

HM King Hamad commends Awali redevelopment project

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa commended the project to revitalise and redevelop Awali City, aimed at preserving the architectural identity and urban heritage of the city.

HM the King was speaking as he received His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bapco Energies, along with members of the company's Board of Directors, at Al Safriya Palace.

His Majesty was briefed on the proposed master plan for the project to revitalise and redevelop Awali City, within the framework of ongoing efforts to develop and modernise the various cities and villages of the Kingdom while preserving their historical and cultural identity.

He commended the efforts of HH Shaikh Nasser, his leadership



of the Kingdom's energy sector, and the dedicated work led by His Highness and the Board of Directors of Bapco Energies during the phase of development being witnessed by the sector across its various companies.

HH Shaikh Nasser expressed thanks, appreciation, and gratitude to HM King Hamad, and for his royal directives.

His Highness noted that the

master plan for the city's development focuses on three main principles: preserving the architectural identity and urban heritage of the city; redeveloping and modernising residential and commercial buildings and public facilities.

Plan

He added that the plan also aims to complete the develop-



HM the King receives HH Shaikh Nasser

ment of lands within the city as interconnected neighbourhoods, utilising adaptive and complementary uses of existing buildings.

HH Shaikh Nasser said that the plan includes commer-

cial, office, and residential units, as well as green spaces, in addition to a pedestrian and sports pathway that harmoniously links new and existing neighbourhoods.

He confirmed that the pro-

ject's vision ensures the creation of an integrated urban fabric that reflects the distinct character of Awali City and a contemporary lifestyle, as an extension of the city's civilisational heritage since 1934.

Limited internet returns in Iran

AFP | Paris

Limited internet access has returned in Iran, a monitor said yesterday, 10 days after authorities imposed a communications blackout that rights groups have said was aimed at masking a violent protest crackdown that killed thousands.

Demonstrations sparked in late December by anger over economic hardship exploded into protests widely seen as the biggest challenge to the Iranian leadership in years.

The rallies subsided after the crackdown that rights groups have called a "massacre" carried out by security forces under the cover of a communications blackout that started on January 8 as the protests grew in size and intensity.

Syria seals truce deal with Kurds

AFP | Damascus

Syrian President Ahmed Al-Sharaa announced yesterday a breakthrough agreement with the chief of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, Mazzloum Abdi, that includes a ceasefire.

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Cyber safeguards

Shura Council approves amendment to strengthen legal safety for children online

Rules would bar under-15 kids from creating accounts on digital platforms

Teenagers aged 15 to 18 would be able to use online services under controls

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama



The proposal aims to entrench the principle of protecting the child from digital risks as an extension of comprehensive legal protection

DR JAMEELA AL SALMAN, COMMITTEE RAPPORTEUR



Added chapter would address threats, including exploitation, cyberbullying, and exposure to content that is not appropriate for their ages

LINA HABIB, SHURA COUNCIL MEMBER



Success would also depend on parents and guardians, and called for stronger awareness so families can guide children's use of websites and apps

HALA RAMZI, SHURA COUNCIL MEMBER

awareness so families can guide children's use of websites and apps.

Chapter

Shura Council member Lina Habib said the added chapter would address threats she said were not covered well enough under current law, including "exploitation, cyberbullying, and exposure to content that is not appropriate for their ages".

She pointed to the time children spend on phones, smart devices, electronic games and social platforms.

Habib also drew attention to the role set for the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority.

Amendment

"The amendment specified the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority as the body responsible for implementing the child digital safety chapter, and this is of major importance given its technical and oversight role in regulating the telecommunications sector, digital technologies and the internet," she said.

The committee said placing digital safety within the Child Law would keep child protection rules in one place and avoid splitting them across separate laws.

It said the technical parts, including age checks and administrative penalties, would be handled through secondary rules.

Teenagers aged 15 to 18 would be able to use such services under controls meant to strengthen privacy and limit exposure to harmful content.

Platforms used for education would be excluded, with the services covered to be named by a decision from the Minister of Education.

The draft would bar children who have not completed 15 from creating accounts on digital platforms.

Focus on job vacancies and unemployment procedures

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The parliamentary inquiry committee tasked with reviewing job vacancies listed in the Ministry of Labour's records, as well as the procedures for closing job seeker files and suspending unemployment benefits, conducted its first field visit to the Ministry of Labour on January 14.

The visit was led by MP Jalila Alawi Al-Sayed, Chairwoman of the committee, and attended by committee members.

During the visit, the committee met with His Excellency Yousef bin Abdulhussain Khalaf, Minister of Labour and Minister of Legal Affairs, and his accompanying delegation.

Discussions focused on the key

areas of the inquiry, including verifying the number of job vacancies listed in the Ministry's records and reviewing the procedures used to fill them.

The committee also examined in detail the mechanisms for closing job seeker files and suspending unemployment benefits. MP Al-Sayed emphasized that the meeting provided a close and comprehensive understanding of the Ministry's modern electronic system, which displays job vacancies from employers and makes them accessible to citizens seeking employment.

She noted that the ministry presented a detailed visual demonstration of the system, which prompted the committee to raise specialized questions and inquiries related to the pro-



H.E. Yousef bin Abdulhussain Khalaf with Parliamentary Committee members

gram and the committee's work agenda.

Challenges

The lawmaker added that the committee will continue to follow up on all challenges and work to address them through direct coordination with relevant authorities, aiming to develop a comprehensive national plan that safeguards citizens' livelihood rights and protects their social dignity.

The committee comprises MP Al-Sayed (Chairwoman), MP Mahmoud Mirza Fardan (Vice-Chairman), MP Abdul Wahid Abdul Aziz Qarata, MP Munir Ibrahim Surour, MP Mohsen Ali Al Asbool, MP Abdullah Khalifa Al Rumaihi, and MP Mahdi Abdul Aziz Al Shuwaikh.

Space investment

Shura Council backs adverts on public buildings under new rules



Dalal Al Zayed



Dr. Rehab Mohammad



H.E. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak



Ali Al Shehabi

Mohammed Darwish
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down by the minister concerned with municipal affairs.

Basis

The Shura Council approved yesterday a draft amendment that lets government bodies sell advertising space on unused parts of public buildings, under rules to be set by ministerial decision, and voted to move it forward on an urgent basis.

The change amends Article (12) of Decree-Law No. (14) of 1973 on the regulation of advertisements, attached to Decree No. (27) of 2025.

It keeps the general ban on placing adverts on public buildings, or on parts of buildings set aside for public services, but adds an exception allowing adverts in designated vacant locations under terms to be laid

“The draft law aims, among other things, to develop the urban frontage of areas, open a new advertising market, and make best use of available sites in government buildings, while preserving their urban and functional character,” he said, adding that the controls would be issued through a ministerial decision, with further detail in implementing rules.

Licensing

During the debate, Shura member Dalal Al Zayed described the amendment as an exception to a total ban, with licensing kept under ministry control, but asked what legal route would be open to a rejected applicant.

“When an advertising request is refused, will the refusal be

open to challenge before the competent court, or not?” she said.

Second Deputy Chairperson of the Shura Council Dr. Rehab Mohammad backed tying the exception to minister-issued conditions, saying this keeps public buildings from losing “their dignity or neutrality”.

Decision

She also urged that the ministerial decision require adverts to respect the built identity and public taste, and asked the government what income lift it expects for the ministry’s budget.

The Council decided to send the bill to the Speaker of Parliament for referral to the Prime Minister ahead of submission to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Swift and high-quality justice



Dr. Ali bin Fudhel Al-Buainain

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama



Wael Bualai

and workshops attended by hundreds of prosecutors and judicial officers, as part of a comprehensive training vision aimed at enhancing efficiency and performance quality.

Al-Buainain also highlighted efforts to keep pace with rapid technological advancements through specialized lectures and events on modern technologies and artificial intelligence.

He noted the launch of the Criminal Protection Program for Marine Wealth and the Environment, in cooperation with relevant authorities, to support national efforts to preserve the environment and protect natural resources.

He also pointed to the establishment of the Drug Crimes Prosecution to strengthen judicial specialization, emphasizing the severe threat posed by drug-related crimes to community security, public health, and societal stability.

Al-Buainain said the Public Prosecution took significant organizational steps to facilitate services for the elderly and persons with disabilities.

LMRA renews ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems certification

For applying highest standards of quality, efficient operations and service delivery

TDT | Manama

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) has successfully renewed its ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems certification, following the completion of an external audit conducted by the accredited certifica-



H.E. Nibras Talib receives the certificate

tion body and its fulfilment of all international standard requirements.

The achievement underscores the Authority's commitment to applying the highest standards of quality and efficiency across its institutional operations and service delivery.

His Excellency Nibras Talib, Chief Executive of the LMRA, affirmed that the renewal of the certification reflects the Authority's dedication to continuously enhancing institutional performance in line with international best practices and standards.

Services

He noted that quality remains a fundamental pillar in improving operational efficiency and strengthening the reliability of services provided to beneficiaries. Talib added that this accomplishment is the result of the sustained efforts of the Authority's various sectors to embed a culture of quality and continuous improvement, stressing the LMRA's ongoing commitment to developing its processes and enhancing institutional readiness to ensure the sustainability of service excellence.

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Shura approves reserve accounts

Thumbs up for audited annual reports and financial statements for two consecutive financial years

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The Shura Council yesterday approved the audited annual reports and financial statements for Bahrain's Future Generations Reserve Account for the financial years ending 31 December 2022 and 31 December 2023.

It also agreed to forward the observations contained in the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee's two reports.

Yusuf Abdullah Al Hammoud, Undersecretary for Financial Affairs at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, told members the reserve's assets reached \$924 million in 2024.

He said amounts withdrawn during the Covid-19 period were fully covered through two sources: oil deductions transferred to the account and investment returns achieved over the same period.

Investment

Al Hammoud said the decree establishing the reserve tasks it with investing outside Bahrain and in non-dinar currencies, while domestic investment is handled by other bodies.

On a direct investment in pharmaceuticals, he said the factory produces 17 drug types, with around 15 licensed, and that products are being sold locally, including to Salmaniya Medical Complex and the military



Jamal Fakhro



Dr Anwar Khalifa Al Sadah



Khalid Al Maskati



Yusuf Abdullah Al Hammoud

hospital, alongside sales across the region.

He said the ministry is working to exit the project in 2026 with favourable returns.

Al Hammoud also updated members on a tower project linked to the reserve, saying completion is expected in May 2026 and leasing has already begun, with interest from government and private entities in renting space.

Fees

On costs, he said fees rise because the account relies on external portfolio managers, and those fees increase as the size of investments grows.

He added that headcount had recently risen by about 15 employees, all Bahrainis.

"On portfolio liquidity, we are cautious and apply set measures. Part of our analysis is whether

we can liquidate an investment within a short period, and we assess that before investing. Most of our holdings — shares, bonds and other assets managed through portfolio managers can be liquidated very quickly," Al Hammoud said.

Committee rapporteur Dr Anwar Khalifa Al Sadah said transfers received from the Ministry of Finance and National Economy for the reserve totalled \$54,525,990 by the end of the 2022 financial year, while amounts received in 2023 were about \$92.4 million.

Losses

He said 2022 recorded losses of about \$71 million due to the revaluation of investments under the accounting basis used, compared with profits of roughly \$51 million in 2021, linking the 2022 outcome to global market

swings that reduced asset values and coincided with tighter monetary policy.

He said 2023 then recorded profits transferred to the reserve of about \$64 million.

The committee said total assets rose to about \$768.9 million at end-2023, up from about \$614.3 million a year earlier, alongside an annual return of 8.4 per cent in 2023 after a negative return in 2022.

Expenses

It also referred to operating expenses of about \$6.1 million in 2023, up from about \$5.5 million in 2022, and said it was better to study paying those costs directly from the reserve account to ease recurring pressure on the state budget and clarify the account's financial position.

It also noted receivables described as "indebtedness" of

\$13.6 million at end-2023, up from about \$7.7 million a year earlier, and called for follow-up to collect sums due.

First Deputy Chairman Jamal Fakhro compared the reserve's returns with those of a regional fund and said: "One fund in the region invests \$110 billion, with an annual return of 1.5 to 2.5 per cent. We have reached returns of 9 per cent, several times that figure, which means we manage our money well."

He also raised the \$450 million withdrawn from the reserve in 2019 and said: "The law states the amount should be covered when the emergency financial repercussions end. It should not be covered from the annual deductions or from investment returns, but from other resources."

Aim

Committee chairman Khalid



The decree establishing the reserve tasks it with investing outside Bahrain and in non-dinar currencies, while domestic investment is handled by other bodies.

Al Maskati said: "The aim of presenting final accounts to the legislative authority is to allow it to exercise effective financial oversight and to raise observations at the right time."

He criticised delays in handling the 2022 accounts, saying the government sent them to the elected chamber in September 2023 and they reached the Shura Council in October 2025, about 25 months later, adding: "Delays in presenting the final account practically remove the legislative purpose of granting the Council the right to comment."

Security cooperation



His Excellency General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior, received Shaikh Khalid bin Ali bin Jaber Al Khalifa, Deputy National Security Advisor and Deputy Secretary General of the Supreme Defence Council. The meeting discussed means to further develop cooperation and strengthen coordination mechanisms, thereby promoting security and stability and safeguarding the nation's achievements and resources.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Takaful International Company B.S.C. is pleased to announce the advanced annual declaration fees by its Sharia'a Board who has sanctioned the following for the financial year 2026:

1- Wakala fee:
A maximum Wakala fee not to exceed 30% on gross contribution of General and Family Takaful respectively.

The actual percentage is agreed upon by Sharia'a Supervisory Board at the end of the financial year based on the results achieved.

2- Mudaraba share:
Mudaraba share of 25% of participant's funds investment returns.

With the Grace of Allah, the Most Merciful and the Most Beneficent

Bahraini private-sector median pay ranges from BD1,380 to BD350 in Q3 2025

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Private-sector pay for Bahraini workers in the third quarter of 2025 ranged from a median 1,380 dinars in electricity and gas to 350 dinars in several lower-paid lines of work, according to figures released by the Social Insurance Organisation.

Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply recorded the highest median wage, followed by mining and quarrying at 1,325 dinars and financial and insurance activities at 1,169 dinars.

Construction, accommodation and food services, sewerage and waste management, and agriculture and fishing all recorded a median wage of 350 dinars.

Figures

The figures cover a labour market where non-oil activity accounts for 85 per cent of GDP.

By headcount, wholesale and retail trade and the repair of



motor vehicles and motorcycles employed the most Bahrainis, with 21,107 workers, even as the sector's median wage stood at 430 dinars.

Financial and insurance activities employed 10,965 Bahrainis, while construction employed 9,507.

In the top-paying electricity and gas sector, the median wage of 1,380 dinars applied to 587 Bahraini workers, while new hires recorded a median wage of 1,031 dinars.

Mining and quarrying employed 1,268 Bahrainis, with a median wage for new workers

of 840 dinars.

Insurance

Financial and insurance activities, which account for 17.8 per cent of GDP, recorded a median wage of 1,169 dinars for its 10,965 Bahraini employees.

New workers in the sector recorded a median of 610 dinars.

Manufacturing, contributing 16.1 per cent of GDP, employed 9,255 Bahrainis with a median wage of 600 dinars, while new workers recorded 381 dinars.

Transport and storage, contributing 4.7 per cent of GDP, recorded 8,537 Bahraini work-

ers with a median wage of 800 dinars, while new hires recorded 500 dinars.

Education, contributing 3.2 per cent, recorded 3,444 Bahraini workers with a median wage of 500 dinars.

Real estate activities, contributing 4.1 per cent of GDP, employed 2,306 Bahrainis with a median wage of 540 dinars.

Wage

Information and communications, contributing 3.8 per cent, employed 3,349 Bahrainis with a median wage of 600 dinars and 500 dinars for new workers.

Human health and social work activities, contributing 2.6 per cent of GDP, employed 3,424 Bahrainis and recorded a median wage of 500 dinars, the same figure recorded for new workers.

Professional, scientific and technical activities, contributing 2.2 per cent, employed 6,274 Bahrainis with a median wage of 550 dinars, while new workers recorded 500 dinars.

SLRB president takes part in Bahrain Geospatial Convention 2026

TDT | Manama

Basim bin Yacob Al Hamer, President of the Survey and Land Registration Bureau (SLRB), participated in the Bahrain Geospatial Convention 2026.

The event witnessed the participation of senior officials from the public and private sectors, with the participation of more than 250 specialists and interested participants. The convention was organised by MicroCenter Group, in

cooperation with Esri Bahrain, and focused on supporting national efforts to enhance the use of geospatial information systems to advance digital transformation and sustainable development, in line with the objectives of Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.

Al Hamer affirmed that geospatial information systems have become a key tool in supporting decision-making, improving planning efficiency, and developing government services.

BD62mln housing projects under way across Muharraq

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Housing projects worth about BD62 million are under way across Muharraq Governorate, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning has told Parliament, with major builds in Hidd nearing completion and further work planned through 2026.

In a written reply to MP Hamad Al Doy, the ministry said the projects are funded through the State's 2025-2026 general budget and cover ownership apartments, housing units, plots and 'Masaken' apartments across the governorate, including Hidd and Busaiteen.

It said the work forms part of the housing targets in the Government Programme for 2023-2026.

Apartments

The ministry said its largest project now under construction in Hidd Housing City, comprising



MP Hamad Al Doy

ing 740 ownership apartments, is about 90 per cent complete.

The cost is BD45.5 million and completion is expected in the first quarter of 2026.

A second project in Hidd Housing City, comprising 507 housing units, is 60 per cent complete, it said.

The cost is BD11.3 million, with completion expected in the third

quarter of 2026.

A separate 'Masaken' project of 49 apartments has been completed, at a cost of BD2 million.

Plots

In North Busaiteen, the ministry said work is under way to provide 138 housing plots as part of alternative housing options.

The cost is BD2.9 million and



The projects are funded through the State's 2025-2026 general budget and cover ownership apartments, housing units, plots and 'Masaken' apartments across the governorate, including Hidd and Busaiteen.

completion is expected in the fourth quarter of 2026. It said these projects are financed through the approved 2025-2026 State general budget.

Future projects in Muharraq Governorate include 128 housing units and 376 ownership apartments in Hidd Housing City, funded through the State general budget, the ministry said. It also plans 522 ownership apartments in Muharraq (Block 207) and 700 ownership apartments in Busaiteen (Block 221), with the funding source to be decided after later technical studies.

The ministry also outlined the allocation rules.

Application

It said Decision No. 909 of 2015 on the Housing System, especially Article 79, makes seniority of application the main basis for allocating ownership services, with other factors used as guidance depending on the case.

These include where the applicant has lived, years of residence recorded in official data, the project location, where the applicant's parents and grandparents live, where the appli-

cant's spouse's parents and grandparents live, the preference recorded in the application, and any special circumstances assessed by the minister.

Projects delivered with the private sector, it added, are allocated immediately through the ministry's financing programmes.

Reply

The reply also covered the Muharraq City Development Project, which the ministry described as a government redevelopment project aimed at preserving the city's historical and cultural identity and supporting the return of residents.

It said the first phase, funded by the government and due to be completed by the end of 2026, is expected to benefit 300 Bahraini families and includes restoring 16 heritage-value buildings along the Pearl Path for tourism and cultural uses, alongside the construction and development of 300 housing units.

Bahrain set to participate in 2026 World Economic Forum in Davos

From Jan 19 to 23

TDT | Manama

On behalf of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister of the Court of the Prime Minister, will lead a high-level delegation from the Kingdom of Bahrain to the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2026 in Davos, Switzerland, scheduled from January 19 to 23.

The Kingdom's delegation includes prominent government and private sector officials: His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy and Chairman of Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company; H.E. Noor bint Ali Al Khalif, Minister of Sustainable Development and CEO of the Economic Development Board; H.E. Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce; H.E. Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, CEO of

Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company; Hamad Al Mahmeed, Director General of the Office of the Prime Minister; Yousef Buhejji, Undersecretary for Research and Projects at the Office of the Prime Minister; Sarah Buhejji, CEO of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority; Ian Lindsay, Advisor to the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Board; Khalid Taqi, Chairman of Gulf Air Group; along with representatives from the public and private sectors.

The forum, under the theme "Spirit of Dialogue," will gather over 3,000 participants from more than 130 countries, including global leaders, government officials, executives of multinational corporations, innovators, academics, and civil society representatives.

Challenges

Discussions will focus on global economic challenges amid ongoing geopolitical, economic, and social transformations.

Bahrain's delegation will engage in high-level sessions,

panel discussions, and meetings with global decision-makers, investors, and industry leaders.

These engagements will highlight the Kingdom's strategic priorities, including sustainable economic growth, economic diversification, talent development, fostering innovation, and reinforcing Bahrain's position as a competitive investment hub.

The WEF provides a platform for exchanging ideas and perspectives to address global challenges.

Cooperation

This year's program emphasizes cooperation across governments, businesses, and civil society, exploring new drivers of economic growth and promoting dialogue to respond to rising global competition.

Key themes at this year's forum include harnessing innovation to drive growth, enhancing workforce readiness amid technological and demographic shifts, developing artificial intelligence strategies to support innovation, and investing in sustainable environments.

Model

She explained that the farmers' market at the hotel represents a notable model for supporting local farmers and entrepreneurs, showcasing the ability of local products to meet the tourism sector's needs.

The Minister emphasised that adopting similar initiatives within the hotel sector

Tourism Minister visits Bahrain Farmers' Market

TDT | Manama



H.E. Fatima bint Jaffar Al Sairafi visits a vegetable stall



Adopting similar initiatives within the hotel sector contributes to supporting the local economy and promoting sustainable tourism

H.E. FATIMA BINT JAFFAR AL SAIRAFI, MINISTER OF TOURISM

contributes to supporting the local economy and promoting sustainable tourism.

Space

H.E. Al Sairafi added that the market provides an interactive space connecting visitors with farmers, allowing them to learn firsthand about Bahraini crops and their quality, thereby offering a tourism experience based on local ingredients and linked to Bahraini culture.

The Bahrain Farmers' Market at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel will continue to receive visitors until February 13, held weekly every Friday from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Youth Affairs Minister launches afforestation project

TDT | Manama

As part of the National Afforestation Campaign (Forever Green), implemented under the National Initiative for Agricultural Development (NIAD), H.E. Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi, Minister of Youth Affairs, launched the NIAD's afforestation project at the Northern Sehla Youth Enabling Centre with support from Takafal International Company. The project is part of the



H.E. Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi and H.E. Shaikha Maram bint Isa Al Khalifa at the event

ongoing efforts to enhance vegetation cover at youth and community centres across the

of NIAD; Abdulaziz Al Othman, Deputy CEO of Takaful International Company; and MP Hassan Ibrahim Hassan, Member of the Council of Representatives, were present.

The event, implemented under the centre's afforestation initiative, included the planting of 135 trees of the Golden Ficus and Acacia Glauca varieties, to improve the centre's environment and create sustainable green spaces that provide a healthy and safe setting.

Move to enhance judicial efficiency

TDT | Manama

As part of the government's ongoing efforts to modernize and digitally re-engineer judicial services, the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments has announced the activation of the remote litigation service in major commercial courts and the Court of Urgent Matters.

This marks the first phase of a comprehensive project aimed at improving the efficiency of judicial procedures and pro-

viding litigants with flexible, secure access to justice.

The ministry explained that the service allows parties to attend court sessions remotely on an optional basis, offering greater flexibility in choosing how to participate in judicial proceedings.

The system aims to reduce the time and effort required to attend court in person, facilitate case follow-ups from anywhere, and enhance the efficiency of judicial work, accelerating case resolution.



Al Salam Bank marks 20 years of transformational growth and market leadership

Manama

Al Salam Bank marks its 20th anniversary, celebrating two decades of strategic evolution, institutional resilience, and sustained leadership within Bahrain's banking sector. Since its establishment on 19 January 2006, the Bank has evolved from a new market entrant into Bahrain's largest and fastest growing bank, driven by disciplined execution, a clear consolidation strategy, and a long-term value creation approach anchored in client trust and shareholder alignment.

From the outset, the Bank positioned itself as part of the broader regional banking evolution, developing governance, risk, and operating frameworks aligned with international best practices. Its early trajectory was shaped by a landmark Initial Public Offering in 2006 that attracted subscriptions exceeding BD 2.7 billion, setting a national record and signaling strong market confidence. Through successive economic cycles, including the 2008 global financial crisis, Al



Salam Bank preserved profitability and liquidity, reinforcing a balance-sheet-driven culture that laid the foundation for its emergence as a leader in banking consolidation and M&As. Over time, this strategic rigor enabled the Bank to successfully execute and integrate four major banking acquisitions in the Kingdom, including Bahrain Saudi Bank in 2009 and BMI Bank in 2014, establishing a consolidation track record unmatched in Bahrain's banking sector and reflective of financial resilience, governance strength, and execution discipline.

Transformation strategy

A pivotal inflection point came in 2018 when the Bank

commenced the execution of an intricate transformation strategy. The Bank transitioned from measured organic growth to transformational scaling built on three pillars: market consolidation, digital scalability, and asset diversification. This strategy culminated in the acquisition of Ithmaar Bank's consumer banking portfolio in 2022 and Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain in 2024. Along with market leading organic growth, these transactions significantly expanded the Bank's footprint and grew its client base by more than ten folds since 2018.

Through disciplined integration and regulatory alignment, Al Salam Bank emerged as a reference model for post-merger value realization.

The Bank's financial performance underscored the effectiveness of this approach. Total assets increased three folds, market capitalization tripled, profitability expanded by almost four times, and return on tangible equity reached 35.3%, placing the Bank among the region's fastest growing financial institutions. These results reflect not scale alone, but efficient cost structures, disciplined execution, and a technology-enabled operating model designed to support optimized and sustainable growth.

Digital transformation remained a core enabler, with redesigned end-to-end client journeys and automation de-

livering seamless, always-on banking experiences. In parallel, the Bank invested deliberately in organizational culture as its workforce tripled over five years, ensuring that cohesion, accountability, and purpose kept pace with institutional scale.

This commitment was formalized through the 2021 brand transformation, repositioning Al Salam Bank as a human-centric, digitally native institution guided by the ethos of "nurturing relationships by enriching experiences."

Clarity

Reflecting on the occasion, Rafik Nayed, Group CEO of Al Salam Bank, said: "Reaching our 20th anniversary is not simply a measure of time, but a reflection of strategic clarity, disciplined execution, and the trust placed in us by our clients and stakeholders. Over the past two decades, the Bank has transformed into a resilient and principled institution capable of evolving with its environment while remaining true to its values. As we look ahead, our ambition is to continue delivering sustain-

able value through disciplined growth, prudent investment in innovation, and long term partnerships that reinforce financial resilience, operating strength, and consistent execution excellence over the long term."

Year-long celebration

To mark its 20th anniversary, Al Salam Bank is commemorating its journey through a year-long celebration that reflects the shared story it has built with its clients, employees, and the community. Central to this milestone is the launch of the "20 Years Written by You" campaign, that celebrates the Bank's evolution, key milestones, and the values that have shaped its growth. As part of the anniversary year, the Bank will introduce a series of initiatives and announcements that reflect both its heritage and its continued focus on delivering relevant, client-focused solutions in the years ahead.

told him what I think".

Dutch Foreign Minister David van Weel meanwhile called Trump's threat an "inexplicable" form of "blackmail".

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer was planning to discuss the situation with Trump "at the earliest opportunity", UK culture minister Lisa Nandy told the BBC, calling the president's tariff threat "wrong".

"We believe it's deeply unhelpful, and we believe it's counterproductive, and the prime minister has not shied away from making that clear," she said.

Trade war fear

France's Agricultural Minister Annie Genevard warned that tariffs would hurt Washington, too. "In this escalation of tariffs, (Trump) has a lot to lose as well, as do his own farmers and industrialists," she told broadcasters Europe 1 and CNews.

Norway, targeted by Trump's tariffs threat but like Britain, not an EU member, said it was not currently looking at retaliation against US goods.

"I think one needs to stop and think so that a trade war can be averted that would lead to a downward spiral. Nobody would win," Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store told NRK television.

Faced with the increased pressure over Greenland, Denmark's Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen announced Sunday he would visit fellow NATO members Norway, Britain and Sweden in the coming days to discuss the alliance's Arctic security policy.

Europe hits back at Trump tariff threat over Greenland

France's President Emmanuel Macron will ask the EU to activate a never-before-used "anti-coercion instrument" against the United States

The bloc's weapon -- dubbed its trade "bazooka" -- allows for curbing imports of goods and services into the EU

Trump has repeatedly expressed his desire to seize Greenland since returning to the White House for a second term

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

European leaders on Sunday slammed US President Donald Trump's threat of tariffs over their opposition to his designs on Greenland, warning transatlantic ties were at risk.

Several European countries -- including Denmark, of which Greenland is an autonomous territory -- emphasised they "stand united" against Trump's vow on Saturday to hit them with tariffs of up to 25 percent unless Greenland is ceded to the United States.

"Tariff threats undermine transatlantic relations and risk a dangerous downward spiral," France's President Emmanuel

What Trump said

From February 1, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Finland would be subject to a 10-percent tariff on all goods sent to the United States, Trump said on his Truth Social platform.

"On June 1st, 2026, the Tariff will be increased to 25%. This Tariff will be due and payable until such time as a Deal is reached for the Complete and Total purchase of Greenland," he wrote.



People take part in a demonstration that gathered almost a third of the city population to protest against the US President's plans to take Greenland, in Nuuk, Greenland.

Norway and Sweden warned in a joint statement.

The European Union, which clinched a deal with Washington in July for most EU exports to face a 15-percent US levy, has called an extraordinary meeting of its ambassadors in Brussels on Sunday.

France's President Emmanuel

These Countries, who are playing this very dangerous game, have put a level of risk in play that is not tenable or sustainable," Trump said.

"Therefore, it is imperative that, in order to protect Global Peace and Security, strong measures be taken so that this potentially perilous situation end quickly, and without question," Trump added that he was "immediately open to negotiation with Denmark and/or any of these Countries."

Some German soldiers were seen boarding a flight on Sunday to leave Greenland after completing a recon mission.

And on Saturday, thousands of people in Greenland and in Denmark held pro-

Greenland since returning to the White House for a second term. His rhetoric towards that goal has hardened since he ordered a military operation against Venezuela early this month to capture its leader, Nicolas Maduro.

Blackmail

Trump and his administration have argued that Greenland coming under US rule would serve American "national security".

He and his aides have also argued that Denmark -- although a NATO ally -- would be unable to defend Greenland should Russia or China ever seek to invade.

Denmark and several of its European NATO allies responded by recently sending small numbers of military personnel to Greenland for an exercise, to which the United States was also invited.

On Saturday, thousands of people in Greenland and in Denmark held pro-

that they did not want the Arctic island to fall under US control.

"Make America Go Away" read the wording on caps worn by many of the protesters, riffing on Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan.

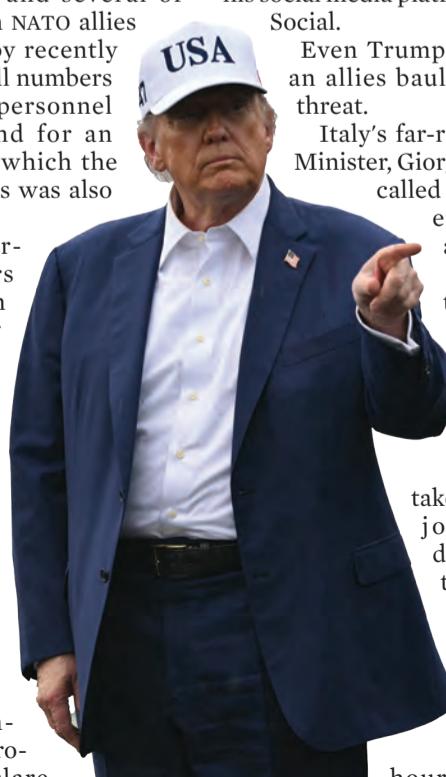
Trump responded with a threat to slap goods coming into the US from Britain, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Finland with 10-percent tariffs starting February 1.

The tariffs would rise to 25 percent from June 1 "until such time as a Deal is reached for the Complete and Total purchase of Greenland", Trump wrote on his social media platform, Truth Social.

Even Trump's European allies balked at the threat.

Italy's far-right Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni, called the threatened tariffs a "mistake".

"I believe that imposing new sanctions today would be a mistake," she told journalists during a trip to Seoul, adding that "I spoke to Donald Trump a few hours ago and



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News in brief

◆ **An explosion at a steel factory** in northern China killed two people and injured 66 yesterday, with five more still missing, state media said. The blast occurred at around 3 pm (0700 GMT) at a Baogang United Steel plate plant in Baotou city in the Inner Mongolia autonomous region, state news agency Xinhua reported.



China factory explosion kills two, injures 66: Xinhua

"As of 5:30 pm on Sunday, local emergency management and fire rescue authorities reported two fatalities and five people missing," Xinhua said. "Sixty-six individuals have been sent to hospitals for treatment, three of whom are in severe condition." Footage on social media showed collapsed ceilings and rubble at the factory, huge plumes of smoke overhead and fire engines at the scene. Other videos showed an object being blasted into the sky as smoke billowed from the factory and a large, cylindrical hunk of metal that appeared to have come from the plant lying among the rubble of buildings.

◆ **A shark mauled** a boy swimming in Sydney Harbour yesterday, leaving him in a critical condition with serious leg injuries, authorities said. The predator bit the boy, believed to be about 13 years old, during the late afternoon off Shark Beach, New South Wales state police said. "The injuries are consistent with what is believed to have been a large shark," police said in a statement. Officers pulled the boy from the water off the harbour beach within minutes of being alerted to the incident, police said. They gave the boy first aid for "serious" leg injuries while he was aboard a police boat, applying two medical tourniquets. Paramedics transported him to Sydney Children's Hospital, where he was said to be in a critical condition.

◆ **More than 200,000 homes** in Russian-occupied southern Ukraine were left without power following a Ukrainian army attack, the Moscow-installed authorities said yesterday. "Following an enemy attack on the region's energy infrastructure, a large part of the Zaporizhzhia region has been left without electricity," Moscow-installed official Yevgeny Balitsky said on Telegram. According to Balitsky, the attack cut power to 213,000 customers and 386 localities in the Zaporizhzhia region. Vladimir Saldo, the Moscow-installed governor of the neighbouring Kherson region, said on Saturday evening that a Ukrainian strike had hit an electrical substation, causing outages in 14 towns and 450 villages. He later said that emergency repair work had restored power.

Russia officials blame Ukraine for power cuts in occupied south



SPOTLIGHT

Cuba holds defense panel meeting amid tension with US



Demonstrators take part in the "Anti-Imperialist" protest in front of the US Embassy against the US incursion in Venezuela, where 32 Cuban soldiers lost their lives, in Havana

AFP | Havana, Cuba

Cuba held a meeting of a key national defense committee to assess its readiness for war, state-run media said Sunday as tensions run high with the United States after the ouster of Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro.

President Donald Trump has been ramping up pressure on Cuba, one of the few Latin American countries still run by an authoritarian leftist administration after US special forces seized Havana's ally Maduro and his wife on January 3.

The National Defense Committee is supposed to take control of Cuba in case of war or a natural disaster.

It met Saturday "to increase and perfect the level of preparation and cohesion of the leadership and personnel organs," said a statement pub-

lished in state media.

The goal of the meeting was "to analyze and approve plans and measures for shifting to a state of war" in the event of conflict with another country, the statement added without giving details.

It was the first time the committee, led by President Miguel Diaz-Canel, has met since the US attack on Venezuela.

Among the dozens killed in the raid were 32 Cuban soldiers, some of them assigned to Maduro's security detail.

Diaz-Canel last week reacted defiantly to Trump's threat to Cuba to "make a deal" or pay the price in the aftermath of Maduro's ouster.

Diaz-Canel denied Trump's assertion that the two countries were holding talks.

Trump has vowed to cut off all oil and money Venezuela had been providing to Cuba's ailing economy.

Who has been invited to be on Trump's Gaza boards?

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump's administration has reached out to various figures around the world to sit on a so-called "Board of Peace" and related entities meant to oversee governance and reconstruction in postwar Gaza.

The White House said there would be a main board, chaired by Trump himself, a Palestinian committee of technocrats meant to govern the war-wracked territory, and a second "executive board" that appears designed to have a more advisory role.

Here is the list of people involved so far in the various entities:

Confirmed by the White House

BOARD OF PEACE - The White House says this body will focus on issues such as "governance capacity-building, regional relations, reconstruction, investment attraction, large-scale funding and capital mobilization".

- US President Donald Trump, chair
- US Secretary of State Marco Rubio
- Steve Witkoff, Trump's special negotiator
- Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law
- Tony Blair, former UK prime minister
- Marc Rowan, billionaire US financier
- Ajay Banga, World Bank president
- Robert Gabriel, loyal Trump aide on the National Security Council



A handout photograph released by Egypt's State Information Service shows Ali Shaath (C), head of the new Palestinian technocratic committee for administering the Gaza Strip, posing with its members during the inaugural meeting of 'National Committee for the Administration of Gaza' (NCAG), in Cairo

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF GAZA

- This body, made up of technocrats, will "oversee the restoration of core public services, the rebuilding of civil institutions, and the stabilization of daily life in Gaza".

Ali Shaath, former Palestinian Authority deputy minister (head of committee)

GAZA EXECUTIVE BOARD - This entity is meant to "support effective governance" and deliver services for the people of Gaza.

- Steve Witkoff
- Jared Kushner
- Tony Blair
- Marc Rowan
- Nickolay Mladenov, Bulgarian diplomat
- Sigrid Kaag, UN humanitarian coordinator for Gaza
- Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan
- A l i

Leaders who said they were invited to join

- Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama
- Argentine President Javier Milei
- Bra-

zilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva

- Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney
- Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides
- Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi
- Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban
- Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni
- Jordanian King Abdullah II
- Romanian President Nicusor Dan
- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan



A displaced Palestinian man who lives amongst the rubble and debris of homes and businesses destroyed by the Israeli military in over two years of military strikes on the Gaza Strip enclave, uses crutches to stand outside his shelter, in Jabalia refugee camp, in the northern Gaza Strip

Israel PM holds coalition meeting after objecting to panel

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu convened a meeting of his ruling coalition partners yesterday after objecting to the composition of a Gaza advisory panel formed by the White House, according to an official and media reports.

The executive board, described as having an advisory role, includes Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan and Qatari diplomat Ali Al-Thawadi, alongside other regional and international officials.

Late on Saturday, Netanyahu's office objected to the composition of the executive board.

"The Prime Minister has instructed the Foreign Affairs Minister to contact the US Secretary of State on this matter."

Executive Board, which is subordinate to the Board of Peace, was not coordinated with Israel and runs contrary to its policy," the office of Netanyahu said.

It did not explain the reason for its objection, but Israel has previously objected strongly to any

Turkish role in post-war Gaza. In addition to naming Turkey's foreign minister to the executive board, Trump has also invited Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to join the overarching Board of Peace.

Media reports said that leaders of the country's ruling coalition were scheduled to meet on Sunday to examine the composition of the executive board.



Despite a ceasefire and increased aid deliveries, acute food insecurity and severe humanitarian needs remain extremely high in the Gaza Strip, with most families still struggling to access adequate food, clean water, medical care and shelter. United Nations agencies say that while famine conditions have eased, the majority of the population continues to face critical shortages of food and other essentials, and uninterrupted humanitarian access is still essential to prevent conditions from worsening again

"There is a meeting scheduled of the coalition at 10:00 am (0800 GMT)," the spokesman of Netanyahu's Likud Party told AFP, declining to provide further details.

Alongside Likud, the coalition includes the Religious Zionist Party led by far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and Otzma Yehudit (Jewish Power) led by far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir.

Theodosius installed as co-emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire by Emperor Gratian, charged with repelling the Goths

The first electric lighting system employing overhead wires, built by Thomas Edison, begins service at Roselle, New Jersey



Indira Gandhi is elected India's first female Prime Minister

Calcium deposits are discovered on Mars by NASA's Curiosity Rover

X

TOP
4
TWEETS

01



There is a persistent myth that peace is naïve. That the only 'real' politics is the politics of self-interest & force. But the founders of the @UN were not untouched by reality. They had seen war & they knew: Peace, justice & equality are the most courageous, the most practical, the most necessary pursuits of all. **@antoniofuterres**

02



France is committed to the sovereignty and independence of nations, in Europe and elsewhere. This guides our choices. It underpins our commitment to the United Nations and to its Charter.

@EmmanuelMacron

03



Territorial integrity and sovereignty are fundamental principles of international law. They are essential for Europe and for the international community as a whole. **@vonderleyen**

04



I thank all our people, all repair crews working around the clock to restore the energy sector after Russian strikes. In every city, in every community, you are restoring light, heating, and water supplies in harsh weather conditions. **@ZelenskyyUa**

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

Iraq announces complete withdrawal of US-led coalition from federal territory

Excludes the autonomous northern Kurdistan region



Newly graduated Iraqi army officers march in a military parade during the Army Day celebrations, marking the 105th anniversary of the founding of Iraqi army, at Military College in Baghdad

● Coalition forces had withdrawn from Iraqi bases under a 2024 deal

● US and allied troops had been deployed to Iraq and Syria since 2014

AFP | Baghdad, Iraq

Iraq said yesterday US-led coalition forces had finished withdrawing from bases within the country's federal territory, which excludes the autonomous northern Kurdistan region.

"We announce today... the completion of the evacuation of all military bases and leadership headquarters in the official federal areas of Iraq of advisers" of the US-led coalition, the military committee tasked with overseeing the end of the coalition's mission said.

With the withdrawal, "these sites come under the full control of Iraqi security forces", it said in the statement, adding that they would transition to "the stage of bilateral security relations with the United States".

The vast majority of coalition

forces had withdrawn from Iraqi bases under a 2024 deal between Baghdad and Washington outlining the end of the mission in Iraq by the end of 2025 and by September 2026 in the Kurdistan region.

US and allied troops had been

deployed to Iraq and Syria since 2014 to fight the Islamic State group, which had seized large swathes of both countries to declare their so-called "caliphate".

The jihadist group was territorially defeated in Iraq in 2017 and in Syria in 2019, but continued to operate sleeper cells.

The vast majority of coalition troops withdrew from Iraq over previous stages, with only advisers remaining in the country.

The military committee on Sunday said Iraqi forces were now "fully capable of prevent-

ing the reappearance of IS in Iraq and its infiltration across borders".

"Coordination with the international coalition will continue with regards to completely eliminating IS's presence in Syria," it added.

It pointed to "the coalition's role in Iraq offering cross-border logistical support for operations in Syria, through their presence at an airbase in Erbil", the capital of Iraq's Kurdistan region.

In December, two US soldiers and a civilian interpreter were killed in Syria in an attack blamed on IS, sparking fears of a resurgence in the country.

The statement added that anti-IS operations would be coordinated with the coalition through the Ain al-Assad base in Anbar province in western Iraq.

IS attacks in Iraq have massively declined in recent years, but the group maintains a presence in the country's mountainous areas.

A UN Security Council report in August said: "In Iraq, the group has focused on rebuilding networks along the Syrian border and restoring capacity in the Badia region."

Perilous crossing



Migrants onboard a rubber boat wave and gesture as they wait to be rescued by crew members of the "Ocean Viking" rescue ship in the search-and-rescue zone off the international waters of Libya. 46 migrants on a rubber dinghy in distress were rescued by the crew of the "Ocean Viking" in international waters off the coast of Libya as they attempted to reach the shores of the Italian island of Lampedusa. Libya, located about 300 km from the Italian coast, is one of the main departure points in North Africa for migrants, mostly from sub-Saharan Africa, risking their lives attempting to cross the Mediterranean sea. This is the first rescue of the year carried out by the ship operated by the NGO SOS Mediterranee.

South Africa declares national disaster as floods batter region

AFP | Johannesburg, South Africa

South Africa yesterday declared a national disaster after widespread flooding that destroyed homes and killed dozens, while thousands sought shelter in neighbouring Mozambique.

Heavy rains and storms have battered the two southern African countries for weeks, claiming more than 30 lives in South Africa's northeastern Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces.

Rivers burst their banks



Residents sit on a Mozambique military truck transporting them across floodwater

and swallowed entire neighbourhoods in several regions of Mozambique, displacing thousands including a woman who was forced to give birth on a roof as she sheltered from flood waters.

Indonesia rescuers find body from plane crash

AFP | Makassar, Indonesia



Joint search and rescue teams climb towards the suspected crash site of an Indonesia Air Transport turboprop plane that lost contact a day earlier while flying from Yogyakarta to Makassar, in the Bulusaraung Mountains, South Sulawesi, Indonesia.

Rescuers found debris and one body on Sunday from a small plane that crashed in eastern Indonesia with 10 people on board, officials said.

The Indonesian Air Transport turboprop plane lost contact with the air traffic controller on Saturday afternoon while en route from Yogyakarta to the city of Makassar on Sulawesi island.

Among the debris, the joint search and rescue team found what is believed to be "the fuselage, the tail section, and the windows", local official Muhammad Arif Anwar told a press briefing.

The body of one victim was found on a steep mountain slope in the same area, said Arif, head of the Makassar search and rescue agency.

"One male victim was found... at a depth of roughly 200 meters (656 feet) in the ravine and near aircraft debris," he said.

Another local rescue official, Andi Sultan, confirmed a body had been recovered, saying the remains would be evacuated on Monday due to poor weather conditions.

A unit was also deployed by air to search for the missing passengers, according to Arif.

The plane crashed into Mount Bulusaraung in Bantimurung-Bulusaraung National

Park, which borders the city of Makassar, Arif said.

Three government workers from the ministry of marine affairs and fisheries were on board the plane along with seven crew members.

Minister Sakti Wahyu Trenggono said the employees were on a mission to conduct aerial monitoring of resources in the area.

The search on land and by air involved more than 1,000 people including members of the air force, police and volunteers.

Local military chief Bangun Nawoko told reporters that the search was hindered by harsh terrain and fog.

Iran considers 'gradually' restoring internet

Government officials have said calm has been restored

Local messaging applications "will soon be activated" on Iran's domestic intranet

Outgoing international calls have been possible since Tuesday

AFP | Paris, France

Iranian authorities have said they are considering "gradually" restoring internet access after imposing an unprecedented communications shutdown 10 days ago, which rights groups say masked a violent protest crackdown that killed thousands.

Demonstrations sparked in late December by anger over economic hardship exploded into protests widely seen as the biggest challenge to the Iranian leadership in years.

Iranian officials have said the demonstrations were peaceful before turning into "riots" and blamed foreign influence, namely from Iran's foes the United States and Israel.

The rallies subsided after the crackdown that rights groups have called a "massacre" carried out by security forces under



A protester burns fake US dollars during a pro-Iranian regime demonstration in front of the Iranian consulate in Istanbul the cover of a communications blackout that started on January 8 as the protests grew in size and intensity.

Government officials have said calm has been restored, with schools reopening on Sunday -- Iran's weekend falling on Thursday and Friday -- after a week of closure.

Late Saturday, the Tasnim news agency reported "the relevant authorities announced that internet access would also be gradually restored", but gave no further details.

Citing an unnamed "informed source", the agency said local messaging applications "will soon be activated" on Iran's domestic intranet.

On Sunday morning, AFP was able to connect to the internet from its Tehran office, though the vast majority of internet providers and mobile internet

NASA moves moon rocket to launch pad ahead of Artemis 2 mission



The crew of NASA's Artemis II mission: NASA astronauts Christina Koch, Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, and CSA (Canadian Space Agency) astronaut Jeremy Hansen.

AFP | United States

NASA on Saturday rolled out its towering SLS rocket and Orion spacecraft as it began preparations for its first crewed mission to the Moon in more than 50 years.

The maneuver, which takes up to 12 hours, will allow the US space agency to begin a string of tests for the Artemis 2 mission, which could blast off as early as February 6.

The immense orange and white Space Launch System rocket and the Orion vessel were slowly wheeled out of the Vehicle Assembly Building at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, and painstakingly moved four miles (6.5 kilometers) to Launch Pad 39B.

If the tests are all satisfactory, three Americans and one Canadian will head to the Moon sometime between February 6 and the end of April -- they will not land, but instead fly around Earth's satellite.

The mission -- which would last about 10 days -- would be a huge step towards Americans once again setting foot on the lunar surface, a goal announced by President Donald Trump in his first term.

"We're making history," Artemis 2 mission management team chair John Honeycutt told a press conference on Friday.

'Pretty pumped'

US astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover and Christina Koch, along with Canada's Jeremy Hansen, were on site Saturday for the rocket's rollout.

"I'm actually pretty pumped to see that," Hansen told reporters. "In just a few weeks, you're going to see four humans fly around the moon, and if we're doing that now, imagine what we can do next."

Glover added: "We're swinging for the fence, trying to make the impossible possible."



Artemis 3, currently scheduled for 2027, is expected to be pushed back, as industry experts say Elon Musk's SpaceX is behind on delivering the Starship megarocket needed for the mission.

Kurdish forces withdraw from Syria's largest oil field as govt forces advance

AFP | Tabqa, Syria

Kurdish-led forces withdrew yesterday from Syria's largest oil field, a conflict monitor said, as government troops extended their grip over swathes of territory in the country's north and east.

The push came after President Ahmed al-Sharaa issued a decree granting the Kurds official recognition in an apparent goodwill gesture, even as his Islamist government seeks to assert its authority across Syria after the ousting of long-time ruler Bashar al-Assad in 2014.

The Kurds' de facto autonomous administration, which controls large parts of the northeast, has said the announcement fell short, while the implementation of a deal to integrate Kurdish forces into the state has been stalled for months.

Early Sunday, the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) suddenly withdrew "from all areas under its control in the eastern Deir Ezzor countryside, including the Al-Omar and Tanak oil fields", the head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, Rami Abdel Rahman, told AFP.

He said the SDF withdrawal in Deir Ezzor and Raqa provinces came as "fighters from local tribes, including Arab



Members of the Kurdish Internal Security Forces known as "Asayish", and residents rally during a demonstration against the attacks by the Syrian government forces and in support of Kurdish fighters in Qamishli, the main Kurdish city in the country's northeast.

fighters who are part of the SDF, advanced in coordination with government troops".

The areas are now effectively controlled by government forces, the Observatory said.

Al-Omar is the country's largest oil field, and was home to the United States' largest base in Syria. It had been controlled by Kurdish-led forces since 2017

after the Islamic State jihadist group was pushed out.

The Kurds' reported withdrawal from Al-Omar follows the government's announcement that it had retaken two other oil fields, Safyan and Al-Tharwa, in Raqa province.

The government's push has so far captured Arab-majority areas that came under Kurdish

control during the fight against IS, whose defeat in Syria was secured with the help of the US-backed SDF.

Energy Minister Mohammad al-Bashir said the return of the area's resources to state control "means opening the door wide for reconstruction, revitalising agriculture, energy and trade".

Interior Minister Discusses Joint Arab Security Cooperation



His Excellency Lieutenant General Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior, received Dr. Mohammed bin Ali Koman, Secretary General of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers, on Sunday morning. The meeting focused on strengthening joint Arab security action and reviewing the implementation of the Council's strategic decisions. The Minister praised the General Secretariat's role in developing security cooperation and discussed the agenda for the Council's upcoming meeting. The talks emphasized enhancing coordination mechanisms among member states to address regional security challenges effectively. For his part, Dr. Koman expressed his appreciation for the Minister's insights and Bahrain's continued support for Arab security integration.

Esnad Holding Inaugurates Luxury Crestview Tower in Bahrain



Esnad Holding Group has officially launched "Crestview," a premier residential tower located on the waterfront near Sheikh Khalifa Bridge. Inaugurated by CEO Engineer Abdulrahman Al-Koojeji and group leaders, the project was fully developed and managed in-house, reflecting Esnad's commitment to integrated real estate solutions. The tower offers spacious units starting from 203 square meters, designed with high-end hotel standards to meet the needs of Bahraini families and investors. Facilities include a gym, separate spas for men and women, a multi-purpose room, and an outdoor swimming pool with sea views.

The Art Hotel and Resort Launches "A Day in the Air of Bahrain" Exhibition



The Art Hotel and Resort has officially opened a special art exhibition at its Amwaj Islands location, showcasing works created during the recent "A Day in the Air of Bahrain" live painting event. The exhibition features pieces by over 42 Bahraini and Gulf artists who captured the Kingdom's identity and beauty on canvas at Aloha Beach. Inaugurated by His Excellency MP Hassan Eid Boukhamas, the opening ceremony allowed artists to share the inspirations behind their paintings with hotel management and guests. The initiative aims to promote cultural activity and provide a professional platform for regional talent. The exhibition will run for one month, offering visitors and art enthusiasts the opportunity to view and purchase the original artworks.

ISB Celebrates Vishwa Hindi Diwas with Vibrant Cultural Showcase



The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) marked Vishwa Hindi Diwas with a grand finale at the Jashanmal Auditorium. The event concluded a two-phase program that began with inter-school competitions in December, featuring participants from The New Millennium, Asian, New Indian, Bahrain Indian, New Horizon, and Ibn Al Hytham Islamic schools. The ceremony featured patriotic songs, folk dances, and talent showcases by competition winners. Coordinated by the Hindi Department under HoD Baboo Khan, the program was attended by school leadership, including Staff Representative Paravathi Devadas and Head Teachers Sreekala R. Nair and Salona Pius. Hon. Chairman Adv. Binu Mannil Varughese and Principal VR Palaniswamy commended the students and staff for their dedication.

THMC Organizes Successful Blood Donation Camp in Manama



The Thattai Hindu Community (THMC) organized a successful blood donation camp on Friday, January 16, 2026, at the Shrinathji Shri Krishna Temple Auditorium. Held in association with Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC), the event saw over 142 donors from four different nationalities participate. This humanitarian initiative has been a cornerstone of the community's activities for over 30 years, held four times annually. With an average of 150+ donors per quarter, the community continues to play a vital role in supporting Bahrain's national blood bank. The organizers expressed their gratitude to the SMC authorities for their cooperation and thanked all donors and volunteers for their selfless contribution. The event concluded as a grand success, reinforcing the community's long-standing commitment to life-saving causes in the Kingdom.

Classifieds

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or YOUSIFSHOWAITER@YAHOO.COM

Eastern Asphalt & Mixed Concrete Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRAFTSMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17252078 or S.RADH@EAMCO.BH

ALUMINIUM GALLERY COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ALUMINUM TECHNICIAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17785907 or SOUTH-GRP@YAHOO.COM

TARIQ GENTS SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33301113 or TARIQJEE684@GMAIL.COM

ABDULLA ABDULRAHMAN ALRAYES AND SONS CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER (DECOR), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17252144 or HR@ALRAYESDECOR.COM

MAHMOOD ALNOOH CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17795104 or info@mancobh.com

ACROBIZ SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33583618 or RAYSYS@LIVE.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

Evershine Jewellery W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DESIGNER (JEWELLERY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17005949 or SHINEJEWEL@HOTMAIL.COM

FINE FORCE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39609881 or MOHAMMED55@GMAIL.COM

AIRAA VEGETABLES & FRUITS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36663334 or MAADHSALEH87@GMAIL.COM

Rocky Road Contracting CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34336752 or EHSANMASOOD500@GMAIL.COM

KARACHI STAR RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33949195 or UBMALIK93@GMAIL.COM

OM SAQ SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77088490 or INFO-28TRAVEL@GMAIL.COM

DYNAMIC ZONE CLEANING CONSTRUCTIONS has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36654990 or arabspalacecleaning@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

BALDEV KUMAR CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32130946 or RS0383018@GMAIL.COM

ALSHAQAB GENERAL TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66699323 or ALIAHMED.ALAA110@GMAIL.COM

HELSINKI CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37143431 or usamaasifqazi@gmail.com

EVER FINE TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39151200 or GEE-PASBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

Hot Pack Trading Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36361073 or ABDUL@HOTPACK.AE

DIAMOND CORE CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER (CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33949551 or ALBINKHALI@GMAIL.COM

TAKAMUL SERVICES CO (TASCO) W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER / PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17344107 or MAJAJ101@GMAIL.COM

MIYAR COLD STORE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17665517 or NICEEYEE-SAAA@GMAIL.COM

ARADOUS BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39993911 or HUSSAIN.ALTAAN@GMAIL.COM

LUBYISCO CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39803803 or MAIDOSRI95@GMAIL.COM

RASHID ABDULKARIM MOHAMMED EBRAHIM BAKER has a vacancy for the occupation

PANY B.S.C. (CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727676 or aqeel@basma.com.bh

Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

MAGNUM SHIPCAR SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PIPE-FITTER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832244 or per121@alkhalidagroup.com

TASHYEED HOSPITALITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSISTANT MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 1772935 or manaii.hr@mannaithTrading.com

AL AMAL HOSPITAL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HOSPITAL ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17415191 or MKSADMN@GMAIL.COM

TERRA WORKS GULF W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36429818 or RANARAMEEL@GMAIL.COM

AL HEJARAH RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39672580 or alharampp@mail.com

MR ANMOL BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33883145 or YASEENANMOL3145@GMAIL.COM

Swan International Assistance W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17333623 or HR@SIASSISTANCE.COM

KAMRAN KHALJI SCRAP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39556949 or MUHAKAMRAN92@GMAIL.COM

MEHAIFL CAFETERIA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35108786 or MRVILLIYAPPALLY@GMAIL.COM

VALOR MANPOWER has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR (HOUSEKEEPING AFFAIRS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39993345 or GRAYS.BH25@GMAIL.COM

CLEAR VIEW SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17660141 or CLEARVIEWBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

ERNST & YOUNG - MIDDLE EAST has a vacancy for the occupation of SENIOR AUDITOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17535455 or SARA.EBRAHIM@BH.EY.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

BALDEV KUMAR CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32130946 or RS0383018@GMAIL.COM

ZARVEX COMBINE SUPPORT FACILITIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38337233 or AMNANABIL30@GMAIL.COM

KABUL BUKHARI RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39555015 or mohdwaqassarwar@gmail.com

LAJAWAB PANJABI DHABA RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (HOTEL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34245119 or

ABDULAZIZ ALSAYED TRADING & CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33747598 or AHMEDALSAYED88@GMAIL.COM

SWEILEH CAFE has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38467744 or QASSIM@WANAAN-BH.COM

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PEOPLE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DATA ANALYST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727375 or WILLIAM@TPEOPLEGULF.COM

MUHAMMAD IKRAM CONTRACTING BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66632428 or IMTIAZHUSSSNO@GMAIL.COM

BURGER EXPRESS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35414424 or M.MNAWAZ29@GMAIL.COM

HAMALA FLOWERS GENERAL TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39079090 or AHHAHHAS@YAHOO.COM

NAHLA LABOR SUPPLY has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36551667 or KADDAHO-SAMA0@GMAIL.COM

ALJO SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33015010 or INFO-28TRAVEL@GMAIL.COM

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

tion of BAKER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17411584 or BURASHED1984@GMAIL.COM

CBA CONSTRUCTION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER (CONSTRUCTION) (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38473248 or ABDULRAHMAN110511@GMAIL.COM

KOREAN BAKERY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER & CONFECTIONER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17587666 or FAISAL@ALIREZA.BH

HOUSE OF TRAVEL B.S.C CLOSEED has a vacancy for the occupation of TRAVEL AGENT (TICKETING & RESERVATION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17578578 or jamin@hotmail.bh

Orange Flower For Landscaping And Flowers has a vacancy for the occupation of FARMER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37738111 or ORANGEFLOWER.BH@GMAIL.COM

TONI AND GUY HAIRDRESSING has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIR DRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3999887 or NAJALJOZ@GMAIL.COM

AL-NAMAL CONTRACTING & TRADING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER (CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 16199376 or SUNSKY.BH@GMAIL.COM

BOU BILAL BAKER has a vacancy for the occupation of BREAD BAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36120088 or ABDULLAABDULHALEM183@GMAIL.COM

PURA SALON & SPA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIRDRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38806000 or ALAA@ALMATROOK.BH

YAQUBY PREMIUM W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39661010 or admin@yqub.com

MENNA BEAUTY SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17749491 or ENAAM_NONO20@YAHOO.COM

SECURE SERVICES LIMITED W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17799798 or Carl@SECURESERVICES.BH

IMACHINES MAINTENANCE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17574333 or AK@ALMOAYED.COM

AL HILAL HOSPITAL COMPANY - BSC (CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of NURSE (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17344700 or HRD@ALHILALHEALTHCARE.COM

NAHLA LABOR SUPPLY has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36551667 or KADDAHO-SAMA0@GMAIL.COM

CHEEMA FOOD TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33772433 or RASHID.GHAFOOR337@GMAIL.COM

NEW SPARTAN GARAGE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 65

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

ably qualified applicants can contact 17006444 or khalid@casademorado.com

LUCKY PANDA RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33516858 or SHAHEENNAZ03@GMAIL.COM

DEEP RIVER CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39959668 or IB23132@163.COM

Eram Arabia W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33625051 or adminbaharain@eraramarabia.com

DEGOL RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38463333 or alalam_1971@yahoo.com

Basma Security has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY MAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727676 or aqeel@basma.com.bh

Capital Laundry W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39464157 or hr.recruitment@deekobahrain.com

ALENJAZ CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17625900 or ADNAN-FU@HOTMAIL.COM

ANADOLU SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17710330 or S.MAYTHAM@GMAIL.COM

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

JOD ALHASAD GENERAL TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37155975 or MOHAMMED12ALDIRAWI@GMAIL.COM

FIORI FOOD DELIVERY has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(MOTOR-CYCLE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33194444 or FGROUP.BH@GMAIL.COM

SHOP WELL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34084154 or SHOPWELL.BAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

NOVELTYTRADES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE). GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34126711 or AQIBIEWLL@GMAIL.COM

ALMORTAH BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of BREAD BAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32236411 or AHMED1964ALAMAR@GMAIL.COM

White Collar Management Company w.l.l has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17645164 or WCMCBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

SILVER CITY CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38826888 or SILVERCITYCONTRACTING@GMAIL.COM

MOHAMMED AHMADI CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER-CLEANING(HAND & CHEMICAL SOLUTIONS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17268111 or hrd1@macbh.com

SILVER CITY CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38826888 or SILVERCITYCONTRACTING@GMAIL.COM

ZORINYA FASHION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39222426 or BUILDBELL-BH@GMAIL.COM

SHEILA MALATE ADAN FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36484758 or ATAU3421@GMAIL.COM

THAMSEENA RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36391819 or IJAZUK28@GMAIL.COM

Golden Diyan construction has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17530670 or HWAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

WATO SERVICES BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of CLERK(EMPLOYEES' RECORDS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33015010 or INFO28TRAVEL@GMAIL.COM

ZESHAN BEAUTY SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIR DRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34342810 or ABBAS307@YAHOO.COM

GULF PERFORMANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER/BARTENDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34053913 or AHMED@BOROJRAMA.COM

AL SAHEL AL LAMA GENERAL TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECRETARY, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39829984 or MDALMANA66@GMAIL.COM

CASA DE MED - RVN 212.2 W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of NURSE(GENERAL), suit-

ably qualified applicants can contact 17006444 or khalid@casademorado.com

JAPAN MOUNTAINS AUTO SPARE PARTS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34336752 or EHSANMASOOD500@GMAIL.COM

ALMISHRIF RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33997756 or BNT.NASSER@GMAIL.COM

AL AAL WAAL ASHAB SOCIETY has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17660383 or INTERMILAN_1984@HOTMAIL.COM

BATSCO CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17783886 or hr@batSCO.net

A CUBED BY AISHA BOUTIQUE has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39444140 or WMZ.66644@HOTMAIL.COM

NASSER ABD MOHAMMED B.S.C(CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700888 or admin@nasserco.net

LAGOONA BEACH RESORT&SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17660383 or INTERMILAN_1984@HOTMAIL.COM

MAKKAH AND MADINA TRAVEL AND TOURISM W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38327987 or AZEEMAHMED707@GMAIL.COM

AL SHARJEE KHABBAZ has a vacancy for the occupation of BREAD BAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36236200 or ANWAR.ALKOOHEJI@GMAIL.COM

SHAHZAD AHMAD ADVERTISING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35981541 or ZAIDCONSULTANCY613@GMAIL.COM

AL NAKEEL PREMIUM FITNESS has a vacancy for the occupation of SPORTS TRAINER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39666838 or ALNAKEEL.LADIES@GMAIL.COM

HEAD MASTER SALON AND SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66601212 or 999.MARIAM@GMAIL.COM

ALU PLUS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17722333 or hr@agcbh.com

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING COMPANY W.L.L CLEANTEC has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36636640 or HAN-ANKHALAF84@GMAIL.COM

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING COMPANY W.L.L CLEANTEC has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36636640 or HAN-ANKHALAF84@GMAIL.COM

GUARDUS SECURITY CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or HRD@ALMOAYYEDCG.COM

ASB SECURITY SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3507063 or MAGICSHINE775@YAHOO.COM

HASTA SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38242281 or MOONLAND-BAHRAN@GMAIL.COM

FAITH LAND TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17774928 or MOHAMEDKHALIL1240@GMAIL.COM

LAGOONA BEACH RESORT&SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17660383 or INTERMILAN_1984@HOTMAIL.COM

LAGOONA BEACH RESORT&SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13624326 or santhosh@amanigate.com

GARAGE TALHA 804 FOR CAR REPAIR has a vacancy for the occupation of VEHICLE INSPECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37794991 or JMAM_393@HOTMAIL.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

ABU HANI LAND RECLAMATION has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33668844 or abuhami3@gmail.com

NEW INDIAN BAKERY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34633301 or KHTAJU9@GMAIL.COM

GOLD DUST CLEANING SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13118898 or GOLDDUST.BH@GMAIL.COM

JAVED AKHTAR PUBLICITY ADVERTISING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33450121 or ALIJAVEDAKHTAR52@GMAIL.COM

RAMEE ROSE HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of AUDITOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17616167 or hrs.bh@rameehotels.com

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING COMPANY W.L.L CLEANTEC has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36636640 or HAN-ANKHALAF84@GMAIL.COM

Urgent Care has a vacancy for the occupation of AUXILIARY NURSE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17211721 or malasfoor@urgentcare.bh

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING COMPANY W.L.L CLEANTEC has a vacancy for the occu-

NA.SH11@HOTMAIL.COM

REHAB SALON & SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34481911 or REHABAHMED33@GMAIL.COM

PABBI REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANT (SALARY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33716905 or LALMUHAMMAD77221@GMAIL.COM

LAGOONA BEACH RESORT&SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17660383 or INTERMILAN_1984@HOTMAIL.COM

AL BITEEZI CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33472131 or INFO.HOMETOWNS-VICES@GMAIL.COM

PUNJAB CITY CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34111999 or SHAREF.WORKS@GMAIL.COM

SANIYAH LADIES BEAUTY SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39616126 or ALKULAFALAND@GMAIL.COM

LABIB COMPUTER CONSULTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (AC- COUNTS AND FINANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33611515 or ZOOMPOINT-MARKETING@GMAIL.COM

BANNU FRESH MEAT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MEAT KUTTING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35506142 or BANNUEEF10@GMAIL.COM

ALKHULOOD LADIES SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39471090 or ALOM-DAH CENTER99@GMAIL.COM

BRIGHT MK TRADE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33863721 or GULBIBI.JOHAR@YAHOO.COM

ASIAN FLAVOURS RESTAURANTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17253030 or MOTOROX17@GMAIL.COM

MERRAKI INTERIORS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PLASTERER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36364110 or marjanali92@icloud.com

BREDA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANICURIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39557758 or GHADEER.YUSUF@BREDABEAUTYLOUNGE.COM

ALBARASTY CAFE has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36117959 or mhmdbalbaly03@gmail.com

M I CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32184242 or M.I.75@HOTMAIL.COM

ALDOOR EXCAVATION & BUILDING CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877246 or zainabhr@aldoorbh.com

FRESH TECH AIR CONDITIONING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36907579 or buttsam901@gmail.com

ASIF SUPERMARKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33880076 or IQBAL99BH@GMAIL.COM

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

SAUDI GEOPHYSICAL CONSULTING OFFICE COMPANY BRANCH OF A FOREIGN COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of TRADE / VOCATIONAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33326575 or PUBLICRELATION@SAUDIGEOPHYSICAL.COM

Real Value Contracting W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36767312 or INFO@REALVALUECONTRACTING.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

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

BDC MANPOWER SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17180530 or mona.alhokheda@bas.com.bh

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL FABRICATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674319 or DUAIJMALKHALIFA@ASRY.NET

TALLEEN CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36855003 or HUSSAIN-6ALORAIBI@GMAIL.COM

PAN ARAB COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17514166 or info@panarabco.net

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occu-

ably qualified applicants can contact 17211721 or malasfoor@urgentcare.bh

BLACK BOUTIQUE PERFUMERY AND ABAYYAT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES MAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38171717 or hffff3060@GMAIL.COM

FLOWER BAR has a vacancy for the occupation of FLORIST/FLOWER SETTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17215815 or AMI-

BAREK KHEL CARGO has a vacancy for the occu-

ably qualified applicants can contact 17215815 or AMI-

BAKERS has a vacancy for the occupation of NURSE(GENERAL), suit-

ably qualified applicants can contact 17215815 or AMI-

BAKERS has a vacancy for the occupation of NURSE(GENERAL), suit-

ably qualified applicants can contact 17215815 or AMI-

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

alzain secrets abayat has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17246308 or AHMAD_BUTT1985@YAHOO.COM

SAEAT ALSUFR REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33325555 or S.JBREEL1981@GMAIL.COM

MALIK_KHOKHAR WORKSHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of GARAGE MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34529911 or MALIKSAIFULLAHKHOKHAR9@GMAIL.COM

NOVELTY PUBLIC RELATIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34126711 or AQIBIEWLL@GMAIL.COM

SJS CONSTRUCTION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33761989 or SALAHUDDINBELAL2@GMAIL.COM

DAMA ELECTRONICS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3371283 or DAUD-CHEEMA5423@GMAIL.COM

FAROHA CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17230027 or AASKARI44@HOTMAIL.COM

FAZAL RAHIM CLEANING SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3219631 or ABDULRAHMAN1051@GMAIL.COM

JASMINE AND TULIP MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35304088 or CHAHMED-DYOUAFG@GMAIL.COM

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No Venus fairytale in Melbourne as Alcaraz, Sabalenka win openers

Top seeds cruise to victory while Venus Williams sets a historic age record in defeat

● Alcaraz beats home hope Walton in straight sets

● Sabalenka defeats French debutant 6-4, 6-1

● Venus Williams, 45, falls in marathon to Danilovic

● Zverev recovers from poor start to advance

AFP | Melbourne

Top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz and Aryna Sabalenka launched their Australian Open title bids with straight-sets wins but there was no fairytale for 45-year-old Venus Williams yesterday.

On a hot Melbourne day in which a ball girl fainted, last year's men's beaten finalist Alexander Zverev dropped a set before easing into the second round.

World number one Alcaraz joined him, the Spaniard beating 81st-ranked home player Adam Walton 6-3, 7-6 (7/2), 6-2 on Rod Laver Arena.

Alcaraz, who is desperate to win the Australian Open to complete the career Grand Slam of all four majors, plays Germany's Yannick Hanfmann next.

"I think this kind of level and the difficulties in the first round is pretty good for me," said Alcaraz, who was pushed all the way in the second set.

"But overall just happy. I'm pleased about the level that I played today," added Alcaraz,

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz hits a return against Australia's Adam Walton

who was playing his first competitive match for nine weeks.

Alcaraz has won the US Open, Wimbledon and French Open, but Melbourne is the one Grand Slam missing from his impressive resume.

The furthest he has gone at the opening major of the year is the quarter-finals and he has made it clear that dethroning rival Jannik Sinner as champion is his main aim for 2026.

If he does so, the 22-year-old would surpass compatriot Rafael Nadal to become the youngest man to complete the career Grand Slam.

Earlier, in steamy conditions approaching highs of 30C, Zverev threatened to implode in losing the first set to Canada's

Gabriel Diallo.

But the 28-year-old German recovered to win 6-7 (1/7), 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 and next meets Australian Alexei Popyrin or Alexandre Muller of France.

Asked how he reset from his first-set wobble, the third seed said: "I was thinking it can't get worse than that."

British qualifier Arthur Fery scored the first big upset by taking down 20th seed Flavio Cobolli of Italy, 7-6 (7/1), 6-4, 6-1.

Novak Djokovic, who is chasing a record 25th major title, begins his title assault on Monday, as does three-time runner-up Daniil Medvedev.

Organisers said that a record 100,000 people came through the gates, although there were complaints about long queues in the heat.

Underlining how fierce it was on court, a ball girl collapsed during the match between Zeynep Sonmez and Ekaterina Alexandrova, with both players rushing to help her.

Venus makes history

Sabalenka began her bid for a third Australian Open title in four years with a patchy start before coming good in the second set.

The world number one, stunned by Madison Keys in the 2025 final, ultimately had too much power, guile and quality for French wildcard Tiantsoa Rakotomanga Rajaonah.

But the Belarusian took time

to find her touch, making a series of unforced errors before taming the spirited 20-year-old 6-4, 6-1 on Rod Laver Arena.

"It is always tricky playing someone young, someone you don't know, and a lefty (left-hander)," said the top seed and title favourite.

Sabalenka said she had felt added pressure with tennis legends Roger Federer and Rod Laver court-side.

"I hope you guys enjoyed watching me play, I hope you enjoyed it even a little bit," she said in her on-court interview, addressing the duo.

Sabalenka faces Chinese qualifier Bai Zhuoxuan next.

Title rivals Iga Swiatek and Coco Gauff play on Monday.



USA's Venus Williams acknowledges the applause as she walks off the court after losing to Serbia's Olga Danilovic



Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka hits a return against France's Tiantsoa Rakotomanga Rajaonah

Playoffs Loom as Muharraq Meet Al Ittihad

Hussain Almaskati

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Muharraq Club face Saudi Arabia's Al Ittihad tonight at 8 PM in Jeddah, in the sixth and final round of the 2025-26 FIBA WASL Gulf League.

The Red Wolves enter the match with 7 points from two wins and three losses, including a narrow 84-83 defeat to UAE's Shabab Al Ahli in their most recent outing. That loss, decided by a game-winning shot from Deshawndre Washington in the final seconds, saw Muharraq drop to third place in Group A,



Red Wolves in discussion on court

though they have already secured a spot in the Qualification to the Semi-Finals, where they will face Kuwait SC.

Al Ittihad lead the group with 8 points, holding a 4-1 record, and will look to finish the group stage on a high note. For Peter Schomers' side, the result is largely symbolic, but the team aims to maintain competitive form ahead of the playoffs, despite key injuries to Timmy Bond and Roche, which could impact their rotation.

Earlier in the tournament, Peter Schomers' side showed resilience, keeping games close

against top sides, including a dramatic battle with Shabab Al Ahli where they briefly led late in the fourth quarter. The team's core, led by Bond, Nick West, and Kerwin Roach Jr., has shown plenty of promise that will be vital in the postseason.

Current standings ahead of tonight's final round are: Al Ittihad on 9 points, Shabab Al Ahli 8, Muharraq 7, and Kazma SC 6. While the final group match may be a "formality" for Muharraq, it also offers an opportunity to build momentum and fine-tune their game for the upcoming playoff clash.

BIC set for double the action with Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights

Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', hosts today the latest edition of Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights.

This widely popular activity will see participants light up both the circuit's world-class, quarter-mile drag strip and its vast vehicle dynamics area.

Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights is a fan-favourite experience that features two of the most popular and adrenaline-pumping forms of motorsport today, and those taking part can do so in their very own cars or motorbikes.

Speed enthusiasts can push their vehicles to their limit either down the BIC strip or around the vehicle dynamics area, while also having the option of doing both, making for a fantastic double-header over a single evening's activity.

Monday's Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights is scheduled to take place from 5pm to



11pm. Both the drag racing and

drifting can be done for a single fee of BD11. Participation in just the drag racing or just the drifting costs BD8.

Bookings can be made online at BIC's official website bah-

raingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

Those who would like to experience the drag or drift as a passenger can get into a participant's car for an additional fee of BD4.500. Registration for those

wishing to join can be done on site.

Spectators who would like to attend and watch the action in the Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights can also purchase their tickets online at BD2 apiece



at bahaingp.com. Tickets for children aged 12 and below are BD1 each.

The BIC drag strip is highly regarded as one of the best in the world, and it is a part of the prestigious NHRA Worldwide Network of the U.S.-based National Hot Rod Association (NHRA).

BIC's vehicle dynamics area features a specially configured lay-

out for drifters. It is surrounded by safety barriers and is one of the largest open tarmac areas in Bahrain, ideal for an amazing display of power sliding within a secure environment.

For more information on Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights, visit bahaingp.com, call the BIC Hotline, or follow the circuit's social media channels.

Yavi Leads Bahrain to Glory in Spain

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Olympic 3000m steeplechase champion Winfred Yavi lived up to her status as the pre-race favourite at the 11th World Athletics Cross Country Tour Gold meeting, claiming first place in the women's 7.62km race at the Cross Internacional Juan Muguerza in Elgoibar, Spain yesterday. Yavi crossed the line in 25:23, ahead of Kenya's Sheila Jebet and Tunisia's Marwa Bouzayani, who finished second and third respectively.

From the opening meters, Yavi surged to the front, asserting control over the race with remarkable speed and endurance. Only Jebet and Bouzayani could initially stay with her, while a chasing pack, including Britain's Lucy Jones and Kate O'Neill, and Spain's Isabel Barreiro and Angela Viciosa, trailed by a few seconds. By 2.1km, Bouzayani began to fall behind, and Yavi

pulled clear of Jebet before the third kilometre. She continued to extend her lead, covering the penultimate 2.2km loop in 6:57, and crossed the finish line unchallenged, 1:06 ahead of Jebet and 1:25 ahead of Bouzayani.

he 26-year-old Olympic champion, World champion, Diamond League Final winner, and World Championships silver medallist, has been in outstanding form this season, highlighted by a victory in Seville last November and a steeplechase-5000m double at the Islamic Games in Riyadh. "I'm delighted," said Yavi. "In Elgoibar, the people are so nice and they make me feel special. I came here very well prepared both physically and mentally. Winning here after finishing third years ago is a great success for me."

The Cross Internacional Juan Muguerza is renowned for its depth, having previously hosted legends such as Haile Gebrselassie, Selemon Barega, and Linet Masai. Yavi's success



Winfred Yavi powers past the finish line in Elgoibar

in Elgoibar not only speaks to Bahrain's growing reputation in distance running, but also sees her once again representing the kingdom with distinction on the international stage. She

will next compete at the World Military Cross Country Championships in Trikala, Greece, at the end of February, continuing her strong season on the global circuit.

Bahrain Maintain Perfect Start in Asian Championship



India's Virat Kohli (L) watches the ball after playing a shot

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain maintained their flawless start at the 22nd Asian Men's Handball Championship yesterday with a convincing 40-29 victory over China in their second Group B match at the Saad Al Abdullah Sports Hall in Kuwait City. The result not only keeps the kingdom unbeaten, but also all but secures their qualification for the main round, with just one preliminary game remaining.

Under Swedish coach Robert Hedin, the Bahrainis were dominant from the first throw, combining rapid ball movement with aggressive defensive pressure that disrupted the Chinese attack. Jassim Khamis led the charge with eight goals, earning Man of the Match honors, while Mohamed Habib Ahmed and Mohamed Nasser Mohamed added six goals each. Star player Salman Al Shoaikh contributed four goals and created key scoring opportunities, helping Bahrain steadily pull away. Other contributors included Ahmed Kadhem (4), Qasim Qambar (2), Ali Alasheeri (2), Hasan Madan (2), Sayed Ali Al Sayyad (2), and single goals from Jaafar Farsan, Mohamed

Rabea, Ali Shubbar, Abdulla Abdulkarim, and Ali Mohamed.

China struggled to mount a response, managing only sporadic bursts of scoring. Bahrain took a commanding 20-10 lead by halftime and maintained control throughout the second half, ultimately closing the match with an 11-goal margin. The victory cements Bahrain's position in the main round and highlights their pedigree as gold medal winners from the sixth Islamic Solidarity Games.

The tournament also serves as the qualifier for the 30th IHF Men's Handball World Championship in Germany 2027. The single round-robin group stage sees the top two teams advance, with the semi-finalists determined on January 27, all of whom will qualify for the World Championship. Teams not advancing will compete for the Martyr Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah Cup.

Bahrain return to action tomorrow at 4pm against Iraq in a crucial clash that could decide Group B's top spot, with both teams currently undefeated on 4 points, while China and Jordan are yet to score. The championship runs until January 29 in Kuwait City, featuring 15 nations in total.

Kingdom to Host 2026 Para Badminton Worlds

Manama

Bahrain is set to host the 2026 Para Badminton World Championships from 8 to 14 February 2026, under the gracious patronage of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of the General Sports Authority, and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee.

The championship will be organized by the Bahrain Paralympic Committee, in cooperation with the Bahrain Badminton and Squash Federation, further reinforcing the Kingdom's growing presence on the global

Paralympic sports stage.

President of the Bahrain Paralympic Committee, His Excellency Shaikh Mohammed bin Duaij Al Khalifa, expressed his pride in the prestigious patronage and emphasized that it reflects strong confidence in Bahrain's ability to host major international sporting events in line with the highest global standards. He noted that Bahrain's advanced organizational capabilities, modern sports infrastructure, and inclusive facilities tailored to the needs of athletes of determination have played a key role in securing the event.

Shaikh Mohammed also highlighted the success of previous



Paralympic championships hosted in Bahrain, which received widespread praise from international federations and participating delegations, further strengthening the Kingdom's international sporting reputation.

The championship will be held at Isa bin Rashid Sports

Hall, with competition halls designated according to player classifications. Hall (B) will be used for warm-up sessions, Hall (C) will host standing players' matches, and Hall (D) will be dedicated to wheelchair competitions, ensuring a professional and safe environment that meets international technical standards.

Considered one of the most prominent events on the global Paralympic calendar, the 2026 Para Badminton World Championships is expected to attract elite players from around the world, reinforcing Bahrain's position as a regional and international hub for major sporting events.

Bahrain drag aces claim key wins

BIC stages high-intensity penultimate round of 2025/2026 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship

● Four Bahrainis emerge victorious to take crucial points in season standings, including Ali Rabeea, Mahmood Saleh, Ali Alkhunaizi, and Khalifa Alshurooqi

Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', hosted an action-packed fourth and penultimate round of the 2025-26 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship, which wrapped up over the weekend.

With the stakes raised and valuable points on the line for the season standings, the head-to-head battles along BIC's world-class quarter-mile strip were high in intensity.

Competitors from all over the Gulf, including Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait participated across 12 high-octane categories.

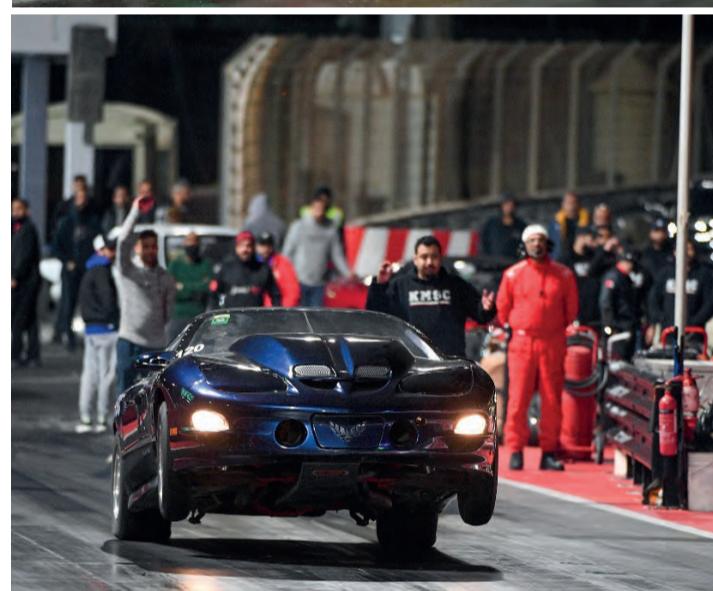
Four of Bahrain's top drag racing talents emerged victorious in their respective classes, including Ali Rabeea the 10.0 Index division, Mahmood Saleh in the Outlaw 4-Cylinder, Ali Alkhunaizi in the Outlaw 6-Cylinder, and Khalifa Alshurooqi in the Street Fight Bikes 9.5 category.

Three from Saudi and another three from Kuwait also triumphed, with two participants from the UAE climbing to the podium's top step.

The meeting was organised by BIC in cooperation with the Bahrain Motor Federation, the Bahrain Drag Racing Commission, and the Bahrain Motorcycle Commission.

With round four complete, the stage is set for the championship finale, scheduled for 3 to 6 March.

BIC's world-renowned drag strip is a part of the U.S.-based National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Worldwide Network. Winners in the NHRA-sanctioned series will all take home a prestigious 'Wally' trophy at the end of the campaign. The 'Wally' is drag racing's most prestigious accolade, and it is awarded only



Fight Bikes 9.5 division with a run of 9.511s at 223.10kph, narrowly taking a hotly contested elimination against compatriot Abdulla Almozayen, who had a time of 9.725s at 243.64kph. Fellow-Bahraini Ali Hamad Ali finished third.

The three Saudis to claim first place in their categories were Mohammed Albrahim in the 9.0 Index class, Khalid Aldossary in the Pro Street Bikes, and Jihad Aljamal Outlaw Bikes.

Albrahim took his win with a time of 9.084s at 211.06kph. He defeated Kuwaiti Ahmed Ali, who had a break out in their final, while Talal Almanea, also from Kuwait, finished third.

Aldossary won amongst the Pro Street Bikes in 4.652s at 246.68kph, outrunning Bahrain's Yusuf Ahmed in their final. Fadi Abujamus, also from Saudi, completed the top three.

Aljamal won the Outlaw Bikes class with a pass of 8.210s at 89.21kph, defeating Kuwait's Saad Jumah in their final, with Jumah getting a red light. Hassan Alessa from Saudi joined them on the podium.

The Kuwaiti drag racers to triumph in the meeting were Ahmed Zaman in the 8.5 Index category, Salah Alhaider in the



4.8 Index, and Shehab Burabaa in the 8.5 Index Bikes.

Zaman won his group with an 8.617s pass at 235.56kph in the final, where his opponent Ahmed Sarhan from Bahrain had a red light. Fellow countryman Mohammad Zaman came third.

Alhaider took the 4.8 Index win in 4.992s at 228.43kph, defeating Bahrain's Yousif Alkhaimiri in their decisive run. Abdulrahman Bo Alwa made it two Kuwaitis on the podium in third place.

Burabaa claimed first in the 8.5 Index Bikes class with a mark of 8.546s at 250.76kph. He defeated Ali Bahram from Bahrain in their final, with Bahram having a break out, while Hassan Aalwah from Saudi was classified third.

The round's winners were rounded out by the Emirati pair of Faisal Alshehhi and Obaid Alblooshi.

Alshehhi took the Pro 29.5 V8 victory with a 5.392s pass at 164.61kph in his final. He beat Nabeel Alessa from Saudi, while Bahrain's Sayed Husain Salman took the other podium step.

Alblooshi triumphed in the Competition 4.5 class, clocking a mark of 4.550s at 251.21kph in the final to outrun Kuwait's Mohammed Alfaras, who had marks of 5.634s and 213.99kph. Saeed Aljaseem from Saudi finished third.

Following all the action, the winners were presented their respective trophies for the meeting in the podium ceremonies.

