

UOB Speeds Up Certificate Requests



The University of Bahrain has launched a digital service allowing applicants to track requests for statements, transcripts and certificates instantly, down from a two-day processing period, as part of government efforts to re-engineer public services.

The service reduces application steps to four, cuts required approvals by 25%, and lets users log in via Key electronic ID or personal details to check status immediately, without waiting for email replies. It covers enrolment statements, graduation clearances and transcripts.

University President Dr Fuad Mohammed Al Ansari said the move reflects the university's push toward digital transformation, simplifying procedures and improving the user experience for students.

National Guard Chief Meets Pakistani Army Delegation



National Guard Commander Lieutenant-General Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa received Lieutenant-General Ali Iqbal, Deputy Chief of the Pakistan Army General Staff, and his accompanying delegation during an official visit to Bahrain.

The meeting, also attended by Brigadier Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa, highlighted the deep historical ties between Bahrain and Pakistan, especially in the military field, and reviewed joint coordination between the two forces.

Discussions covered expanding training exchanges to boost capabilities and readiness. Lieutenant-General Iqbal thanked the National Guard for its hospitality, praising its efficiency and the continued progress in bilateral military cooperation.

"Protects Bahrain's Identity"

His Majesty King Receives Head of National Resilience Documentation Committee

TDI | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received Dr. Shaikh Abdul-la bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications and Chairman of the Committee for Documenting the National Resilience Saga. The minister briefed His Majesty the King on the committee's work recording Iran's hostile attacks against the Kingdom and the unity shown in response.



His Majesty said the "spirit of resilience" is a deep-rooted national culture, not merely a reaction to a passing challenge, praising the research role of the Bahrain Center for Strategic, In-

ternational and Energy Studies (Derasat).

The King described documenting the resilience saga as a national duty to preserve a unified narrative and pass lessons of loyalty to future generations, calling national memory "the fortress that protects Bahrain's gains and identity."

Dr. Shaikh Abdulla thanked His Majesty the King for the trust placed in him, pledging the committee's findings would become a historic and legal reference reflecting the Kingdom's strength.

HM King Receives Artist Isa Al Kooheji



His Majesty King Hamad also received artist Isa Al Kooheji, accompanied by his son Mohammed, who presented the King with a painting depicting His Majesty alongside Bahrain's flag and map. The King praised the artwork and Al Kooheji's contributions to Bahrain's art scene, expressing pride in Bahraini artists showcasing the Kingdom's cultural image. Al Kooheji thanked the King for his continued support of local artists.



Public Transport Moves Toward Electric Buses

● UK partner Mobico to guide green transition

● Ministry reviews readiness for cleaner fleet

● Officials track the shift to eco-friendly buses

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Fatima Abdulla Al Zayen, Undersecretary for Land Transport and Post at the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications, affirmed the ministry's commitment to further developing Bahrain's public transport system to enhance its efficiency, safety, and



sustainability.

The statement came during her visit to the public bus depot, accompanied by the Bahrain Public Transport Company's executive management,

where she reviewed operational readiness and future plans supporting a shift toward a more sustainable transport network.

Al Zayen noted that the pub-

lic transport network continues to improve and is seeing notable ridership growth, reflecting the system's readiness and ability to maintain reliable service under all conditions.

She also reviewed the depot's preparations for transitioning to electric bus operations, which is part of a broader plan to build an integrated, eco-friendly transport system supporting Bahrain's target of carbon neutrality by 2060.

Plans were also discussed to draw on the experience of parent company Mobico Group, a UK-based international public transport operator, in deploying clean-energy vehicle technology and managing the conversion of bus depots to electric power in line with global best practices.

Royal decrees



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, issued four separate edicts covering government appointments and commercial regulations.

Edict (3) of 2026 amends last year's decree on the Royal Fund for Fallen Servicemen. The Minister of the Prime Minister's Court has been added as a member of the fund's Supreme Commission, which HRH the Crown Prince also chairs.

Similarly, Edict (35) of 2026 adds the Minister of the Prime Minister's Court to the Civil Service Council, updating the council's 2018 founding decree.

Commerce rules for Bahrainis

Edict (36) of 2026 sets out commercial activities that will be restricted to Bahraini nationals only. The move follows a proposal from the Minister of Industry and Commerce and was approved by the Cabinet.

Finally, Edict (37) of 2026 appoints Judge Dr. Riyadh Mohammed Ibrahim Sayadi as full-time Director of the Judicial and Legal Studies Institute at the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf.

All four edicts take effect immediately and will be published in the Official Gazette.

Interior Minister Bids Farewell to UK Ambassador



Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa received UK Ambassador Alistair Long on the conclusion of his diplomatic posting, in the presence of Police Chief Lieutenant-General Tariq Al Hassan.

The minister praised the strong strategic partnership between Bahrain and the UK, particularly in policing, highlighting Britain's role alongside allied nations in strengthening regional and global security and stability.

Spain's midfielder #16 Rodri lifts the trophy with his teammates after winning the 2026 World Cup football tournament final match between Spain and Argentina at the New Jersey Stadium.





Best Retail Bank in Bahrain

By Euromoney's Awards for Excellence



NBB Named Best Retail Bank in Bahrain by Euromoney Awards for Excellence

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has been named Best Retail Bank in Bahrain by Euromoney Awards for Excellence, acknowledging its progress in delivering customer-centric and secure retail banking solutions in the Kingdom.

The award reflects NBB's continued efforts to improve how customers access a wide range of banking services and manage their financial needs. Over the past year, the Bank advanced several innovative initiatives across housing finance, savings, digital lending, family banking, investments, and rewards, each designed to simplify customer journeys while supporting broader national priorities.

Commenting on the occasion, Usman Ahmed, Group Chief Executive Officer of NBB, said, "This recognition from Euromoney reflects the strength of NBB's retail banking solutions. Our approach to digital banking is rooted in deepening and broadening our value proposition across customer segments, with an uncompromising focus on safeguarding trust in our services at every touchpoint. The award further reinforces our position as a national bank with the strategic mandate to serve individuals, families and the wider economy with solutions that are practical and innovative."

Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani, Chief Executive - Retail Banking at NBB, added, "Our focus is on delivering a seamless and exceptional banking experience across every channel, ensuring customers enjoy the



"This award reflects our commitment to putting customers at the heart of everything we do. By continuously enhancing our digital capabilities, expanding innovative products, and delivering secure, seamless banking experiences across every channel, we are making everyday banking simpler, more accessible, and more rewarding for individuals and families across Bahrain."

SUBAH ABDULLATIF AL ZAYANI,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE - RETAIL BANKING AT NBB



"Being recognised by Euromoney as Bahrain's Best Retail Bank reflects our unwavering commitment to delivering innovative, secure and customer-focused banking solutions. We will continue to invest in digital transformation, strengthen trust through technology, and develop products that empower individuals and families while supporting Bahrain's long-term economic growth and financial inclusion."

USMAN AHMED, GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF NBB



strengthened customer engagement through rewards-led features, including targeted challenges and leaderboards that encourage customers to track their progress, increase activity, and redeem rewards instantly.

Building on its established role in Bahrain's social housing ecosystem, NBB expanded its proposition in 2025 through Tas'heel+ financing. The programme was developed in partnership with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning to provide citizens with an accessible pathway to homeownership. Key processes were also streamlined across the existing social housing portfolio to further improve operational efficiency and streamline property purchasing for customers.

In other product enhancements, the Bank upgraded its Time Deposit offering with

competitive rates and flexible payout options in different currencies. Customers can choose to receive returns monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually, in line with their financial goals. Additionally, US Dollar was added as a supported currency for Thara'a Prize Accounts, while documentation requirements for account opening and loan applications were reduced to ensure better convenience for customers.

The Euromoney award underscores NBB's continued commitment to delivering a comprehensive retail banking experience that is informed by client feedback, strengthened by secure technology, and driven by practical product development. The Bank remains dedicated to advancing solutions that deliver long-term value to customers across Bahrain.

same high standards of service whether they engage through our digital platforms or visit a branch, or connect with our dedicated bank representative. Guided by customer feedback and enriched by data-driven insights, we continuously refine our products, services, and interactions to make banking simpler, more intuitive, and more responsive to evolving customer needs. This recognition is a testament to our commitment to delivering secure, customer-centric experiences that build trust, strengthen relationships, and create lasting value for our customers."

NBB has continued to prioritise digital enablement as part of its broader transformation agenda. Customers can

now apply for personal finance through end-to-end digital journeys supported by real-time eligibility checks, automated underwriting, instant decisioning, loan top-ups and electronic signatures. The Bank has also digitised access to eligible government securities for retail customers, expanding investment accessibility through secure online channels.

In another defining achievement leading to the award, the Bank successfully integrated the national eKey identity platform across key digital journeys - a market-first implementation within the local banking sector. Allowing users to be digitally authenticated using their government-issued credentials, the capability delivers

faster onboarding, KYC updates and personalised servicing, thereby enhancing fraud prevention and reducing impersonation risk.

NBB has also continued to develop its segment-focused products, including the expansion of Yalla Family Banking with the new 'Pockets' feature, which allows users to create designated savings accounts for minors within the NBB app. Parents can set spending controls and monitor account activity in real time, ultimately helping them instil savings discipline among younger users. To support wider awareness, the Bank also conducted school roadshows on financial literacy and the importance of saving.

The Bank further

Import Costs Drive Up Thobe Prices

Higher fabric and shipping costs could push average price from BD25 to BD27

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Thobe prices in Bahrain are heading for a rise as dearer cloth and sea freight squeeze tailors.

The average cost of a made-to-measure thobe remains about BD25, but shop owners say it may climb by 8 pc to roughly BD27 if import bills keep rising.

Tailors have so far absorbed the extra cost by cutting their own margins. Some said they would rather earn less than risk driving away buyers.

The rise has come from sea freight charges on goods shipped from Japan, China and South Korea. Road haulage rates within the Gulf have stayed much the same.

Sayed Hadi Al Baladi, who runs a tailoring shop in A'ali, said cloth was still easy to find in Bahrain. Most shops buy through agents and wholesalers in Kuwait and Dubai.

He said some types of cloth were likely to cost BD1 to BD3 extra, equal to a rise of between 4 pc and 12 pc.

A standard thobe now sells for between BD25 and BD28. Dearer pieces cost from BD35 to BD38.

The price of a metre of some cloth has gone up from BD3.5 to BD3.8.

A roll of Japanese cloth can cost about BD100, while wool rolls sell for about BD200. Some shops buy at least 250 rolls to give customers a wide choice of colours and cloth.

Al Baladi said many shops still had good stocks, mainly those that bought large loads before Ramadan.

But he warned that some traders might raise the price of old stock bought months ago at cheaper rates.

Prices for ghutras, shemaghs and men's accessories remain unchanged, including high-end English shemaghs brought in from Britain.

Fahad Al Hardan, who owns a tailoring shop in Salmaniya, said trade had slowed since Eid Al Fitr.

The average price of a thobe remained near BD25, he said, even as shops paid more for thread and button padding from Germany and Britain.

Al Hardan also warned that some cloth was being sold as Japanese when it had been made elsewhere.

He said shops must be open with buyers and give clear details on where the cloth came from.

Some tailors are now using Korean cloth instead of well-known Japanese makes such as Shikibo, Toyobo and Semiramis.

Hardan called for cloth traders with skill in the field to buy straight from mills in East Asia and Europe and pick stock suited to Bahrain.

Many shops now buy through agents in Saudi Arabia.

A roll of Japanese cloth costs about BD70 on average, while genuine Semiramis can reach BD120.

Semiramis remains one of the most sought-after fabrics among Bahraini buyers, though stocks are scarce.

Al Hardan said genuine Japanese cloth was easier to check because most packs now carry the mill stamp and packing date.

Cotton and high-grade spun



polyester were among the best picks for summer, he said, as they were cool, did not cling to the body and were less likely to crease.

Yasser Al Shaaban, manager of a men's tailoring shop in Zinj, said the cost of imported cloth had edged up, while some summer types were harder to find.

The price of a metre had risen by about 200 fils, while some rolls now cost BD5 to BD6 extra.

He said a thobe priced at BD25 today may rise to about BD27 if those costs keep climbing.

But shop owners were still trying to absorb part of the rise themselves to keep prices within reach and stop trade from slowing further.

Fake Door and Car Ads Raise Scam Concerns

Al Qubaisi urges crackdown on illegal advertisers using bogus business numbers

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

A municipal councillor has called for tougher action against illegal paper advertisements placed on home doors, car windows and public facilities, warning that many promote fake businesses using unregistered phone numbers.



merce to launch joint inspection campaigns to identify those behind the adverts and take legal action against them. He said investigations found many listed numbers belong to non-existent businesses with no commercial registration, describing the practice as a commercial and security fraud that could endanger residents and their property.

He also called for the immediate removal of the advertisements to preserve neighborhood appearance and urged the public to avoid dealing with unknown numbers or unverified service providers.



Abdulla Al Qubaisi, Northern Municipal Council member

Al Qubaisi urged the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture and the Ministry of Industry and Com-

Bahrain Gold Hits BD44 as Buyers Hold On

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Gold buyers in Bahrain are still paying up despite a sharp world price swing, with jewellery near BD44 a gram and bullion at about BD50 as war fears and US rate bets drive the market.

The metal climbed to about \$4,119 an ounce before falling back towards \$4,000, hit by a stronger dollar and shifting views on US interest rates. Oil prices, fighting in the region and fears over the Strait of Hormuz have added to the strain.

Jaafar bin Jaafar of Bin Jaafar Jewellery said demand was at a middling level, below that seen in recent weeks.

He said trade had been stronger earlier, though buyers had not left the market. Gold reached about BD44 a gram this week as the world price rose above \$4,100 an ounce.

Mr bin Jaafar said local prices were being driven by events abroad. Any easing of the war or fears over shipping through the Strait of Hormuz could pull gold lower. A turn for the worse would likely send investors back towards the metal as a safe place for their money.

Sayed Mahmood Jalal of Delmon Bars said current



prices offered a better entry point than those seen a month ago.

Bullion is selling at about BD50 a gram, while an ounce costs roughly BD1,590. The same amount was close to BD1,635 last month.

Buying remains healthy, he said, though well below past peaks. Purchases still outnumber sales, showing that many investors would rather hold their gold than cash out.

Jalal said Bahrain's market often showed an odd pattern: buyers grew keener as prices rose. Many feared missing further gains and saw bullion as a long-term store of wealth.

Gold dealers expect the next move to hinge on central-bank rate calls, the dollar and the course of the war in the Middle East.

Trade has cooled from earlier months, but gold remains one of the main places investors turn when markets are unsettled. The recent fall in world silver prices has also kept much of the focus on the yellow metal.

From The Court

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

Drug Trafficking Suspect Awaits Verdict

Man accused of assaulting officer during arrest

A 28-year-old Asian man is awaiting judgment after standing trial on charges of trafficking marijuana and assaulting a police officer while attempting to evade arrest.

Prosecutors said the defendant was part of an organised drug trafficking network that used the "dead drop" method to distribute narcot-

ics. Officers arrested him after he allegedly resisted capture, seizing 24 grams of marijuana and a digital weighing scale. The defendant admitted during questioning that he worked with the network, while forensic tests confirmed the seized substance was marijuana. The High Criminal Court is scheduled to deliver its verdict on August 11.

Prosecution Seeks Maximum Penalty in Jaffari Endowments Fraud Case

The Public Prosecution has demanded the maximum legal penalty against a former head of department at the General Directorate of Jaffari Endowments, on trial for embezzlement, money laundering and exploiting more than 15 people, including 14 Bahraini women.

The accused allegedly approached widows and divorced women with no income, offering marriage and sending romantic messages to win their trust, before using their names to obtain endowment cheques without their knowledge. He is also accused

of forging a signature to settle BD160,000 in loans.

A National Audit Office probe found he embezzled BD414,453.900 since 2014, while investigators put the total obtained at BD483,107.710. Financial analysts said BD404,844.740 was laundered through credit card payments, loans, and vehicle purchases, with his son's bank account also used to funnel BD9,300.

The Jaffari Endowments Council chairman testified a forged letter had been used to approve a personal loan.

The High Criminal Court First Circuit set July 26 for defence arguments.

Three Face Trial Over Dried Fish Drug Smuggling

More than 3kg of marijuana allegedly concealed for 'dead drop' distribution

Three Asian nationals have gone on trial before Bahrain's High Criminal Court over allegations of smuggling more than 3kg of marijuana concealed inside dried fish for distribution using the "dead drop" method.

According to prosecutors, customs officers at Bahrain International Airport uncovered 3.025kg of marijuana hidden in luggage belonging to two

women after an X-ray inspection. Investigators later arrested a third suspect while he was collecting the shipment outside a hotel. Prosecutors said the suspects were linked to an overseas drug network, with the third defendant allegedly paid BD1 for each location where he hid narcotics for collection. The case was adjourned until July 26 for defence arguments.

24 Asian Suspects Detained Over Financing Fraud

Public Prosecution investigates use of forged documents to obtain financial funding

The Public Prosecution has ordered the detention of 24 Asian suspects pending investigation into allegations of obtaining financial funding through forged private documents.

The case was referred to the Public Prosecution by the Economic Crimes Combating Directorate at the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security, which reported the arrest of an alleged fraud network involved in fraudulent

transactions.

Investigators said the suspects allegedly used falsified documents submitted to a company to secure financial financing.

The Public Prosecution questioned the suspects and ordered their detention while investigations continue. Authorities have also ordered the arrest and summons of other suspects who remain at large. The investigation is ongoing ahead of possible referral of the case to the criminal court.

Bahraini Mothers Share Craft Skills Abroad



Two graduates of Bahrain's Netaj Khair Al Bahrain programme have travelled to Zanzibar to train orphaned students in handicrafts as part of a volunteer initiative aimed at promoting vocational skills and sustainable income generation. Supported by the Royal Humanitarian Foundation, Fatima Jamal and Huda Eid are teaching embroidery, traditional Naqda embroidery, sewing and crochet at an orphan school in the Republic of Zanzibar. Organised by The Journey Adventures in collaboration with the Bahrain Youth Hostels Association, the project enables students to create handmade products for sale at the school's souvenir shop, helping generate income to support the school's activities while encouraging self-reliance.

Empowering Bahrain's Youth



Secretary-General of the Shura Council Kareema Mohammed Al Abbasi, reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to empowering youth. Speaking during a meeting with participants of the Hypo Youth national leadership programme under Youth City 2030, Al Abbasi shared her leadership journey and stressed the importance of developing leadership skills, discovering talent and creating a positive impact. She stated that Bahrain has built a comprehensive youth empowerment system aligned with Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.

BisB Launches ‘BisB Business’ App for Corporate and SME Customers

New mobile platform provides secure, anytime access to cash management, payments, and trade finance

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB), the leading provider of innovative Islamic financial solutions for simplifying money matters in the Kingdom of Bahrain, has launched ‘BisB Business’, a dedicated mobile application that enables corporate, institutional and SME customers to manage their daily banking requirements more easily, securely and efficiently. The launch expands the Bank’s digital business banking offering and gives companies faster access to essential services wherever they operate.

Available on smart devices, the application brings cash management, payments and trade finance together in one secure, user-friendly platform. It is designed to serve a broad range of business customers, from SMEs to large corporations, helping them complete transactions, manage financial operations and maintain greater visibility and control over their banking activities.

‘BisB Business’ will become the Bank’s primary mobile application for business banking services and will operate alongside BisB’s web-based corporate banking platform. This gives customers continuous access through their preferred digital channel while maintaining a consistent and secure banking experience.

BisB will support customers as they move to the new application through direct communication, awareness initiatives and tailored guidance, helping ensure a smooth transition



Yousif Ali Engineer, Acting Chief Corporate and Institutional Banking Officer at BisB

and uninterrupted access to services.

Commenting on the launch, Yousif Ali Engineer, Acting Chief Corporate and Institutional Banking Officer at BisB, said: “Businesses increasingly expect banking services to match the speed and flexibility of their daily operations. BisB Business brings essential services together in one secure mobile platform, giving companies greater control over their finances and more time to focus on growth. By serving SMEs and larger institutions through the same streamlined experience, the app strengthens our role as a long-term banking partner and supports Bahrain’s transition towards a stronger digital

economy.”

BisB will continue to enhance the application with additional features and capabilities that simplify banking and deliver greater value to business customers. The launch forms part of the Bank’s continued investment in its digital channels and its role as a long-term banking partner supporting the growth and digital transformation of Bahrain’s business community.

BCFC Launches a Revamped Sahel App Experience with AI Assistants ‘Suhail’ and ‘Suhaila’

An update powered entirely by Bahraini Talent

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company (BCFC) announced an update to the user experience and interface (UI/UX) of its award-winning Sahel App, in a move that reflects the Company’s ongoing commitment to advancing its digital transformation and delivering a smoother, smarter experience for its customers. The update, developed entirely by the Company’s own Bahraini team, introduces an entirely new home screen, an enhanced loyalty page, expanded points-redemption options, and two AI-powered assistants, Suhail and Suhaila.

The new home screen gives customers faster, smoother access to their financing products and services and their after-financing services within a single, well-organised, easy-to-use interface, while the enhanced loyalty page allows them to view, manage, and redeem their loyalty points and rewards, all from one place.

The new redemption options give customers greater flexibility in using their points: they can redeem them for cash back, through Batelco’s ‘Jawaher’ loyalty program, or convert them into travel miles with a number of airlines — Etihad Guest miles with Etihad Airways, Avios with Qatar Airways’ Privilege Club, and ‘FalconFlyer Programme’ to redeem miles with Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in addition to “Shukran” points. Customers can also donate their points to the Royal Humanitarian Foundation and the Zakat and Charity Fund, with the Company planning to add



Mr. Ali Ebrahim Al-Marzooq, Chief Technology Officer at Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company

further redemption options to be announced soon.

As part of its efforts to enrich the customer journey, BCFC has launched two AI-powered assistants within the app, Suhail and Suhaila, which offer customers direct help in navigating the app, submitting applications, redeeming points, browsing services, and obtaining information related to their services. This initiative, developed by a Bahraini team of the Company’s own talent, marks the Company’s first step in harnessing artificial intelligence to elevate its customers’ digital experience, reflecting its commitment to investing in national talent, while the two names were chosen to align with the Sahel identity.

On this occasion, Mr. Ali Ebrahim Al-Marzooq, Chief Technology Officer at Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company, said: “We have not merely refreshed the interface; we have redesigned the entire Sahel app experience to be smoother and closer to our customers’ needs. With the launch of our AI assistants, Suhail and Suhaila, developed by a Bahraini team, we are placing the power of artificial intelligence in our customers’ hands as a first step that opens broader horizons for enriching their digital journey around the clock. We reaffirm our commitment to continued investment in advanced technologies in a way that consolidates our leadership in the financial technology sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain.”

Sahel is a comprehensive digital platform for all the financing and insurance services offered by BCFC to its customers, enabling them to apply for financing products and services in a few simple steps without visiting a branch, as well as to view details of their credit cards, personal finance, vehicle finance, and insurance services, with instant access to virtual credit cards for use online or in stores.

Sahel has won the Bahrain Digital Content Award for the second consecutive year (2024 and 2025), in addition to the IBS Intelligence Digital Banking Award for 2024, reflecting the Company’s leadership in digital transformation and financial technology.

Customers can enjoy the new experience by downloading the Sahel app or updating it to the latest version, or by visiting the nearest branch of the Company across the Kingdom.

TRA publishes 2025 Consumer Experience Survey to strengthen consumer outcomes and enhance telecommunications services in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) has published the 2025 Consumer Experience Survey, providing a comprehensive assessment of residential consumers’ experiences with telecommunications services across the Kingdom of Bahrain. The survey offers valuable insights into consumer perceptions of network performance, digital and physical service channels, customer support, and complaint handling. The survey supports the Authority’s ongoing efforts to promote a competitive market that delivers high-quality services to consumers.

The survey, conducted among 3,000 residential consumers across Bahrain, examined the consumer journey through three key dimensions: Network and Services Experience, Channels Experience, and Support and Complaint Experience. It assessed both overall satisfaction and detailed service attributes, providing an evidence-based view of market performance while identifying areas where further improvements can enhance the consumer experience.

The findings indicate that consumers continue to report positive experiences across many aspects of telecommunications services, particularly in network reliability, digital engagement channels, and the professionalism of customer service interactions. Compared to the 2022 survey, the results also demonstrate notable improvements in the proportion of consumers who were delighted with key aspects of their experience, including outdoor network coverage (+13%), indoor network coverage (+11%), and service transparency (+11%). At the same time, the survey highlights opportunities for further improvement in areas such as complaint resolution, and consumer awareness of available telecommunications services and regulatory protections.

Commenting on the publication of the survey, the General Director of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority Mr. Philip Marnick said:

“Consumers remain at the heart of Bahrain’s telecommunications sector. The Consumer Experience Survey provides an important evidence base that en-



Sh. Abdullah Bin Hamoud AlKhalifa, Director of Consumer and Communications



Mr. Philip Marnick, General Director of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority

ables the Authority and licensed operators to better understand consumers’ expectations and identify opportunities to further enhance service quality. As the sector continues to evolve, the Authority remains committed to promoting effective competition, protecting consumer interests, and encouraging continuous improvement across all aspects of the telecommunications market.”

The Director of Consumer and Communications Sh. Abdullah Bin Hamoud AlKhalifa added: “This survey goes beyond measuring satisfaction by examining the experiences consumers have throughout their interactions with telecommunications service providers—from selecting services and using network

services to accessing support and resolving complaints. The insights generated will support the Authority’s regulatory work and provide operators with valuable benchmarks to strengthen customer experience, improve transparency, and enhance consumer confidence.”

The Consumer Experience Survey forms part of the Authority’s ongoing market monitoring programme and complements

other consumer-focused initiatives undertaken by the TRA to assess service quality, strengthen consumer protection, and encourage continuous improve-

ment across the telecommunications sector.

The full 2025 Consumer Experience Survey is available on the TRA website.



Rubio hails Lebanon for peace efforts after meeting president



AFP | Washington, United States

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met with Lebanese President Joseph Aoun in Washington yesterday, praising the country for its “move towards peace” after the latest round of Lebanon-Israel talks. It was the first trip to the US capital by a Lebanese head of state since Michel Sleiman was received by Barack Obama in 2009. Aoun and Rubio held talks at the State Department, and Lebanese officials said Aoun is due to meet with President Donald Trump tomorrow. Rubio commended the Lebanese government for its “determined effort to reclaim

Lebanon’s sovereignty, disarm Hezbollah and dismantle its terrorist infrastructure, and move towards peace,” the State Department said following the talks. Rubio said Washington was committed “to supporting the successful implementation of the Trilateral Framework and to backing the Government of Lebanon’s efforts to deliver peace, economic recovery, and a better future for the Lebanese people.” While in Washington, Aoun planned talks “on the situation in Lebanon and ways to strengthen the ceasefire” as well as on “the withdrawal of Israel from the Lebanese regions it occupies,” his office said earlier.

India floods and landslides kill at least 19



Residents look at damaged vehicles after flash flood and landslide triggered by heavy rains wreaked havoc at Rajouri district in India's Jammu region

AFP | Srinagar, India

Flash floods and landslides caused by monsoon rains killed at least 19 people in India yesterday, officials and local media said, as authorities mounted rescue operations in affected regions. Eight people were killed in the northeastern state of Nagaland, next to Myanmar, while 11 others died in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir. “We have recovered four of the eight bodies, and rescue work is ongoing,” Wennyei Konyak, district magistrate of Nagaland’s Mon district, told AFP. At least 15 others were injured, he said. Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah “expressed profound anguish over the massive flash flood in Rajouri” in the Jammu region of the territory, his office said in a statement.

The flood “has caused extensive damage to public and private property, including the bus stand, and disrupted countless lives,” his office added. Indian broadcaster NDTV said at least 11 people died and “several others went missing” in Jammu. Army personnel and state emergency responders rescued 11 people, including five children, in Jammu’s Rajouri district, the army said. The India Meteorological Department warned Sunday of the potential for “extremely heavy rainfall” in Jammu and Kashmir over the next two days. Officials also announced the “temporary suspension” of annual Hindu Amarnath pilgrimage in the Kashmir region. Officials also suspended the Hindu pilgrimage to the Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu, which receives millions of people each year.

Punishing response

US launches strikes to ‘punish’ Iran after troops killed

KEY DEVELOPMENTS AT A GLANCE

1

CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE TARGETED
Israeli and Jordanian forces intercepted an Iranian missile aimed at the Jordanian city of Aqaba yesterday.


JORDAN

AQABA

The Jordanian military said it had downed “three Iranian missiles that targeted the kingdom’s territory”

2

WATER PLANT HIT
Kuwait said Iran hit a power and water plant yesterday causing a fire, while Bahrain also accused Tehran of targeting civilian infrastructure.


KUWAIT

BAHRAIN

3

IRANIAN NUCLEAR PLANT ATTACKED
Iran’s Atomic Energy Organisation said the United States attacked an under-construction nuclear power plant in Darkhovin, in the country’s southwest.


IRAN

DARKHOVIN

4

IRAN SAYS SHIPS ‘STOPPED’
Iran’s Revolutionary Guards said four ships attempted to transit the Strait of Hormuz without their permission. Two “had an accident and were stopped in place”. The other two abandoned their journey, they said.


STRAIT OF HORMUZ

5

US STRIKES ON IRAN
The United States conducted strikes on Iran. Its CENTCOM military command said they were partly to “punish” Iran for an attack on Friday on a base in Jordan which killed two US soldiers and left another missing in action.


CENTCOM

AFP | Tehran, Iran

The United States carried out airstrikes against Iran yesterday to “punish” Tehran following the first US military deaths in the conflict, as fighting continued to escalate across the region. US Central Command (CENTCOM) said another service member remained missing in action. The latest deaths brought

the confirmed number of US military fatalities to 16 since the United States and Israel launched the war with deadly strikes on Iranian targets on February 28. The US military said it had carried out an eighth consecutive night of strikes against Iran, targeting, among others, units blamed for an attack that killed two American troops in Jordan. The strikes were intended to “swiftly punish Islamic Revo-

lutionary Guard Corps forces who launched attacks against American service members in Jordan last night”, CENTCOM said. Meanwhile, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran said the United States had attacked a nuclear power plant under construction in the country’s southwest as tensions between Tehran and Washington intensified. Iran’s health ministry said on Friday that 50 people had

been killed and more than 500 wounded since the renewed fighting began. Hopes for a political settlement have faded, despite attempts by mediators to bring the warring sides back to the negotiating table. Gulf countries, including Kuwait, have accused Tehran of targeting civilian sites and vital infrastructure, while residents fear the renewed hostilities could drag on.

Scottish explorer Alexander Mackenzie completes the first European east-to-west crossing of America north of Mexico

Congresswoman Alice Mary Robertson becomes the first woman to preside over the floor of US House of Representatives



NASA's Apollo 11 lunar module, carrying Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, lands on the surface of the Moon. Seven hours later, Armstrong becomes the first person to step on the moon at 10:56 pm EDT, and Aldrin joins him shortly after. Michael Collins remains in orbit in the command module.

Viking 1 lands on Mars at Chryse Planitia, the first successful Martian landing

Russia pounds Kyiv with ballistic missiles in escalating air war



AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Russia fired two dozen ballistic missiles at Kyiv overnight on Sunday, killing one person and wounding 16, in an ever-escalating air war that is taking an increasing civilian toll on both sides.

The latest bombardment highlights a dual challenge for Ukraine in its fifth year of war. It is facing intensifying Russian missile attacks alongside rare domestic political instability triggered by a sudden wartime shake-up of its defence leadership.

In the morning, AFP journalists in Kyiv saw charred apartment blocks with windows blown out and mangled, overturned cars.

"The missiles just kept coming one after another, the explosions were powerful, it was horrible," 47-year-old Kyiv resident Ganna Zagorodnia told AFP.

Turkey condemns closing of 8 Turkish schools in Greece

AFP | Ankara, Turkey

Turkey's foreign ministry on Sunday condemned a decision by Greece to close eight schools catering to the country's Turkish-speaking minority, accusing its neighbour of discrimination.

In a communique, the ministry condemned "systematic practices aimed at undermining the right to education of the Turkish minority in Western Thrace".

"We once again call on Greece to act in accordance with its contractual obligations regarding minority rights and fundamental rights," it added.

The number of Turkish-language schools left in the north-east region of Thrace -- near the border between the two countries -- is now 76.



Earthquake of 5.1 magnitude kills five in Peru

AFP | Lima, Peru

A 5.1 magnitude earthquake in the Andes region of Peru killed five people, officials said Sunday.

The Saturday night tremor injured another 21 people as it shook the town of Chongos Bajo about 300 kilometers (180 miles) east of Lima, the Geophysics Institute of Peru said.

The epicenter's depth was 24 km (15 miles).

"The earthquake destroyed our home. Here there are many adobe houses that collapsed," an unnamed resident of Chongos Bajo told the N television network.

Because the epicenter was at a shallow depth and many houses in that area are made of adobe or a wood, cane and mud blend called "quincha," some towns suffered significant damage, said General Luis Vasquez, the director of the National Civil Defense Institute.

Russian opposition figure Nadezhdin withdraws from election



AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russian anti-war politician Boris Nadezhdin on Sunday said he will not be running in September's legislative elections, saying he has been "silenced" and "pushed out of politics".

Nadezhdin -- one of the few politicians in Russia openly criticising President Vladimir Putin and Moscow's Ukraine offensive -- had recently been convicted for displaying "extremist symbols".

"My ability to legally engage in opposition politics in Russia has been exhausted," he wrote on Telegram.

"I'm not prepared to put at risk those who support me and took part in the election campaign"

Ferry capsizes off Guyana, 66 people missing

AFP | Georgetown, Guyana

An ageing ferry carrying more than 100 people capsized off the coast of Guyana, with 67 saved and rescue teams searching for the rest, officials said Sunday.

The ferry MV Barima left the small English-speaking country at the northeast corner of South America Saturday afternoon with 133 people aboard for a trip from the capital Georgetown to the town of Port Kaituma.

Port Kaituma is inland in the oil-rich Essequibo region, and the ferry travels along the coast in the Atlantic before heading upriver to reach its destination.

Initial signs are that the ship capsized after being hit by a big wave, Public Works Minister Juan Edghill said on Facebook.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



The International Criminal Court seeks to become the unaccountable arbiter of a new global law -- empowered to prosecute and arrest our citizens at will and existentially threaten American sovereignty. We will teach the ICC the full meaning of American resolve.

@SecRubio

02



I must be used to help solve the climate crisis -- not deepen it. Its appetite for electricity, water & land is growing fast. AI companies must power data centres with renewable energy by 2030 & disclose their environmental footprint. Technology aimed at protecting people must also protect the planet.

@antonioгутеррес

03



The TUTAKA Festival in Poland has become a true tradition for Belarusians. Each summer, we come together from across the world to discuss the issues facing the Belarusian community, discover new initiatives, enjoy music, and be among fellow Belarusians.

@Tsihanouskaya

04



Last night's attack was one of the largest Russian ballistic missile attacks to date. Kyiv and the Kyiv region were the Russians' primary target. They had been preparing this attack for several days, stockpiling missiles.

@ZelenskyyUa

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

In 10 years, your *phone may not need apps*

AFP | Shanghai, China

Tech firms are racing to roll out advanced smartphones that use artificial intelligence to do everything from ordering food to composing messages upon a simple voice command.

Wide adoption of phones running on so-called AI agents would be a revolution, but would also take control away from major apps, which aren't always happy about it.

At least three firms were showcasing so-called agentic phones at the World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai this weekend -- heralding what may be to come.

Smartphone maker Nubia unveiled its NaviX Ultra, a phone powered by Doubao, China's massively popular AI chatbot tool run by TikTok creator ByteDance.

"A new era of AI agent smartphones begins," Nubia said, sharing images of the handsets online.

A limited run of a prototype dubbed the "Doubao Phone" sold out fast in December.

Initially, the prototype could follow simple voice commands to execute tasks across apps, including ordering food and comparing shopping prices.

However, days after it was released, tech giants including



People visit the BYD booth

Alibaba, Tencent and JD.com restricted the built-in assistant's access to their platforms.

The move effectively disabled the phone's AI agent, so ByteDance turned off the powerful tool in certain circumstances, including when payments were involved.

'Lose control'

Gaining broad access to apps owned



A humanoid robot prepares to take a picture with an Instax camera

by other companies is a sticking point for AI agent devices, said Kiranjeet Kaur, associate research director at US market intelligence firm IDC.

Platforms want to keep direct contact with their users, otherwise "they lose control to another party", she added.

"Agenting is everyone's dream, but we haven't reached there yet," as the performance of AI agent tools is still often patchy, Kaur said.

According to Chinese tech media, the NaviX Ultra does not attempt to force its way into apps, but rather seeks to collaborate with them.

The first-generation Doubao

Humanoid robots controlled by a remote control by Unitree Robotics take part in a fight during the World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC) in Shanghai

phone had been hobbled when major apps blocked unauthorised access.

AFP has contacted Nubia for comment.

Another manufacturer, Honor, showcased an AI system for its "Robot Phone", whose interactive camera flips up on a small robotic arm.

The company says its "companion-centric" device can interpret human gestures and bop to musical rhythms, as well as take selfies and steady videos.

An agent using several AI models, some co-developed with Alibaba, will be embedded in the robot phone when it goes on sale later this year, Honor told AFP.

'No clear winner'

Shanghai-based AI startup StepFun also unveiled an "AI agent-native smartphone", the STEPX Neo, ahead of the World Artificial Intelligence Conference.

StepFun's chairman Yin Qi said "deep partnerships" had been established with several major Chinese platforms, including Alipay and ride-hailing giant Didi, according to a sponsored article in state news agency Xinhua.

"Leveraging these services, the smart-

phone can provide one-stop support for travel bookings, everyday purchases, local services, office productivity and video editing," it said.

Outside China, big tech companies such as Google are busy infusing smartphones with increasingly advanced AI features such as the ability to book appointments.

US startup Brain Technologies launched an agentic "Natural AI Phone" which went on sale in Japan in April in partnership with mobile giant SoftBank Corp.

At a demonstration given to AFP in April, Brain Technologies' phone -- which connects with a handful of apps including social network LINE -- messaged a contact to apologise for being late on just an audio command, although it also often failed to carry out requests.

"There is no clear winner in this race yet, which is why it is currently quite a hot topic," said Marc Einstein of Counterpoint Research.

But in five or 10 years' time, we won't be using apps on our phones "like we do today", he predicted.

This will fundamentally change the digital economy and disrupt business models."

A humanoid robot by AheadForm



Classifieds



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R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32376386 or ALTRAD-MENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

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BAHRAIN CITY CENTER TOWERS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17811616 or BMFAQEEH@GMAIL.COM

SAHAHEEL CONSTRUCTION EST has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39229366 or HASAN337722@GMAIL.COM

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Classifieds

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NAZAR MAHMOOD COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR(INTERNAL WORKS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34342810 or DREAMEYES444@HOTMAIL.COM

MOHAMED JAMEEL A.RASOOL SALMAN HUSAIN ALMALEK (197702) has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38947878 or MOHAMEDJAMEELBH12@GMAIL.COM

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NOON RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 32008681 or NARJESANA2@GMAIL.COM

DSV SOLUTIONS B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of INVENTORY SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17461000 or bincy.varghese@dsv.com

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DELTA SUPPORT SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33999840 or Hr@DELTA-SS.ME

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WESTON SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17702123 or md@weston-services.COM

Al fateh cleaning and Maintenance Company w.l.l has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830078 or kanakaraj.pk@horizonintlgroup.com

Danway Electrical & Mechanical Engineering L.L.C has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17297600 or danbahrain@danwayame.com

KASHIF ARSHAD STAR SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33213724 or TAYYABZ213@GMAIL.COM

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

ALHAJ HASSAN GROUP B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or hr.admin@hajihassan.com

ZAHNOOR ZAAHID BUSINESS SUPPORT CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34300273 or PRINCEDO-HA786@GMAIL.COM

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REDBUILD INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32028713 or RAVIKUMAR_Z34@YAHOO.COM

KAMI ELECTRONICS W.L.L has a vacancy

for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33704583 or KAMRANALI7600150@GMAIL.COM

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YAHYA TOM YAM KUNG W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33545410 or INFO@THAIMARTBAHRAIN.COM

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al enma house for security services W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36633319 or admin@enmabh.com

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SHAYESTA PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34512961 or SHAYESTABH@GMAIL.COM

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AL SHAKARGARH SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36341721 or MAHERADIL157@GMAIL.COM

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region

Kuwait Power Station Hit for Second Time



Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity reported that a power generation and water desalination station was struck in what it called a criminal Iranian attack—the second such strike in two days. The assault sparked a fire in parts of the facility and knocked out many generation units.

Authorities immediately activated emergency plans to contain the damage and preserve the national electrical grid's stability.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister, Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, received a phone call from Jordan's Deputy

Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Ayman Al-Safadi. Both officials condemned the recent Iranian attacks on Kuwait and Jordan, affirming each country's full right to take all necessary measures to protect its sovereignty, security, and stability.

The United Arab Emirates also condemned renewed Iranian missile and drone attacks targeting Kuwait, Bahrain, and Jordan. The UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the strikes as a blatant violation of the sovereignty of the three states and a direct threat to their security and stability, calling for regional restraint.

Jordan Downs Three Iranian Missiles

Fourth missile lands in remote southern area, no casualties reported

Jordan's Armed Forces intercepted three of four Iranian missiles targeting the Kingdom, a military source said. The fourth missile crashed in a sparsely populated area in the south, causing no casualties or damage.

Royal Engineering Corps teams are now handling the crash site, following standard technical and security procedures.



The Armed Forces remain on full alert, monitoring Jordanian airspace, and vowed a firm response to any threat against the Kingdom's security or citizens.

IAEA Probes Reported Strike on Iran Nuclear Site

No radiological risk seen; agency urges restraint

The International Atomic Energy Agency is investigating reports of an overnight attack on the construction site of a planned nuclear power plant in Darkhovin, Iran.

The facility is still in early construction and held no nuclear material during the IAEA's last visit.

Officials say the reported attack poses no radiological risk. IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi renewed his call



for military restraint near all nuclear-related sites.

The agency has contacted Iranian authorities for details and will release further updates as they emerge.

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CAMPUS

campus

New Millennium School Excels in GRADE -10 CBSE Examination 2025-2026

New Millennium School once again excelled with 100% success rate in All India Secondary Examination 2025-2026. With 99.60 % HELINA SHAJU & AYAN SAHAY are the school toppers followed by VEDANT NIMISH MAKWANA, DHIYA DHINESH 99.40 %.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Pass Percentage - 100% (All 153 students)
- 83 out of 153 students (i.e., 54.25 %) scored 90% and above in aggregate and 135 students (88.24%) excel with distinction (75% and above)
- 70 Students i.e. 45.75 % excelled with A grade in all the subjects.
- Numbers of students scored 100 / 100 in: Mathematics – 14, Social Science - 6, French - 5, Science - 3 and Hindi - 1
- 1st POSITION: HELINA SHAJU, AYAN SAHAY 99.60 %
- 2nd POSITION: VEDANT NIMISH MAKWANA, DHIYA DHINESH 99.40 %
- 3rd POSITION: JISHNU ADHITHYA BASKARAN 99.20 %

STUDENT SECURING ‘GRADE A’:

English	- 120 out of 153	(78.43 %)
Mathematics	- 109 out of 144	(75.69 %)
Social Science	- 109 out of 153	(71.24 %)
Science	- 103 out of 153	(67.32 %)
Hindi	- 38 out of 61	(62.30 %)
French	- 40 out of 88	(45.45 %)
Basic Mathematics	- 3 out of 9	(33.33 %)

The School Chairman, Padmashri (Dr.) Ravi Pillai, Managing Director, Ms. Geetha Ravi Pillai and the Principal congratulated the students, staff members, and parents for their sincere efforts and guidance and wished the students all the success throughout their life.



HELINA SHAJU 99.60 %
1st POSITION

AYAN SAHAY 99.60 %
1st POSITION

VEDANT NIMISH MAKWANA 99.40 %
2nd POSITION

DHIYA DHINESH 99.40 %
2nd POSITION

JISHNU ADHITHYA BASKARAN 99.20 %
3rd POSITION

SCHOOL TOPPERS

1st POSITION
HELINA SHAJU 99.60 %
AYAN SAHAY 99.60 %

2nd POSITION
VEDANT NIMISH MAKWANA 99.40 %
DHIYA DHINESH 99.40 %

3rd POSITION
JISHNU ADHITHYA BASKARAN 99.20 %

CENTUM ACHIEVERS(100/100)



GONGATI JSHIKA REDDY
French - 100 / 100 Mathematics - 100 / 100 Social Science - 100 / 100

ABINAYA VIJAYAKUMAR
Mathematics - 100 / 100

Ayan Sahay
Hindi - 100 / 100 Mathematics - 100 / 100 Science - 100 / 100 Social Science - 100 / 100

EMAAN SAMEER PARKAR
Mathematics - 100 / 100

HELINA SHAJU
French - 100 / 100 Mathematics - 100 / 100 Science - 100 / 100 Social Science - 100 / 100

JISHNU ADHITHYA BASKARAN
French - 100 / 100 Mathematics - 100 / 100 Social Science - 100 / 100

SUBJECT	STUDENTS
French	- Jishnu Adhithya Baskaran - Helina Shaju - Gongati Joshika Reddy - Vedant Nimish Makwana - Dhiya Dhinesh
Hindi	Ayan Sahay
Mathematics	- Rudransh Trivedi - Emaan Sameer Parkar - Helina Shaju - Ayan Sahay - Devansh Jana - Gongati Joshika Reddy - Shamblavi Jha - Jishnu Adhithya Baskaran - Prisha Das - Sathviga Gobi Dass - Abinaya Vijayakumar - Vedant Nimish Makwana - Drishti Varma Sangaraju
Science	- Helina Shaju - Ayan Sahay - Trisha Joshi
Social Science	- Ayan Sahay - Gongati Joshika Reddy - Helina Shaju - Vedant Nimish Makwana - Jishnu Adhithya Baskaran - Dhiya Dhinesh



DEVANSH JANA
Mathematics - 100 / 100

DHIYA DHINESH
French - 100 / 100 Mathematics - 100 / 100 Social Science - 100 / 100

DRITHI VARMA SANGARAJU
Mathematics - 100 / 100

PRISHA DAS
Mathematics - 100 / 100

RUDRAANSH TRIVEDI
Mathematics - 100 / 100

SATHVIGA GOBI DASS
Mathematics - 100 / 100

SHAMBLAVI JHA
Mathematics - 100 / 100

TRISHA JOSHI
Science - 100 / 100

VEDANT NIMISH MAKWANA
French - 100 / 100 Mathematics - 100 / 100 Social Science - 100 / 100

Outstanding Board Results: Al Noor International School Secures 100% Success In Cbse Grade X

Al Noor International School (CBSE Curriculum) has once again reaffirmed its commitment to academic excellence by achieving a 100% pass result in the All India Secondary School Examination (AISSE) 2025–2026 conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

The school's outstanding performance was led by Yousif Ashraf Khan, who emerged as the Grade X School Topper with an exceptional 99.2%. He was followed by Shayyan Rashid with 96.8%, while Hansika Bhardwaj and Nabeeha Parwez secured 96.6% each, reflecting the high academic standards consistently maintained by the institution.

The Grade X Subject Toppers are:

- Yousif Ashraf Khan – 100 in Mathematics, Social Science and Hindi; 99 in Science
- Aqueel Ayan Khan and Sandra Nibha – 99 in English
- Srish Siva, Anirudh Reghunath, Aaron Jerin and Abdullah Asad – 96 in French
- Mohammed Bin Zafar – 95 in Arabic

Expressing his delight at the school's exemplary performance, Founder Chairman Mr. Ali Hassan congratulated the students, parents and faculty members for their dedication and collective efforts. He remarked that the outstanding results achieved by the Grade X students is a testament to the school's pursuit of academic excellence and its unwavering commitment to nurturing future-ready learners.

School Director Dr. Muhammad Mashood commended the students for their perseverance, discipline and determination in achieving excellent results. He extended his appreciation to the teaching faculty for their professionalism, commitment and tireless efforts in guiding the students towards academic success.

Congratulating the students and staff, Principal Mr. Abdul Rehman Al Kooheji acknowledged the invaluable partnership of parents in the learning journey. He noted that the remarkable achievement reflects the combined efforts of students, teachers and parents.



YOUSIF ASHRAF KHAN - SCHOOL AND SUBJECT TOPPER MATHEMATICS, HINDI, SOCIAL SCIENCE AND SCIENCE

SHRISH SIVA - SUBJECT TOPPER FRENCH

ABDULLAH ASAD SYED - SUBJECT TOPPER FRENCH

AARON JERIN - SUBJECT TOPPER FRENCH

SHAYAAN RASHID - SECOND SCHOOL TOPPER



SANDRA NIBHA KANIYANKANDI - SUBJECT TOPPER ENGLISH

NABEEHA PARWEZ - THIRD SCHOOL TOPPER

MOHAMMED BIN ZAFAR AHMED - SUBJECT TOPPER ARABIC

HANSIKA BHARDWAJ - THIRD SCHOOL TOPPER

AQUEEL AYAAN KHAN - SUBJECT TOPPER ENGLISH

ANIRUDH REGHUNATH - SUBJECT TOPPER FRENCH



Bahrain crush Hong Kong 43-15 in Asian handball clash

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain tore Hong Kong apart 43-15 yesterday, racing to their second win at the 19th Asian Men's Junior Handball Championship in Chuzhou, China.

Bahraini player Abather Ya-teem was named Player of the Match after helping his side sweep aside their rivals.

The young Bahrainis had the game all but won by half-time after storming into a 24-7 lead. They struck 19 times after the break while Hong Kong found the net only eight times.

The result gives Bahrain two wins from three group games. They beat Chinese Taipei 39-27 in their first match before going down 30-26 to Saudi Arabia.

Bahrain scored with 43 of their 57 shots, a hit rate of 75 pc. They also won the fast-break count 10-1 and scored 13 goals from six metres, against Hong



Action from the match

Kong's two.

Oman are next on Monday, followed by a meeting with hosts China on Wednesday. Both games begin at 1pm Bahrain time.

Thirteen sides are playing in

the championship, which ends on July 27. The top four from each group move into the quarter-finals, while the four semi-finalists book spots at the 2027 IHF Men's Junior World Championship in North Macedonia.



Action from the match

Antonelli secures sixth win of season in Belgium

Kimi Antonelli extends points cushion as teammate George Russell crashes out

● **Leclerc finishes second for Ferrari**

● **Verstappen claims third place**

● **Hamilton fourth despite penalties**

● **Russell crashes on lap one**

AFP | Spa-Francorchamps

Italian teenager Kimi Antonelli ended a three-race winless streak yesterday to extend his lead in the Formula One drivers' championship with a solid fighting victory for Mercedes in the Belgian Grand Prix.

The 19-year-old Mercedes driver came home 1.9 seconds ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc with four-time champion Max Verstappen finishing third for Red Bull.

Antonelli's teammate George Russell, who began the race in second place in the championship, just 25 points behind the Italian, crashed out of the race on the opening lap after tangling with Hamilton.

Hamilton was fourth for Ferrari after an incident-filled race in which he almost hit a mechanic during a pit-stop. The incident was referred to the stewards leaving the seven-time world champion with the possibility of a further penalty.

Isack Hadjar, who began at the back of the grid, did superbly to work his Red Bull up to sixth, just holding off reigning world champion Lando Norris, who started 13th, in the second McLaren.

Gabriel Bortoleto (Audi), Arvid Lindblad (Racing Bulls) and Franco Colapinto (Alpine) rounded out the top 10.

It was Antonelli's sixth win of the season and came from his sixth pole of the year, the first driver to win from pole in Belgium since 2021.

It lifts him to 204

points in the championship, 45 clear of Hamilton with Russell third on 154.

"It feels very nice to be back on the top step," said Antonelli. "We just have to keep performing, keep bringing the results and then we will see what will happen at the end of the year."

The race started in cool conditions under a grey sky with rain in the air as Antonelli made a good start to lead up to La Source, but he had no answer when Verstappen deployed his power pack to pass him through Eau Rouge.

The Dutchman was then immediately vulnerable to a counter-attack and both the Italian and Leclerc drafted past him into Les Combes where behind them Hamilton clashed with Russell.

'Racing incident'

The four-time champion continued in fifth, but Russell bounced off into retirement as a Safety Car (SC) was deployed.

Hamilton reported that he "had no front end" control as a result of a car ahead moving across him and the incident was investigated by the stewards who gave Hamilton a five-second penalty.

A downcast Russell, whose title bid had taken a heavy blow, said: "It was a racing incident, but



Lewis Hamilton endures a chaotic race that includes an opening-lap collision with teammate George Russell and a secondary steward investigation for accidentally striking a mechanic during a double-stack pit stop

it shouldn't have happened if I'd had the speed down the straight."

Racing resumed on lap five with PIASTRI fighting and resisting Hamilton before Verstappen swept past Leclerc for second. PIASTRI then chased Leclerc and they touched at Les Combes, where the Monegasque defended and the Australian lost a piece of front wing end plate.

The stewards investigated again, but took 'no further action' while Hamilton advanced and passed PIASTRI for fourth on lap nine as the race settled after a frantic start with Antonelli two seconds clear of Verstappen at the front ahead of both Ferraris.

Further Virtual Safety Cars (VSC) intervened and on lap 20, Ferrari went for a 'double-stack'. Leclerc went through cleanly but Hamilton, who had to serve his five-second penalty, made a messy exit touching a mechanic on exit.

The mechanic was reported to be fine but the stewards decided to investigate again for an unsafe release.

Faraj grinds out bronze for Bahrain in Kazakhstan

TDT | Manama

Bahraini jiu-jitsu international Khalid Faraj won bronze in the under-94kg category at the Asian Jiu-Jitsu Championship, rounding off the national team's campaign in the Kazakh city of Almaty in front of large crowds and extensive media coverage.

The medal capped a gruelling run for Faraj, who came through a series of tense, hard-fought bouts marked by fierce competitiveness and relentless technical and physical pressure.

This year's championship drew an unusually strong and wide-ranging field, with many of Asia's leading and most highly ranked competitors travelling from across the continent to represent their countries and challenge for gold, producing a standard of competition organisers described as exceptionally high.

Faraj prevailed through rigorous mental and physical



Khalid Faraj

preparation and sheer determination, showing tactical skill, adaptability and fighting spirit as he negotiated a demanding and decisive series of knockout rounds against formidable opponents who were themselves chasing a place on the podium.

The result confirmed his ability to compete with Asia's finest and cemented his standing among the sport's leading names.

Olympic champ Evenepoel wins Tour de France 15th stage

AFP | Plateau de Solaison

Olympic champion Remco Evenepoel beat race leader Tadej Pogacar in a sprint finish to take yesterday's 15th stage of the Tour de France, as former winner Jonas Vingegaard crashed out.

Evenepoel edged out the reigning champion at the end of the tough 11km-long climb to the finish. Mexican Isaac Del Toro was third, six seconds back.

After Vingegaard, who started the day in second, crashed out 20km from the finish, suffering what looked like a broken collarbone, Pogacar increased his lead in the overall standings to five minutes.

Evenepoel, a former winner of the Vuelta a Espana, claimed his third Tour stage victory and moved up to second overall.



Red Bull - BORA - hansgrohe team's Belgian rider Remco Evenepoel cycles to the finish line to win ahead of UAE Team Emirates - XRG's Slovenian rider Tadej Pogacar (R)

Del Toro climbed from seventh to third, and also snared the best young rider's white jersey from the shoulders of Paul Seixas.

The teenage French prodigy finished fourth, almost a minute behind the winner, with German Florian Lipowitz on his wheel.



Spain's midfielder #16 Rodri lifts the trophy with his teammates after winning the 2026 World Cup football tournament final match

One goal was always going to be enough

Spain's patience and discipline proved the difference as Ferran Torres's clinical late finish secured a 1-0 victory and a second World Cup crown

AFP

It took 106 minutes, a red card, and a substitute's composed finish, but Spain are world champions once more. Ferran Torres, introduced from the bench, settled one of the most disciplined and nerve-shredding World Cup finals in recent memory with a crisp, low strike moments into the second period of extra-time, ending Argentina's four-year reign as champions.

For long stretches at the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, it seemed as though this final would be defined not by goals, but by what Emiliano Martínez

denied. The Argentina goalkeeper was imperious throughout, repelling wave after wave of Spanish pressure with a series of outstanding saves that kept his side level long after their tactical plan had been reduced to sheer resilience.

Spain, who conceded just one goal across seven matches en route to the final, were the dominant force from the first whistle. Luis de la Fuente's side moved the ball with the tempo and precision that has made them the most feared possession team at this tournament, suffocating their opponents with quick passing triangles and relentless

movement off the ball.

Yet for all their control, Spain could not find a way through until fortune finally turned against Argentina's rearguard. In the dying seconds of normal time, midfielder Enzo Fernández received a second yellow card for a reckless challenge on Pau Cubarsí, reducing the defending champions to ten men and shifting the balance of the contest irrevocably.

Extra-time followed a familiar pattern: Spain in possession, Argentina compact and disciplined behind the ball, Martínez alert to every danger. The breakthrough, when it arrived, was



Spain's forward #19 Lamine Yamal lifts the trophy with his teammates after winning the tournament

well worth the wait. A clever back-heel from Nico Williams on the left flank played Torres into space inside the penalty area, and the Valencia forward did the rest, drilling the ball low past Martínez to send the Spanish bench erupting onto the pitch.

For Lionel Messi, the moment was bittersweet. The Argentina captain — playing what may well be his final World Cup match

— had carried his side through the knockout rounds with characteristic tenacity, orchestrating a stunning comeback against Egypt in the quarter-finals and a recovery from a goal down to beat England in the semi-finals. But Spain were simply too well-organised, too relentless, and, in the end, too good.

Spain are world champions for the third time in their history, and for a nation that has spent much of this decade rebuilding after the golden generation of 2008-2012, this triumph feels like the arrival of something new, not the echo of something old.



Argentina's forward #10 Lionel Messi looks at the trophy after losing the 2026 World Cup football tournament

Mbappé rewrites history with record-breaking Golden Boot

In a tournament that will be remembered for Spain's triumph, the outstanding individual story of the 2026 World Cup belongs to Kylian Mbappé. The France captain scored ten goals across the competition — including two in Saturday's third-place play-off defeat to England — to claim the Golden Boot for the second consecutive World Cup and become the tournament's all-time leading scorer.



With his ten goals in North America added to the twelve he accumulated across the 2018 and 2022 tournaments, Mbappé now stands alone at the top of the all-time scoring chart with 22 World Cup goals. He moves one ahead of Lionel Messi, who could not add to his tally of eight goals in Sunday's final

and finishes this edition in second place on the top scorers list.

The record provides only partial consolation for the Real Madrid forward. France, who reached the semi-finals before being eliminated by England in a dramatic penalty shootout, were aiming for a third world title, and Mbappé — playing what may still be his peak years — was at times the best player in the tournament. He is now the first man to win back-to-back Golden Boots at a World Cup since the individual prize was formalised, an achievement that underlines a consistency of output almost without precedent in the history of the game.

Spain's system outlasts Argentina's spirit

When the dust settles on the 2026 World Cup, it will be remembered as the tournament where football's most beautiful philosophy was restored to the top of the world. Spain arrived in North America without the marquee names that defined their era of dominance, but they left as champions, proof that a collective built on trust, technique, and tactical clarity can still conquer the game's highest stage.

Luis de la Fuente deployed a system in New Jersey that was as familiar as it was effective: high pressing out of possession,

rapid transitions in midfield, and wide forwards who could both combine intricately and run at defenders in space. The structure was almost identical to the one that won Euro 2024, but here it was refined, hardened, and made more resilient against the very best opposition.

In seven matches at this tournament, Spain conceded a single goal. No team in the final bracket matched their passing accuracy, their distance covered per match, or their expected-goals tally. They were, by almost every available metric,

the best team at the World Cup — and the final bore that out.

Argentina entered the match with a contrasting brief: defend deep, frustrate, and trust in Martínez and Messi to produce the moments that lesser sides cannot conjure. It very nearly worked. Martínez was extraordinary, making at least five saves that would have been categorised as goals against any other goalkeeper. And for ninety minutes, Messi drifted between the lines, searching for the pocket of space that might unlock Spain's carefully maintained defensive shape.



Spain's forward #19 Lamine Yamal receives a first place medal from US President Donald Trump during the award ceremony