

Bahrain to Host First DEFCON Middle East

Event to connect young talent with global cybersecurity experts

● Focus on developing cyber talent

● Emphasis on human expertise in security

● Access for students to global experts

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Bahrain has secured the hosting rights for the first-ever DEFCON Middle East conference, marking the regional debut of one of the world's most influential cybersecurity gatherings.

The agreement was signed between the National Cyber Security Center and DEFCON during a ceremony held in Manama.

This move represents DEFCON's first expansion into the Middle East, bringing the global cybersecurity and ethical hacking community to the Kingdom.

Officials said the decision underscores Bahrain's growing ambition to position itself as a regional hub for cybersecurity



Officials sign the agreement announcing Bahrain as host of the first-ever DEFCON Middle East conference

innovation, talent development and international collaboration.

Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer of the National Cyber Security Center, said the partnership would help develop a new generation of cyber professionals across the region.

He said cybersecurity is no longer limited to technology systems alone, it increasingly

depends on human expertise capable of protecting critical digital infrastructure.

"We always talk about advanced systems and technologies, but human expertise remains the most important element," he said, adding that the conference would give students and young professionals access to global experts and emerging technologies.

Bahrain stands out as a key connector for cybersecurity collaboration across the GCC region,"

JEFF MOSS, DEFCON FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DEFCON founder and chief executive Jeff Moss said Bahrain was selected not only for the event itself but also for its strategic role as a connector within the Gulf region.

"I think of Bahrain as a connector to the GCC," he said.

Moss said the event is designed as a hands-on learning platform, allowing participants to explore cybersecurity tools using open-source technologies without financial barriers.

He added that the Bahrain edition is expected to include specialised tracks covering artificial intelligence, aviation, satellites, maritime systems, aerospace, automotive security and biohacking.

Electric Bikes Proposed for Delivery Firms

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A proposal before Parliament would push delivery firms in Bahrain towards electric cars and bikes. MP Ahmed Al Salloom warned that the rise in even the smallest delivery orders adds to emissions, noise and pressure on roads.

The proposal, led by Mr Al Salloom, asks the government to study cleaner transport for delivery companies to cut fuel use, reduce carbon emissions and lower noise in built-up areas.

The Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications told the committee it was preparing new rules for delivery services as part of wider changes tied to public transport. The ministry said it was preparing several draft decisions before sending them to the relevant authorities, ministerial committees and the Cabinet.

Those decisions would regulate delivery services in greater detail, requiring companies to work with licensed providers of car rental and electric transport, including electric bikes. Firms using electric vehicles would also receive incentives, including lower fees for issuing operating permit cards for electric bikes than for motorbikes, to encourage cleaner delivery work.

Mr Al Salloom told The Daily Tribune that delivery companies had become part of even the smallest orders.

'This is an important point,' he said. 'Delivery companies now



"We need to organise delivery by area to reduce traffic and congestion, better route planning can significantly cut unnecessary road movement."

AHMED AL SALLOOM, MP

move in every direction. Everything people order, even something as small as a packet of gum, arrives through delivery vehicles. This growth has a direct effect on the environment, on emissions and on the growing pressure on roads.'

He said the number of motorbikes used for delivery was rising and that a gradual move to electric vehicles should start with new firms applying for licences.

'We see large numbers of motorbikes today, and they are constantly increasing,' he said. 'Their spread in this way does not help the environment or Bahrain. A gradual move towards electric bikes and vehicles, especially for new companies seeking licences, would be cheaper to run, less noisy and smoother on the roads.'

Mr Al Salloom said electric vehicles would also allow delivery work to be better organised by area, cutting needless trips across busy roads.

Doctors Warn of Dehydration Risks During Hajj

Studies link long walking hours and high temperatures to fluid imbalance risks

TDT | Manama
Neethu V

Clinical studies from Hajj healthcare facilities consistently show that heat-related illnesses rank among the most common medical presentations during the pilgrimage, with dehydration and fluid imbalance emerging as key contributing factors.

In a discussion with The Daily Tribune, urologist Dr. Mahmoud Sharaf noted that the risk of dehydration and kidney stone formation is further heightened during Hajj due to prolonged walking, high temperatures and heavy sweating. Many pilgrims also unintentionally increase their risk by limiting fluid intake to avoid frequent urination during rituals.

As urine output declines, min-



"Good hydration and a balanced diet are key to preventing kidney stones."

DR. MAHMOUD SHARAF, URO-GENITAL SURGEON, ENDO-UROLOGIST, FEBU (INT.)

erals such as calcium, oxalate and uric acid become more concentrated, increasing the likelihood of crystal formation. Over time, these may develop into stones, leading to severe flank pain, urinary blockage, nausea or infection.

He stressed that hydration should be steady rather than excessive. "Small, frequent sips of water are far better tol-

erated than large volumes taken at once, particularly during long hours of movement and heat exposure," he said.

For individuals with existing urological conditions—including urinary tract infections, kidney stones, ureteric stents, benign prostatic enlargement or indwelling catheters—dehydration can trigger sudden deterioration and acute complications.

He added that a simple but reliable hydration check is urine colour: pale yellow indicates adequate hydration, while darker concentrated output signals dehydration.

YOU KNOW WHAT

Limit caffeine and avoid some antihistamines/decongestants.

Seek urgent care for urinary retention, fever or blood in urine.

Keep catheter bags below bladder level and maintain hygiene.

Isa Town Market Sees Eid Rush

Tailoring shops halt new orders amid the festive shopping rush

TDT | Manama
Ghadeer Alkumaish

Isa Town market is witnessing a sharp rise in activity ahead of Eid Al Adha, with tailoring shops reporting heavy demand and some already closing their order lists.

Shop owners say customers are preparing earlier this year, leading several tailoring businesses to stop accepting new orders days before the festive period begins.

The seasonal rush has also highlighted changing fashion trends, with many shoppers choosing lighter fabrics such as chiffon and crepe to suit Bahrain's summer weather and long family gatherings during Eid.

Despite the shift toward lightweight materials, velvet continues to attract customers seeking



more traditional and formal Eid outfits.

Vendors say Eid shopping has become busier each year as residents increasingly combine comfort with modern fashion choices while maintaining traditional styles.

As Eid approaches, Isa Town market continues to reflect the festive spirit, with growing crowds, rising demand and evolving fashion preferences shaping this year's celebrations.

From The Court

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

15 Years for Man Behind CBD Smuggling Network

Bahrain's Court of Cassation upheld prison sentences against two Asian nationals convicted in a drug trafficking case involving narcotics hidden inside containers labelled as dog shampoo.

The court sentenced the main defendant, 23, to 15 years in prison and fined him BD5,000 for importing and trafficking narcotic and psychotropic substances. A second defendant received six months in prison and a BD100 fine for possession and personal use.

The case began after customs officers at the postal shipments

department became suspicious of two parcels sent from Asian countries to the first defendant. Inspections revealed liquid substances concealed inside bottles, including containers marked as dog shampoo.

Laboratory tests later confirmed the substances contained CBD narcotics.

Investigators said the suspects were part of an organised network importing drugs through air cargo using sophisticated concealment methods, including hiding narcotics inside nutritional supple-

ments and personal care products to avoid customs detection.

During a search of the main suspect's residence, authorities seized narcotic pills, an electronic smoking device and cash suspected to be linked to drug sales. Additional quantities of liquid CBD substances were also found at the second defendant's residence.

Authorities said financial investigations uncovered suspicious international transactions between 2019 and 2024 amounting to around BD1.742 million, allegedly linked to the trafficking operation.

Two Defendants Referred to Criminal Court in Human Trafficking Cases

The Head of the Human Trafficking Prosecution announced that the Public Prosecution completed its investigations into two human trafficking cases and ordered the referral of the defendants in both cases to the High Criminal Court while they remain in custody pending trial.

In the first case, the victim arrived in the Kingdom of Bahrain to work as a domestic worker. However, after her ar-

rival, the defendant allegedly subjected her to forced labor and withheld part of her wages for several months without justification.

In the second case, the Public Prosecution received a report from the Human Trafficking Unit at the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science. The report stated that the defendant exploited the victim, forcing her into illegal activities for money through threats and intimidat-

tion. The Public Prosecution launched investigations into both cases, heard testimonies from the victims and witnesses, and ordered the victims placed in a shelter affiliated with the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking. After completing the investigations and collecting evidence against the defendants, both were referred to criminal trial while in custody. The cases are scheduled to be heard later this month.