



CBB Keeps Key Overnight Rate at 4.25%



The Central Bank of Bahrain announced its decision to maintain the overnight deposit interest rate unchanged at 4.25%.

This decision stems from the bank's ongoing monitoring of monetary and financial conditions, aimed at preserving monetary and financial stability in the Kingdom of Bahrain amid developments in international financial markets.

The Central Bank stated that it continues to assess global economic trends and their impact on local market stability as part of its policy framework.

Capital Police Chief Visits Maatams



Brigadier Isa Hassan Al Qattan, Director General of the Capital Governorate Police Directorate, visited a number of maatams across the governorate as part of efforts to enhance community partnership and direct engagement with residents.

During the visits, he met officials and citizens, listened to their feedback, and reviewed their needs, reaffirming the directorate's commitment to open communication and improved security services in cooperation with all segments of society.

220 fils (includes VAT)



Social Media Ban For Under-15s Faces Government Pushback

Concerns raised over enforcement, data privacy and the impact on education

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

The government has raised objections to a Shura Council bid to keep children under 15 off social media, warning that a blanket ban would be hard to police and could put children's private data at risk.

In a memo sent to Parliament with draft changes to the Child Law, the government said children needed stronger protection online, but argued that account bans were too blunt and risked blocking useful digital tools as well as harmful ones.

The bill, put forward by Shura members, would add a new chapter to the 2012 Child Law under the title 'Digital Safety of the Child'. It would bar under-15s from creating accounts on social media platforms and place those aged 15 to 18 under a rule book covering privacy, harmful content and age checks.

The government said children face clear risks online, from harmful material and cyberbullying to breaches of privacy, grooming and abuse through games, apps and social media.

But it said the draft went too far by treating all online ac-



Shura Council

counts in the same way. Not every platform carried the same risk, it said, and many online services were now tied to schooling, family contact, play, shopping or access to public services.

A general ban, the memo said, could block useful tools as well as harmful ones. It said the law should instead govern through clear rules that can be put into force.

Those rules could include the consent of a parent or guardian, strong privacy defaults, workable age checks and clear ways to report harmful material or conduct.

The government also said the proposed ban would not catch many real-life forms of use. A child can use a platform without having a separate account, or through a family account,

a shared device, or a school device.

For that reason, it said, a ban on account creation would need to sit within a wider scheme that covers parental oversight, public awareness, duties on platforms and the work of the bodies in charge.

The memo raised a second warning over age checks. Asking users to prove their age could lead to platforms collecting extra data about children, including identity papers or other sensitive records.

The government said any such system must comply with personal data law and collect only the least amount of data needed. It said the bill must spell out what data can be taken, who may hold it, how long it can be kept and how misuse will be stopped.

Bahrain's Child Online Safety Bill

- Under 15s: No social media accounts allowed
- Ages 15-18: Access permitted under safety and privacy rules
- Education platforms: Exempt from restrictions
- TRA: To set internet safety standards
- Purpose: Protect children from online risks
- Government concern: Enforcement on global platforms and legal clarity
- Legal basis: Child protection under Article 5(a) of the Constitution
- Global trend: Follows international efforts to improve online child safety

Ashura Holiday

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, issued a circular announcing the official holiday in observance of Ashura.



According to the circular, all ministries, government entities, and public institutions will close on Thursday and Friday, June 25 and 26. Since Friday coincides with an official holiday, the day off will be compensated on Sunday, June 28.

Gulf Air Welcomes Latest Airbus A321neo



Gulf Air welcomed a new addition to its fleet with the arrival of its latest Airbus A321neo aircraft at Bahrain International Airport.

With the introduction of this aircraft, Gulf Air's fleet will expand to 46 aircraft, reflecting the national carrier's ongoing commitment to enhancing its operational capabilities and supporting its future growth plans.

Deal Means Deal, Sign It!

Trump Tells Iran as G7 Awaits Final Signature

The fragile peace ending the Middle East war hung in a holding pattern Wednesday, with President Donald Trump declaring at the G7 summit in Evian, France, that the US-Iran accord would be finalized "shortly," though he stopped short of locking in a date, suggesting Thursday or Friday as likely signing days in Switzerland.

The mixed signals did little to calm jittery oil markets. Brent crude spiked as much as five percent intraday before settling near \$80 a barrel, while US benchmark crude hovered around \$77, as traders weighed how durable the ceasefire framework actually is.

Trump also addressed friction with Israeli Prime Minister



Benjamin Netanyahu, insisting their relationship remains solid even as he renewed criticism of Israel's military operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon, suggesting the campaign could be handled more effectively. He confirmed that Washington had

shared a copy of the draft accord with Israeli officials, pushing back on reports of being blindsided.

Reaction from the region was swift and triumphant on one side. Hezbollah's leader, Naim Qassem, praised the emerging

deal as a major win for Iran and called on Lebanon to capitalize on the moment to press for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from its territory.

India and China Diplomatic pressure was building elsewhere too. China's

foreign minister urged all parties to follow through on their commitments and warned that safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz needed careful handling, reflecting Beijing's economic stake in stable oil shipping routes. Meanwhile, India's prime minister used a sideline meeting with Trump to press for protections for Indian sailors, following the deaths of three Indian crew members in a recent US strike on a commercial vessel near Oman.

With so many regional and global stakeholders weighing in, the message converging from multiple directions was the same one Trump himself seemed to be channeling: the framework exists, the incentives align, and now it's simply time to sign. **Read More On Page 6-7**

SALE تزييلات
30-75% OFF*

homesrus

SEHLA: 17556001

*Terms and conditions apply