-demand model ensuring sustainable impact for the national economy and local talent.

Ms. Alya Al Aali, Deputy

This marks the Labour Fund's sixth strategic cycle, as "Tamkeen" continues to update its strategy, directions and priorities to ensure alignment with evolving labor market dynamics and needs. The aim is to meet the requirements of the private sector and strengthen its capacity for growth and expansion, while empowering local talent and enhancing their active role in driving economic development and achieving the desired economic impact.

BisB in deal with Takaful International Co.



● To Become Appointed Representative for Insurance Distribution

Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB), the leading provider of innovative Islamic financial solutions for simplifying monetary matters in the Kingdom of Bahrain, has signed a strategic agreement with Takaful International Co., one of the Kingdom's most prominent Islamic insurance providers. The agreement will see BisB become an Appointed Representative of Takaful International, granting the Bank the authority to market and distribute their insurance products through its branches and sales network across Bahrain in near future.

The initiative reflects a shared commitment between BisB and Takaful International to enhance financial accessibility and deliver a more holistic customer experience. By enabling customers to access a comprehensive range of Islamic financial and protection solutions under one roof, the collaboration supports the evolving needs of individuals and businesses across the Kingdom.

Through this partnership, soon BisB customers will be able to conveniently access Takaful International's portfolio of insurance offerings - including personal, motor, home, and other protection products directly through the Bank's customer-facing channels. The enablement of this facility to customers will be announced in due course.

Commenting on the strategic

partnership, Fatema AlAlawi, Chief Executive Officer of BisB, stated, "This agreement marks another step forward in BisB's mission to simplify customers' financial journeys by offering integrated, Sharia'a-compliant solutions that meet both their banking and protection needs. Our partnership with Takaful International Co. aligns with our vision of delivering value-added services and seamless, end-to-end financial solutions tailored to the daily lives of our customers."

For his part, Mr. Essam Al Ansari, Chief Executive Officer of Takaful International Co., added, "This collaboration reinforces our commitment to serving the evolving protection needs of customers across the Kingdom, while continuously improving service delivery through strategic alliances."

Export Bahrain, HQ by Hope sign MoU



● To Support the Export Growth of Local Businesses

Manama

Export Bahrain has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HQ, under which Export Bahrain becomes the official 'Export Partner' of the HQ Industrial project in Hidd. This step reflects the shared commitment of both parties to supporting the growth of Bahraini industrial projects and enhancing their competitiveness in regional and

international markets.

The partnership aims to provide an integrated support ecosystem for entrepreneurs within HQ Industrial. Beneficiaries will gain access to Export Bahrain's services including export advisory, capacity building, market linkages, as well as programs and initiatives related to international expansion and growth beyond the local market.

On this occasion, Safa Sharif Abdulkhaleq, Chief Executive Officer of Export Bahrain, stated that signing the Memorandum of Understanding with HQ by Hope reflects Export Bahrain's commitment to empowering Bahrain-based businesses and enhancing their readiness to expand into international markets. She noted that the partnership will provide an integrated suite of export services and programs that meet businesses' needs and enable them to transform their export ambitions into real growth opportunities.

For her part, Latifa Mohamed A. Jabbar, General Manager of Hope Ventures, affirmed that this partnership represents a valuable addition to the HQ Industrial ecosystem, noting that enabling industrial projects to access export services is a key pillar for supporting their sustainability and growth.

News in brief

◆ **China confirmed that**

Canadian and British citizens will be able to visit the country visa-free from Tuesday, after the two countries' leaders had announced such agreements following official trips to Beijing. British and Canadian prime ministers Keir Starmer and Mark Carney both visited Beijing in January, seeking to bolster relations with China and pivot from the increasingly mercurial United States. Both leaders had hailed progress following meetings with top Chinese leaders such as President Xi Jinping, including on issues like visa-free access for their citizens to China. Beijing's foreign ministry confirmed these agreements on Sunday, saying Canadian and British citizens will be able to travel to China visa-free from Tuesday, with the policy in effect until December 31.



**China confirms
visa-free access for
Canada, UK visitors
from Feb 17**

◆ **Vietnam has** granted a licence to Elon Musk's Starlink to operate its satellite internet services in the communist country, a government agency said. The radio frequency regulator said local unit Starlink Services Vietnam Co. can

initially deploy four gateway stations and a maximum of 600,000 terminal devices in Vietnam. The licensing requires Starlink to ensure "no interference with existing radio communication networks", the Radio Frequency Management authority announced on Saturday. The Starlink system would contribute to "expanding satellite internet connectivity" in the country, it added. Starlink provides high-speed internet access to remote locations around the world via thousands of low Earth orbit satellites.

◆ **Gaza's civil defence agency** reported that Israeli strikes killed at least 12 people since dawn on Sunday, while a military official said the attacks were in response to ceasefire violations. Despite a US-brokered truce that entered its second phase last month, violence has continued in the Palestinian territory, with Israel and Hamas blaming each other for violating the agreement. The civil defence agency, which operates as a rescue force under Hamas authorities, said one strike hit a tent of displaced people in northern Gaza and another targeted an area in the south. Five people were killed and several injured when an air strike targeted a tent sheltering displaced people in Jabalia in the north, the agency said in a statement. Five more were killed and several injured in a separate early morning strike in the southern city of Khan Yunis, the agency said, adding that one more was killed in Israeli shelling in Gaza City. The agency also said that one person was killed by Israeli gunfire in Beit Lahia in north Gaza. The Al-Shifa and Nasser hospitals confirmed they had received the bodies of at least seven people.

**Gaza civil
defence says Israeli
strikes kill 12 since
dawn**



SPOTLIGHT

59-kilo monster fish catches eyes at Nigerian fishing festival



Fishermen attempt to catch fish in the Mata Fada river during the Argungu Fishing and Cultural Festival in Argungu Town, Kebbi State in northwest Nigeria

AFP | Argungu, Nigeria

Local fisherman Abubakar Usman's 59-kilogramme monster catch was the major highlight of the UNESCO-listed Argungu fishing festival, which returned Saturday after a six-year hiatus because of the insecurity in northwestern Nigeria's Kebbi state. Thousands of people, including a handful of women and children, defied the blistering 39-degree heat to take part. Fishermen from Nigeria's West African neighbours Niger, Chad, and Togo also came to compete.

The fishing festival was first staged in 1934 by the then traditional ruler of Argungu, Muhammad Sama. It was held to mark an end to a century-old

history of hostility and distrust between his people and the region's most powerful ruler, the Sultan of Sokoto, then Hassan Dan-Mu'azu.

Over the decades, the festival grew into one of Nigeria's biggest cultural events, drawing international visitors, before insecurity and funding shortages reduced it to an occasional celebration. The last full edition was held six years ago, say organisers.

On Saturday, fishermen floated on brown, round gourds as they hunted for the biggest catch in Mata Fada river, using only their hands and nets in the river's murky waters.

Thousands of spectators lined the riverbank cheering loudly.

Iran says ready for nuclear compromise if US lifts sanctions

Trump has repeatedly called for zero enrichment in Iran

● **Tehran denies having such military ambitions**

● **Several countries, including Russia, have offered to take responsibility for the stockpile**

● **Iran had been enriching uranium to 60%, well above the 3.6% limit**

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran is ready to compromise on its stockpile of highly enriched uranium in exchange for US sanctions being lifted, its deputy foreign minister said in a BBC interview published Sunday.

Majid Takht-Ravanchi's remarks followed a resumption of nuclear talks between Iran and the United States in Oman on February 6.

Switzerland on Saturday announced that a new round of talks would take place in Geneva next week, but without specifying which day.

Iran has not yet officially confirmed the new round of talks, but Takht-Ravanchi, who was in Iran's Oman delegation led by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, said they would be on Tuesday, the BBC reported.

Western countries, led by the United States as well as by Israel, Iran's arch-enemy and considered by experts to be the only nuclear power in the Middle East, accuse the Islamic republic of seeking to acquire nuclear weapons.

Tehran denies having such military ambitions, but insists on



Demonstrators rally in solidarity with the Iranian protest movement in Los Angeles

its right to this technology for civilian purposes.

Iran is ready to compromise to reach an agreement with the United States including diluting its highly enriched uranium, but Washington must lift its sanctions which are crippling Iran's economy, Takht-Ravanchi said, according to the BBC.

"If we see the sincerity on their (American) part, I am sure we will be on a road to have an agreement," he said, speaking in English.

The BBC said he was also questioned about the possibility of Tehran agreeing to ship its stockpile of more than 400 kilos of highly enriched uranium out of the country and did not rule out a compromise, staying "it is too early to say" what will happen at the talks.

Several countries, including Russia, have offered to take responsibility for the stockpile, an offer Iran has so far refused.

Considerable uncertainty surrounds the fate of Iran's stockpile of more than 400 kilos of 60% enriched uranium that was last seen by nuclear watchdog inspectors last June 10, before Israeli and US strikes against Iranian nuclear sites.

Iran had been enriching uranium to 60%, well above the 3.67% limit allowed by the now-defunct 2015 nuclear agreement and close to 90% needed to make a bomb, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

US President Donald Trump has repeatedly called for zero enrichment in Iran.

"The issue of zero enrichment is not an issue any more and as far as Iran is concerned, it is not on the table any more," Takht-Ravanchi told the BBC.

The Fars news agency, citing a foreign ministry official, reported on Sunday that the talks would also cover potential American investments in Iran's energy sector.

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Iran has significantly expanded its uranium enrichment capacity beyond limits set by the 2015 nuclear deal, enriching uranium up to approximately 60% purity – much closer to weapons-grade (90%) than what is needed for civilian nuclear power – and has reduced monitoring by the United Nations nuclear watchdog, raising international concerns about the potential for weaponisation.

Syria says has taken over another base from US forces

AFP | Damascus, Syria

Syria's defence ministry said yesterday it had taken over the Al-Shadadi base in the northeast from US forces, days after assuming control of a facility near the Jordan-Iraq borders.

"The forces of the Syrian Arab Army have taken over the Al-Shadadi military base in the Hasakeh countryside following coordination with the American side," a ministry statement said.

US forces operating as part of the international coalition against the Islamic State group had been stationed at the base outside the town of the same name.

The town housed a prison where Kurdish forces detained members of the extremist jihadist organisation, before government forces advanced into the



American soldiers walk around at the Taji base complex which hosts Iraqi and US troops and is located thirty kilometres north of the capital Baghdad

area last month.

Sunday's announcement follows US confirmation on Thurs-

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) were a major partner of the US-led international coalition against IS, and were instrumental in the group's territorial defeat in Syria in 2019.

But following the fall in December 2024 of longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad, the United States has drawn closer to the new government in Damascus, recently declaring that the need for its alliance with the Kurds had largely passed.

Despite IS's territorial defeat, the group remains active, however.

On Saturday, the US Central Command said its forces had struck more than 30 IS targets in Syria this month.

A CENTCOM statement said the air strikes between February 3 and 12 hit IS "infrastructure and weapons storage targets".

1659

1840

First known cheque written (£400), now on display at Westminster Abbey

American Charles Wilkes discovers the Shackleton Ice Shelf in Antarctica



1923

1959

Howard Carter opens the inner burial chamber of Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamun's tomb and finds the sarcophagus

Fidel Castro becomes the 16th Prime Minister of Cuba after overthrowing Fulgencio Batista

X

TOP
4
TWEETS

01



With 60% of the world's best solar potential, Africa can become a clean energy powerhouse. Yet Africa receives just 2% of global clean energy investment. With the right support, Africa will become a renewables powerhouse.

@antonio_guterres

02



Good meeting with @LindseyGrahamSC and a bipartisan delegation of US Senators.

Now is the time to raise the costs of Russia's war higher than ever.

To bring Putin to the negotiating table with genuine intent.

Sanctions work.

And they work best when coordinated.

Europe's 20th package of sanctions package will further tighten the pressure through measures on energy, financial services, and trade, and by cracking down on sanctions circumvention.

We propose a full maritime services ban which can further isolate Russia and cut its fossil fuel revenue especially if coordinated closely with our G7 partners and the United States.

@vonderleyen

03



Every day, recovery continues in our cities and communities after Russian strikes. This week of February alone, they launched about 1,300 attack drones, more than 1,200 guided aerial bombs, and 50 missiles against Ukraine – almost all of them ballistic.

@zelenskyyua

Obama deplores lack of shame after Trump racist monkey clip

Majority of Americans "find this behavior deeply troubling"

AFP | Washington, United States

Former US president Barack Obama criticized a lack of shame and decorum in the country's political discourse, responding Saturday for the first time to a post on Donald Trump's social media account that depicted him and first lady Michelle as monkeys.

In a wide-ranging podcast interview with left-wing political commentator Brian Tyler Cohen released Saturday, Obama also compared the actions of agents enforcing the president's immigration crackdown in Minnesota to dictatorships.

The video, shared on Trump's Truth Social account on February 5, sparked censure across the US political spectrum, with the White House initially rejecting "fake outrage" only to then blame the post on an error by a staff member and taking it down.

Near the end of a one-minute-long video promoting conspiracies about Trump's 2020 election loss to Joe Biden, the Obamas -- the first Black president and first lady in US history -- were shown with their faces on the bodies of monkeys for about one second.

"The discourse has devolved into a level of cruelty that we ha-



Former US President Barack Obama speaks with President-elect Donald Trump before the State Funeral Service for former US President Jimmy Carter at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, DC (file)



Donald J. Trump   @realDonaldTrump · 41m



ven't seen before...Just days ago, you, your face on an ape's body," Donald Trump put a picture of Cohen said in the interview.

"And so again, we've seen the devolution of the discourse. How do we come back from a place that we have fallen into?"

Without naming Trump, Obama responded by saying the majority of Americans "find this behavior deeply troubling."

"There's this sort of clown show that's happening in social media and on television, and what is true is that there doesn't seem to be any shame about this among people who used to feel like you had to have some sort of decorum and a sense of propriety and respect for the office, right? That's been lost."

Rogue behavior

Obama predicted such messaging will hurt Trump's Republicans in midterm elections, that "ultimately, the answer is going to come from the American people."

Trump has told reporters he stood by the thrust of the video's claims about election fraud, but that he had not seen the offensive clip at the end.

Turning to Trump's policies, Obama criticized his immigration crackdown in Minnesota and blasted the conduct of agents during the controversial weeks-long operation that was brought to an end this week.

Obama called the behavior of

federal officers, which included two fatal shootings that sparked mounting pressure on Trump's mass crackdown, as the sort that "in the past we've seen in authoritarian countries and we've seen in dictatorships."

Thousands of federal agents -- including those with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) -- carried out weeks of sweeping raids and arrests in what the Trump administration claims were targeted missions against criminals.

"The rogue behavior of agents of the federal government is deeply concerning and dangerous," Obama said.

But he added he had found hope in communities pushing back against the operations.

"Not just randomly, but in a systematic, organized way, citizens saying, 'this is not the America we believe in,' and we're going to fight back, and we're going to push back with the truth and with cameras and with peaceful protests," he said.

"That kind of heroic, sustained behavior in subzero weather by ordinary people is what should give us hope.

"As long as we have folks doing that, I feel like we're going to get through this."

Paw patrol: Larry the cat marks 15 years at 10 Downing Street

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Larry the cat, the UK's most famous feline, marks 15 years on Sunday as the country's chief mouser patrolling the corridors of power around number 10 Downing Street.

Here are four things to know about the purr-fect puss who over the years has charmed his way into the hearts of some of the world's top politicians.

Humble roots

Recruited to deal with a rodent problem, Larry arrived at the prime minister's official residence on February 15, 2011.

He was adopted from the renowned London animal shelter, Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, when he was believed to be about four years old. David Cameron was prime minister at the time.

Since then, the white and tabby cat, officially introduced on Downing Street's website as the "Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office", has reigned supreme from the country's most photographed doorstep.

His official biography on the Downing Street website says apart from rodent control: "Larry spends his days greeting guests to the house, inspecting security defences and testing antique furniture for napping quality."

Six prime ministers

He has lived through six



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer (L) welcomes Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky (R) upon his arrival as Larry the Downing Street cat (bottom L) walks away at Number 10 Downing Street in central London

prime ministers, from Cameron to Keir Starmer, weathered the storms of Brexit, Covid-19, the chaos of "partygate," Liz Truss's 49-day whirlwind occupation, and the more orderly months under Rishi Sunak.

Nothing seems to ruffle his fur as this political veteran glides from crisis to crisis with feline calm, and the lick of a paw.

A media darling, Larry, who is now believed to be around 19, often steals the spotlight from visiting foreign leaders.

In December, he was on the doorstep to greet the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

In January, he even sent a photographer stumbling on the red carpet after darting unexpectedly between his legs during a visit by Poland's president.

Cat-fluencer

A whiskered influencer, Larry also boasts an X account @Number10cat followed by more than 877,500 fans.

Run by an anonymous user, Larry grumbles about getting caught in the rain and sometimes takes catty swipes at politicians, notably UK Reform and the administration of US President Donald Trump.

His first months "in office" even inspired a book, "The Larry Diaries", published in 2011.

Larry now shares the No. 10 residence with JoJo and Prince, the Starmer family cats.

Prince, a Siberian, joined the household in 2024 after "negotiations" with Starmer's children -- who had wanted a German Shepherd dog.

But there was a problem: "the only door out of our new flat is bomb proof," Starmer told the BBC in 2024. "Therefore, getting a cat flap is proving a little bit difficult."

Larry's fans can re-

lax though: he is considered a permanent civil servant, which means he gets to stay at Downing Street for good. Unlike prime ministers.

Famous felines

Larry is not alone in being a feline companion to politicians.

On Saturday came sad news that Palmerston, a black-and-white cat, once mouser to the Foreign Office and "Diplomat extraordinaire", had passed away in Bermuda where he retired in 2020.

"Farewell old friend x," Larry posted on his X account, brushing aside rumours of rivalry between the pair.

Under former US president Bill Clinton, the black-and-white cat Socks took up residence in the White House from 1993 to 2001.

Once a stray, Socks became the star of several books and was often featured by the UK cartoonist Steve Bell in his daily comic strips.

And in Belgium, a rescue cat named Maximus has shot to social media stardom as the bearded sidekick and PR weapon of Prime Minister Bart De Wever.



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

Northern Governorate Celebrates WHO "Healthy Governorate" Accreditation



The Northern Governorate held a ceremony to honor partners following its official designation as a "Healthy Governorate" by the World Health Organization (WHO). The event was attended by Governor H.E. Hassan Abdulla Al-Madani, First Deputy Speaker H.E. Abdulkader Salman, and Ministry of Interior Advisor H.E. Ali Abdulhussain Al-Asfoor. The Governor attributed this milestone to the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the support of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. He also praised the oversight of Interior Minister H.E. Sheikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa. The accreditation follows a successful WHO evaluation in November 2024, confirming the governorate met rigorous international standards. This achievement reflects Bahrain's progress in sustainable development and public health.

Indian Ambassador Hosts TNSDC SCOUT Students at Bahrain Embassy



Ambassador H.E. Mr. Vinod K. Jacob hosted a delegation of students from the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC) SCOUT program at the Indian Embassy in Bahrain. The visit, conducted under the 'Visit Embassy' initiative, aimed to provide the Chennai-based students with a deeper understanding of India's diplomatic functions abroad. During the interaction, Ambassador Jacob engaged the students in an insightful Q&A session. Embassy officials also briefed the group on various mission operations and strategic initiatives, including the "Focus State/UT Initiative," which promotes the strengths of Indian states like Tamil Nadu. The students further explored a photo exhibition detailing India's advanced defense capabilities. This visit offered the young delegation a unique opportunity to witness firsthand how the Embassy fosters bilateral relations and serves the diaspora, bridging the gap between national skill development goals and global diplomatic engagement.

ICRF Hosts Vibrant 'Autumn Fest' to Honor 400 Workers in Bahrain



The Indian Community Welfare Committee (ICRF) organized its first laborers' day of 2026, titled 'Autumn Fest,' at the Indian Club. The event aimed to provide joy and recognition to approximately 400 low-income workers from across the Kingdom. The day featured sports competitions and cultural performances by the workers. Distinguished guests, including Fahad Abdulaziz Al Bin Ali (LMRA), Nihal AKL (IOM), and Hussain Al Hussaini (Ministry of Labour), attended the event. Educational sessions on labor rights, health, and legal aid were conducted by experts including Adv. Madhavan Kallath and Dr. Babu Ramachandran. A heartwarming cake-cutting ceremony was held for workers celebrating birthdays this month. Led by ICRF Chairman Adv. V.K. Thomas and General Secretary Aneesh Sreedharan, the fest concluded with laughter yoga, prize distributions, and dinner.

Bahrain Odia Samaj Convenes Annual General Body Meeting and Desert



The Bahrain Odia Samaj (BOS) launched its annual proceedings with a General Body meeting and Desert Camp in the Sakhir desert. The gathering marked the election of the new Executive Committee for the 2026-2028 term and outlined an ambitious cultural roadmap for the coming years. Presided over by outgoing President Mr. Ramachandra Sahoo, the event was attended by former presidents Mr. Bishnuprasad Mohanty and Mr. Dinesh Mohanty, alongside senior members Mr. Kishor Das and Mr. Bhabani Prasad Mishra. Mr. Sahoo highlighted the organization's milestones and its sustained contributions to the Indian community and the Indian Embassy. Following a welcome by Joint General Secretary Mr. Sarada Pattanaik, General Secretary Mr. Shantanu Senpati reported on the society's financial achievements. Coordinated by Mr. Amresh Panda and Mr. Amarnath Subudhi, the event concluded with a vote of thanks from Cultural Secretary Mrs. Ankita Nayak, celebrating the community's continued unity.

BKSF Launches Annual Ramadan Charity Drive in Bahrain



The Bahrain Kerala Social Forum (BKSF) has officially commenced its fifth annual Ramadan Charity Drive. The initiative was inaugurated by Loka Kerala Sabha member Subair Kannur and presided over by BKSF patron Basheer Ambalayi. The drive began with the distribution of dry food kits, donated by an anonymous Bahraini noblewoman who has supported the forum's efforts for several years. Charity Team Leader Anwar Kannur confirmed that volunteers are mobilized to identify and deliver these "kits of love" to underprivileged individuals across the Kingdom. This humanitarian campaign continues BKSF's mission to support the needy during the holy month. For more information, the public can contact 39614255 or 33040446.



CAMPUS

Dr. Wafa Almansoori Honored Among Pioneers of Gulf Engineering



Manama

Dr. Wafa Almansoori, Interim President and Provost of the American University of Bahrain, was honored at the "Pioneers of Gulf Engineering" ceremony.

held on the sidelines of the 27th Gulf Engineering Forum in Kuwait.

The recognition was presented by His Excellency Engineer Abdullatif Hamed Al-Mashari, Kuwait's Minister of



State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs.

Dr. Almansoori was among 15 distinguished engineering professionals from across the GCC recognized for their significant

contributions and technical impact on the regional engineering sector.

This recognition underscores Dr. Almansoori's strategic leadership and her specialized expertise within the Gulf's engineering landscape.

Her career has been defined by a commitment to advancing technical knowledge and fostering innovation, consistently aiming to drive a more sustainable and advanced future for

the region. The honor reflects her dedication to excellence and her influential role in shaping the development of the engineering industry across the GCC.

BIS Celebrates Bahrain National Sports Day with a Vibrant and Inclusive Sports Carnival



Manama

In celebration of "Bahrain National Sports Day", Bhatavans- Bahrain Indian School (BIS) hosted a dynamic and meticulously organised Sports Carnival, fostering a culture of physical fitness, teamwork, and holistic development among its students. The event was inaugu-

rated by the Honourable Principal, Mr Saji Jacob, who formally declared the Sports Day open by releasing a cluster of balloons into the air, symbolising enthusiasm, unity, and the spirit of healthy competition.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across all grade levels. Young learners from Pre-KG to Grade



2 engaged in a wide spectrum of age-appropriate athletic events, including the Obstacle Race, Both-Feet Jump Race, 50-Metre Dash, and Frog Race. The carnival also featured an array of thoughtfully designed skill-based and recreational activities such as the Hula Hoop Race, Math Relay, Ball Race Station, Directional Jump Challenge,

Cone Carry to Basket, Number Hopscotch, and Cup Stacking, among others.

Students from Grade 3 onwards demonstrated commendable sportsmanship and team spirit as they participated in competitive team sports, including Football, Cricket, Basketball, Volleyball, and structured Hula Hoop activities, alongside other

recreational games. The Sports Carnival not only celebrated athleticism but also reinforced the values of perseverance, leadership, and healthy competition. The vibrant atmosphere, marked by energy, camaraderie, and enthusiastic cheering, made the occasion both memorable and impactful. The Directors, Mr Himanshu

Verma and Mrs Ritu Verma, expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the meticulous planning and seamless execution of the event. They commended the students for their spirited participation, discipline, and exemplary sportsmanship, and lauded the dedicated efforts of the staff whose commitment ensured the grand success of the celebration.



A Sensory Symphony: Scintillating Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony At NMS Bahrain



Manama

The New Millennium School, Bahrain organised a spectacular Graduation Ceremony for its Kindergarten students on 14th February, 2026, celebrating the young learners' transition with great fervour and gaiety. The theme for the morning, "Sensorial Learning – Learning through Senses," beautifully

reflected the school's motto of holistic development and its commitment to nurturing young minds through sensory and experiential learning.

The theme came alive through a kaleidoscope of vibrant performances, beginning with a melodious welcome song and culminating in a show-stopping grand finale. Each performance thoughtfully highlighted how



children learn and grow through sight, sound, movement, and expression, making the programme both meaningful and visually delightful.

The tiny graduates enthralled the audience with their confident performances, filling parents with pride while showcasing the values and foundational skills imbibed during their Kindergarten journey. Dressed

smartly in blue gowns and graduation caps, the little toddlers were brimming with excitement as they received their passing-out certificates and medals, marking their progression from Pre-Primary to Grade I.

The Chief Guest, Mr Ganesh Pillai, Vice Chairman RP Group, in his address, lauded the parents for their unwavering support, perseverance, and



motivation, which played a pivotal role in their children's successful preschool journey. He also appreciated the dedicated efforts of the Kindergarten teachers, who impart key learnings through innovative, engaging, and sensory-rich teaching methods.

The Principal, Dr Arun Kumar Sharma, congratulated the students and emphasised the

importance of strong collaboration between parents and the school in shaping a child's overall personality and emotional well-being.

Chairman, Dr. Ravi Pillai and Managing Director Mrs Geetha Pillai extended their love and blessings to the young graduates, wishing them a joyful and successful learning journey ahead.

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE

REAL WAY TRAVEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33331807 or sajreal77@gmail.com

Metal Tech Contracting W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of AIR-COND. SHEET-METAL INSTALLER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17295455 or BASSEM@3CSBAHRAIN.COM

ROYAL SARAY RESORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77707070 or hrm@sevensholding.com

ATEYA METAL WORKS has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39852444 or ADMN-FLUIDTECH@GMAIL.COM

BHATTI INTERIOR DECORATION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36675632 or MRJMANNATUL@GMAIL.COM

K N TRUST CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36582812 or KNB365@GMAIL.COM

DUAL MART W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37722455 or ALHMOUD-SAARA@GMAIL.COM

SONDOS RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34518060 or REDSEACR-PET@GMAIL.COM

GREATWAY ADVERTISING has a vacancy for the occupation of ADVERTISING SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32348148 or HAMZAJATT1040@GMAIL.COM

PARADISE FURNITURE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33802007 or SARANAZIR44@GMAIL.COM

Cubavo Cleaning W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39178552 or CUBAOER-SVICES@YAHOO.COM

BAZOOKA FRIED CHICKEN & BURGERS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17783399 or HR@ALDAAYSIHOLDING.COM

Bahrain Electromechanical Services Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17536275 or BEMCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

Bahrain Electromechanical Services Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17536275 or BEMCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

SEA BIRD MECHANICAL AND MARINE CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17273133 or SIAM7373@BATELCO.COM.BH

SALKO MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13105727 or PKDSALEM06@GMAIL.COM

MOHAMED SAIF MARKETING BAHRAIN PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33756617 or MSAIF.MSAIF1968@GMAIL.COM

ACHAYANS MEN SALOON S.P.C has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33676709 or RA-JUJOSE71@GMAIL.COM

ESTKANAT CHAI RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39275997 or bu5alid_2528@gmail.com

ROYAL SARAY RESORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 77707070 or hrm@sevensholding.com

BUSINESS POINT DOCUMENT CLEARANCE has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17255510 or SHAZIAASGHARLI.BH@GMAIL.COM

GALGACHA RC JEWELLERY DESIGN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKERS-JEWELLERY & PRECIOUS METAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36812284 or KESTOGHOSH14@GMAIL.COM

SMALL VILLAGE MARKET has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17259995 or haneegeepas@gmail.com

ROAD DRIVE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33002489 or

TEMISHAIKH42@GMAIL.COM

ANAIZA CONSULTING & CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66610096 or ejaz-khan652@gmail.com

PRIME CUTS SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38717542 or MUHAMMADAMIR3871@GMAIL.COM

OLD BASTION GENTS SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36372626 or JINOYDEVN77@GMAIL.COM

Havelock One Interiors W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832022 or HAMIDA.ALHUBAIL@HAVELOCKONE.COM

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832022 or HAMIDA.ALHUBAIL@HAVELOCKONE.COM

KENTUCKY has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36051050 or ssaleh@AMERICANA-FOOD.COM

SAHAB GEE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36569522 or AD-NANJATT141@GMAIL.COM

Havelock One Interiors W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832022 or HAMIDA.ALHUBAIL@HAVELOCKONE.COM

ADDRESS CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39055666 or ADDRESS.CONS@GMAIL.COM

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 1770211 or hr@dreamgroup.bh

AL-AHLIA CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17737000 or h.s.m1111@gmail.com

DISCOVERY REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17822223 or dredco.gp@gmail.com

Havelock One Interiors W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832022 or HAMIDA.ALHUBAIL@HAVELOCKONE.COM

ANIQA FASHIONS has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33862221 or USMANGHANI33862221@GMAIL.COM

Al Rayah For Safety Items W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17822228 or RASHEED@SECURICORE.BH

MAJESTIC TAILOR has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38979767 or MARIARASOOL90@GMAIL.COM

BHD SERVICE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of GYPSUM CARVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32083818 or HK425493@GMAIL.COM

ALLAQ RESORT COMPANY BSC CLOSED SOFTEL BAHRAIN ZALLAQ THALA has a vacancy for the occupation of TRAINEE COMPUTER PROGRAMMER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17631660 or ahmed@jazayani.com

CASABLANCA MORROCCAN RESTAURANT AND CAFE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36141684 or AHMEDYOUSEFKHAI-FA@ICLOUD.COM

A - KARIM ALJAHROMI CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER/OPERATOR(EARTH DRILLING MACHINE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17831000 or akjcont@gmail.com

AL-AHLIA CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17737000 or h.s.m1111@gmail.com

SKILMISSION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TRAINER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34118609 or PRINCYAJI63@GMAIL.COM

ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM

TANDOORI TAWAH RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (RESTURANTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33303746 or ADEEL_RAUF2003@YAHOO.COM

RED SECURE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SENIOR COMPUTER SOFTWARE

SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39613056 or jpsdk81@gmail.com

ASFI CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17777355 or ROYAL_SIMO@HOTMAIL.COM

CHAIYANI GENERAL TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39248620 or EVERGREENDOCUMENT@GMAIL.COM

PANORAMA CONTRACTING & ENGINEERING SERV has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17729935 or AHMED@PANORAMABH.COM

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17730640 or ALTRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17730640 or ALTRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

GOLTENS BAHRAIN CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC(SHIPS ENGINE ROOM), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17466145 or JEYANTHAN@GOLTENS.COM

ALYAA CARPENTRY WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39836099 or ALYAA_WORKSHOP@OUTLOOK.COM.COM

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17730640 or ALTRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

DECODE MEDIA SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17442887 or JAST112@GMAIL.COM

AFREENE ALSHARK SUPPORTING SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39441637 or INFO.MULTANIEXPRESS@GMAIL.COM

SAND ROCK CONSTRUCTION COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3304825 or naseeredathil@gmail.com

DS SMART TOURISM ASSISTANCE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37975733 or SAJIDMAN187@GMAIL.COM

QAMAR AL JAZEERA SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33858745 or QAMARALJAZEERA18@GMAIL.COM

ANAND AIR COOL CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICAL WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39068729 or anandharaj1970@gmail.com

RIZCO MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER(MACHINERY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33770118 or RIZWAN.SIDHU@YAHOO.COM

NIA CAR SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33970432 or ANILMOOPATTIL@GMAIL.COM

FIVE BELLS INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(PAINT FINISHER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34458096 or ABDULREHMANRANA007@ICLOUD.COM

SAVOY GRANDE HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 32385517 or JJIN7083@GMAIL.COM

DUNIYA PUR CONTRACTING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34324605 or ROYAL BAHRAIN HOSPITAL has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17532010 or hussain.alali@royalbhrn.com

CNL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STORE CLERK, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33888886 or HAMAD@SPECTRUMOILFIELD.COM

AL JAZEERA SECURITY CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36945444 or info@jssbahrain.com

POWER TECH CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39279042 or gm@powertechdevelopment.com

SAFEWAY FOOD INDUSTRIES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(HAND WRAPPING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17003828 or SAFEWAYFOOD@GMAIL.COM

SECURE ARABIA TECHNOLOGY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36404200 or YUSUFYAQOOBY@GMAIL.COM

mr. sparkle cleaning has a vacancy for the occupation of SENIOR COMPUTER SOFTWARE

occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33331155 or JSHAIBANI@GMAIL.COM

ALEZZ CONTRACTING & MECHANICAL SERVICES CO.W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17258381 or admin@alezzco.com

ALMOAYYED CONTRACTING GROUP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or profice@almoayyedcg.com

Oasis Delmon Steel Fabrication & Trading W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36646766 or DAIREXI@HOTMAIL.COM

Premiere Hotel W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17811811 or CORP@DAD-ABAI.COM

Texas Chicken has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33629074 or human.resources@binrjab.com

ICELAND CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39798987 or GADA0404@GMAIL.COM

HAZARA RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33742171 or WALED-ZAMAN77@GMAIL.COM

KHUZDAR CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36940229 or SAMULLAI5896@GMAIL.COM

KHALID FARZI FARAJ NASRALLA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3931595 or alaindecorac1@gmail.com

S H M FACILITY MANAGEMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIV-ER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37975733 or SAJIDMAN187@GMAIL.COM

AFREENE ALSHARK SUPPORTING SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39441637 or INFO.MULTANIEXPRESS@GMAIL.COM

SAND ROCK CONSTRUCTION COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38886585 or CRYSTAL-LIGHT.BH@GMAIL.COM

Secure Me W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17749697 or secure.me@live.com

G U R L SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(PAINT FINISHER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34548472 or SAJJAD.AKHTAR49@HOTMAIL.COM

QAMAR AL JAZEERA SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33858745 or QAMARALJAZEERA18@GMAIL.COM

ANAND AIR COOL CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICAL WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39068729 or anandharaj1970@gmail.com

RIZCO MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER(MACHINERY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33770118 or RIZWAN.SIDHU@YAHOO.COM

NIA CAR SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3397043

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

HARDEES has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262998 or ssaleh@americanafood.com

EMBARK ARABIA CONTRACTING CO. - PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of SAFETY OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77992515 or BIJU.PACHAYIL@GMAIL.COM

FEDORA CONTRACTING CO WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33871955 or info@farsanabahrain.com

MAASH MART W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39943808 or MUFAIZO102@GMAIL.COM

ALMOAYYED SECURITY has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or profice@almoayyedcg.com

ALRUHA OVERSEAS SERVICE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33436447 or JINCYSEB196@GMAIL.COM

ALHOTY TECHNICAL SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17826430 or LAYLA@ALHOTYBAHRAIN.COM

MIAN AHAD REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33114278 or ahadmian416@GMAIL.COM

ASFAAN ELECTRONICS REPAIRING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN/ASST.(MECH.EQUIP.MAINT.), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33265814 or BILAL1237@YAHOO.COM

BU HARON SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36828500 or AQEEL603@GMAIL.COM

NEW TABEER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34674093 or YZHMD43@GMAIL.COM

WATER CITY RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 3307472 or SALMAN_BAHRAIN@YAHOO.COM

AL AMOODI CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37106545 or AHMEDJELANI666@GMAIL.COM

Aljallawi Properties B.S.C closed has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17411155 or INFO@JALLAWI.COM

THE PERFUME CITY has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34484407 or SHAZIAASGHARALI.BH@GMAIL.COM

NAGARRO SOFTWARE CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COMPUTER SOFTWARE SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39671677 or BACHAR.KASSAR@NAGARRO.COM

ALKHAN MOTORS has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36966696 or ALKHANMOTORCYCLES@GMAIL.COM

YAMOLAKO SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33015010 or INFO28TRAVEL@GMAIL.COM

REGION ALUMINUM W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ALUMINIUM TECHNICIAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35125196 or info@regionbh.com

UMM ALSUBBAH MECHANICAL CONTRACTS has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17491190 or usmc@bateleco.com.bh

GOLDEN WINGS PRINTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PRINTING PRESS-MEN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35929172 or EHSAN162558@YAHOO.COM

NEW NOMAN ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT REPAIR W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35445073 or MULTANIEXPRESS-SERVICES@GMAIL.COM

SIYANA INDUSTRIAL SERVICES & SIAM SCAFFOLDS-SIMPLE COMMANDITE COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of EMPLOYEE(OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17273133 or SIAM7373@BATELCO.COM.BH

WALAA ALBAHRAIN FOR MANPOWER has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38139157 or ZAINAB.AHMED.1274@GMAIL.COM

jabal askar contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33029829 or JABALASKAR@GMAIL.COM

ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT

CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM

Washon Laundry has a vacancy for the occupation of PRESSER (HAND), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33662622 or MALNOH1973@GMAIL.COM

RAMEEZ ANWAR CARGO CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35611842 or MIRZADXB281@GMAIL.COM

DHL INTERNATIONAL B.S.C. has a vacancy for the occupation of AIR TRANSPORT PILOT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17328393 or husain.almajed@dhl.com

SOFIQ TAILORING AND TEXTILES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33481430 or SMARTGATE7@GMAIL.COM

AUTO TECH SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66382620 or USMAN.PRINCE2@YAHOO.COM

sofrat alya restaurant has a vacancy for the occupation of RESTAURANT MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33330050 or ALIABRAHM85@GMAIL.COM

EMAN KEFAH Line Contracting Bahraini Partnership Company has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17382277 or alialmdob2@gmail.com

QUICK ZEBRA SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

QUICK ZEBRA SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

QUICK ZEBRA SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

SARAYA CONTRACTORS CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17691591 or md@rayacyaco.com

ADYALA COMBINED FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36484758 or ATTAU321@GMAIL.COM

ALMAHRA BEAUTY SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35500196 or FAJERALSENDI@GMAIL.COM

LUCKY ALNOOR CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33461761 or MAJADJAVED12@GMAIL.COM

CREATIVITY MAKERS FOR DECORATION AND BUSINESS SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTRY WORKER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36120428 or GULFSIGMA92@GMAIL.COM

QUICK ZEBRA SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

SKYMAX MOBILE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39498881 or AMEENALINEST@GMAIL.COM

QUICK ZEBRA SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

NUHAS FLOATING STRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36202291 or NAZMULBH922@GMAIL.COM

AL SALEM JOHNSON CONTROLS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77016612 or AQEEL.SHalKh@ci.com

H A B INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36077280 or AHMADABDULSAMAD574@GMAIL.COM

ANSAR EQBAL ZAHRA ULLAH CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39477757 or SAADANSAR684@GMAIL.COM

V BEACH RESORT HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of AUDITOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13303353 or ahmdan@addresshotels.com

ALSAHER SHOES SELLING & REPAIRS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36666003 or MUZAFFEZAID@YAHOO.COM

UPSTREAM GLOBAL FOR TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17333308 or ALIKJAFFAR@GMAIL.COM

bu haifa sales in waste and scrap has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33117999 or SHAREF.WORKS@GMAIL.COM

PUNJAB CITY CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33117999 or SHAREF.WORKS@GMAIL.COM

M HASEEB 786 W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33516379 or SAHILDAR7@GMAIL.COM

CYBER SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants

RAMSIS ENGINEERING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830801 or Abbas@ramsis.com.bh

RAMSIS ENGINEERING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830801 or Abbas@ramsis.com.bh

Security Solutions Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77996666 or GOVERNMENT@MRE.CO

EAGLE FOR SAFE AND SECURITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34219654 or MALIKIHTISHAM281@GMAIL.COM

IHTESHAM CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34219654 or MALIKIHTISHAM281@GMAIL.COM

MARVEL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(PACKER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17009696 or SIDDIQUDANESH@GMAIL.COM

AWAL GULF MANUFACTURING CO. (UNDER REORGANIZATION) B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of OPERATOR(COOLING DEVICE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17738333 or khalid@awalgulf.com.bn

BLUE SKY TOWER CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39091518 or sq323@hotmail.com

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17730640 or ALTRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

A - KARIM ALJAHROMI CONTRACTING COMPANY WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17831000 or ajkcont@gmail.com

AQUA Technology Transfer W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17233317 or aquatt.hr@gmail.com

RAMSIS ENGINEERING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830801 or Abbas@ramsis.com.bn

SAID DAL 1923 RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COFFEE SERVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38365147 or SAIDDAL1923BH@MASDAR.COM.KW

EBROOK CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33305789 or AM2PM@GMAIL.COM

P. K. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANT (PROPERTIES & RECEIVABLE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39384904 or pk.hospitalitybh@gmail.com

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Forest appoint Pereira as fourth boss this season

Vitor Pereira signs an 18-month deal to try to keep Forest in the Premier League

● Replaces Sean Dyche, sacked after 114 days

● Nuno and Postecoglou also dismissed earlier

AFP | London

Premier League strugglers Nottingham Forest hired Vitor Pereira as their fourth manager this season yesterday.

Former Wolves boss Pereira agreed an 18-month contract with Forest, who sacked Sean Dyche earlier this week.

Nuno Espirito Santo and Ange Postecoglou have also been dismissed by Forest during a turbulent campaign.

"Nottingham Forest is delighted to confirm that Vitor Pereira has been appointed as head coach on an 18-month deal," a club statement said.

Pereira will be tasked with hauling Forest away from the Premier League relegation zone.

Dyche was axed following Wednesday's 0-0 draw against bottom-of-the-table Wolves.



Wolverhampton Wanderers' Portuguese head coach Vitor Pereira (L) congratulates Chelsea's Italian head coach Enzo Maresca

Pereira had been out of work since being sacked by Wolves in November after a dismal start to the season.

The 57-year-old Portuguese coach saved Wolves from relegation in 2024-25 after taking

over from Gary O'Neil, but was unable to build on that success this term.

He has previously worked under volatile Forest owner Evangelos Marinakis at Greek club Olympiacos.

Pereira's first game as Forest manager will be next week's Europa League play-off round first leg at Fenerbahce.

But his main target is to preserve Forest's Premier League status.

They sit three points above the relegation zone with 12 games to go.

Forest had 35 shots on goal against Wolves but could not find a way through and Dyche was dismissed just hours after the final whistle at the City Ground.

Dyche was in charge for just 114 days following the end of Postecoglou's 39-day reign in October.

Forest's managerial mayhem comes after Nuno led them to an impressive seventh place finish in the Premier League last season.

That secured Forest's first European action since 1995-96, but disagreements with Marinakis over transfer policy led to his departure in September after 21 months in charge.

Pereira earned his reputation at Porto, where a hugely successful two-year spell saw him lead the club to back-to-back league titles.

Having spent time at Al Ahli in Saudi Arabia, he also managed Fenerbahce in Turkey and Chinese Super League Club Shanghai SIPG, as well as Brazilian clubs Corinthians and Flamengo.

'US-versus-World' All-Star Game divides NBA players



Victor Wembanyama of the San Antonio Spurs tosses the ball for the opening tip-off of a Celebrity Game

AFP | Los Angeles

"definitely has a chance to ramp up the intensity."

"We've seen that many of the best players have been increasingly foreign players. So there is some pride on that side," he explained.

"I guess there is some pride also on the American side, which is normal. So I think anything that gets closer to representing a country brings out that pride."

However, Detroit Pistons star Cade Cunningham, who will represent one of the US teams, was left yearning for the All-Star Games of his youth and felt the formula did not need to be changed.

"I would like to experience the East versus West -- I want to be able to experience what all the greats played in," he said.

"But I'm just playing the cards I was dealt, and I'm sure it will come back eventually."

Top seed Fritz to face Shelton for ATP Dallas Open title

AFP | Dallas

Taylor Fritz blasted 22 aces in advancing to the ATP Dallas Open final on Saturday by defeating Croatian Marin Cilic 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/3).

Top seed Fritz, ranked seventh in the world, reached his 20th career ATP final and first since last September's Japan Open.

"I did a really good job just holding serve, getting through a lot of those games," said Fritz, who never faced a break point.

"I think I generated good opportunities to grab a break on him but he played really well, served really well on all the break points."

Fritz will play for the crown in an all-American final against ninth-ranked Ben Shelton, the second seed who ousted defending champion Denis Shapovalov of Canada 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) to reach his sixth career ATP final.

"He's one of the most competitive guys I've ever met in my life," Shelton said. "When we go on the court tomorrow it's going to be absolute war and then we're going to be back to friends after."

Fritz seeks an 11th career title and first since collecting his fourth Eastbourne crown last June.

Shelton, a 23-year-old left-hander, seeks his fourth ATP title after winning the 2023 Japan Open, 2024 US Clay Court Championships and last year's Canadian Open.

Cilic, the 37-year-old from



Taylor Fritz of the United States plays a shot against Marin Cilic of Croatia

Croatia who won the 2014 US Open, fired 16 aces but also had eight double faults.

Fritz, the 2024 US Open runner-up, seized a 3-0 lead in the first tie-breaker, served back-to-back aces for a 6-3 edge and closed out the opening set with a blast up the middle for his 14th ace.

In the second tie-breaker, Fritz captured the match on his first opportunity when Cilic smacked a service return forehand long.

"Had to get it done in tie-breakers," Fritz said. "I did a good job of just playing solid points, making a ton of first serves and making him work."

Like a freight train

In the other semi-final, Shelton rescued a break point in the 11th game when Shapovalov missed a forehand long

as they battled into a deciding tie-breaker.

Shelton smashed a forehand winner to seize a 4-3 lead on Shapovalov then took two points on his serve and won two points later with another sizzling forehand, improving to 4-0 in ATP play against the Canadian.

"There wasn't a big difference," Shelton said. "I played clutch in the big points. He had a lot of chances to break serve and I came up with the goods."

"He served extremely well, played tough at the baseline. It felt like a freight train coming at you."

"Happy to get out of that one. I'm not quite sure how I did it."

Fritz and Shelton are 1-1 in their ATP rivalry, Fritz winning at Indian Wells in 2023 but losing in last year's Canada semi-finals.

Flick calls for Barca reaction after Atletico Copa thrashing

Flick backs squad quality despite loss, with Raphinha fit and Rashford still sidelined

● Flick demands stronger team attitude

● Girona clash follows Atletico thrashing

● Real Madrid move ahead in table

AFP | Barcelona

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick called on his team to show a "reaction" against Girona on Monday in La Liga after their 4-0 thrashing by Atletico Madrid in the Copa del Rey.

The Catalan giants were pummeled by Diego Simeone's side in the semi-final first leg on Thursday, but Flick believes his team's attitude has improved in the days since.

"Atletico were ready for this fight, it was a Champions League level game and the first 45 minutes were not right," Flick told reporters yesterday.

"We did not have the attitude to be competitive in this situ-



Atletico Madrid's Argentine coach Diego Simeone (C) and both teams' players quarrel during the Spanish Copa del Rey (King's Cup) semi final first leg

tion, in every duel, one against one situation, they were much better, (more) dynamic -- this is what I want from the team.

"Today in training I appreciate what I saw and we have to bring

it tomorrow on the pitch."

On Saturday, Real Madrid beat Real Sociedad to move two points ahead of champions Barca at the top of the table.

Flick backed his team's qual-

ity to shine through if they pick themselves up after the destruction at the Metropolitano stadium.

"It could happen that you lose against Atletico, a top team, now

(we must) go on. We have to focus on the season to the end, it's a long way, but everything is possible," continued the German coach.

"When we play as a team, everyone 100 percent, we have huge quality. Defeats happen, but it's important how you re-

act. This reaction I want to see tomorrow."

Flick said Brazilian winger Raphinha was fit to face Girona but Marcus Rashford would still be out with a knee issue, although it was improving.

The coach said Raphinha's return was great news for his side.

"He's important. I always said this. We miss him. I think also, you can see it, in the training, everything, he increases the dynamic, the intensity," said Flick.

"This is the good thing. Last season, for me he was the best player in the world."

Flick had complained about some of the refereeing in Barcelona's defeat by Atletico and on Saturday the Catalan club filed an official complaint with the Spanish football federation about inconsistency in arbitration.

However, Flick walked back some of his anger and said his team had to take responsibility for the Atletico loss.

"It was not (the referee's) fault we lost the game," he added. "What we can change, we have to change, and we will do."



Flick singled out Raphinha's return as crucial, stating he was "the best player in the world" last season and that his presence increases the team's dynamic and intensity, which was sorely missed against Atletico

Makanov Retains ITF Junior Tennis Title

TDT | Manama

Kazakhstan's Akhmad Makanov retained the boys' singles title at the ITF J30 junior tennis tournament in Bahrain, while China's Jiayi Wang claimed the girls' singles crown as the event concluded its second consecutive week of competition.

Second seed Makanov secured the boys' title after top seed Javier Montes Jimenez of Spain retired while trailing 6-2, 2-0 in the final, allowing the Kazakh player to successfully defend the title he won the previous week. In the girls' final, third seed Wang defeated Russia's Stefania Kadzova 6-4, 6-2 with a composed performance to lift the championship trophy.

In doubles, Russia's Kadzova and Sofia Lomakina won the girls' title after edging Lebanon's Lama Naaman and Russia's Maria Nikolaeva in a closely fought final that ended 6-3, 7-6



(4), 13-11. The boys' doubles title went to Russia's Iakov Mazen and Filip Smirnov after their Kazakh opponents withdrew

before the match due to injury.

Tournament officials from the Bahrain Tennis Federation presented the trophies at the

closing ceremony, marking the end of two weeks of international junior tennis competition in the kingdom.

Bayern's Neuer sidelined with calf injury

AFP | Munich

Bayern Munich goalkeeper Manuel Neuer is set for a spell on the sidelines after tearing his calf muscle, the Bundesliga club announced yesterday.

Neuer, 39, was subbed off at half-time in Saturday's 3-0 win at Werder Bremen which helped Bayern restore their six-point lead over Borussia Dortmund atop the Bundesliga table.

Bayern sporting director Max Eberl initially said Neuer's sub-



Manuel Neuer

sition was a "precautionary measure" and the injury was "nothing dramatic".

A scan yesterday, however, showed the tear was more serious than initially expected.

"Bayern Munich will have to do without Manuel Neuer for the time being," the league leaders said in a statement without indicating how long their captain would be out.

German media reported Neuer was in doubt for Bayern's

trip to Dortmund at the end of February and would miss next Saturday's clash with Eintracht Frankfurt.

The veteran goalkeeper turns 40 in March and has been plagued by calf problems recently, missing 10 matches last season with a similar injury.

Bayern were 11 points clear in the German league at Christmas but Dortmund have drawn six points behind the leaders after a six-match winning run.

The West Indies became the first team to qualify for the Super Eights phase of the T20 World Cup when they cruised to victory against Nepal by nine wickets yesterday.

After restricting Nepal to 133-8 in their 20 overs, captain Shai Hope's 61 not out helped his team romp to 134-1 in 15.2 overs in the Group C clash at Mumbai's Wankhede stadium.

Hope reached his fifty off 38 balls and scored three sixes and five fours in all.

He put on an unbroken 91 with Shimron Hetmyer to reach the 134 target with 28 balls to spare.

Hetmyer was 46 not out at the end from 32 balls, with two sixes and four fours.

After Hafeez won the toss and chose to field, Matthew Forde bowled a magnificent

spell of 1-10 from his four overs and removed Nepal captain Rohit Paudel for five.

Nepal were in all sorts of trouble at 22-3 at the end of the six-over power play, then 23-4 and 46-5 in the 11th over as Jason Holder also got among the wickets.

It was only Dipendra Singh Airee's 58 that pushed Nepal past the 100 mark as he shared in a partnership of 54 for the seventh wicket with Sompal Kami, who was there at end on 26 not out.

Holder took 4-27 from his four overs.

The result eliminates Nepal, who cannot progress further in this year's T20 World Cup.

West Indies first team into T20 World Cup Super Eights



West Indies' Jason Holder (C) celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of Nepal's Dipendra Singh Airee

AFP | Mumbai

Scorecard

West Indies 134 for 1 (Hope 61*, Hetmyer 46*) beat Nepal 133 for 8 (Airee 58, Holder 4-27, Forde 1-10) by nine wickets

India crush Pakistan in World Cup

Brilliant 77 from Ishan Kishan leads India to a convincing 61-run victory in T20 World Cup

- India qualifies for tournament's next round
- Pakistan all out for 114 in 18 overs
- India now 8-1 in T20 World Cups vs Pakistan

AFP | Colombo

India routed their bitter rivals Pakistan by 61 runs yesterday to qualify for the next round of the T20 World Cup in a showdown that had been in doubt until a few days ago.

Suryakumar Yadav's side scored 175-7 after being given a flying start by Ishan Kishan's brilliant 77 and then bowled out Pakistan for 114 in 18 overs.

The defeat for Pakistan continued their woeful record against India in World Cups.

India have won eight of nine T20 World Cup meetings and all eight of their ODI World Cup encounters.

Pakistan got off to the worst possible start in their chase of 176 to win, Sahibzada Farhan top-edging a slog across the line to mid-on for a duck in Hardik Pandya's first over.

It became 6-2 when Jasprit Bumrah's second ball trapped Saim Ayub (6) plumb in front.

Captain Salman Agha (4) was next to go, with another mis-



India's Ishan Kishan (R) plays a shot

timed slog off Bumrah's sixth ball leaving his team in dire straits at 13-3.

When spinner Axar Patel bowled Babar Azam for five, Pakistan were in tatters at 34-4 in the fifth over.

Usman Khan offered some resistance, scoring 44 from 34 balls with a six and six fours in an attempt to repair the innings.

But after he charged down the pitch to Axar and Kis-

han stumped him by a mile, it sparked a mini-collapse of three wickets for five runs and at 78-7 the game was done and dusted.

Earlier, India captain Suryakumar and his Pakistan opposite number Agha did not shake hands at the coin toss, which Agha won and elected to bowl.

Suryakumar also did not shake hands with Agha in any of their three matches at the Asia Cup in Dubai last year, including the

final. The off-on Group A match was only confirmed to go ahead six days ago when the Pakistan government made a U-turn on a threat to boycott the encounter.

India opening batsman Abhishek Sharma returned after a stomach bug but only lasted four balls before falling without scoring.

Kishan was unperturbed by the loss of his partner and set



Captains Suryakumar Yadav and Salman Agha again avoided a handshake at the toss, continuing a noticeable pattern from recent India-Pakistan tournament meetings amid ongoing political tensions between the neighbours

Scorecard

India 175 for 7 (Kishan 77, Suryakumar 32, Ayub 3-25) beat Pakistan 114 (Usman 44, Hardik 2-16, Bumrah 2-17, Varun 2-17, Axar 2-29) by 61 runs

drinks break after 14 overs, they had advanced the score only to 125-2.

Tilak Varma, on 25, became Ayub's second victim, trapped in front and India were 126-3.

Hardik then slogged the next ball and was caught in the deep to put Ayub on a hat-trick.

Shivam Dube was beaten all ends up by the hat-trick ball, but it bounced over the top of middle stump as it turned past the left-hander's outside edge and he somehow survived.

Ayub finished with 3-25 from his four overs.

Suryakumar, who was watching the carnage at the non-striker's end, made 32 off 29 balls. Dube was run out in the final over for 27.

The cricket teams of the nuclear-armed neighbours only meet in multi-nation tournaments at neutral venues as part of a compromise deal.

It has been more than 18 years since India and Pakistan last met in a Test match, and 13 years since either side crossed the border to play a bilateral series.

Marseille sporting director Benatia quits club



Marseille sporting director Medhi Benatia walks on the pitch (file photo)

AFP | Marseille

Marseille sporting director Medhi Benatia announced yesterday that he was leaving his role at the crisis-hit French club, just days after the departure of coach Roberto De Zerbi.

"I am leaving with the feeling that I have done my utmost on a professional level, but with regret that I have not been able to calm the environment around the team," Benatia wrote on social media.

"Despite recent setbacks and some cruel sporting scenarios, the project is moving forward."

"But I cannot ignore the current climate. I feel a growing dissatisfaction, a rift that

I deeply regret. In Marseille, results are the only judge."

The former Juventus and Bayern Munich defender joined Marseille in November 2023 as sporting advisor to president Pablo Longoria.

In January last year, the 38-year-old took on the role of sporting director.

His departure comes four days after that of De Zerbi, who left "by mutual agreement" after a series of poor results, including a 5-0 defeat against fierce rivals Paris Saint-Germain last Sunday.

Marseille are currently fourth in Ligue 1. On Saturday, Jacques Abardonado led the team as interim coach in their 2-2 home draw against Strasbourg.

Leeds survive Birmingham scare to reach FA Cup fifth round

AFP | London

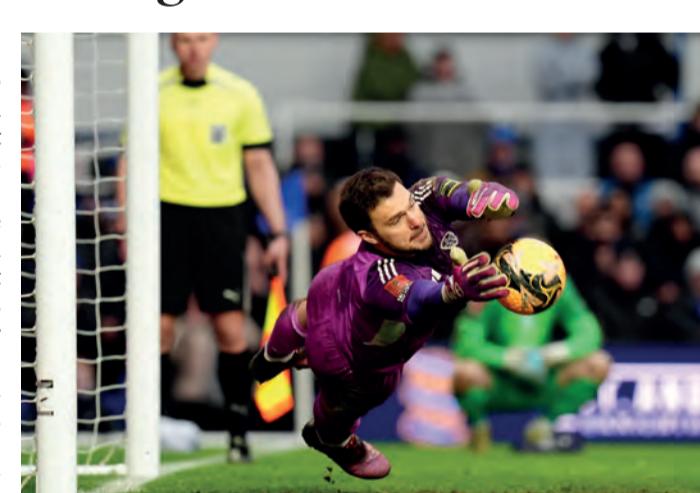
Leeds survived an FA Cup scare to reach the fifth round with a penalty shoot-out victory against second-tier Birmingham yesterday.

Birmingham substitute Patrick Roberts snatched an 89th-minute equaliser at St Andrew's to cancel out Lukas Nmecha's 49th-minute opener for Leeds.

With a feisty fourth round tie level at 1-1 after extra-time, Leeds won the shoot-out 4-2.

Joel Piroe, Dominic Calvert-Lewin, Brenden Aaronson and Sean Longstaff all converted their penalties for Daniel Farke's team.

Tommy Doyle's effort was



Leeds goalkeeper Lucas Perri saves Tommy Doyle's penalty in the shootout

saved by Leeds goalkeeper Lucas Perri before Roberts fired

over the crossbar.

Battling to avoid relegation

from the Premier League, Leeds are one win away from reaching the quarter-finals for the first time since 2002-03.

Wolves also avoided an upset as they won 1-0 at fourth-division Grimsby.

Grimsby stunned Manchester United in the League Cup earlier this season.

But Wolves avoided similar embarrassment thanks to Santiago Bueno's 60th-minute goal from the visitors' first shot on target on a mud-caked pitch at Blundell Park.

Grimsby didn't manage to force Wolves' keeper Sam Johnstone into a save until Andy Cook's header in the 90th minute.

USA keep slim T20 World Cup hopes alive by beating Namibia

AFP | Chennai

The United States kept their slim hopes of qualifying for the Super Eights of the T20 World Cup alive with a 31-run victory against Namibia in Group A.

Replies to the USA's 199-4, Namibia finished their 20 overs on 168-6.

For the USA, Sanjay Krishnamurthi hit 68 not out and captain Monank Patel 52. Namibia's top-scorer was Louren Steenkamp with 58.

It leaves the USA on four points after their four group A matches.



USA's Sanjay Krishnamurthi plays a shot

Scorecard

USA 199 for 4 (Krishnamurthi 68*, Monank 52, Myburgh 2-22) beat Namibia 168 for 6 (Steenkamp 58, van Schalkwyk 2-30) by 31 runs

Now the USA must wait for the outcomes of the final group games and hope the result goes their way.

Pakistan play Namibia in Colombo and India play the Netherlands in Ahmedabad, with both matches on Wednesday.