

**Bahrain welcomes Syria peace deal**

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain welcomed the announcement by Syrian President Ahmed al Sharaa regarding a new agreement reached with the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

The agreement aims for a ceasefire, the enhancement of security and stability in conflict areas, the integration of SDF into the Ministries of Defence and Interior, the reinforcement of state authority in the eastern and northeastern regions, and the transfer of control over oil fields to the state, among other measures that uphold the unity and sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs underscored the Kingdom of Bahrain's firm and steadfast support for the security, stability, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as for the progress of its constitutional institutions.

**Kingdom shares grief with Spain**

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain expressed its sympathy and solidarity with the Kingdom of Spain following the collision of two high-speed trains in the Andalusia region, which resulted in a number of fatalities and injuries.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs conveyed Bahrain's sincere condolences to the government and people of Spain, and to the families of the victims, wishing a speedy recovery to those injured.

**Brace for more chilly nights**

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The Meteorological Department said northwesterly winds will become active again overnight today and are expected to strengthen at times tomorrow and Thursday.

Temperatures are forecast to drop noticeably to between 10°C and 12°C, increasing the feeling of cold, particularly at night.

220 fils (includes VAT)



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# Hiring expansion

Cabinet backs efforts to employ 25,000 Bahrainis this year, including 10,000 newcomers

● Strengthened public, private cooperation key to creating more job opportunities for citizens

TDT | Manama

The Cabinet supports intensified efforts to employ 25,000 Bahrainis this year, including 10,000 new entrants to the labour market, by strengthening partnerships with the private sector.

The initiative follows the directive of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to the Ministry of Labour to ensure three job opportunities for every registered job seeker, reinforcing the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment to boosting local employment.

It highlighted HRH Prince Salman's meeting with the top 100 institutions that employed the most Bahrainis in 2025, and expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the Ministry of Labour and the private sector.

**Meeting**

The weekly Cabinet meeting, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister, His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, was held at Gudaibiya Palace.

It also commended the outcomes of the recent talks between His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari, highlighting the visit's role in enhancing bilateral relations between Bahrain and Pakistan.

The Cabinet expressed condolences over a terrorist attack in Pakistan's Khyber Pakh-



H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa



Three job opportunities for every registered job seeker will reinforce Bahrain's commitment to boosting local employment.

**Success**

The Cabinet praised the success of the second edition of the Hawa Al Manama Festival, extending thanks to the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Tourism, the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), and all involved entities for their organisational efforts.

On the economic front, the Cabinet welcomed Bahrain's selection as the Capital of Arab

tunkwa province that claimed the lives of several police officers.

**Sports Culture for 2026.**

It lauded the contributions of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa and His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa in advancing the sports and youth sectors and reinforcing Bahrain's international sporting reputation.

**Gratitude**

In education, the Cabinet commemorated the International Day of Education, expressing gratitude to teachers and educators for their ongoing efforts in enhancing educational outcomes across the Kingdom.

The Cabinet also reviewed several memoranda submitted by ministerial committees and ministers, approving the following: a draft resolution to complete the regulatory framework for halal products, memoranda of understanding with the State of Kuwait, an MoU with the International Baccalaureate Organization, improvements to judicial inquiry services, and responses to proposals and draft laws submitted by the Council of Representatives.

It also serves as a competitive platform to showcase outstanding agricultural projects, distinguished farmers, and the latest studies and research in the agricultural field.

The Foreign Minister expressed confidence that the visit would give fresh momentum to bilateral relations, expand cooperation, and explore opportunities in economic, trade, investment and social sectors.

## Bahrain, Bosnia keen to boost cooperation

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His Excellency Dr. Abdul Latif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, held talks with Elmedin Konakovic, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Bosnia and Herze-

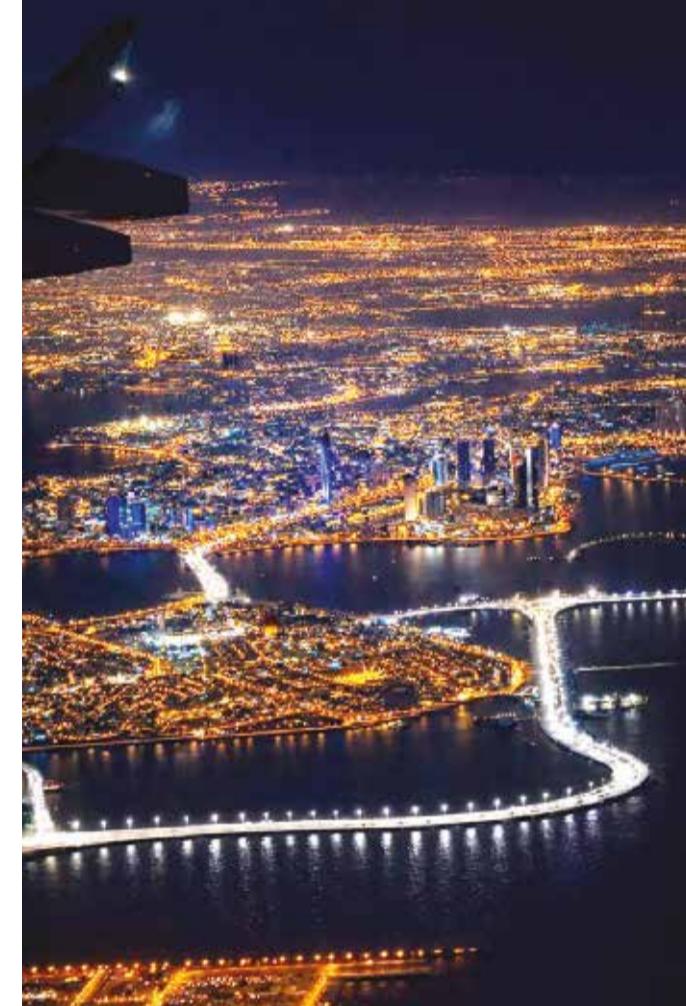
govina, on the occasion of his visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

H.E. Dr. Al Zayani commanded the longstanding relations between the two countries and peoples, and the joint efforts to enhance bilateral cooperation across various domains in sup-

port of shared interests.

The Foreign Minister expressed confidence that the visit would give fresh momentum to bilateral relations, expand cooperation, and explore opportunities in economic, trade, investment and social sectors.

**Breathtaking aerial view**



Photographer Abbas Al-Arayedh captured a striking nighttime aerial view of Bahrain from an airplane window during the gradual landing at Bahrain International Airport, highlighting the Kingdom's beauty and dazzling architectural details. The photograph showcases a majestic night scene, reflecting the country's ongoing urban development. It features the illuminated road network, including the new Muharraq Ring Road project, which stands out with its extended lighting, as well as several prominent landmarks across Manama and surrounding areas. In the image, the Bahrain World Trade Center and the capital's central urban buildings are clearly visible, offering a remarkable documentary-style perspective of the city from above.

**Sixth edition**

## Royal award launched for agricultural development

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Those interested may apply through NIAD's website at [www.niadbh.com](http://www.niadbh.com), in accordance with the conditions specified for each category.

Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Consort of His Majesty the King and President of the Consultative Council of the National Initiative for Agricultural Development (NIAD), the sixth edition of the King Hamad Award for Agricultural Development was announced.

The award aims to enhance innovation for the sustainability of agricultural production and support agricultural projects, farmers, and researchers, in line with the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.

It also serves as a competitive platform to showcase outstanding agricultural projects, distinguished farmers, and the latest studies and research in the agricultural field.

It contributes to achieving food security, preserving natural resources, and supporting the green economy in the Kingdom.

The sixth edition includes three main categories: Best

Agricultural Project, which honours innovative projects in agricultural production, services, technologies, and agribusiness; Best Bahraini Farmer, which highlights the efforts of outstanding farmers; and Best Agricultural Studies and Research, which supports scientific innovation in smart agriculture, conservation of natural resources, and the enhancement of food and water security.

Winners will receive cash prizes of up to BD10,000, a commemorative shield, and certificates of appreciation.

They will also be entitled to use the award's logo in promotional and marketing materials, in addition to highlighting their projects and research.

# Wildlife controls

Bahrain enforces new permit and certificate rules on international trade in endangered species

● Tighter oversight on cross-border dealings in protected animals and plants

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

**N**ew rules regulating Bahrain's international trade in endangered wild animals and plants have taken effect, banning cross-border dealings in listed specimens unless a permit or certificate is issued by the Supreme Council for Environment.

The executive regulations were issued under Decision No. 12 of 2025, signed by His Highness Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Environment.

They apply to international trade in specimen samples listed in the annexes attached to the regulations.

Under the rules, trade in those specimens is prohibited unless authorised by the council.

**Permits**

Applications for permits and certificates must be submitted through the council's website using the prescribed form, supported by documents showing lawful possession of the specimens.

Applicants must provide a copy of the identity card for individuals, or a commercial registration where the purpose is commercial, along with identifying marks for specimens



Image used for illustrative purposes only

**An applicant to engage in international trade must register with the competent department, submitting proof of lawful possession, specimen lists, buyer records, and registers of births and deaths, and assigning identification numbers to all specimens.**

where required.

The council is to issue permits and certificates within 30 days of the application date once requirements are met and the prescribed fee is paid.

The period can be extended by a further 30 days where needed.

**Application**

If no reply is issued within the time limit, the application is treated as refused.

An applicant may file a grievance with the chairman of the council against a refusal decision.

in line with Article 19 of Law No. 5 of 2021.

The regulations also require registration for specimens used for public display and for commercial breeding and production.

Those intending to use specimens listed in Annexes 1 and 2 for display must register with the competent department, submitting proof of lawful possession, specimen lists, buyer records, and registers of births and deaths, and assigning identification numbers to all specimens.

Separate conditions apply to breeding and commercial production.

The rules require detailed information about the establishment, including security plans, veterinary records, production records, measures linked to species conservation, and compliance with animal welfare requirements, particularly for specimens listed in Annex 1.

Those seeking to engage in international trade must also register their details with the competent department, with registration in the commercial register required.

The regulations introduce a certificate of ownership for live specimens to prove ownership for repeated movement between countries. Applicants must be Bahraini nationals or residents in the kingdom and must submit supporting documents and the specimen's details.

**Registers**

They also provide for electronic registers to monitor international trade in specimen samples, detailing how data is recorded, checked, updated on a regular basis, and used to prepare approved reports.

Terms used in the regulations carry the meanings assigned in Law No. 5 of 2021.

"Display" is defined as the use of specimens of species listed in Annexes 1 and 2 in presentations offered to the public, while a "certificate of ownership" is defined as a document issued by the Supreme Council for Environment to prove ownership of a specimen for repeated cross-border movement.

**BACA celebrates Bahraini theatre movement success**  
TDT | Manama

**M**arking the 100th anniversary of the launch of the theatrical movement in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) organised a commemorative celebration at Al Hidaya Al Khalifa School, attended by His Excellency Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, President of the BACA, and Suha Saleh Jassim Hamada, Director General of School Affairs at the Ministry of Education.

H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education, said that Al Hidaya Al Khalifa School, which hosted the first launch of formal government education in Bahrain, also marked the beginning of Bahraini theatre, underscoring the historic significance of this distinguished educational institution.

The Education Minister noted that Bahraini theatre began as a school-based movement, and that school theatre continues to serve as a source for the national theatre scene.

## Ministry develops industrial plots leasing service system

**TDT | Manama**

**A**s part of government efforts to improve service quality and reengineer procedures, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce has developed the industrial plots leasing service to enhance efficiency and improve the beneficiary experience.

The Ministry updated the review and approval process for leasing requests, resulting in faster procedures and the removal of several required



**H.E. Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro**

documents, including copies of the investor's ID or passport, company organizational struc-

ture, and product images.

This was achieved through system integration with other government entities and the automation of internal review processes.

His Excellency Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce, stated that the service reflects the Ministry's adoption of innovative digital solutions that enhance efficiency, transparency, and optimal use of resources, while reducing time and effort for beneficiaries.

## Fish release season launched to boost marine stock

**TDT | Manama**

**B**ahrain has launched a new season for releasing fish into its territorial waters as part of continued efforts to strengthen national food security and support the sustainability of marine resources.

The initiative was inaugurated during an official event organised by the Supreme Council for Environment, attended by the Minister of Oil



**H.E. Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak bin Daina attends the launch**

and Environment and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, His Excellency Dr Mohammed bin

Mubarak bin Daina. The event aims to enrich fish stocks and increase marine production.

## 11 illegal workers detained and 150 others deported



● LMRA conducts 850 inspection campaigns and visits between January 11 and 17

**TDT | Manama**

**T**he Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) detained 11 violating and irregular workers and deported 150 others after carrying out 850 inspection campaigns and visits between January 11 and 17.

The inspection campaigns and visits also resulted in monitoring several violations related to the provisions of a number of regulating laws, particularly the LMRA and the Residency Laws in the Kingdom of Bahrain, noting that legal measures were taken regarding the observed violations.

A total of 813 inspection visits were carried out on various shops in all governorates, in addition to 37 joint inspection campaigns, 18 campaigns in the Capital Governorate, 2 campaigns in the Muharraq Governorate, 7 campaigns in the Northern Governorate, and 10 campaigns in the Southern Governorate.

The government entities that participated in the cam-

paigns are the Ministry of Interior, represented by the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA), the Governorate's respective Police Directorate, and the General Directorate of Crime Detection and Forensic Science, and the General Directorate of Verdict Enforcement and Alternative Sentencing, as well as the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Social Insurance Organization, and Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority (BTEA).

The Authority affirmed the continuation of joint coordination with government agencies to intensify inspection campaigns in all governorates of the Kingdom, and to address any violations or practices that negatively affect the stability and competitiveness of the labour market or harm the economic and social security of the Kingdom.

The LMRA renewed its call on all members of society to support the efforts of government agencies in addressing illegal labour practices, by reporting violations via the electronic form on the authority's website [www.lmra.gov.bh](http://www.lmra.gov.bh) or by calling the authority's call centre on 17506055 or via the government's Suggestions and Complaints System (Tawasul).

## Bahrain-UK ties



His Excellency Capital Governor Shaikh Khalid bin Hamoud Al Khalifa, received Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.E. Alastair Long. The meeting discussed the longstanding ties between Bahrain and the UK. H.E. the Capital Governor commended the continued progress in joint cooperation between the two countries, reflecting their support to further develop relations. He also stressed the number of issues of mutual interest and reviewed means to enhance bilateral cooperation across various domains. H.E. Ambassador Long reiterated his commitment to continuing to advance joint cooperation, noting the Kingdom's ongoing growth and development across various sectors.



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# Tax evasion

Smuggling luxury watches and illegally claiming VAT leads to jail and fines

**Rehab Mohammad**  
TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court of Appeal upheld the ruling of the court of first instance convicting two appellants, aged 35 and 40, and sentencing them to three years' imprisonment for tax evasion.

It also fined the first defendant BD102,711 and ordered him to repay the evaded tax in the same amount, while the second defendant was fined BD207,044 and ordered to repay an identical amount representing the evaded tax.

The court also sentenced both defendants to three months' imprisonment for violating the cash disclosure system at customs outlets, ordered their permanent deportation from the Kingdom of Bahrain after serving their sentences, and the confiscation of the seized items.

The charges stemmed from their attempt to smuggle four luxury watches concealed in a highly sophisticated manner to avoid detection, with the intent to sell them later.

Investigations revealed that



Image used for illustrative purposes only  
the defendants had carried out 182 value-added tax (VAT) refund transactions amounting to a total of BD309,755, which were unlawfully obtained.

**The accused attempted to smuggle four luxury watches concealed in a highly sophisticated manner to avoid detection, with the intent to sell them later.**

at Bahrain International Airport.

#### Denial

When asked whether they possessed any funds or items requiring declaration, they denied having any.

However, upon searching

them, officers seized four luxury watches hidden in a sophisticated way to avoid detection.

The unit then initiated its procedures by questioning the arresting customs officers and the investigators, as well as interrogating the defendants, who stated that they were engaged in an economic activity involving the purchase of luxury watches in Bahrain and reselling them in other countries.

The unit contacted the National Bureau for Revenue to determine whether the defendants had conducted any VAT refund operations.

It was found that they had carried out 182 VAT refund transactions amounting to BD309,755, all of which were unlawfully obtained, as the defendants were engaged in commercial activity, placing them outside the scope of eligibility for the tourist VAT refund scheme provided by law.

Accordingly, legal action was initiated against them.

Documents submitted by the National Bureau for Revenue confirmed that the first defendant had obtained 57 VAT refunds amounting to BHD 102,000, while the second defendant had carried out 125 refund transactions totaling BD207,000.

The records also included photographs of the items for which VAT had been refunded and copies of the relevant receipts.

#### Difficulties

According to the statements of the second defendant, he resides in a Gulf country and, due to financial difficulties, sought individuals wishing to sell luxury watches while also looking for buyers, receiving a commission ranging between AED 1,000 and 2,000 per transaction.

He added that he met the first defendant and agreed with him on purchasing the goods, with one of them wearing a watch and placing another in his pocket without declaration by using long clothing to conceal them.

The first defendant admitted having agreed with the second defendant on this arrangement.

# CSB reviews and reorganises 37 government bodies

**Hiring**  
**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

The Civil Service Bureau (CSB) says it has reviewed and reorganised 37 government bodies since the start of the sixth legislative term, issuing the legal instruments needed to put new organisational charts in place.

In a written reply to MP Ali Al Doseri, the bureau said the work usually starts with proposals from the bodies themselves.

Those plans are drafted around current needs, future staffing demands and strategic goals.

The bureau said it then studies the submissions, checks the detail, and verifies they meet the required organisational rules and standards.

#### Targets

It said the targets for restructuring are picked in two ways: either an entity asks for changes, or the bureau steps in when it sees a need to update a structure to match government direction or strategic work needs.

When an entity is being reorganised, the bureau said it carries out a full review of posts and job titles.

The aim is to improve performance, clarify who does what, and ensure the structure fits newer tasks and areas of work.

This can include creating new posts to cover modern duties and specialisations, so services and institutional goals are better supported.



MP Ali Al Doseri



**The full review of posts and job titles aims to improve performance, clarify who does what, and ensure the structure fits newer tasks and areas of work.**

On recruitment, the bureau said hiring across government bodies is governed by civil service laws, including in entities that run their staff affairs under special rules.

The Civil Service Law, it said, allows vacancies to be filled through permanent, temporary, part-time or contract employment, with the executive regulations spelling out the controls for each route.

# Court orders fitness centre to pay Bahraini BD2,000 in unpaid wages

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

1 per cent for each further month of delay, up to a cap of 12 per cent a year, and continues until payment is made.

The case was brought through lawyer Alaa Adel, who said her client worked for the centre on a rate of BD5 per training hour.

She told the court that wages went unpaid over a two-year period, leaving the centre owing BD2,000.

Her lawyer said the trainer issued a formal notice seeking payment and gave the centre time to settle.

## Silah Gulf B.S.C. (c) - IPO Summary of Supplementary Prospectus

For further details, please refer to the Prospectus and Supplementary Prospectus

**silah** 

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Silah Gulf B.S.C.(c) announces the extension of the subscription period for its Initial Public Offering (IPO) which commenced on 29 December 2025, following the Central Bank of Bahrain approval.

The subscription period will now close on Monday, 26 January 2026. All other terms and conditions of the IPO remain unchanged, and all related agreements, including the Lead Manager Agreement, the Underwriting Agreement, and the Receiving Bank Agreement, shall remain in full force and effect. Accordingly, the revised IPO timetable is as follows:

Offering Period	Monday 29 December 2025 to Monday 26 January 2026
Opening Date of the Offering Period	Monday 29 December 2025
Closing Date of the Offering Period	Monday 26 January 2026
Final date to receive Application Funds from Professional Applicants who have not, by agreement with the Lead Manager in its sole discretion, previously paid their Application Funds	Tuesday 27 January 2026
Results of Applications and Allotment basis announcement date	Wednesday 28 January 2026
CBB Approval on Allotment Statement and Shareholders List	Thursday 29 January 2026
Allotment Date	Sunday 1 February 2026
Distribution of Refunds Date	Wednesday 4 February 2026
Signing of Listing Agreement with licensed exchange	Thursday 5 February 2026
Commencement of Trading Date	Tuesday 10 February 2026
Constitutive General Assembly	Tuesday 17 February 2026

Details of the revised IPO timetable are set out in the Supplementary Prospectus dated 19 January 2026, which should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus dated 18 December 2025. Investors may continue to submit their applications electronically through the eIPO portal at eipo.bahrainbourse.com, or in person at the following participating branches of the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK): Main Branch, Souq Al Baraha Branch, Exhibition Financial Mall Branch, and Atrium Mall Branch.

Potential investors are encouraged to carefully review the IPO Prospectus and the Supplementary Prospectus for further information on the offering and the associated risks. The Prospectus and the Supplementary Prospectus are available electronically at [www.silah.bh](http://www.silah.bh) and [www.sicobank.com](http://www.sicobank.com). Printed copies of the Prospectus and application form are also available at all participating BBK branches.

#### Directors' Declaration

THE DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT. TO THE BEST OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, THE DIRECTORS, WHO HAVE TAKEN ALL REASONABLE CARE TO ENSURE THAT SUCH IS THE CASE, THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FACTS AND CONTAINS NO OMISSIONS LIKELY TO AFFECT THE IMPORTANCE AND COMPLETENESS OF THE DOCUMENT.

For and On Behalf of the Board of Directors of Silah Gulf B.S.C.(c):

Mohamed Al Qaed, Chairman  
Date: 19 January 2026

Lead Manager, Listing Agent, Liquidity Provider and Price Stabiliser	Receiving Bank and Underwriter	Financial and Tax Due Diligence Advisor
		
Legal Advisors	Listing Exchange	Auditor
		
Allotment Agent and Registrar		
		

## Humanitarian action



The Interior Ministry Undersecretary for Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA), His Excellency Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, honoured passport personnel Abdulrahman Badr Al Saeed at the King Fahd Causeway, in recognition of his humanitarian action that contributed to saving the life of a citizen who suffered a sudden health emergency while driving. The honouring ceremony was attended by the Director of Ports, Colonel Fawaz Al Jiran, The NPRA Undersecretary praised the officer's swift response and judgement.

# Energy cost concerns

Muharraq Municipal Council backs review of electricity meter split rules

council.

## Residents complain about higher bills

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

**A** review of electricity meter rules, tougher action on abandoned houses and approval for a 24-hour gym were among the decisions agreed by the Muharraq Municipal Council this week.

Members backed a proposal by Sixth Constituency representative Fadhil Al Oud to revisit the requirements for separating electricity meters for the third tariff bracket, after residents lodged complaints about higher bills.

"Many homes have more than one family living under one roof, and that has pushed electricity bills up in a way that has become a financial burden," he told the

Al Oud said the existing requirements were shaped around the support citizens receive, but argued the rules need another look as demand rises in the hotter months.

"The coming summer will add to the pressure because air-conditioning use goes up as temperatures rise," he said.

He also sought to address concerns that meter separation could be used for rental purposes, suggesting limits to reduce misuse.

"It can be restricted to first-degree relatives, such as a father and son or brothers," he said.

## Warning

On derelict and unsafe properties, council member Abdulqader Mahmoud said Muharraq Municipality seals abandoned buildings using wooden boards



**"The coming summer will add to the pressure because air-conditioning use goes up as temperatures rise."**

- ABDULQADER MAHMOUD, MUHARRAQ MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBER



**"Many homes have more than one family living under one roof, and that has pushed electricity bills up in a way that has become a financial burden."**

- FADHIL AL OUD, SIXTH CONSTITUENCY REPRESENTATIVE

and other materials to protect residents, but warned the method is easy to breach.

"Wooden boards are easy to open, so they do not prevent abuses completely," he said, urg-

ing the use of brickwork to close entrances more firmly, alongside stricter checks on derelict sites.

The council also discussed a reply from the Undersecretary for Agricultural Affairs and Animal Wealth, Engineer Asim Abdullatif, on plans to retain stray-dog management services after calls to pause contract steps with the firm handling the issue.

## Approach

He said the ministry was preparing a wider approach that goes beyond capture alone.

"We are working on a comprehensive approach that does not focus only on catching, but also on health classification, veterinary care and rehabilitation for the dogs that are collected," he said.

Separately, Brigadier Mohamed Al Darraj, deputy director of the General Directorate of Traffic, confirmed the timings

for restricting truck movements on Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Bridge in Al Hidd during peak periods: from 6.30 am to 8 am in the morning, and from 2 pm to 3 pm in the afternoon.

## Schedule

Responding to a council call to extend the restriction by an extra hour in both periods, he said the current schedule was sufficient.

"We see the set hours as sufficient and do not see a need at present to change or extend them," he said.

Members also approved licensing a health club in Block 254 in Qalali to operate 24 hours a day, subject to conditions including avoiding disturbance to nearby residents, providing parking where possible to limit congestion, and ensuring the venue offers needed services in an area without similar options.

# Repair and insulation requests rise in Muharraq

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama



Saleh BuHazzaa

**Residents were submitting more requests under the Cities and Villages Development Project, covering repair works, home extensions and the installation of insulation.**

**A**pplications for home repairs and insulation work in Muharraq have risen in recent months, with the municipal council's restoration project placing priority on waterproofing and thermal barriers to improve housing conditions, its head has said.

Saleh BuHazzaa, the Muharraq Municipal Council's deputy chairman, said residents were submitting more requests under the Cities and Villages Development Project, covering repair works, home extensions and the installation of insulation.

"We have seen a marked rise in the number of applications from citizens for restoration, housing additions, and thermal and waterproof insulation," BuHazzaa said.

He said the rise in applications pointed to growing awareness among households about building safety and the need to tackle damp and water leaks before they cause further damage.

BuHazzaa added that reducing heat inside homes was also driving demand for insulation.

The project is being delivered in coordination with the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture and specialist technical bodies, he said, with requests assessed against planning rules and approved technical standards.

He added that procedures were being pushed through more quickly for cases tied to building safety or urgent housing needs.

"Waterproofing and thermal insulation have become essential, because they help extend the life of the building, reduce energy consumption and limit the recurring problems some homes face," he said.

BuHazzaa urged residents and contractors to follow approved plans and technical specifications to ensure work is carried out to the required standard.

# Timkat celebration



The Hamere Noah St. Kidane Mihret Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church community in Bahrain celebrated Timkat (Ethiopian Epiphany) yesterday at St. Christopher's Cathedral. Timkat, inscribed by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, commemorates the Baptism of Jesus Christ in the Jordan River. The vibrant ceremony led by the Hamere Noah St. Kidane Mihret Parish Council featured traditional spiritual chants, colorful processions, and the ceremonial blessing of water. The event was attended by community members and esteemed guests. This annual celebration stands as a symbol of unity, faith, and the preservation of ancient Ethiopian traditions within the Kingdom of Bahrain.

# NBB and INJAZ Bahrain launch Third Edition of Entaliq

To Empower Young Entrepreneurs



Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB), in collaboration with INJAZ Bahrain, has launched the third season of Entaliq, a strategic initiative designed to accelerate the development of Bahrain's next generation of entrepreneurs. This year's edition builds on the success of previous seasons by offering structured mentorship, practical guidance, seed funding, and incubation support to young innovators with scalable business ideas.

Entaliq with INJAZ powered by NBB equips participants with professional coaching over 20

hours of hands-on learning, connecting them with industry experts and mentors to refine and operationalise their ven-

tures. The programme stems from a strong partnership between NBB and INJAZ Bahrain, representing both organisa-

tions' commitment to fostering youth-led innovation and long-term contribution to the Kingdom's economy.

#### Competitive selection

The launch event brought together NBB representatives, INJAZ Bahrain leadership, educational partners, and programme attendees. With a competitive selection process in place, only the most committed teams will progress into the mentorship and incubation phases, ensuring high-impact

outcomes for both participants and the broader business community.

Building on its ongoing efforts towards youth empowerment, NBB remains dedicated to supporting initiatives that nurture entrepreneurial skills and drive sustainable economic growth within Bahrain. Entaliq with INJAZ stands as a testament to what can be achieved through partnership, preparation, and unwavering support for emerging leaders.



## IMF lifts 2026 global growth forecast but flags AI, trade risks

World economic growth is projected to hold steady at 3.3% this year

US growth is estimated at 2.4% this year

AFP | Washington, United States

The IMF upgraded its 2026 global growth forecast Monday, citing a boost from tech investments but warning that a reevaluation of AI productivity gains or renewed trade tensions could bring disruptions.

World economic growth is projected to hold steady at 3.3% this year, the International Monetary Fund said, raising its forecast by 0.2 percentage points from October. This would be the same pace of growth as in 2025.

But the Washington-based lender cautioned in its World Economic Outlook update that "the resilience exhibited so far is driven largely by a few sectors," signaling vulnerability.

While the global economy appears to be "shaking off the trade and tariff disruptions of 2025," this does not mean they had no impact, said IMF chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas. Instead, the challenges were

Economy / Region	2026	2027
World	3.3 (+0.2)	3.2 (0.0)
Advanced economies	1.8 (+0.2)	1.7 (0.0)
United States	2.4 (+0.3)	2.0 (-0.1)
Euro area	1.3 (+0.1)	1.4 (0.0)
Germany	1.1 (+0.2)	1.5 (0.0)
France	1.0 (+0.1)	1.2 (0.0)
Italy	0.7 (-0.1)	0.7 (+0.1)
Spain	2.3 (+0.3)	1.9 (+0.2)
Japan	0.7 (+0.1)	0.6 (0.0)
Britain	1.3 (0.0)	1.5 (0.0)
Canada	1.6 (+0.1)	1.9 (0.0)

offset by "tailwinds from the AI and tech investment boom," he told reporters.

This was especially true in North America and Asia, the IMF said.

The private sector also showed adaptability in dealing with trade shocks, while fiscal and monetary support provided boosts.

#### Looming tariffs

After he returned to the White House last January, US President Donald Trump unleashed sweeping tariffs that hit allies

and competitors alike, roiling financial markets and supply chains while causing trade tensions to rocket.

But temperatures cooled over the year as the Trump administration struck tariff deals with several partners and crucially reached a temporary truce with the world's second-biggest economy, China.

For now, global inflation is expected to drop from an estimated 4.1% in 2025 to 3.8% in 2026. Trump's latest tariff threats against eight European countries in a standoff over the Dan-

Economy / Region	2026	2027
Emerging & developing economies	4.2 (+0.2)	4.1 (-0.1)
China	4.5 (+0.3)	4.0 (-0.2)
India	6.4 (+0.2)	6.4 (0.0)
Russia	0.8 (-0.2)	1.0 (-0.1)
Latin America & Caribbean	2.2 (-0.1)	2.7 (+0.1)
Brazil	1.6 (-0.3)	2.3 (+0.1)
Mexico	1.5 (0.0)	2.1 (+0.1)
Middle East & Central Asia	3.9 (+0.1)	4.0 (+0.2)
Sub-Saharan Africa	4.6 (+0.2)	4.6 (+0.1)
South Africa	1.4 (+0.2)	1.5 (0.0)
Global inflation rate	3.8 (+0.1)	3.4 (0.0)

ish territory of Greenland have thrown a spanner in the works.

#### Divergence

The pickup in tech investment and expenditure was estimated to add around 0.3 percentage points to average annualized US GDP growth in the first three quarters of 2025.

This offset a drag from the lengthy government shutdown late in the year.

Gourinchas noted the divergence between the United States -- which is seeing a jump in AI tech investment -- and other advanced economies.

The IMF estimates US growth at 2.4% this year, 0.3 percentage points higher than predicted in

October.

In contrast, it expects euro area growth of 1.3%, and a slower pace in Japan.

Growth in China and India is also "relatively strong" compared with other emerging markets, Gourinchas said.

Most of the upward revision in global growth this time was accounted for by the United States and China, the IMF said.

Looking ahead, Gourinchas stressed the need for central bank independence, so that they can pursue their mandate of price stability and financial stability.

He did not comment on an ongoing US Justice Department probe into Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell.

## BAS renews IATA Safety Audit for Ground Operations Certification

Manama

Bahrain Airport Services (BAS), the leading aviation service provider in Bahrain, has recently renewed major international accreditations, including the IATA Safety Audit for Ground Operations (ISAGO) certification. This renewal reaffirms BAS's status as a certified provider of ground handling services aligned with the highest international standards.

The ISAGO certification covers critical areas of airport ground operations, including organizational management, staff training, cargo and mail handling, baggage processing, apron and passenger services, and load control.

On the occasion, Mr. Nabeel Kanoo, Chairman of the Board of Directors of BAS, said: "This achievement will contribute to raising the level of service we provide to our airline partners and reinforces the company's leadership at both the regional and international levels."

# Seef Mall – Seef District announces Grand Prize Winner of “Shop & Win” Campaign

Fawaz Kanoo wins a luxury Genesis GV80

● The “Shop & Win” campaign, which ran from October 9, 2025, to January 10, 2026, witnessed strong engagement and turnout from mall visitors

● The prize was presented by Mr Duaij Al Rumaihi, Chief Commercial Officer at Seef Properties, to Mr Ahmed Mohammed, who collected the prize on behalf of the winner of the draw

## Manama

Seef Mall – Seef District has recently concluded its “Shop & Win” promotional campaign with the announcement of the grand prize winner, a luxury



Genesis GV80 vehicle, won by Mr Fawaz Kanoo, following the campaign's success in attracting large numbers of visitors and shoppers.

The campaign was launched as part of the Mall's ongoing commitment to enhancing the shopping and entertainment experience and rewarding visitors

for their engagement and loyalty.

Through high-quality marketing initiatives that combine added value with an integrated experience, the campaign contributed to strengthening the Mall's position as a preferred destination for families and shoppers from across the community.

The “Shop & Win” campaign,

which ran from October 9, 2025, to January 10, 2026, witnessed strong engagement and turnout from mall visitors. Participants were eligible to enter the grand prize draw by spending BD 30 or more, positively reflecting on retail activity and the overall atmosphere at the Mall throughout the campaign period.

The prize was presented by Mr Duaij Al Rumaihi, Chief Commercial Officer at Seef Properties, to Mr Ahmed Mohammed, who collected the prize on behalf of the winner of the draw. The handover took place in the presence of company representatives, in an atmosphere that reflected the campaign's success and the high level of engagement it received, underscoring the Mall's commitment to delivering rewarding and distinctive experiences for its visitors.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr Duaij Al Rumaihi, Chief Commercial Officer of Seef Properties, said: “At Seef Properties, we firmly believe in the importance of developing integrated retail destinations that are centred on quality experiences and diverse offerings. This approach enhances the attractiveness of our malls and reinforces their position as vibrant spaces that cater to the needs of all segments of society. The initiatives we launch form part of

a strategic framework aimed at keeping pace with developments in the retail and entertainment sector and building sustainable relationships with our visitors, contributing positively to the growth of the sector in the Kingdom.”

He added: “We continue to advance the development of our malls through a long-term vision focused on innovation, asset efficiency and enhancing the overall visitor experience, ensuring our centres are well positioned to adapt to future changes in the retail and entertainment sectors while delivering sustainable value to both visitors and tenants.”

Since its opening in 1997, Seef Mall – Seef District has been one of the Kingdom of Bahrain's leading shopping and entertainment destinations, attracting large numbers of visitors from within the Kingdom and beyond, thanks to its diverse mix of international brands, upscale dining options and distinctive entertainment facilities.

## Bahrain & Bosnia and Herzegovina explore new vvenues for economic collaboration

### Manama

Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, Sameer Nass received the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Elmedin Konakovic yesterday at the Chamber's headquarters.

Speaking at the meeting, Nass praised the bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Bosnia and Herzegovina, emphasizing the importance of building on these relations to support mutual economic interests and private-sector en-



gagement.

Discussions focused on col-

laboration and market oppor-

to economic growth in both

tunities that could contribute

countries, particularly in real

estate, information technology, agriculture, and energy sectors. Nass also encouraged the organization of business-to-business (B2B) meetings as an effective platform to connect companies, explore partnerships, and facilitate trade and investment.

Nass highlighted Bahrain's strategic geographic location, its pro-business regulatory environment, and its openness to foreign investment. He further pointed to Bahrain's strong financial infrastructure and highly skilled workforce as key

advantages for Bosnian companies seeking regional expansion, encouraging the development of joint ventures and long-term partnerships.

For his part, Minister Konakovic expressed his enthusiasm for exploring innovative forms of collaboration. He commended Bahrain's inclusive and dynamic business community and proposed the exchange of more trade delegations to deepen ties.

He also called for increased cooperation in the areas of digital innovation and sustainable economic development.

## GFH partners invests in Cold-Link Logistics alongside Slate Asset Management and Hamilton Lane

To Support US Cold Storage Growth

● The platform comprises nine facilities with a combined storage capacity exceeding 78 million cubic feet

### Dubai, UAE

GFH Partners Ltd., a Dubai International Financial Center headquartered investment manager and the global real estate investment arm of GFH Financial Group, is pleased to announce the completion of its co investment in Cold Link Logistics, a leading cold storage owner operator and one of the ten largest privately held temperature controlled logistics platforms in North America, alongside Slate Asset Management, a global in-



vestor focused on essential real estate and infrastructure, and funds managed by Hamilton Lane (Nasdaq: HLNE), a leading global private markets investment firm. The investment was made together with a consortium of other institutional co-investors.

Cold Link Logistics owns and operates a geographically diversified network of modern, tem-

perature controlled facilities strategically positioned across key food and logistics corridors throughout the United States. The platform comprises nine facilities with a combined storage capacity exceeding 78 million cubic feet, providing comprehensive freezer, cooler and ambient storage solutions, complemented by value-added services including case pick-

Nael Mustafa,  
Chief  
Executive  
Officer  
of GFH  
Partners

growth and defensive subsector within its broader logistics investment strategy. The U.S. cold storage industry continues to benefit from strong structural tailwinds, including population growth, increased consumption of fresh and frozen foods, rapid expansion of e-commerce, and evolving food safety and traceability requirements. These factors are reinforcing demand for well-located and temperature-controlled logistics assets.

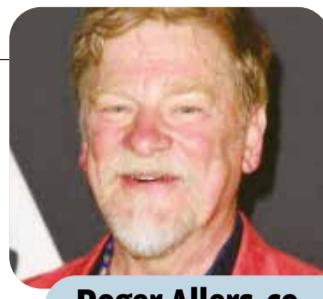
able of underpinning resilient food supply chains nationwide. Nael Mustafa, Chief Executive Officer of GFH Partners, commented: “Cold storage represents one of the most compelling segments within the logistics ecosystem today, driven by essential demand dynamics and the need for modern, scalable infrastructure. We are delighted to partner with Slate, Hamilton Lane, and our co-investors to support Cold Link's ambitious growth trajectory and to bring long-term value to our institutional partners.”

Cold Link's modern facility portfolio, combined with its customer-centric operating model, positions the platform to capture these secular trends and deliver resilient, long-term performance across market cycles.



## News in brief

◆ **Roger Allers**, a film-maker and animation wizard who co-directed "The Lion King" and other huge Disney hits, has died at the age of 76, Disney said. Besides "The Lion King", which came out in 1994, Allers worked on films such as "Tron", "The Little Mermaid" and "Beauty and the Beast." Allers died suddenly at his home in California on Saturday after a short illness, The Hollywood Reporter said. Disney CEO Robert Iger paid tribute to Allers in a post on Instagram on Sunday evening. "Roger Allers was a creative visionary whose many contributions to Disney will live on for generations to come," Iger said. "He understood the power of great storytelling - how unforgettable characters, emotion and music can come together to create something timeless," Iger added.



**Roger Allers, co-director of "The Lion King", dead at 76**

◆ **Iran's national police chief** said yesterday that people who were "deceived" into joining demonstrations the authorities have deemed "riots" would receive lighter punishment if they turned themselves in within three days.

**Iran police chief issues surrender ultimatum over 'riots'**

"Young people who became unwittingly involved in the riots are considered to be deceived individuals, not enemy soldiers", and "will be treated with leniency by the Islamic republic system", Ahmad-Reza Radan told state television, adding they had "a maximum of three days" to surrender. 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 protests subsided after a violent crackdown rights groups said left thousands dead.

◆ **People in northern Germany** flocked to the Elbe river yesterday to marvel at giant Arctic-style ice floes that have clogged up a stretch of the waterway, creating a headache for shipping but delighting visitors. The ice formed upstream in recent weeks during a cold snap that saw temperatures plummet to minus 15 degrees Celsius. Icebreakers have since smashed through the ice, sending the floes downstream where they accumulated at a barrage at Geesthacht, near the river-port of Hamburg, said Tilman Treber from the federal navigation authority (WSV). Over the past few days, they have piled up and formed jagged piles up to 10 metres (more than 30 feet) high -- creating ice formations on a scale unseen for about 10 years, Treber told AFP. The Elbe flows for more than 1,000 kilometres (about 680 miles) from mountains in the Czech Republic through Germany and enters the North Sea at Cuxhaven, downstream from Hamburg, Germany's biggest port.

**Spectacular ice blocks clog up Germany's Elbe river**



## SPOTLIGHT

### French TV broadcasts Louvre robbery images



AFP | Paris, France

**F**ootage of the spectacular robbery at the Louvre Museum has been broadcast for the first time on French television, showing the brazen jewel thieves breaking into display cases.

The images, filmed by surveillance cameras, were shown by the TF1 and public France Televisions channels on Sunday evening, three months after the hugely embarrassing break-in in October.

They show the two burglars, one wearing a black balaclava and a yellow high-visibility jacket, the other dressed in black with a motorcycle helmet, as they force their way into the Apollo Gallery.

Details of the footage have been reported in French newspapers, including Le Parisien.

Metal bars have been installed over the windows of the Apollo Gallery since the break-in.

cases under the eyes of several staff members who do not intervene.

Managers at the Louvre have stressed that staff are not trained to confront thieves and are asked to prioritise the evacuation of visitors.

During the roughly four minutes that the two men were inside the gallery, one staff member can be seen holding a bollard used to orient visitors through the gallery, according to France Televisions.

The images, as well as multiple DNA samples found at the scene, form a key part of the ongoing criminal investigation into the robbery.

Details of the footage have been reported in French newspapers, including Le Parisien.

Metal bars have been installed over the windows of the Apollo Gallery since the break-in.



## India, UAE set \$200bn trade target, deepen defence ties

**Sheikh Mohamed makes brief New Delhi visit**



● Prime Minister Modi personally received the UAE leader at the airport

● According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the UAE President's visit to the national capital was scheduled to last less than two hours

● Modi gifted a royal wooden carved swing (jhula) and a pashmina shawl

### Agencies

**I**ndia and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to double bilateral trade to \$200 billion within six years and deepen defence cooperation following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in New Delhi yesterday.

Prime Minister Modi personally received the UAE leader at the airport, describing him as his "brother" in a post on X.

"Went to the airport to welcome my brother, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE. His visit illustrates the importance he attaches to a strong India-UAE friendship. Looking forward to our discussions," Modi wrote.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the UAE President's visit to the national

capital was scheduled to last less than two hours. This was the third official trip of Al Nahyan to India after becoming President of the UAE and the fifth time he has visited the country in the past decade.

The visit saw the finalisation of a 10-year agreement under which Abu Dhabi state oil firm ADNOC will supply 0.5 million metric tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) annually to Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, according to India's

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

Earlier, following his arrival, Al Nahyan went to 7, Lok Kalyan Marg (LKM), the official residence of PM Modi, where the two leaders held widespread discussions.

On the occasion, Modi gifted a royal wooden carved swing (jhula) and a pashmina shawl to United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

In a release, the government said that the swing was from

Gujarat and it was hand-carved with detailed floral and traditional designs. The swing, which represents togetherness, conversation and bonding across generations in the Gujarati culture, resonates with UAE declaring 2026 as 'Year of Family', the release said.

The prime minister also gifted a pashmina shawl from Kashmir to Nahyan. The shawl is handmade using very fine wool, which made it soft and warm, the government said, adding that it was placed in a decorative silver box that was made in Telangana. This represented India's rich heritage of handloom and handicraft.

"Pashmina Shawl in an ornate silver box was also gifted to H.H. Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Al Ketbi. She was also gifted Kashmiri Saffron in an ornate silver box. Grown in the Kashmir Valley, saffron is revered for its deep crimson strands and intense aroma," the government said.



**India and the United Arab Emirates share one of India's strongest economic partnerships in the Gulf region, with the UAE consistently ranking among India's top three trading partners and serving as a key hub for Indian trade, investment and energy security.**

1265

First English Parliament is summoned without royal command, in this instance by Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester. It meets in Westminster Hall.

1841

China cedes Hong Kong Island to Britain during the First Opium War



1921

Republic of Turkey is declared from the remnants of the Ottoman Empire

1945

Franklin D. Roosevelt is sworn in for an unprecedented and never-to-be-repeated fourth term as US President

X

TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Reforming the Security Council is not just important – it is essential. Those who try to cling to privileges today risk paying the price tomorrow. We must all be bold enough to change. The world is not waiting. Neither should we.

@antoniofurtherres

02



Went to the airport to welcome my brother, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE. His visit illustrates the importance he attaches to a strong India-UAE friendship. Looking forward to our discussions.

@narendramodi

03



I spoke to @SecGenNATO, @EmmanuelMacron, @Keir\_Starmer, @bundeskanzler and @GiorgiaMeloni. Together we stand firm in our commitment to uphold the sovereignty of Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark.

@vonderleyen

04



If the Russians seriously wanted to end the war, they'd focus on diplomacy—not on missile strikes, blackouts, and even attempts to damage our nuclear power plants.

@ZelenskyUa

# Trump to charge \$1bn for permanent 'peace board' membership

Member countries would be allowed to join for three years -- or longer if they paid

● The board was originally conceived to oversee the rebuilding of Gaza

● Membership would be "limited to States invited to participate by the Chairman"

● Trump would have the power to remove member states from the board

AFP | Washington, United States

U.S President Donald Trump's government has asked countries to pay \$1.0 billion for a permanent spot on his "Board of Peace" aimed at resolving conflicts, according to its charter.

The White House has asked various world leaders to sit on the board, chaired by Trump himself, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Hungarian premier Viktor Orban and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney.

Member countries -- represented on the board by their



head of state -- would be allowed to join for three years -- or longer if they paid more than \$1.0 billion within the first year, the charter says.

"Each Member State shall serve a term of no more than three years from this Charter's entry into force, subject to renewal by the Chairman," the board's draft charter says.

"The three-year membership

term shall not apply to Member States that contribute more than USD \$1,000,000,000 in cash funds to the Board of Peace within the first year of the Charter's entry into force."

The board was originally conceived to oversee the rebuilding of Gaza, but its charter does not appear to limit its role to the occupied Palestinian territory.

The White House said there

would be a main board, a Palestinian committee of technocrats meant to govern devastated Gaza, and a second "executive board" that appears designed to have a more advisory role.

"The Board of Peace is an international organization that seeks to promote stability, restore dependable and lawful governance, and secure enduring peace in areas affected

or threatened by conflict," the charter says.

'Failed institutions'

It appears to take a swipe at international institutions such as the United Nations, saying that the board should have "the courage to depart from approaches and institutions that have too often failed."

Trump has regularly criticized the United Nations and announced this month that his country will withdraw from 66 global organizations and treaties -- roughly half affiliated with the UN.

Membership of the board would be "limited to States invited to participate by the Chairman," according to the draft charter.

Trump would have the power to remove member states from the board, subject to a veto by two-third of members, and choose his replacement should he leave his role as chairman.

The "Board of Peace" began to take shape on Saturday when the leaders of Egypt, Turkey, Argentina and Canada were asked to join.

Trump also named as members Secretary of State Marco Rubio, former British prime minister Tony Blair, senior negotiator Steve Witkoff and his son-in-law Jared Kushner.

## Spain promises answers as high-speed train crash kills 39

AFP | Adamuz, Spain

The Spanish government vowed yesterday to conduct a full investigation into the causes of a high-speed train collision that killed at least 39 people, with officials warning the death toll could rise as rescuers worked among the wreckage.

The crash late on Sunday is Spain's deadliest train accident since 2013, when 80 people died after a train veered off a curved section of track outside the northwestern city of Santiago de Compostela.

The latest happened when a train operated by rail company Iryo travelling from Malaga to Madrid derailed near Adamuz in Andalucia.

It crossed onto the other track, where it crashed into an oncoming train, which also derailed.

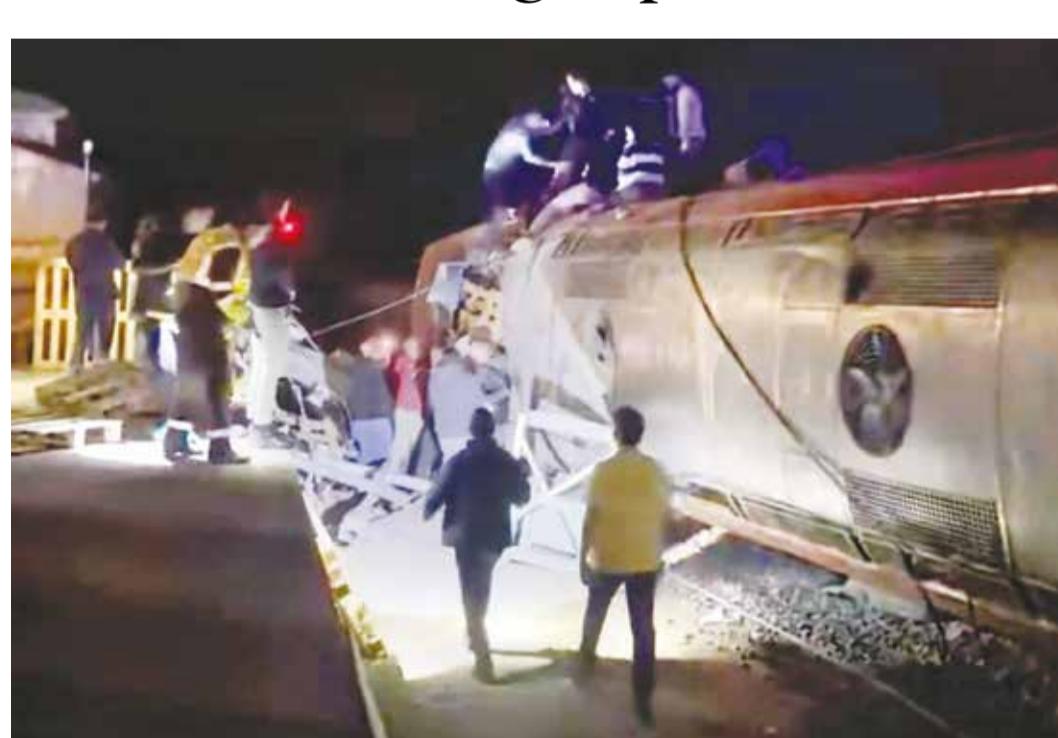
"This is a day of sorrow for all of Spain, for our entire country," Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez told reporters during a visit to Adamuz as he declared three days of mourning.

"We will uncover the answer, and once the cause of this tragedy is determined, we will present it with absolute transparency."

The interior ministry said 39 people died.

Over 120 people were injured, with 43 still in hospital, regional emergency services said. Of those, 12 were in intensive care.

Heavy machinery was being



Emergency personnel working after a train accident in Adamuz, southern Spain

deployed to lift the most severely damaged train carriages, the head of the regional government of Andalucia, Juan Manuel Moreno, told reporters.

"Unfortunately, it is quite possible that additional victims will be found beneath the twisted wreckage. The goal is to identify the victims as quickly as possible," he added.

The interior ministry said 39 people died.

Unlike the 2013 accident,

the trains were travelling within the speed limit, officials said.

Transport Minister Oscar Puente said the first train to derail was "practically new" and the section of the track where the disaster happened had been recently renovated, making the accident "extremely strange".

Train operator Iryo said the locomotive was built in 2022 and last inspected just three days before the accident. It said

it "veered onto the adjacent

straight section of track, and the speed limit, officials said.

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issue," he added.

'Catastrophe'

The stretch of track where the accident happened had a speed limit of 250 kilometres per hour (155 miles per hour), Heredia said.

One train was travelling at 205 kilometres per hour, and the other 210 kilometres per hour, he added.

Spain has Europe's largest high-speed rail network, with more than 3,000 kilometres of dedicated tracks connecting major cities including Madrid, Barcelona, Seville, Valencia and Malaga.

Survivor Lucas Meriako, who was travelling on the first train that derailed, told La Sexta television that it looked "like a horror movie".

"We felt a very strong hit from behind and the feeling that the whole train was about to collapse, break... there were many injured due to the glass," he said.

Residents of Adamuz, which is filled with white buildings and streets lined with orange trees, were grappling with the aftermath of the disaster.

"This is a catastrophe for us," Jose Perez Rojas, an 80-year-old pensioner, told AFP, calling it "really shocking".

Manuel Munoz, 60, an olive oil factory worker, said locals rushed to the centre of the town as word of the accident spread.

# Fire at Pakistan mall kills at least 21

The three-storey shopping mall housed at least 1,200 shops

● Shopkeepers and families criticised authorities for slow rescue efforts

● The dead include a 25-year-old rescuer

● A government committee has launched an investigation, but it was not immediately clear what had caused the fire.

AFP | Karachi, Pakistan

A fire that ripped through a shopping mall in Pakistan's biggest city has killed at least 21 people, rescuers in Karachi said Monday.

Families rushed to the Gul Plaza building after the blaze erupted on Saturday night at one of the coastal city's busiest malls, where dozens of people were still missing.

"In total 21 bodies have been recovered," Hassan Khan, spokesman for the Rescue 1122 Sindh emergency service, told AFP.

"The search operation will

continue," he said. The dead include a 25-year-old rescuer, Khan said, while at least 30 injured people were hospitalised. Standing outside the burnt mall, Shehbaz Ghulam said his nephew's whereabouts were unknown.

"We have made requests to the authorities. We also request the media to help us in any way

possible," the 45-year-old said.

"No matter what condition he is in, if he is found and returned to us, we will find some peace," he told AFP.

The top police officer in Karachi's southern district, Syed Asad Raza, told AFP the force has a list of 60 missing persons.

Rescue workers said that the blaze had been brought under control.

A government committee has launched an investigation, but it was not immediately clear what had caused the fire.

Among those waiting outside the mall was Muhammad Qaisar, who last heard from his wife, sister and daughter-in-law at 8:00 pm on Saturday.

"The phone kept ringing until 10:00 pm, but no one answered. It continued to ring until midnight, but no one picked up," Qaisar, 55, told AFP.

The three-storey shopping mall housed at least 1,200 shops, offering a wide range of goods and was famous for wedding shopping and home decoration items.

Shopkeepers and families criticised authorities for slow rescue efforts.

Fires are common in Karachi's markets and factories, which are known for their poor infrastructure.



Rescue workers search amid the debris using excavators after a massive fire at a shopping mall in Karachi

## Trump says world 'not secure' until US has Greenland

AFP | Nuuk, Denmark

Donald Trump no longer needs to think "purely of peace" after being snubbed for a Nobel, the US president said in comments published Monday, adding the world will not be safe until Washington controls Greenland.

Trump has put the transatlantic alliance to the test with threats to take over Greenland "one way or the other", with European countries closing ranks against Washington's designs on the vast Danish territory.

German and French leaders denounced as "blackmail" weekend threats by Trump to wield new tariffs against countries which oppose his plans for the Arctic island, and said Monday that Europe was preparing trade countermeasures.

The European Union said it was holding an emergency summit on Thursday to weigh its response, and that while its priority is to "engage not escalate" it is ready to act if needed.



### Greenland: critical minerals

Main deposits\* of selected critical minerals

- Feldspar
- Graphite
- Molybdenum
- Platinum group metals
- Rare earth minerals
- Titanium
- Vanadium

\*only those assessed compliant with international resource reporting standards

Map data: QGreenland, US National Snow and Ice Data Center (ice extent Aug 2024)

Source: Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland, Review of Critical Raw Material Resource Potential in Greenland

Nobel Committee," he said in a written statement.

### Russia, China threat?

Trump has repeatedly said his country needs vast, mineral-rich Greenland for "national security", despite the United States already having a base on the island and security agreements with fellow NATO ally Denmark.

"Denmark cannot protect that land from Russia or China," Trump said in his message to the Norwegian premier, doubling down on that sentiment in a post to Truth Social on Monday.

Denmark's defence minister Troels Lund Poulsen said Monday steps had already been taken along with NATO allies to "increase military presence and training activity in the Arctic and the North Atlantic".

Lund Poulsen added that he and Greenlandic foreign minister Vivian Motzfeldt would be meeting with NATO chief Mark Rutte later on Monday.

### 'Blackmail'

This weekend, Trump said that 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 -- a duty which could go higher.

Ger -

many's vice chancellor Lars Klingbeil slammed the move as blackmail, and said Monday that Europe was preparing countermeasures.

French finance minister Roland Lescure, speaking at a press conference alongside Kingbeil, agreed.

"Blackmail between allies of 250 years, blackmail between friends, is obviously unacceptable," Lescure said.

Klingbeil said Europe's response could have three main strands.

First, the current tariff deal with the United States would be put on hold, he said.

Second, European tariffs on imports from the United States, currently suspended until early February, could come into force.

And thirdly the EU should consider using its toolbox of instruments against "economic blackmail", he added.

Greenland -- whose tiny population of 57,000 has voiced disquiet at Trump's threats -- continued to make its preferences clear Monday.

Greenland's dogsled federation said that the new US special envoy to the Arctic island had been disinherited to its annual race.

Jeff Landry had been invited to attend the race by a private Greenlandic tour operator, an invite the KNQK federation has previously called "totally inappropriate".



Greenland is the world's largest island and about 80 per cent of its surface is covered by an ice sheet, making it a critical region for climate research and global sea-level studies.

Greenland, for its part, said the tariffs threat does not change its desire to assert its own sovereignty.

"We will not be pressured," Greenlandic prime minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen said in a Facebook post, adding that the autonomous territory "is a democratic society with the right to make its own decisions".

But Trump had earlier doubled down, announcing in a message to Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store that the world "is not secure unless we have

Complete and Total Control of Greenland".

The message -- published Monday and whose authenticity was confirmed to AFP by Store's office -- also saw Trump brush aside peace as a primary goal.

"I no longer feel an obligation to think purely of peace," he said, citing his failure to win the last year's Nobel Peace Prize, despite openly coveting it.

He said although peace would still be "predominant," he could "now think about what is good and proper for the United States

of America."

Store said the statement had been received in response to a message from him and Finnish President Alexander Stubb, where they had "conveyed our opposition" to Trump's tariff threats.

Store also underlined that the Nobel Peace Prize was not awarded by the Norwegian government.

"I have clearly explained, including to President Trump what is well known -- the prize is awarded by an independent



**Capital Governor Receives Sri Lankan Ambassador**

His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Hamoud Al Khalifa, Governor of the Capital Governorate, received Her Excellency Ms. Shanka Dissanayake, the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Kingdom of Bahrain. During the meeting, the Governor praised the distinguished bilateral relations and the significant growth in cooperation across various sectors. He emphasized the importance of enhancing coordination and joint work to achieve the shared interests and aspirations of both friendly nations. Ambassador Dissanayake expressed her appreciation for the warm hospitality, reaffirming Sri Lanka's pride in its strong friendship and growing partnership with Bahrain at all levels.

**AGU Honors 330 Outstanding Medical and Nursing Students**

Dr. Saad bin Saud Al-Fuhaid, President of the Arabian Gulf University (AGU), honored 330 exceptional students from the Doctor of Medicine and Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs for the 2024-2025 academic year. The ceremony, held at the Princess Al-Jawhara Center, was attended by faculty and parents. In his address, Dr. Al-Fuhaid praised the students' academic brilliance, describing it as a vital investment in the future of the GCC. Student representative Turki Abdullah Al-Thawadi credited the achievement to AGU's stimulating environment, emphasizing that excellence must be paired with humanitarian values.

**Bahrain and Kuwait Strengthen Strategic Health Cooperation**

HE Lieutenant General Dr. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health, received a Kuwaiti delegation led by Health Undersecretary Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi. The meeting, attended by Bahrain's Minister of Health HE Dr. Jalila bint Sayed Jawad Hassan, focused on enhancing fraternal ties and medical cooperation. Both sides discussed exchanging expertise to elevate healthcare quality and coordination between national health institutions. Following the meeting, the delegation toured the Bahrain National Bank Center for Multiple Sclerosis in Muharrraq, the first specialized facility of its kind in the Gulf. The Kuwaiti delegation praised Bahrain's advanced medical infrastructure and high standards of specialized care, noting that the visit provided a valuable opportunity for regional knowledge exchange and future collaboration.

**Jaafari Endowments Chairman Inspects Development Projects in Arad**

Mr. Yousef bin Saleh Al Saleh, Chairman of the Jaafari Endowments, conducted a field tour of worship places and endowment facilities in Arad to monitor ongoing maintenance and development. Accompanied by Director General Abdul Jalil Ali Al-Haiki and Council members, the Chairman visited the Amir al-Mu'minin Mosque, reviewing comprehensive renovations aimed at improving facilities for worshippers. He also visited the Haj Abbas Al-Arabi mourning hall to discuss its needs and reaffirm support for its religious and social functions. The tour concluded at the Arad cemetery, where Mr. Al Saleh inspected a fencing project nearing completion, designed to preserve the site's sanctity and organize services.

**SYMS Ladies and Children's Wings Inaugurate Annual Activities**

The Bahrain Syro Malabar Society (SYMS) officially launched the annual activities of its Ladies' and Children's Wings at SYMS Goodwin Hall. The event was inaugurated by Indian Ladies Association President Smita Jensen and cine artist Jaya Menon. Presided over by SYMS President P.T. Joseph, the ceremony featured welcome remarks from General Secretary Nelson Varghese and felicitations from Vice President Jimmy Joseph, Joint Secretary Joby Joseph, and KCA President James John. During the event, Porsche Bahrain 'Woman of the Year' awardee Jaya Menon was honored with a ceremonial shawl. New officials Stephy Maria Arun, Mary James, Sharvin Shaiju, and Jane Laiju presented their activity roadmaps for the year. The evening concluded with vibrant cultural performances by the Children's Wing, coordinated by the executive committee and the SYMS Board of Directors. The program was hosted by Pretty Roy and Jennifer Jeevan, with Jincy Lyons delivering the vote of thanks.

# Classifieds

## VACANCIES AVAILABLE

ECO FIBRE BAHRAIN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES REPRESENTATIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17715992 or hicpakk@gmail.com

ARABIAN OAD W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33969662 or HALISSA@ARABIANOUD.COM.SA

G P S INTERNATIONAL DENTAL COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33180666 or dt.rashed@gmail.com

BLACK55 BROKERAGE IN REAL ESTATE has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33343321 or RASHED.RIFFA@GMAIL.COM

DREAM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or HRD@DREAMGROUP.BH

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

MAGNUM SHIPCARE SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832244 or per121@alkhalidiagroup.com

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

MAGNUM SHIPCARE SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832244 or per121@alkhalidiagroup.com

TRUST91 REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33343321 or RASHED.RIFFA@GMAIL.COM

MAGNUM SHIPCARE SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PIPEFITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832244 or per121@alkhalidiagroup.com

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

RR HOTELS & RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34340636 or RAJEEVANS.SINGAPORE@GMAIL.COM

TASHYED HOSPITALITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17729935 or mannai.hr@mannaithTrading.com

MANAMA ROAD CONTRACTING COMPANY-BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33689921 or MUHAMMEDSHAH338@GMAIL.COM

Farsana Construction SPC has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39829689 or FARSANABAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

KENZ FURNISHING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRAFTSMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17343976 or saameer@kenzfurnishing.com

ALHARAM KITCHEN has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17773595 or ALHARAPP@GMAIL.COM

MOHIM PERFUMES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34409261 or ABDULLA\_PERVAIZ@LIVE.COM

PINE WOOD FURNITURE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39964163 or PINEWOODBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

REGAL MAINTENANCE & SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17448936 or regal@rmswl.com

JAMBO LAUNDRY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of LAUNDERER/PRESSER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17712375 or INFO@ALNEMRANBH.COM

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

JR AMMA MEDIA CREATIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PHOTOGRAPHER, suitably qualified applicants can contact

38825809 or JIJOTS1996@GMAIL.COM

DEFLOC CAR ACCESSORIES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66666961 or AM.FAHAD6696@GMAIL.COM

Magic Interior W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33366692 or magic.altattoon@gmail.com

AL REEM GATE CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of FIRE & SAFETY SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39771192 or inter.island.bh@gmail.com

AL AKRAM JEWELLERS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17270133 or T22722@HOTMAIL.COM

MONAS CLEANING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33107608 or KISEKKADE0795@GMAIL.COM

ASASAT ALBAHRAIN CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39063000 or asasat.bah@gmail.com

HIAZ FIBERGLASS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17464910 or HIAZINT@GMAIL.COM

ARAD CITY TEA CAFETERIA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34343495 or ABDULLAH3382112@GMAIL.COM

ALAMTHAL CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77005523 or Alamthal015@gmail.com

ASTRON CERTIFICATION BAHRAIN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34227519 or QASOORAHMAD@GMAIL.COM

LIFE LINE FOR FOODSTUFF has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17241459 or FAD85@HOTMAIL.COM

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

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

ALJANADIRYA CONTRACTING & MAINT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39450899 or main@janadiryah.com

SEERAGAM RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17002166 or seeragam2025@gmail.com

ABU FAIZAN CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33058503 or Abuifaizanac@gmail.com

SADIQ PUR CARGO SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38337233 or AMANABIL30@GMAIL.COM

FAME STAR BAKERY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BREAD BAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66908918 or Waqar.ahmad00728@gmail.com

BARIDHARA FACILITIES SUPPORT CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3331276 or SAJBONWLL@GMAIL.COM

AI Rayah For Safety Items W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 1782228 or RASHEED@SECURICORE.BH

BHASKAR DEVJI CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COORDINATOR(MATERIAL INVENTORY CONTROL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17729824 or shadaab.khan@devji.com

ZAHRET AFGHAN BUKHARI RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34336752 or EHSANMASOOD500@GMAIL.COM

ALDUL WAJID ADVERTISING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37944221 or SAQIBILYAS8X@GMAIL.COM

ALBAYAN LAND RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (RESTAURANTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33781232 or albayangroup.bh@gmail.com

MADAN ABBAS CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36150382 or MOAZZEM.BH2017@GMAIL.COM

FARAHNAZ CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37505455 or MUHAMMADAYAN3440@GMAIL.COM

FLORA CONTRACTING MAINTENANCE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORK-

SHINE PROXIMA CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupa-

tion of WORKER(PAPER PACKER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33452803 or MAILKAS-IF541254@GMAIL.COM

DIAMOND STAR SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38291919 or NEWSTYLO118@GMAIL.COM

Bright Future Contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33681568 or brightfuturecont@gmail.com

Bright Future Contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33681568 or brightfuturecont@gmail.com

Z & X W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38729800 or LEOLAN2020@HOTMAIL.COM

LUKY SOHAN DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(PAINTR FINISHER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34215896 or LAKI.BH.IND@GMAIL.COM

WANAAN CAR RENTAL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39991869 or FA-REEDA3@GMAIL.COM

AJ 90 GENTS SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36766168 or alyasmine-travels@gmail.com

DIAMOND ARTS INTERIOR DECORATOR W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33352031 or MARIKSHAD1333133@GMAIL.COM

MUHAMMAD IRSHAD INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33352031 or MARIKSHAD1333133@GMAIL.COM

AWAL GULF MANUFACTURING CO. (UNDER REORGANIZATION) B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAD OF STORES & PURCHASES, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17738333 or khalid@awalgulf.com.bh

NASS MARINE SHIPYARD COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725522 or yousif@aanass.net

SIAM SERVICES GROUP- SIMPLE COMMANDITE COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 334040733 or MOTOMANIABAHRAIN8@GMAIL.COM

VAISHNO LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of LAUNDERER/PRESSER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39887196 or DANOOYAHMED63@GMAIL.COM

AL HABARI AUTO CARE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33043365 or ALHABARITC@GMAIL.COM

KARKALA COMBINED FACILITIES SUPPORT CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38080801 or HR@issbh.com

THE PARADISE SPA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66656707 or INFO@HEALTHWELLNESSBYNISHA.COM

COMSIP AL A ALI W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PROJECTS COORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 1773006 or arnauq.allix@VINCI-ENERGIES.COM

MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345051 or info@magicshinebh.com

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38080801 or HR@issbh.com

AL HILAL MULTI SPECIALTY MEDICAL CENTER RIFFA B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of NURSE(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17344700 or HR@ALHILALHEALTHCARE.COM

Green Line Workshop has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39643189 or info@awtadi.com

LAMIS SWEILEM TRAINING CENTER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33512143 or MDED1996@GMAIL.COM

MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345051 or info@magicshinebh.com

DAMA BEAUTY SALON NAIL AND HAIR W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17785830 or Khavid@abulfaith.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

KHALID TRANSPORT EST. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(BUS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17785830 or Khalid@abulfaith.com

STEADFAST INTERNATIONAL TRADING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36636425 or INFO@STEADFAST-BAHRAIN.COM

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

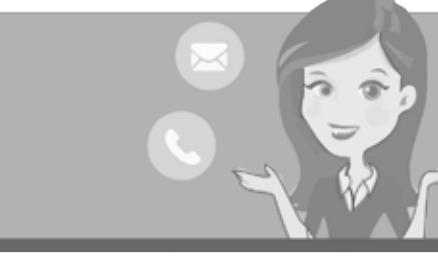
CNL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33888886 or HAMAD@SPECTRUMFIELD.COM

BABY NOOR TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17715186 or MUNEERMM@LIVE.COM

M TOUCH CONSULTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32302725 or NAZMULHUDA123@GMAIL.COM

Hani saeed fruit has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34113488 or HANISAEED-FRUIT@GMAIL.COM

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



Call us on +973 36458394  
email : advt@newsofbahrain.com

Al Heli Supermarket B.S.C Closed has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877209 or HANAN@ALHELI.COM

ALATTAR WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE). GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17612795 or attar88@hotmail.com

COURIERX W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38870666 or HAMAD@COURIERX.COM

MARBL ARCH CLEANING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32226699 or S.AL-NAISI@GMAIL.COM

COURIERX W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38870666 or HAMAD@COURIERX.COM

ALSAYAD TRADING EST has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17256494 or SAYYADTRADING@GMAIL.COM

POLAR SKY CONSTRUCTION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35432048 or IMRAN4POLARTOWER@GMAIL.COM

SCOTIA

# Classifieds

## VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

2011 garage has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77998670 or Garagebh2011@gmail.com

IDEAL HOME FURNITURE INDUSTRY has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER(FURNITURE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17276711 or MOR997@HOTMAIL.COM

AL HILAL MULTI SPECIALTY MEDICAL CENTER RIFFA B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of NURSE(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17344700 or HRD@ALHILALHEALTHCARE.COM

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

MURAD PROFIX W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34447555 or MURADPROFIX@GMAIL.COM

PERFORM BETTER FITNESS CENTER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39268852 or ANSILLAR@GMAIL.COM

PACIFIC COAST CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33500126 or consultancybahrain@gmail.com

THE RITZ - CARLTON BAHRAIN HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17580000 or rc.bahrz.hr@ritzcarlton.com

JASIM AHMED RASHED SAAD ALDOSERI has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33555166 or HGOD8908@GMAIL.COM

ALASAS ALMATEEN CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38419012 or MRAIMIN986@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 ZAIDCONSULTANCYV613@GMAIL.COM

ZENAT MODEL FOR ABAYAT & TEXTILE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36134567 or FARUKKHAN3406@GMAIL.COM  
china skyscrapers contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35050200 or CSC.2004@HOTMAIL.COM

MOHAMED EBRAHIM MOHAMED ISA / AFRAH1 / 10640 has a vacancy for the occupation of FISHERMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39250059 or MOHAMEDEBRAHIM083@GMAIL.COM

SHY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39108419 or MURADKHOKAN8801@GMAIL.COM

M K A SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW), GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33442577 or KAFILRAJPOOTI@GMAIL.COM

MARIA SKY LINE GENERAL TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38914200 or MARIM.SKY014@GMAIL.COM

MASOOD KHAN CONSTRUCTION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32119631 or ABDULRAHMAN110511@GMAIL.COM

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

Garage Mansha has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33880919 or SAAMIR@LIVE.COM

AUBURN CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13659111 or tw.bahrain9@gmail.com

ALRASALAH BAKERY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33313013 or INFO@ALKHOORGROUP.COM

MD RANA ABAYAT - W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33826062 or ABAYAT.MDRANA@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 HANANKHALAF84@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 HANANKHALAF84@GMAIL.COM

ALMOAYYED CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17404949 or proffice@almoayedcg.com

ASB SECURITY SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35070603 or MAGICSHINE775@YAHOO.COM

DUST BUNNY PACKAGING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33768106 or AQB.I221989@GMAIL.COM

HAIRMES SALON & SPA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34034430 or HAIRMES.BH@GMAIL.COM

MAA CARE GENTS SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33147002 or MOHANAN8747@GMAIL.COM

KHALIFA HAMAD SULTAN MOHAMED AL GHAMEM (192928) has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33555166 or MNOUR8374@GMAIL.COM

SILAAE CORNER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36558002 or NAHALAHOSPITALITY@GMAIL.COM

GUERRERO-STRACHAN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ARCHITECT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32193030 or eduardo.gsk@g-architecture.com

TCS SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32323675 or TOBYJOSEM@GMAIL.COM

MOUNTBAKE RESTAURANT & CAFE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37766664 or ALIMIRACLEBH@GMAIL.COM

MUHAMMAD FAHAD SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34197056 or HA2763980@GMAIL.COM

KITTO BARBER SHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35002840 or PUREMIND.BH@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 HANANKHALAF84@GMAIL.COM

OTIC HEARING AID CENTER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DIRECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35024180 or admin@oticbh.com

RAQUEL SECRETS BEAUTY SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36555316 or mastersgatfbs@gmail.com

R S T ELECTRONIC has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37592962 or SALESCENTRAL@ALHINDONLINE.COM

ZAINAB JAAFAR ABDULNABI AHMED YUSUF (192939) has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33243003 or admin@ninnjawd.com

LAGOONA BEACH RESORT&SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN AIDE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17660383 or INTERMILAN\_1984@HOTMAIL.COM

SUQ TOWER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33007764 or suqtower@gmail.com

EVERCARE FOUNDATION FOR ELDERLY & DISABLED SUPPORT has a vacancy for the occupation of SOCIAL CARE CLERK, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36886644 or INFO@MAGICSHINEBH.COM

TEA PLAZA RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39858332 or ALAMEENTHAIKUTTIYIL@GMAIL.COM

GULF CITY CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39641612 or yousif@aanass.net

LAGOONA BEACH RESORT&SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17660383 or INTERMILAN\_1984@HOTMAIL.COM

AJMAL UPHOLSTERY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33893183 or AJMALCI@GMAIL.COM

MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345051 or info@magicshinebh.com

TOYOTA PLAZA B.S.C. Closed has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact

qualified applicants can contact 17262262 or HR.S@EKKANO.COM.BH

ICG SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17623723 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

ICG SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17623723 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

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

HAIRMES SALON & SPA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34034430 or HAIRMES.BH@GMAIL.COM

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# Senegal stun hosts Morocco to win AFCON title after final walk-off protest

AFP | Rabat

Senegal won the Africa Cup of Nations as Pape Gueye's extra-time winner sunk hosts Morocco 1-0 after a chaotic final that saw the eventual champions storm off the pitch late in the game.

Brahim Diaz could have won the trophy for Morocco with a controversial spot-kick in the 24th minute of added time at the end of normal time as ugly scenes broke out in the stands.

But Senegal goalkeeper Edouard Mendy easily saved the weak attempted 'Panenka' chip by the Real Madrid winger, who was clearly distracted by the long delay that followed the penalty award.

The game at the Prince Moulay Abdellah Stadium then went to extra time, and Gueye's brilliant 94th-minute strike handed them the title.

"We had a feeling of injustice. Just before the penalty we thought we should have had a goal and the referee didn't go to VAR," said match-winner Gueye, who added that Sadio Mane had urged the team to come back onto the pitch for the penalty.



Senegal's forward #10 Sadio Mane holds the trophy

"Sadio told us to come back on and we remobilised. Edouard then made the save, we stayed focused, got the goal and won the game."

The controversial penalty was awarded by Congolese referee Jean-Jacques Ndala right at the end of the allotted eight added minutes in normal time following a VAR check for a challenge on Diaz by El Hadji Malick Diouf.

The Moroccan team vehemently protested to the referee to check the images, but the decision to eventually give the spot-kick was met with fury by Senegal and their fans.

As most of their players walked off the pitch, some Senegal supporters at the opposite end of the stadium threw chairs and other objects and attempted to get onto the field of play.

They were eventually contained by a large barrier of police and stewards, and their anger turned to delight when the penalty was saved.

The Senegal team had initially been riled by the referee's decision to disallow for a foul a goal scored by Ismaila Sarr in the second added minute.

**“We had a feeling of injustice. Just before the penalty we thought we should have had a goal and the referee didn't go to VAR. Sadio told us to come back on and we remobilised. Edouard then made the save, we stayed focused, got the goal and won the game”**

PAPE GUEYE

## Gueye the hero

Diaz's penalty miss clearly galvanised Senegal, however, and they scored in the fourth minute of extra time to stun the crowd of 66,526.

Sadio Mane won possession in midfield and found Idrissa Gana Gueye, who released his namesake Pape Gueye.

The Villarreal midfielder advanced towards the box before beating goalkeeper Yassine Bounou with a superb strike into the top corner, leaving the hosts distraught.

## Riffa Stun Cup Holders to Reach Final



Sayed Hashim Isa announces himself to Riffa fans with stunning 2nd goal

**Hussain Almaskati**  
TDT | Manama

Riffa booked their place in the Khalid Bin Hamad Cup final yesterday with a hard-fought 2-0 extra-time victory over holders Al Khaldiya at Khalifa Sports City Stadium. Samuel Toscas opened the scoring in the 102nd minute, and Sayed Hashim Isa sealed the win in the 110th, ensuring Riffa's dramatic progression to the final.

The match was tense from the outset, with both sides probing cautiously. Riffa created the clearest chances in the first half, with Rodrigo denied from point-blank range in the 33rd minute and Wellington's curling strike just missing the far post before halftime. Al Khaldiya, under coach Lassaad Chaabi, struggled to impose themselves, a challenge compounded when star midfielder Saifeddine Bouhra went off injured early on.

The game shifted decisively after the restart when Al Khaldiya's Hazza Ali was sent off for a last-man foul on Wellington, leaving the league leaders a player short. Riffa, led by coach Mohamed Mashaan, immediately stepped up their intensity, pressuring the Al Khaldiya defence and forcing errors. Extra time ultimately brought the breakthrough. Toscas found the net from a deflected short corner cross, heading the ball into the turf to open the scoring. Later, Isa, who recently joined Riffa from Al Malkiya, proved his quality with a brilliant half-volley, controlling a long ball from his own half and firing it into the corner to seal the win.

Riffa will now await the winner of today's second semi-final between Muharraq and Sitra, kicking off at 7pm at the same venue, with the Khalid Bin Hamad Cup final scheduled for Saturday.

## CAF to take 'appropriate action' following chaotic AFCON final scenes

AFP | Rabat

African football's governing body CAF said Monday "appropriate action" would be taken against "those found guilty" after chaotic scenes marred the final of the Africa Cup of Nations.

CAF though did not attribute blame to either Senegal or Morocco.

In Sunday's final, most of

the Senegalese players walked off in protest when referee Jean Jacques Ndala awarded hosts Morocco a penalty deep into time added on of normal time with the match tied at 0-0.

A group of their fans fought with Moroccan security personnel at the other end of the stadium in Rabat. Once the players returned to the pitch, Senegal 'keep-

er Edouard Mendy saved the spot kick and Senegal went on to win 1-0 in extra time.

"The Confederation Africaine de Football (CAF) condemns the unacceptable behaviour from some players and officials during the CAF Africa Cup of Nations Morocco 2025 Final between Morocco and Senegal in Rabat last night," read their statement.

## Muharraq Stung by Ittihad Comeback

**Hussain Almaskati**  
TDT | Manama

Muharraq gave a valiant display in Jeddah yesterday but fell 91-87 to Ittihad Club in the 2025-26 FIBA WASL Gulf League, ending their Group A campaign with a hard-fought third-place finish. The defeat also allowed Ittihad to exact revenge for their earlier loss to the Red Wolves in the Group Phase.

The Red Wolves, missing key players Timmy Bond and Kerwin Roach due to injuries, started strongly and built a fourth-quarter lead of up to 14 points. Nick West was outstanding, tallying a game-high 28 points alongside 15 rebounds, 7 assists, and 3 steals, while Mahmood Khalifa added 16 points and 6 assists. Nadel Abdulrahim, Mohamed Juma, and Ali Rashed all contributed in double figures, keeping Muharraq competitive throughout.

Ittihad, however, mounted a furious late rally led by Erick Neal, who recorded his first FIBA WASL triple-double with 31 points, 10 rebounds, and 12 assists, along with 5 steals. Neal's heroics began with a clutch rebound of his own missed three-pointer with 4:23 remaining, followed by a floater that broke an 85-all deadlock in the closing minute.

Jarell Eddie added a layup to give Ittihad the edge, before Neal iced the game with two precise free throws with 12.5 seconds left. Neal scored 17 points in the fourth alone, completing a stunning comeback for the defending Saudi champions.



Coach Peter Schomers praised his team's resilience despite the loss. "I'm happy with the way we played," he said. "Of course, I'd be more happy with the win. But since this game didn't affect our position, I can take pride in how the boys fought."

With the Group Phase complete, Muharraq secured the no. 3 seed in Group A and will now prepare for the Qualification to Semi-Finals, which kicks off on February 2. The Red Wolves have shown that even when stretched, they remain a formidable force in the Gulf League, and Bahraini fans will be eager to see them return stronger for the next stage.

# Centurion Djokovic romps to win as Swiatek, Gauff move on in Melbourne

Title contenders advance, but Auger-Aliassime and Eala fall in first-round action

● Djokovic beats Pedro Martinez in straight sets

● Stan Wawrinka wins in tournament farewell

● Felix Auger-Aliassime retires with cramp

AFP | Melbourne

**N**ovak Djokovic began his latest bid for a record 25th Grand Slam crown with an emphatic straight-sets victory yesterday as fellow Australian Open title contenders Iga Swiatek and Coco Gauff also won but with less sparkle.

Three-time finalist Daniil Medvedev stayed alive, as did 40-year-old Stan Wawrinka, who rolled back the clock to reach the second round in his tournament farewell.

Serbian great Djokovic, 38, tamed Spain's 71st-ranked Pedro Martinez 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 on Rod Laver Arena, a court where he has won a record 10 Australian Open crowns.

The world number four owns 24 major titles, equal for the most ever with Australia's Margaret Court, but a 25th has remained agonisingly out of reach.

His last came at the 2023 US Open with Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz sharing all eight since then.

"What can I say? I like the sound of it. Centurion is pretty nice," he said after his 100th victory at the Australian Open.

"I always give my best whenever I'm on the court. Obviously, history-making is a great motivation, and particularly in the last 5-10 years of my career."

Sixth seed Alex de Minaur, the big home hope, was also a straight-sets winner on another hot day where temperatures



Serbia's Novak Djokovic hits a return against Spain's Pedro Martinez

The three-time major winner is playing his last season before retiring and gave his all to down Serbia's Laslo Djere 5-7, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) in front of a crowd willing him to victory.

"The passion is still intact. But I'm not young any more, so I need to be careful also," said the Swiss warhorse, who made his Australian Open debut in 2006.

Medvedev, runner-up in 2021, 2022 and 2024, warmed up for Melbourne with victory in Brisbane and ground to a 7-5, 6-2, 7-6 (7/2) opening round win over Dutchman Jesper de Jong.

The famously feisty Russian said he was trying to be more "positive" on court.

"So far I'm doing it well," he said.

Sixth seed Alex de Minaur, the big home hope, was also a straight-sets winner on another hot day where temperatures

**I always give my best whenever I'm on the court. Obviously, history-making is a great motivation, and particularly in the last 5-10 years of my career**

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

reached about 30C and record crowds of more than 100,000 faced long queues to get into Melbourne Park.

The tournament is over, however, for seventh seed Felix Auger-Aliassime, who retired from his match with cramp.

Auger-Aliassime won the opening set 6-3 against Nuno Borges but then lost the next two before calling time.

"I want to be on the court competing with my opponent. I don't want to be just standing there like a punching bag," he said.

The same fate befell tearful compatriot Marina Stakusic, who was taken off in a wheelchair when she cramped up against home player Priscilla Hon.

**'Overwhelming'**

In the women's draw, six-time major winner Swiatek was made to work unexpectedly hard against Chinese qualifier Yuan Yue.

The Polish second seed, who will complete a career Grand Slam of all four majors if she breaks her Australian Open duck, eventually saw off her spirited opponent 7-6 (7/5), 6-3.

"I was a bit rusty at the beginning," said Swiatek.



USA's Coco Gauff hits a return to Uzbekistan's Kamilla Rakhimova



**Djokovic, now 38, sealed his 100th Australian Open win on Rod Laver Arena – where he has claimed all 10 of his Melbourne titles**

"For sure many ups and downs, but overall I have some stuff to work on."

Gauff beat Uzbekistan's Kamilla Rakhimova 6-2, 6-3, but was also less than convincing at the start and struggled with her serve.

"I am only satisfied if I win, but I am proud of myself regardless of how I get on," she said.

Her reward is a clash next with Venus Williams' conqueror Olga Danilovic.

Like Swiatek, Gauff has yet to go past the last four in Melbourne.

Gauff's fellow American, fourth seed Amanda Anisimova, began her quest for a third consecutive major final with a ruthless win over Switzerland's Simona Waltert, 6-3, 6-2.

Sixth seed Jessica Pegula and eighth seed Mirra Andreeva also progressed.

However, former champion Sofia Kenin crashed out and so did Alexandra Eala despite manic support from Philippines fans.

The 20-year-old Eala was in the main draw for the first time and even practice sessions were mobbed by large numbers of her compatriots.

"I think this week definitely there were elements that were a bit overwhelming," she said of the support following a three-set loss to Alycia Parks.

## Bahrain Olympic Committee Participates in Asian Beach Games International Media Conference in China



**Manama**

**T**he Bahrain Olympic Committee took part in the International Media Conference for the 6th Asian Beach Games, scheduled to be held in Sanya, China, from 22 to 30 April 2026.

The conference, which runs from 18 to 21 January 2026 in China, is attended by media representatives from across Asia. Representing the Bahrain Olympic Committee are Hasan Ali Ahmed, Head of Media and Digital Content, and Ali Al-Hal-



waji, Photography Specialist. The conference opened with a welcoming address delivered by Mr Jeans, Director of Media and Broadcast at the Olympic Council of Asia, who conveyed the greetings of the Chairman of the Olympic Council of Asia Media Committee, Mr Fires Mustafa Al-Kooheji.

In his remarks, he expressed full confidence in China's ability to successfully host the Games and deliver outstanding media services, citing the country's extensive experience and high

level of expertise in staging major multi-sport events, including beach, summer, and winter Games.

He added, "This will be the second time China hosts this event. You can be assured that world-class venues, along with high-quality broadcasting and media services, will be in place to ensure a smooth and professional experience while covering and transmitting the Games to Asia and the rest of the world."

The conference programme

included a series of presentations and briefings covering media services, accommodation, transportation, competition venues, medical and nutritional services, as well as the opening and closing ceremonies.

The 6th Asian Beach Games will be hosted in Sanya, with broad participation expected from Asian media organisations and sports institutions, as preparations continue for the successful delivery of the continental sporting event.

## Australia rest Cummins, Hazlewood, Maxwell for Pakistan T20 series

AFP | Sydney

Australia will rest five top players, including Pat Cummins and Glenn Maxwell, for a three-match Twenty20 series in Pakistan ahead of the World Cup, selectors said yesterday.

Josh Hazlewood, Tim David and Nathan Ellis will also skip the series starting later this month.

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# Karting talents light up BIKC

Bahrain's top talents display prowess in exciting fourth round of Rotax MAX karting



● **Enzo Younes, Rayyan Najjar, Jude Andrews, Musaad Albassam, and Abdulla Sajjad all claim victories in class as 2025/2026 BRMC season resumes at BIKC**

## Manama

The 2025/2026 Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge (BRMC) resumed over the weekend at Bahrain International Circuit's (BIC) world-class grassroots motorsport facility, Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC).

The Kingdom's most talented karters battled it out along BIKC's 1.414-kilometre CIK-FIA track behind the wheel of their very own Rotax-powered machinery in a hugely exciting fourth round this season.

Emerging victorious in their

respective competition classes were Enzo Younes in the Micro MAX category, Rayyan Najjar in the Mini MAX, Jude Andrews in the Junior MAX, Musaad Albassam in the Senior MAX, and Abdulla Sajjad in the DD2 MAX.

The meeting was organised by BIC, BIKC, the Bahrain Motor Federation, and the Bahrain Karting Commission.

Enzo topped the timesheet in all four Micro MAX sessions this round. He first set the pace in practice and then captured pole in qualifying practice. He then won the pre-final before taking the nine-lap final in a total time of nine minutes 22.575 seconds – a comfortable 7.157 seconds ahead of runner-up Sami Albandak. Rashid Almahrus joined them on the podium in class after finishing 10.674s from Enzo.

In the Mini MAX category, Hassan Baeqer set the pace in practice and qualifying practice but Rayyan went on to win the

pre-final. He then carried his momentum into the nine-lap final, where he took the chequered flag by a mere 0.707s ahead of Faisal Alnajjar in second. Rayyan's winning time was 8:55.852. Rhys Daulat came third 1.982s back.

Jude was engaged in a tough battle with his close rivals this round. Shaikh Ahmed bin Saeer Al Khalifa led the Junior MAX field in practice but then Leopold Juch captured pole in qualifying practice. Shaikh Ahmed regained control by winning the pre-final, but then was unlucky in the 15-lap final where he finished first on the road but was handed a 15s penalty by the stewards. Jude therefore inherited the victory with a mark of 13:57.658. He was followed in the classification by Leopold 11.736s behind, while Sacha Rollett climbed the podium in third 12.389s adrift. Shaikh Ahmed had to settle for fifth place.

The Senior MAX too saw plenty

of heated competition with the BRMC's biggest grid of 18 talented karters in the meeting. Luca Houghton was the pace-setter in practice but Albassam then beat him by two-tenths to top the qualifying practice timesheet. Albassam then did well to maintain his impressive form to take the pre-final before storming to the chequered flag in the final

to win from pole in 13:27.754 after 15 laps. Albassam built a 5.574s gap at the finish ahead of Houghton, while Yousef Alaa'li claimed third place 13.168s adrift.

In the DD2 MAX, Abdulqader Qasem set the practice pace before Rakan Alfayez clinched pole with the best qualifying practice time. But in the pre-final, Sajjad

beat Qasem by just under a second for first place, and then also won the 15-lap final from pole in 13:21.391. Qasem followed as runner-up 7.157s behind, while Alfayez rounded out the top three 7.701s back.

At the end of the day's action, the winners in each class were presented their respective trophies in the podium ceremonies.

The BRMC features a total of eight rounds in its 2025/2026 calendar. Round five is scheduled to take place on 30 January, followed by rounds six and seven on back-to-back days this 13 and 14 February. That will set the stage for the championship finale on 17 April at BIKC, when the BRMC's newest champions will be crowned.

For more information on the BRMC or other events and activities at BIC and BIKC, visit [bahraingp.com](http://bahraingp.com), call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000, or follow the circuit's official social media channels.



# Bahraini golfers earn chance to compete alongside world's best at Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship

## Manama

Three Bahraini golfers will tee it up alongside the stars of the DP World Tour at the Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship from January 29 to February 1, having earned their places through the Kingdom's national qualifying pathway.

Ahmed Alzayed, Khalifa Almaraisi and Ali Mohamed Alkowari will represent Bahrain at the Royal Golf Club in the third edition of the tournament, held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. They will be joined by England's Tom Sloman, who earned a professional invitation as winner of the King Hamad Trophy, and Malaysia's Zubair Firdaus, champion of the Bahrain Amateur Open.

The local qualifiers will compete alongside a stellar field that includes three-time Major



Ahmed Alzayed



Ali Mohamed Alkowari



Khalifa Almaraisi

topping the Bahrain Golf Association rankings after the final event of 2025, and Alkowari came through the National Team Qualifying tournament.

For Alzayed, who carries a +2.4 handicap, it marks a proud return to the championship.

"I'm so proud to be playing in this championship," said Alzayed. "This is my second time participating in this event and I would like to thank Bapco Energies for organising the biggest event in the country and the Bahrain Golf Association for giving national team players the chance to participate. I'm focussed on representing my country in the best way and looking forward to playing with the best tour players to gain more experience."

Alkowari, also playing off +2.4, will make his second consecutive appearance at the tournament after a hard-fought quali-

fying campaign.

"I'm very happy to play in this great tournament again," said Alkowari. "It wasn't easy to get the spot, but we did it eventually. We played four days for the national team qualifier – it was really, really windy – but in the end we did it. I had some really good rounds and got the spot."

The qualifying pathway demonstrates how hosting the Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship is helping to develop the game across the Kingdom, providing local players with invaluable experience of competing at the highest level.

The tournament follows the Dubai Invitational and Hero Dubai Desert Classic – the first Rolex Series event of the season – as part of the DP World Tour's International Swing, and features a prize fund of \$2.75 million.