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HM King to join Board of Peace

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has accepted an invitation from the US President Donald Trump to join the Board of Peace, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the Kingdom of Bahrain's decision reflects its commitment to support the full implementation of President Trump's 20-point peace plan for the Gaza Strip, considering the importance of the plan for protecting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The ministry also expressed HM the King's appreciation for the US President's efforts to achieve sustainable peace in the region and the world.

It expressed hope the Board of Peace will achieve its goals of promoting cooperation, supporting stability, and achieving development and prosperity for all.

Bahrain condoles with Pakistan

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed the Kingdom of Bahrain's sympathy and solidarity with Pakistan following a fire at a shopping center in the southern city of Karachi, which resulted in multiple deaths, injuries, and missing persons.

It conveyed Bahrain's sincere condolences to the government and people of Pakistan, as well as to the families and relatives of the victims.

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His Majesty welcomes four new ambassadors to Kingdom

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa welcomed the four new ambassadors and praised the strong relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and their countries, noting the progress achieved in various domains.

He received the credentials of newly appointed ambassadors to the Kingdom during a ceremony held at Sakhir Palace.

The ambassadors are H.E. Hadi Hachem, Ambassador of the Republic of Lebanon; Nasser Abdullah Hassan Al Nasser, Ambassador of the State of Qatar; H.E. Gines Jaime Gallaga, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines; and H.E. Stephanie Hallett, Ambassador of the US.

Success

His Majesty wished them success in their diplomatic missions to further develop relations and cooperation with the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The ambassadors extended the greetings and wishes of their heads of state to HM the King and for further progress and prosperity to the Kingdom and its people.

They expressed appreciation for the strong relations their countries enjoy with Bahrain across all sectors.

Officials

Attending the ceremony were His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Personal Representative of His



HM the King receives the credentials of H.E. Lebanon Ambassador Hadi Hachem (top); H.E. US Ambassador Stephanie Hallett (left); H.E. Qatar Ambassador Nasser Abdullah Hassan Al Nasser (right); and H.E. Philippines Ambassador Gines Jaime Gallaga (bottom)



HM the King wished the new ambassadors success in their diplomatic missions to enhance relations and cooperation with the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Majesty the King; His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His



Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs and National Security Advisor; H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of the Royal Court; H.E. Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs; and H.E. Major General Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Fadhala, the Chief of Royal Protocol.

The ambassadors had earlier arrived separately at Sakhir Palace, where they were received by the Chief of Royal Protocol and accorded the customary formalities for such occasions.

Economic pillars

Over half a million expatriates hold valid work permits in private sector

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Labour says 505,998 expat workers are employed in Bahrain's private sector under valid work permits, according to a written reply to MP Mohammed Al Rifai.

The ministry said employers in the commercial sector use 2,582 job titles for expat staff, while the domestic work sector uses 13.

A sector breakdown showed the largest share in wholesale and retail trade and the repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, with 124,503 workers.

Construction employed 118,666, followed by accommodation and food services on 63,881.

Manufacturing accounted for 54,022 expat workers, administrative and support services for

40,104, and professional, scientific and technical activities for 26,441.

Activities

The ministry said 18,101 expat workers were employed in personal services and repair activities, and 17,815 in transport and storage. Real estate activities employed 9,199 workers, while education accounted for 7,573.

Financial and insurance activities employed 6,413, and information and communications 6,302.

Human health and social work activities employed 3,684 expat workers, the ministry said, while 3,428 worked in water supply, sewerage and waste management, and 3,038 in agriculture, fishing and forestry. Mining and quarrying employed 1,507 workers, and arts, entertainment and recreation 1,170.

Electricity, gas, steam and air



MP Mohammed Al Rifai

conditioning supply accounted for 151.

Tenure

On job tenure, the ministry said 152,106 expat workers in the commercial sector had remained with the same employer for more than five years.

It also gave figures for expat workers whose permits had expired but who had not left

The Ministry of Labour continues to work with relevant bodies on measures aimed at giving Bahrainis priority in employment and supporting balance and sustainability in the labour market.

Bahrain up to October 2025, saying 11,437 were classed as commercial workers and 5,748 as domestic workers.

Where an employer applies for a permit to recruit an expat worker from outside Bahrain, the ministry said approval is delayed for 21 days.

During that period, the employer must advertise the vacancy in local newspapers for

seven days and interview Bahraini candidates.

Advertisements

The ministry said the newspaper advertisements are published in Arabic to reach Bahrainis seeking work.

It added that it works with training bodies on initiatives to keep training and skills-building in step with labour market needs, and that it contacts employers to promote the hiring of Bahraini jobseekers.

Where an employer agrees to hire Bahrainis and the post is suitable, the ministry said the vacancy is posted on the National Employment Platform to allow jobseekers to apply, as it continues work with relevant bodies on measures aimed at giving Bahrainis priority in employment and supporting balance and sustainability in the labour market.

HM King hails growing Bahrain-Lebanon relations

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa praised the strong fraternal relations between Bahrain and Lebanon, noting that bilateral cooperation continues to advance across various fields in ways that serve mutual interests.

HM the King was speaking as he received His Excellency Ahmed Mohammed Hajjar, Minister of Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon, at Sakhir Palace yesterday.

The meeting took place during the minister's official visit to the Kingdom, during which he conveyed the greetings and appreciation of Lebanese Pres-

ident General Joseph Aoun, along with his best wishes for Bahrain's continued progress and prosperity.

Greetings

His Majesty welcomed the Lebanese minister and asked him to convey his greetings and best wishes to President Aoun and the brotherly Lebanese people, wishing them continued development and growth.

During the meeting, HM King Hamad highlighted that such visits reflect the shared commitment to strengthening coordination and joint action, particularly in the security sector, to achieve common benefit.



HM the King with H.E. Ahmed Mohammed Hajjar

He reaffirmed Bahrain's steadfast support for Lebanon, emphasising its commitment to stability, unity, sovereignty, and preserving Lebanon's security, territorial integrity, as well as

safeguarding the interests of its people.

Gratitude

For his part, the Lebanese Minister expressed his deep gratitude for the warm welcome and generous hospitality.

He commended Bahrain's supportive stance toward Lebanon under the leadership of His Majesty, praising its efforts to maintain Lebanon's unity and security.

H.E. Hajjar also reiterated Lebanon's desire to further strengthen bilateral relations with Bahrain across multiple sectors for the mutual benefit of both countries and their peoples.

'His Legacy and Biography' exhibition inaugurated

TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday inaugurated the exhibition "His Legacy and Biography", dedicated to His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, held at the Bahrain National Museum.

HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman affirmed the importance of documenting the lives of important figures that have contributed to the Kingdom's development, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and supported by the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad



HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa at the event

Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, noting that these contributions are deeply rooted in the Kingdom's long-

standing legacy. He hailed the designation of 2026 as the "Year of Isa Al Ka-beer".

Manama declared Young Arab Entrepreneurs Capital for 2026

TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, attended a ceremony organised by the Capital Governorate to mark Manama being named the Arab Young Arab Entrepreneurs for 2026, a designation approved by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The event was also attended by Her Excellency Rawan bint Najib Tawfiqi, Minister of Youth Affairs, alongside a number of Their Excellencies, Their Highnesses, officials, and



HH Shaikh Nasser attends the ceremony

representatives of regional and international bodies focused on entrepreneurship and youth empowerment.

HH Shaikh Nasser said that Manama's selection reflects the wise vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Labour collaboration

LMRA hosts GCC-East Africa Symposium on responsible recruitment and anti-trafficking

TDT | Manama

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA), in cooperation with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and in partnership with the Executive Bureau of the GCC Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs, organised a two-day Symposium on Responsible Recruitment and Combatting Trafficking in Persons.

The event, titled Fostering Collaboration between the Gulf Cooperation Council and East and Horn of Africa, took place on January 18-19, bringing together stakeholders to enhance cooperation and address critical labour and human trafficking issues.

The symposium brought together more than 120 participants from GCC countries and the East and Horn of Africa, including government officials, recruitment agencies, private sector representatives, and technical and vocational education and training institutions.

Cooperation

Through interactive sessions, panel discussions, and network-



Participants from GCC countries and the East and Horn of Africa



ing activities, the symposium aimed to strengthen cross-regional cooperation to promote ethical and responsible recruitment practices, advance decent work, enhance skills mobility, and reinforce safeguards against



trafficking in persons. In his opening remarks, His Excellency Nibras Talib, Chief Executive Officer of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority and Chairman of the National Committee for Combating

trafficking in persons, emphasised the importance of shared responsibility across recruitment corridors, noting: "This symposium reflects our collective commitment to promoting ethical and responsible recruit-



ment practices, strengthening the protection of workers' rights, and enhancing cross-border cooperation. "Combating trafficking in persons requires addressing risks across the entire recruitment

and employment cycle, recognizing that such practices often originate in countries of origin or transit. Strengthening cooperation between the GCC and the East and Horn of Africa is essential to improving recruitment systems, enhancing worker protection, and advancing decent work in line with international standards."

Skills

Mohammed bin Hassan Al Obaidli, Director General of the Executive Bureau, affirmed that GCC countries attach great importance to aligning labour market needs with workforce skills.

This includes investing in training, adopting objective professional standards, and linking wages to competency and skills.

He added that these measures contribute to human capital development and support pathways toward sustainable economic and social development.

"Responsible recruitment builds trust and resilience across labour markets. By aligning regional efforts with international frameworks, we can support ethical recruitment practices," said Aishath Ihma Shareef, IOM Chief of Mission in Bahrain.

BD50 fine over fight upheld

● Row sparked by misunderstanding

● Argument developed into fistfight

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

A misunderstanding between two individuals escalated into a physical altercation, ending with both being fined BD50 by the Court of First Instance, a ruling later upheld by the High Criminal Court of Appeal and finally confirmed by the Court of Cassation.

The first appellant had challenged the fine imposed on him, but the court rejected his appeal after establishing that the assault was mutual and did not result in injuries causing incapacity for more than 20 days.

The incident occurred when a dispute arose while the first defendant was inside his vehicle. The argument quickly developed into a fistfight, resulting in minor injuries to both parties and their conviction by all levels of the courts.

Digital governance

Parliament backs wider use of AI and digitisation of routine government services

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Automation moved a step closer in government yesterday after Parliament approved a proposal urging ministries to expand artificial intelligence use and digitise routine services, with MP Hassan Ebrahim saying current use is still limited and must be turned into working systems.

The proposal, put forward by MP Hassan Ebrahim with Dr Hisham Al Ashiri, Jaleela Alawi, Dr Ali Al Nuaimi and First Deputy Speaker AbdulNabi Salman, calls for wider take-up of AI across ministries and public bodies, with more services handled through automated systems to speed up transactions, cut paperwork and lower running costs.

Speaking during the sitting, MP Ebrahim urged ministries to stop treating AI as a side project and push it into day-to-day work.

“We must press ahead towards generalising the use of AI technologies across ministries and government bodies, through automating services



“Expanding the use of AI can offer greater financial protection by reducing human intervention and limiting potential errors.”

— MP HASSAN EBRAHIM

and improving institutional performance,” he said.

He told MPs the case for AI was not limited to faster queues and quicker replies.

“Expanding the use of AI



Image used for illustrative purposes only

would speed up transactions, reduce administrative and financial burdens, raise government performance, and strengthen integrity, transparency and the fight against corruption,” he said, adding that it can offer “greater financial protection by reducing human intervention and limiting potential errors”.

Hassan Ebrahim said the next phase should be hands-on use, with clear checks on what changes on the ground.

Capabilities

“The capabilities are there to move strongly into AI, but current use remains limited, so we



The proposal calls for focused training for government staff on practical AI use.

must shift from theory to actual and experimental application, measure the impact, and set an ambitious plan to integrate it

into government plans and strategies in the near and medium term,” he said.

The proposal argues that AI tools can also support oversight by spotting odd patterns in financial activity and backing internal checks of public accounts, while service performance can be tracked through analysis of complaints and queries from the public.

It also points to uses in public safety and municipal work, including smart cameras and visual analysis to help monitor public spaces, and traffic systems that read vehicle flows and adjust signal timings.

Skills

Supporters say success depends on skills at home.

The proposal calls for focused training for government staff on practical AI use, backing for specialist hiring, and closer work with national universities and research centres on applied projects that fit Bahrain's needs.

It also urges adding AI fields to scholarship plans to help build a pipeline of younger talent able to develop and run these systems.

Bahrainisation in primary healthcare hits 100% rate

● 88% doctors in government hospitals are Bahrainis

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Health Minister, Her Excellency Jaleela bint Al Sayed, told MPs yesterday that the government is widening training and hiring routes for Bahraini doctors and nurses, citing full Bahrainisation across health centres and primary care and an estimated 88 per cent Bahraini share of doctors in government hospitals.

Speaking during the parliamentary sitting in reply to remarks by MP Abdulnabi Salman, H.E. Al Sayed said the Ministry of Health was putting its weight behind Bahraini staff to keep the health system sustainable.

“We focus on investing in national cadres to ensure the sustainability of the health system



through the hands of the people of this country,” she said.

She said the current legislative term had delivered a change in frontline staffing.

“The Bahrainisation of jobs in health centres and primary healthcare facilities has reached 100 per cent, and Bahraini doctors now account for around 88 per cent of doctors in government hospitals,” she told the chamber.

Al Sayed said the work was being driven through coop-



eration between Parliament, the government and executive bodies, and that initiatives launched since the start of the term were aimed at widening job routes for Bahrainis.

She pointed to a sharp rise in training places, from 83 doctors targeted for residency training in 2023, supported by the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), to more than 700 training and job opportunities across 2024 and 2025 through residency and fellowship programmes. The push also covered nursing.

BD1,000 cap for witness evidence in civil cases approved

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A proposal to expand the use of witness testimony in lower-value civil disputes was approved by Parliament yesterday, lifting the ceiling from BD500 to BD1,000.

The change amends the Law of Evidence in Civil and Commercial Matters issued by Legislative Decree No. 14 of 1996.



Articles 61 and 62 were replaced so that, in non-commercial cases, witness testimony



can be used to prove the existence or ending of a legal transaction up to 1,000 dinars.

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Supply freedom

MPs approve urgent move to end monopoly in essential medicine distribution

● **Prioritising citizens' health and ensuring market stability**

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Parliament approved an urgent recommendation yesterday calling for fast steps to end monopoly control over the supply and marketing of essential, life-saving medicines and to widen sourcing to strengthen national pharmaceutical security.

The proposal was put forward by MP Abdulwahid Abdulaziz Qarata, who said MPs were following the pressures linked to keeping key medicines available in the local market.

He warned that giving a sole agency or supply route for some medicines to one source can put continuity of treatment at risk, expose patients to harm, and create choke points in the medicines market that affect the buying power of both citizens and the state.

Recommendation

In its text, the recommendation cited Article 68(a) of the Constitution and Articles 127 and 128 of the Council of Representatives' rules of procedure, which allow MPs to submit written recommendations to the



Image used for illustrative purposes only



“Giving a sole agency or supply route for some medicines to one source can put continuity of treatment at risk, expose patients to harm, and create choke points in the medicines market.”

— MP ABDULWAHID QARATA

Government on matters of public concern.

It described the file as having direct implications for citizens' health and for market stability, and asked that it be placed on the chamber's agenda for debate and a vote at the earliest

opportunity.

The proposal said dependence on a single supplier can lead to shortages or interruptions if supply is disrupted for technical, logistical or commercial reasons, with knock-on effects across the Kingdom.

It also argued that limited competition can lead to unfair pricing practices and higher costs for patients, while adding pressure to public health spending.

Emergencies

MPs said the issue takes on extra weight during crises and emergencies, when access to key medicines becomes a matter of national security.

The proposal also said monopoly models can conflict with fair-competition principles and international agreements aimed at ensuring access to healthcare.

The recommendation was submitted by Abdulwahid Qarata alongside Bader Al Tameemi, Hassan Ebrahim, Mohammed Al Rifai and Jameel Mulla Hassan.

Health staffing row over vacant clinic rooms and idle doctors

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Vacant clinic rooms and trained doctors without posts dominated a parliamentary exchange yesterday, as MP Jaleela Alawi pressed the Health Ministry on staffing gaps, promotion routes and how it works out consultant numbers.

Alawi said the ministry's reply to her parliamentary question on consultant and non-consultant doctors in public hospitals and health centres left out key detail needed to judge staffing needs.

“Of course every point in the question was deliberate and had a purpose and meaning,” she told the Council of Representatives. “We want answers because we want to know the real situation, as the ministry did not address many of the details.”

Promotions

She said the reply did not show the latest promotions doctors had received or the career ceiling for each post, and that it relied on general remarks about increasing consultant numbers without explaining how current doctors would be moved to consultant grade, or what the ministry's staffing need was.

“A parliamentary question is a tool through which we extract the remedy and lay the groundwork for effective treatment, and the Ministry of



MP Jaleela Alawi

Health's reply was not, unfortunately, satisfactory,” she said. Alawi pointed to dentistry and family medicine as examples.

Figures

She said the ministry's figures showed a mismatch between the number of dentists and the number of dental rooms, and asked if there was a plan to staff each room with two to three dentists.

The lawmaker also referred to dentists trained through Tamkeen placements who had worked in health centres for four years and, she said, helped cut appointment waits from six months to two weeks.

She also questioned a split in training routes.

Benefits

Some trainees, she said, were ministry employees with full employment benefits, including pension cover, while others were on the Tamkeen scheme with different grades and pay.

Parliament approves expat ID cards linked to residency length

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Parliament approved yesterday an amendment tying expat ID card validity to the length of legal residency, pushing it through despite a recommendation from Parliament's Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee to reject the proposal in principle.

MPs also voted down a motion to postpone the discussion, keeping the bill on the day's agenda before approving it at the sitting.

The change amends Article 3 of Law No. 46 of 2006 on the ID Card by adding a paragraph stating that, “in all cases”, a non-Bahraini's ID card must not remain valid beyond the period of residence in Bahrain.

Justice Minister, His Excel-



MP Jalal Kadhem

lency Nawaf Al Maawda, told MPs that fees were not fixed, saying they were “always under review”, and adding that the ID card fee “will be reviewed” to ensure it covers the real cost.

He urged MPs to distinguish between carrying an ID card and holding a valid residence permit, warning that anyone dealing with a person whose residency has expired faces consequences,



H.E. Nawaf Al Maawda



Ahmed Qarata

“Anyone dealing with a person whose residency has expired faces consequences, and that banks and institutions are held to account through Labour Market Regulatory Authority procedures.”

— H.E. NAWAF AL MAAWDA, JUSTICE MINISTER

and that banks and institutions are held to account through La-

bour Market Regulatory Authority procedures.

“Has any harm fallen on employers from carrying the card?” he asked.

Second deputy speaker Ahmed Qarata backed the bill's aims but said the discussion exposed confusion over which body is responsible for deactivating an expat's ID card once residency ends.

He said there was “a lack of clarity” in the replies of relevant agencies, pointing to differing roles cited for the Central Bank of Bahrain, the Information and eGovernment Authority, and the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA).

Qarata also questioned claims that linking ID validity to residency would drive up operating costs, saying: “Issuing an ID card for a month or a year does not seem to create extra costs,” and calling for a clearer explanation.

MP Jalal Kadhem said the measure was needed to close what he described as a legal gap created when an expatriate is issued an ID card valid for five years while the residence permit may be limited to two years.

He argued that aligning the validity periods would strengthen labour-market discipline, prevent ID cards from being used after residency expires, and generate additional revenue without placing any financial burden on citizens.

He cited an expatriate population of about 850,000 and estimated the resulting lost income at around BD8.5 million.

Kadhem also criticised what he described as the state absorbing a BD4 loss per card, noting that the fee charged is BD10 while the actual operating cost is BD14.

Court dismisses pre-sale utility charges claim

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A Bahraini man who bought a laundry business two years ago has been cleared of a BD6,652 claim for electricity and water charges after the High Civil Court ruled the case was not accepted against him and that the claim itself was too old to be heard.

The claim related to charges linked to the laundry premises

for October 2016 to July 2017, years before the man took over the business.

A social centre that owns the building sued both the former laundry owner and the current owner, seeking payment said to cover use of the unit, including water costs.

The court ruled the new owner cannot pursue claims, as the agreement's rights and obligations apply only to original parties.

Push to expand housing for vulnerable women

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Parliament approved by majority vote a proposal calling for an increase in the number of housing units allocated to women classified under Category Five of the national housing system, including divorced, abandoned, widowed and unmarried women, during debate on a report submitted by the Public Utilities and Environment Committee.

The proposal relates to Ar-

ticle 4 of Decision No. 909 of 2015 on the housing system and was submitted by several MPs, seeking to address what was described as a growing gap between existing housing allocations and the real needs of vulnerable women lacking family support.

Support

MP Basma Abdulkarim Mubarak said the proposal reflects the reality faced by many women living without family backing or secure accommodation.



MP Basma Abdulkarim Mubarak

She told MPs that divorced, widowed and unmarried women often endure daily psychological and social pressure due to housing insecurity, which she said threatens dignity and personal safety.

The lawmaker stressed that housing should be viewed as a form of protection and stability rather than a social luxury, warning that delays in providing accommodation for this category create a hidden social risk that does not always appear in official reports.

A house that refuses to leave

Beit Al Qusair stands out as last surviving family home in Manama’s old streets

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

In the heart of Manama, Beit Al Qusair stands quietly as the city moves on around it. Towers have risen, old streets have shifted, and neighbouring homes have vanished. This house did not.

It remains the last surviving home of the family in the area, holding its ground with a calm certainty that modern concrete cannot imitate.

It is not preserved as a monument but lived with as memory, habit, and meaning.

History

The house carries time in layers.

One section was built around 150 years ago, the other nearly 90 years later, each reflecting a different chapter of Bahrain’s past.

Both were constructed using traditional Bahraini techniques, with wooden doors and windows crafted from materials no longer used today.

Inside, the house breathes gently through its original features, including a ceiling fan that has turned for more than a century, circling above conversations that have long since passed.

Majlis

For generations, Beit Al Qusair was known for its open doors. Separate majlis spaces for men and women formed the social heart of the house, shaping daily



Modern walls rise but Beit Al Qusair stands to carry memory within

life within its walls.

In earlier years, the men’s majlis welcomed visitors every sin-

gle day, offering a place to talk, listen, and belong.

Today, the tradition continues



more quietly, with gatherings held twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays, steady rather



Beit Al Qusair quietly endures, preserving human connection and memory as the surrounding city transforms around it.

than fading.

Ramadan

Ramadan brought a different rhythm.

The majlis once filled every evening with guests arriving for iftar, turning the house into a shared table for the community.

That same authenticity later drew television producers, who used the house as a filming location for Ramadan programmes, relying on its real atmosphere to tell Bahraini stories without sets or staging.

Family

Permanent living in the house ended after the Covid pandemic, when the last brother moved elsewhere.

Yet the house never became empty. It remained a meeting point, drawing brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters together week after week.

Today, the family gathers once a week, fewer days perhaps, but with the same emotional weight.

In a special interview with The Daily Tribune, a family member reflected on the commercial life that once flowed through the house. His father was a trader who imported the first Marconi radio sets into Bahrain and distributed them locally.

He later worked in marine engines and agricultural water pumps, using boats to move goods and passengers from large ships to the local port.

The family also traded bicycles and motorcycles, importing and re-exporting them across the Gulf, linking the house to a wider regional economy.

Beit Al Qusair does not seek attention.

It simply remains, doing what it has always done, holding people together long after the city around it has changed.

Remote litigation service activated

● Part of government effort to boost service development

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama



The system also provides a secure login mechanism through the upgraded Electronic Key (2.0).

for court hearings, including the electronic display and exchange of documents during sessions, as well as live listening to pleadings from all parties, ensuring continuity of judicial procedures with efficiency and effectiveness.

It further emphasized that electronic hearings are conducted under the full supervision of the competent judge, ensuring compliance with legal procedures, safeguarding the rights of all litigants, and upholding the principles of justice and transparency.

The Ministry stressed that the remote litigation service strengthens access to justice by offering a flexible solution suitable for various segments of society and by facilitating litigation procedures for business owners, companies, and individuals.

As part of ongoing government efforts to enhance service quality and reengineer procedures, the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments has announced the activation of the remote litigation service, with implementation beginning at the High Commercial Courts and the Urgent Matters Court as the first phase of the project.

The Ministry explained that the remote litigation service allows litigants to attend court hearings remotely on an optional basis, offering greater flexibility in choosing how to participate in judicial sessions.

It noted that the service contributes to faster and smoother procedures by reducing the time and effort associated with physical court attendance, while enabling case follow-up from any location.

This, in turn, enhances judicial efficiency and accelerates the resolution of cases.

The Ministry added that the service provides an integrated digital management system

MPs push for youth centre in Janabiya

● Population on the rise

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Janabiya could get a youth centre under an urgent request submitted to Parliament, with the sponsors asking that it be raised in Parliament and sent to the Government after approval.

The proposal was filed under Article 68 of the Constitution and Article 128 of Parliament’s rules of procedure.

It is signed by MP Munir Seroor, MP Lulwa Al Rumaihi and MP Hamad Al Doy, along with Hassan Ebrahim and Ali Al Nuaimi.

In an accompanying memorandum, the sponsors point to a rise in Janabiya’s population linked to building growth and an influx of residents from across Bahrain.

They place particular weight on South Janabiya, where permits for apartment buildings have added to the area’s headcount.

They argue that the area still



MP Munir Seroor

lacks a dedicated youth centre, despite what they describe as a growing youth cohort and a range of talents.

A centre, they say, would offer a place to build life and work skills, encourage volunteering and responsibility, and give young people structured activities.

The memorandum adds that regular participation in youth programmes can build confidence, help prepare young people for future leadership roles, and support social ties by strengthening identity and a sense of belonging.

Two jailed for drug trafficking through ‘dead drop’ method

● 15 years each for defendants

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court sentenced the first and second defendants to 15 years in prison each, fined them BD5,000 each, ordered their deportation upon completion of the sentence, and confiscated the seized items.

The incident dates back to 6:30 a.m., when a police officer, after completing his shift, was heading to his residence in the Ras Rumman area.

He noticed the two defendants acting suspiciously, appearing to distribute narcotics using the so-called “dead drop” method.

One of them was placing an object while the other was using his mobile phone as if recording the location, prompting the officer to stop them.

Location

The officer identified himself, seized their phones, and found photos on one device marked with arrows pointing to the photographed location.

Upon searching them, he

discovered 24 small wraps in their pockets containing a crystalline substance believed to be shabu. The defendants and the seized items were then handed over to the Gudaibiya Police Station and the Anti-Narcotics Directorate.

A captain from the Anti-Narcotics Directorate later took custody of the defendants and transferred them to their residence, as they had been caught in flagrante delicto.

A search of their home uncovered a dark-colored substance, a bag containing a crystalline material suspected to be shabu, and two sensitive scales found in their bedroom.

Network

Investigations revealed that the defendants were part of an organized criminal network involved in importing narcotics and psychotropic substances for financial gain, operating through the “dead drop” distribution method.

Their role was identified as key distributors responsible for receiving smuggled quantities, storing, dividing, and promoting them in coordination with others, in return for payment.

The seized substances included hashish and shabu.

NBB recognises excellence and dedication @ First Townhall of 2026



Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) held its first Townhall of 2026, bringing together employees for an engaging session led by Group Chief Executive Officer, Usman Ahmed, who shared key business updates and strategic priorities for the new year.

The event also featured the presentation of the Group CEO Awards, recognising team members for exemplifying NBB's core Values, operational Excellence, and outstanding customer service. A Long Service Awards ceremony was also held to honour employees for their enduring commitment and contributions to the Bank's continued success.



EU parliament to freeze approval of US trade deal: lawmakers

The parliament was planning a vote in the coming weeks on removing tariffs

● The warning shot from the European Parliament comes as the 27-nation bloc weighs how hard to hit back

AFP | Strasbourg, France

EU lawmakers have agreed to hold off ratifying a key trade deal with the United States following President Donald Trump's tariff threats over Greenland, the main political groups said yesterday.

The warning shot from the European Parliament comes as the 27-nation bloc weighs how hard to hit back if Trump follows through against Washington's long-standing allies.

The parliament was planning



European Parliament President Roberta Metsola arrives prior to the presentation of the programme of the Cypriot presidency of the Council of the European Union during a plenary session at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, eastern France

a vote in the coming weeks on removing tariffs on US industrial goods as part of the agreement.

A delay does not sink the deal, agreed in July with Trump after months of intense wrangling that saw Washington slap 15 percent tariffs on EU goods.

But by suspending approval it does send a strong message of discontent to the White House that EU lawmakers argued would unnerve American businesses.

"It is an extremely powerful

lever -- I don't think companies would agree to give up the European market," Valerie Hayer, president of the centrist Renew group, told journalists.

EU leaders are set to hold an emergency summit in Brussels Thursday evening over the US threats against Denmark's autonomous territory Greenland.

The bloc is weighing different responses if Trump does not back down, including putting last year's trade deal on hold and hitting the United States with

93 billion euros (\$108 billion) in tariffs.

The package of retaliatory tariffs was agreed at the height of the EU-US trade standoff last year, but was ultimately suspended until February 6 to avoid all-out trade war.

Beyond that, French President Emmanuel Macron is pushing to unleash the bloc's potent anti-coercion trade instrument to use in case Trump makes good on his threats.

Global tourism hit new record level in 2025: UN



Tourists looking at the iconic Chocolate Hills on Bohol Island in Central Visayas province in the Philippines.

AFP | Madrid, Spain

Global tourism hit a new record level in 2025 with 1.52 billion international tourist arrivals recorded worldwide, driven by strong increases in Asia and Africa, UN Tourism said yesterday.

"Demand for travel remained high throughout 2025, despite high inflation in tourism services and uncertainty from geopolitical tensions," the secretary general of the Madrid-based body, Shaikha Alnuwais, said in a statement.

"We expect this positive trend to continue into 2026 as global economy is expected to remain steady and destinations still lagging behind pre-pandemic levels fully recover."

The number of international

tourist arrivals last year was 4.0 percent higher than the 1.4 billion recorded in 2024, reaching its highest level in the post-pandemic era and a new record, UN Tourism said.

Africa saw an 8.0 percent rise in arrivals in 2025 to 81 million, with Morocco and Tunisia posting particularly strong results.

International arrivals grew by 6.0 percent in Asia and Pacific to reach 331 million in 2025, some 91 percent of pre-pandemic levels.

Europe, the world's most popular destination region, recorded 793 million international arrivals in 2025, a 4.0 percent increase over the previous year and 6.0 percent above 2019, the year before the pandemic paralysed travel.

YOU

KNOW WHAT

Trump has threatened to hit six EU countries -- including power-houses France and Germany -- with tariffs for not going along with his demand to get Greenland.

Macron says no G7 meeting ‘scheduled’ this week

Trump has “no plans to travel to Paris at this time”



- **European countries are weighing countermeasures**
- **Trump is demanding to seize the Arctic island**

AFP | Davos, Switzerland

French President Emmanuel Macron said yesterday that there was no G7

summit scheduled this week, after US President Donald Trump revealed a message proposing a meeting on Ukraine and Greenland. “No meeting is scheduled. The French presidency is willing to hold one,” Macron told AFP in brief remarks after he delivered a speech to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Trump posted the “private message” from the French leader suggesting a G7 meeting in Paris on his Truth Social network earlier on Tuesday. A White House official told AFP that Trump has “no plans to

travel to Paris at this time”. The US president is set to arrive in Davos on Wednesday and leave on Thursday. It came as European countries are weighing countermeasures after Trump threatened to impose tariffs on eight of them in an attempt to pressure the European Union over Greenland. “My friend, we are totally in line on Syria. We can do great things on Iran. I do not understand what you are doing on Greenland,” Macron said in his message. Trump is demanding to seize the Arctic island, a sovereign

territory of Denmark, from the United States’s Nordic NATO ally. “I can set up a G7 meeting after Davos in Paris on Thursday afternoon,” Macron wrote, referring to this week’s gathering of global elites in Switzerland. “I can invite the Ukrainians, the Danish, the Syrians and the Russians in the margins” of the meeting, he added. The G7 comprises Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States. The 27-nation EU also participates. Asked by AFP whether Russia had received any invitation for the proposed meeting,

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov replied: “No, it has not.” Trump’s relations with Macron hit a new low on Monday when the US president threatened 200-percent tariffs on French wine over France’s intention to decline an invitation to join his “Board of Peace” aimed at resolving international conflicts -- where a permanent spot will cost \$1 billion, according to Trump. “Tariff threats to influence our foreign policy are unacceptable and ineffective,” a source close to Macron told AFP on Tuesday.

Eyeing China, EU moves to ban ‘high-risk’ foreign suppliers from telecoms networks

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The EU executive on Tuesday proposed banning third-country companies from European mobile networks if they are deemed a security risk, in a move seen as targeting China. The European Commission did not name any country or company as a target but Brussels has previously sought to restrict Chinese suppliers in the sensitive field. The step builds on actions taken in 2023 when the EU execu-

tive urged states to exclude Huawei and ZTE from their mobile networks due to security risks. The European Union has taken an increasingly tough line on trade issues with China, but there are often security concerns -- often raised by Washington. The EU will evaluate which states or suppliers to ban and, once identified, telecoms providers will have three years to phase them out from their networks. Brussels has taken the new step after the 2023 measures failed to yield enough change

across the 27-country bloc. Current rules give national authorities powers to issue restrictions but less than half of EU states have used them to restrict or exclude high-risk vendors. Brussels unveiled the proposal as part of plans to revise its cybersecurity rules in a bid to bolster Europe’s defences against a surge in cyber attacks. **Revamping telecoms** The commission will also unveil its proposal on Wednesday for a Digital Networks Act to overhaul Europe’s telecoms net-

works. The EU wants to bolster its competitiveness and boost investment but critics say that is difficult when key sectors including telecoms and defence are fragmented with different national rules which make it difficult to scale up. The bigger question is where the money will come from, as Brussels says Europe needs 200 billion euros (\$232 billion) to modernise the telecoms network. In a win for tech giants, a draft document seen by AFP made no

mention of “fair share” payments from the world’s biggest web companies for the large amounts of bandwidth they use. Despite being a fervent wish of telecoms firms, the idea was deeply unpopular. It became even more unlikely after the EU-US tariff deal last year, which the White House said included an EU promise not to adopt fees. The EU executive will also give member states until 2035 to move off copper telecommunications networks, according to the draft document.

The United States has long banned Huawei and sought to convince allies to follow suit over fears its products could be used to monitor communications.

World stocks sink, gold hits high on *escalating trade war fears*

AFP | London, United Kingdom

World stock markets lost ground yesterday, while precious metals hit fresh peaks on fears of a US-EU trade war fuelled by Donald Trump’s tariff threat over opposition to his ambitions to grab Greenland, which has stoked volatility. Wall Street opened sharply lower as the tech heavy Nasdaq gave up 1.7% minutes into the session while the Dow and the broader based S&P 500 shed 1.4% as traders began the week’s US trading, following Monday’s Martin Luther King holiday. Europe’s main markets also lost north of 1% during the day’s trading while, earlier, Tokyo suffered a similar fate even though Asia overall closed mixed. Gold, seen as a safe-haven investment, notched yet another record high, closing in on the \$4,740 an ounce mark. Silver also peaked, touching \$95.51 an ounce. Key bond yields jumped on the heightened trade fears with the US 10-year Treasury note jumping around seven basis points to 4.29% while Japanese long-dated bond yields reached record

Key figures at around 1445 GMT		
New York - Dow:	▼ 1.3% at 48,706.18 points	
New York - S&P 500:	▼ 1.4% at 6,844.07	
Nasdaq Composite:	▼ 1.7% at 23,107.33	
London - FTSE 100:	▼ 1.0% at 10,090.00 points	
Frankfurt - DAX:	▼ 1.2% at 24,647.76	
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 1.0% at 8,025.30	
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 1.1% at 52,991.10 (close)	
Hang Seng Index:	▼ 0.3% at 26,487.51 (close)	
Shanghai - Composite:	■ at 4,113.65 (close)	
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1729 from \$1.1641 on Monday	
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.3449 from \$1.3428	
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 157.89 yen from 158.09 yen	
Euro/pound:	▲ at 87.19 pence from 86.71 pence	
Brent North Sea Crude:	▲ 0.4% at \$64.36 per barrel	
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ 0.4% at \$59.86 per barrel	

highs. Kathleen Brooks, research director at XTB, noted that banks and US tech “are at risk from EU tariffs” in response to Trump’s tariff blitz and warned this would hurt US blue chips. Tesla, Amazon and Nvidia were all showing losses of around 2.5% in early New York trading. “Overall, this is a manmade crisis, and the continued sell

off on Tuesday suggests that US threats to Greenland and their effects on financial markets could have further to go if the situation does not deescalate soon,” Brooks opined. “The US dollar is not serving as a safe haven because it seems to be entirely US-driven and raises fears about US policy and European exposure to US assets,” noted Neil Wilson, investor



An electronic quotation board displays 10-year government bonds, an index of long-term interest rates on the Tokyo bond market, in Tokyo

strategist at Saxo UK. After a bright start to the year fuelled by fresh hopes for the artificial intelligence sector, investors have taken fright since Trump ramped up his Greenland demands, on grounds of US “national security”. After European capitals pushed back, Trump on Saturday said he would impose 10% levies

on eight countries -- including Denmark, France, Germany and Britain -- from February 1, lifting them to 25% on June 1. **‘Mistake’** The move has raised questions about the outlook for last year’s US-EU trade deal, the ratification of which was frozen on Monday by the European Union parlia-

ment; EU chief Ursula von der Leyen warned the United States that hitting allied European nations with punitive tariffs over Greenland would be a “mistake”. “The proposed additional tariffs are a mistake especially between long-standing allies,” von der Leyen told Tuesday’s Davos gathering in Switzerland. “The European Union and the United States have agreed to a trade deal last July. And in politics as in business -- a deal is a deal. And when friends shake hands, it must mean something,” she added. US Treasury chief Scott Bessent on Monday said that any retaliatory EU tariffs would be “unwise”. Trump, meanwhile, ramped up his rhetoric against France on Tuesday, warning he would impose 200-percent tariffs on French wine and champagne because it was declining his invitation to join a “Board of Peace”. That body was originally conceived to oversee the rebuilding of Gaza but its charter gives it a much broader, global remit, with Trump in charge.

News in brief

◆ The European Union

yesterday proposed banning the export of more drone and missile tech to Iran after a deadly crackdown on protesters, European Commission head Ursula von der Leyen said. “Europe stands in full solidarity with the brave women and men of Iran who are risking their lives to demand freedom for themselves and future generations,” von der Leyen wrote on X. “Today, we are proposing to ban additional exports of critical drone and missile technologies.” Von der Leyen said the EU was also readying other sanctions on those responsible for the “continued and brutal repression” of protests that rocked the Islamic Republic. The protests constituted the biggest challenge to the Iranian leadership in years.



EU moves to tighten ban on drone exports to Iran after crackdown

◆ Actor and comedian

Russell Brand appeared before a UK court Tuesday facing two new charges of rape and sexual assault. The two new charges against Brand, 50, were brought in December 2025 and relate to two alleged incidents with separate women in London in 2009. In May last year, he had already pleaded not guilty to two counts of rape, two counts of sexual assault and one count of indecent assault for alleged incidents involving four different women between 1999 and 2005. Appearing remotely via video-link wearing a partially buttoned pale blue shirt, Brand, the ex-husband of popstar Katy Perry, only spoke to confirm his name and his date of birth. He was granted conditional bail and is due to appear again in Southwark Crown Court in south London on February 17 for a pre-trial hearing.

UK comedian Russell Brand in court on two new rape charges

◆ California Governor

Gavin Newsom urged Europeans yesterday to stop playing nice with US President Donald Trump over Greenland, “develop a backbone” and “punch him in the face”. In blunt remarks to reporters at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the prominent Democratic politician called Trump “weak” and said the European Union should “push back very aggressively” against the US leader. “He’s good at exploiting weaknesses, but he backs down when he’s punched in the face,” Newsom said. “You can’t play all sides. Enough of the niceties,” he added. “Stop trying to appease him. Fight fire with fire.” He called Trump’s bid to take over Greenland “madness” but said the US president would not try to seize it “militarily”. “This whole excursion in Greenland is absurd and people need to recognise what they’re up against and stand tall and firm, develop a backbone and speak with one unified voice. Punch him in the face,” Newsom said.

California governor urges Europe: Grow ‘backbone’ and ‘punch’ back at Trump



SPOTLIGHT

UK approves plans for Chinese mega-embassy in London



Hong Kong former veteran labour activist Christopher Mung Siu-tat (L) and Hong Kong activist Chloe Cheung (R) listen to others as they take part in a press conference concerning the decision on the new Chinese embassy, outside the Houses of Parliament in central London

AFP | London, United Kingdom

The UK government yesterday gave China the green light to build a “mega-embassy” in the heart of London eight years after Beijing bought the site, triggering fresh anger from residents and rights groups.

The 20,000-square-metre (235,000-square-foot) site is set to become the largest embassy complex in the UK by area, and one of the largest in the centre of a Western capital. But it could still face legal challenges and residents vowed Tuesday to act.

Housing minister Steve Reed’s decision to grant planning permission came after several delays over national security concerns.

There have also been protests by activists who fear the

sprawling site could be used to spy on and harass dissidents.

Reed said the decision was now final, barring a successful challenge in court.

A government spokesperson said intelligence agencies had helped to develop a “range of measures... to manage any risks”.

“Following extensive negotiations in recent months, the Chinese government has agreed to consolidate its seven current sites in London into one site, bringing clear security advantages,” the spokesperson said.

Security minister Dan Jarvis said China would continue to pose national security threats.

But he said after “detailed consideration of all possible risks around this new embassy... I am assured that the UK’s national security is protected”

Israel begins demolitions at UNRWA headquarters

The compound has been empty of UNRWA staff since January 2025



Machinery demolishing a structure inside the headquarters of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem

● Roland Friedrich, the agency’s director in the West Bank, called the move political

● Israel has repeatedly accused UNRWA of providing cover for Hamas

● The Saudi foreign ministry voiced its “strongest condemnation” and expressed support for the UN agency.

● UNRWA’s Friedrich said the UN rejected the Israeli claim and insisted that the compound “remains United Nations property

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israeli bulldozers began demolitions at the headquarters of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees in east Jerusalem on Tuesday, in what the organisation called an “unprecedented attack”.

UNRWA spokesman Jonathan Fowler said in a statement to AFP that Israeli forces “stormed into” the compound shortly after 7:00 am (0500 GMT) and ejected security guards from the site, before bulldozers entered and began demolishing buildings.

“This is an unprecedented

attack against UNRWA and its premises. And it also constitutes a serious violation of international law and the privileges and immunities of the United Nations,” Fowler said.

“What happens today to UNRWA can happen tomorrow to any other international organisation or diplomatic mission around the world,” he added.

Roland Friedrich, the agency’s director in the West Bank, called the move political.

Friedrich told AFP “it seems the intent is to seize the land for settlement construction as has openly been stated by Israeli officials for many years in the media and elsewhere”.

The Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority condemned the demolitions, warning of the “gravity of this deliberate escalation against UNRWA” and calling the move “an attempt to undermine the international protection system for Palestinian refugees”.

AFP photos showed heavy machinery demolishing structures at the compound, as an Israeli flag fluttered overhead.

An AFP photographer reported that far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir briefly visited the site.

“This is a historic day, a day of celebration and a very important day for governance in Jerusalem,” Ben Gvir was quoted as saying in a statement.

Israel has repeatedly accused UNRWA of providing cover for Hamas, claiming that some of its employees took part in the group’s October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, which sparked the war in Gaza.

A series of investigations, including one led by France’s former foreign minister Catherine Colonna, found some “neutrality-related issues” at UNRWA but stressed Israel had not provided conclusive evidence for its headline allegation.

‘No immunity’

An Israeli foreign ministry statement defended the demolitions and said “the State of Israel owns the Jerusalem compound”.

The compound in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem has been empty of UNRWA staff since January 2025, when a law banning its operations took effect after a months-long battle over its work in the Gaza Strip.

“UNRWA-Hamas had already ceased its operations at this site and no longer had any UN personnel or UN activity there,” the foreign ministry said.

“The compound does not enjoy any immunity and the seizure of this compound by Israeli authorities was carried out in accordance with both Israeli and international law,” it said.

UNRWA’s Friedrich said the UN rejected the Israeli claim and insisted that the compound “remains United Nations property and is protected by the privileges and immunities of the UN, regardless of whether it is currently in use”.

Although the UNRWA ban applies in east Jerusalem because of its annexation by Israel, the agency still operates in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini also denounced the demolitions on X, saying it was yet another attempt by “Israeli au-

thorities to erase the Palestine Refugee identity”.

As the UN agency created specifically for the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians displaced from their homes during the creation of Israel in 1948, UNRWA provides refugee status registration, as well as health and education services for Palestinian refugees.

Along with refugee status, which is passed on through generations, comes the right of return, which Israel contests, and is one of the most contentious issues for a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Months after the war in Gaza began in October 2023, Israeli authorities declared UN chief Antonio Guterres and Lazzarini personae non gratae in Israel.

Jordan’s foreign ministry “strongly condemned” the demolition, calling it “a blatant violation of international law”.

The Saudi foreign ministry also voiced its “strongest condemnation” and expressed support for the UN agency.



The UNRWA compound was a prison during the time of the Ottoman Empire, and later became property of the Jordanian government, which subsequently transferred it to UNRWA.

The first American novel, William Hill Brown's "The Power of Sympathy" is published by Isaiah Thomas

Jawaharlal Nehru's Congress Party wins India's first general election



Battle of Khe Sanh begins at the Khe Sanh Air Base, one of the most publicized and controversial battles of the Vietnam War

Fears of a possible US recession cause a Black Monday for global stock markets, European stocks suffer their worst result since 9/11, and Asian stocks drop as much as 15%

TOP
3
TWEETS

01



The presence of members of the family of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during the UAE's Year of Family lends special significance to the visit. It reflects the enduring bonds of trust and people-to-people ties between India and the UAE and reinforces confidence in a bright future for our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

@narendramodi

02



Geopolitical shocks can - and must - be an opportunity for Europe. The seismic shift underway makes it both possible & necessary to build a new European independence. From security to the economy, from defence to democracy. Europe is gathering speed

@vonderleyen

03



We prefer science to conspiracy theories, rule of law to rule of force, dialogue to threats. Nous préférons la science au complotisme, l'État de droit à la loi du plus fort, le dialogue aux menaces.

@EmmanuelMacron

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

UAE president accepts US invitation to join 'Board of Peace'

A permanent seat costs \$1.0 billion

● Charter does not seem to limit its role to the Strip

● If not paid, member countries will serve no longer than three years

AFP | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The UAE's president has accepted an invitation to join US President Donald Trump's "Board of Peace", the foreign ministry said yesterday, the body meant to oversee post-war reconstruction in Gaza.

The positive response comes amid controversy over the body, with Washington asking various leaders to sit

China confirms invited to join Trump's 'Board of Peace'

AFP | Beijing, China

Beijing confirmed yesterday that China had been invited to join US President Donald Trump's "Board of Peace". "China has received the United States' invitation," foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun told a regular news

briefing, without specifying whether Beijing would accept the invitation.

Guo said China-US relations had achieved overall stability in the past year, despite a trade war that saw both countries impose tit-for-tat tariffs on each others' products.

"Over the past year, China-US relations have experienced ups and downs, but have maintained overall dynamic stability," Guo told reporters.

"Cooperation between China and the US benefits both sides, while confrontation harms both," he added.

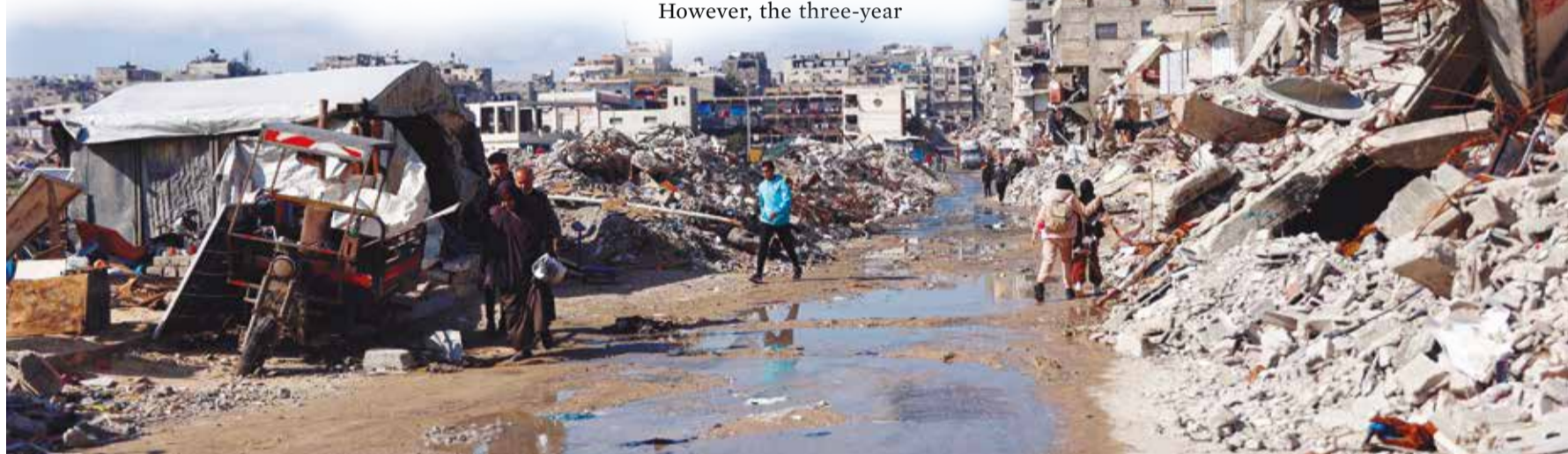
United Arab Emirates, has accepted the invitation from the United States to join the Board of Peace," the ministry said in a statement.

The board's charter, seen by AFP, says that member countries will serve no longer than three years, subject to renewal by the chairman.

However, the three-year

restriction does not apply if they "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".

Emirati Foreign Minister



Displaced Palestinians live amongst the rubble and debris of homes and businesses destroyed by the Israeli military in over two years of military strikes on the Gaza Strip enclave, in Jabalia refugee camp, in the northern Gaza Strip

Heavy snow in US strands drivers in 100-vehicle crash

Washington, United States

Law enforcement officials said Monday they were working to clear roads after a 100-vehicle crash occurred on snow-blanketed roads in the northern state of Michigan.

Michigan State Police said numerous injuries were reported in the crash, with none "believed to be fatal," after big rig trucks and vehicles collided on the I-196 corridor, causing many vehicles to run off the road in "multiple slide offs."

The Monday morning incident included 30-40 semi-trucks, piled up and blocking the typically busy interstate road, which remained closed hours later.

Officials urged motorists to slow down in "treacherous" conditions Monday, with a winter storm continuing to dump snow on the region and temperatures expected to fall to -8 degrees Fahrenheit (-22 degrees Celsius) including wind chill.

US warns against EU tariff 'bazooka' over Greenland

AFP | Davos, Switzerland

The US trade envoy yesterday warned European nations against using its tariff "bazooka" in response to President Donald Trump's threat to acquire Greenland, saying it would "not be wise".

French President Emmanuel Macron in particular has urged use of the EU's anti-coercion instrument (ACI) after Trump threatened tariffs of up to 25 percent on eight European countries.

"Every country is going to do what's in their national interests," US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer told a

small group of journalists at the Davos summit.

"And those have natural consequences," he said, adding that deploying the ACI "would not be wise" -- echoing comments from US Secretary Treasury Scott Bessent at Davos on Monday.

The EU has never deployed the instrument, aimed at dissuading countries from exerting geopolitical pressure on the bloc.

But even as some officials push for talks to de-escalate a crisis that has dominated the Davos summit so far, others are urging the EU

to stand up to "blackmail" over the autonomous Danish territory.

Asked about the US response if the EU deems Greenland "non-negotiable", Greer said "If that's the case, then so be it."

"What I've found is that when countries follow my advice, they tend to do OK. When they don't crazy things happen," he added.

Separately, US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick told European countries "to keep the pressure and temperature low" with regards to threats of retaliatory tariffs.



UN report declares global state of 'water bankruptcy'

AFP | Paris, France

The world is entering an era of "global water bankruptcy" with rivers, lakes and aquifers depleting faster than nature can replenish them, a United Nations research institute said yesterday.

It argues that decades of overuse, pollution, environmental destruction and climate pressure had pushed many water systems so beyond the point of recovery that a new classification was required.

"Water stress and water crisis are no longer sufficient descriptions of the world's new water realities," read a new report by the UN University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH).

These terms were "framed as alerts about a future that could still be avoided" when the world had already moved into a "new phase", it said.

campus

NMS Bahrain hosts The Lions Club Essay and Painting competition 2026



Manama

New Millennium School, Bahrain, in coordination with the Lions Club of Riffa, successfully conducted the Annual Walk-in Essay and Painting Competition 2026 on Saturday, 17th January 2026, at its campus.

The event witnessed an overwhelming response with the participation of hundreds of students from various schools across the Kingdom of Bahrain, reflecting the immense enthusiasm and creative spirit among young learners.

The competition was organized in three age-group categories:

- Group A: 8 to 10 years
- Group B: 10 to 12 years
- Group C: 12 to 15 years

The topics for the Essay and Painting Competition centered around the theme 'Creating a Peaceful World Ahead in the Digital Era'. The event commenced with registrations followed by the Essay Competition and the Painting Competition. The campus was filled with an atmosphere of creativity, excitement, and positive energy as students showcased their artistic and literary talents using words and colours to express their thoughts and emotions.

The first three winners in each category will be awarded trophies and certificates in recognition of their excellence. In addition, the school with the highest number of student entries will also be specially recognized, promoting greater participation and collaboration among educational institutions.

Principal, Dr Arun Kumar Sharma, congratulated the Lions Club of Riffa and its coordinators. He stated that platforms like these play a vital role in nurturing creativity, confidence, and expression in children. The Essay and Painting Competition not only enhances students' artistic and literary skills but also instills values such as peace, harmony, and thoughtful communication.

Chairman Dr Ravi Pillai and Managing Director Mrs Geetha Pillai extended their appreciation to the Lions Club of Riffa and applauded the participants for their enthusiastic involvement.

Al Noor International School hosts grand Al Noor Inter-School Math Olympiad 2025-2026

Manama

Al Noor International School, Bahrain, successfully conducted the Inter-School Math Olympiad 2025-26, a prestigious academic event that brought together young mathematical talents from across the island. The Olympiad was organized with great enthusiasm and meticulous planning, witnessing the participation of seven reputed schools from Bahrain, each represented by three skilled contestants.

The event aimed to foster logical reasoning, analytical thinking, and a spirit of healthy competition among students. Participants demonstrated exceptional mathematical aptitude, confidence, and teamwork throughout the competition.

Participating Schools and Contestants

The following schools participated in the Al Noor Inter-School Math Olympiad:

1. Al Mahd School
Participants: Shahlaa Fouad E. Jamat Poor, Aysha Saad Ali Yusuf Saad, Yousif Saad Ali Yousif Saad Alumaairi Alhajri
2. Al Noor International-School
Participants: Hamza Boulky Hasan, Hariprathap Bakthikumar, Ahmed Abdulrahim
3. Al Wisam School
Participants: Zaina Maitham Fadhel Ahmed, Shahad Ali A. Ali, Jood Nabeel M. Yusuf
4. British School of Bahrain
Participants: Peter Elias El Eter, Bishara Rami Bishara Stephan, Sayed Yousif Adnan
5. Capital School
Participants: Marc Ghosn, Yassin Mountasser Abdulaziz Ali, Jana Mohamed Ahmed
6. Noor Al Diyar School
Participants: Mohammed Yusuf Ahmed Mohammed Alzayani, Mohammed Ikhlas Moin, Sahil Anwar Sheikh
7. St. Christopher's School
Participants: Sonya Jing Lee, Nitya Varun Pancholi, Aritro Ghosh

Winners

After a closely contested final round, the results were announced as follows: St. Christopher's School secured the First Position, followed by British School of Bahrain in Second Position, while Al Noor International School achieved the Third Position.

Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Co. and Takaful International Conduct Project Management Team-Building Exercise in Collaboration with BIBF

Manama

Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Co. and Takaful International, in collaboration with the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF), recently conducted a Project Management team-building exercise as part of their ongoing employee development initiatives.

The one-day exercise brought together 32 employees from various organisational levels, including senior management, and was designed to strengthen teamwork, collaboration, and the practical application of project management principles in an interactive learning environment. In line with Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Co. and Takaful International's corporate social responsibility objectives, the exercise also supported children in need and orphans, reinforcing the organisations' dedication to creating positive social impact alongside professional development.

Mrs. Aysha Al Mahmeed, Senior Manager - Human Resources at Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Co., said: "This exercise provided our employees with a valuable opportunity to apply project management concepts in a practical, simulation-based setting, while benefiting from BIBF's expertise in delivering applied training programmes. At the same time, it allowed us to contribute meaningfully to the community."

Dr. Ahmed Al Shaikh, Chief Executive Officer of the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF), added: "This initiative reflects Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Co. and Takaful International's commitment to developing human capital through applied learning programmes that combine professional capability building with social responsibility, while strengthening teamwork and collaboration within organisations."



BDF Chief Discusses Cooperation with New German Envoy



Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), held a meeting with the newly appointed German Ambassador, His Excellency Henning Georg Simon. The Commander-in-Chief welcomed the Ambassador and discussed key initiatives to enhance bilateral relations and joint coordination between Bahrain and the Federal Republic of Germany. The talks focused on strengthening the friendly ties and exploring further cooperation across various sectors. Sheikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa wished the Ambassador success in his new diplomatic duties, emphasizing the Kingdom's commitment to its partnership with Germany.

Newly Renovated Abu Ghazal Park Inaugurated in Manama



His Excellency Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, officially inaugurated the renovated Abu Ghazal Park in the Capital Governorate. Spanning 5,642 square meters, the renovation is part of the Ministry's initiative to upgrade public facilities and enhance urban greenery. The park now features state-of-the-art playgrounds, modern fitness equipment, a refurbished fountain, and an updated lighting system. To boost environmental appeal, the Ministry increased the number of trees and expanded green cover. During the ceremony, the Minister emphasized that the project aims to provide high-quality communal spaces that foster a healthy lifestyle for residents.

Bahrain and Lebanon Discuss Strategic Security Cooperation



Bahrain's Minister of Interior, HH Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, hosted Lebanese Minister of Interior and Municipalities, Ahmed Hajjar, to discuss enhancing security coordination. During the meeting at the Police Fort, Shaikh Rashid reaffirmed Bahrain's support for Lebanon's sovereignty and stability. The discussions focused on strengthening joint Arab security efforts and improving performance to face regional challenges. Both ministers emphasized the importance of exchanging expertise and developing modern mechanisms for cooperation. Minister Hajjar praised the strong bilateral ties and expressed his keenness to modernize joint security initiatives.

IYCC Bahrain Announces New National Leadership for 2026-27



The Indian Youth Cultural Congress (IYCC) Bahrain has elected its new national office bearers for the 2026-27 term during a meeting held in Salmaniya. Richie Kalathureth was unanimously elected as President, alongside Salim Abuthalib as General Secretary and Shafeeq Saifuddin as Treasurer. The new executive team includes Vice Presidents Stephy Mannikkarott and Shafi Wayanad, Joint Secretaries Ranjith Mahe and Sharath Sashi Kannur, and Assistant Treasurer Sandeep Sasindran. Additionally, Ranjith Perambra, Jameel Kannur, Anoob Thankachan, Mohammed Ashiq, and Alan K. Isaac were appointed as Conveners for various departments. Shabeer Mukkan and Sunil Vilayappally will serve as Internal Auditors. The election proceedings were overseen by Shibin Thomas, Ranjith Mahe, and Benzi Ganiyud.

FED Bahrain Receives Wheelchair Donation for Members



The Fraternity of Ernakulam District (FED) has acquired a wheelchair for the use of its members and their families. The equipment was donated by Ladies Wing member Manju and her husband Vinu to mark their daughter Vaiga's fourth birthday. The handover ceremony, held at the BMC Hall, was presided over by President Stevenson Mendes. Secretary Sunil Babu and Ladies Wing Secretary Jishna Ranjith officially accepted the donation. Organization officials noted that the wheelchair would be a significant help for elderly parents and others with mobility needs visiting Bahrain. FED leaders Claudy Joshi and Carlin Christopher also spoke at the event, highlighting the importance of such community-focused welfare initiatives.

Friends Association of Thiruvalla Hosts Grand Christmas-New Year Celebration



The Friends Association of Thiruvalla (FAT) organized a grand Christmas and New Year celebration in Bahrain, marked by festive spirit and cultural performances. The event was presided over by President Robi George. The keynote address and Christmas message were delivered by Father Jacob Thomas Karaikkal. General Secretary Anil Palayil welcomed the attendees, and Program General Convener James Philip extended the vote of thanks. Patrons and leaders including Sreekumar Padiyara, Binu Biju, and Jobin Cherian offered felicitations. A highlight of the event was the distribution of prizes to cultural program participants by Advisory Board members, including Biju Thomas and Saji Cherian. The celebration, coordinated by Vice President Blessen Mathew and other officials, saw enthusiastic participation from members and their families, strengthening community bonds.

Classifieds



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email : advt@newsofbahrain.com

VACANCIES AVAILABLE

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Oasis Delmon Steel Fabrication & Trading W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36646766 or DAIREX1@HOTMAIL.COM

ANAM SHAHNAZ TAILORING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36550247 or KINGKHAN.SHAH2022@GMAIL.COM

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

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ALRIFAH TRADING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33918096 or alrifahtrading@gmail.com

Infinity Ships services has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39395775 or Infinitiservicesbh@GMAIL.COM

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bahrain.com

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GARAGE GOLDEN SAND LINE has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(CARS ENGINES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36638117 or ALIALMAHARI08@GMAIL.COM

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OG MANI SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32289514 or OGMMANILL@GMAIL.COM

HASIM MARKET has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66655327 or AQEEL603@GMAIL.COM

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National Readymix Co WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(HEAVY VEHICLE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786665 or pro@nccbahrain.com

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

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PACIFIC COAST CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33500126 or consultancybahrain1@gmail.com

ABDUL SALAM INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(PAINT FINISHER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33877297 or QNAEEMSHAHZAD9@GMAIL.COM

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IKRA CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of DISH WASHER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33680869 or AL12NID@GMAIL.COM

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FORTY TWO SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33726663 or DOCUMENTBHA9@GMAIL.COM

BU MARIAM Contracting has a vacancy for

the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33273016 or ASHFQOQRAZA29@GMAIL.COM

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MAMA LOVE BOUTIQUE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39236679 or mamaloveboutique@yahoo.com

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ATTAA KHAN MAINTENANCE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66602131 or FKHANKHAN314@GMAIL.COM

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CHAUDHARY SHAHZAD CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33897183 or CHSHAHZADANJAM4@GMAIL.COM

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

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ARIZ RESTAURANTS COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33783358 or ARIZRESTAURANT7@GMAIL.COM

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

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

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EATCO Food Transportation W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66706012 or abdul@eatco.me

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BSB FIXED MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33770118 or bsb-services.bh@gmail.com

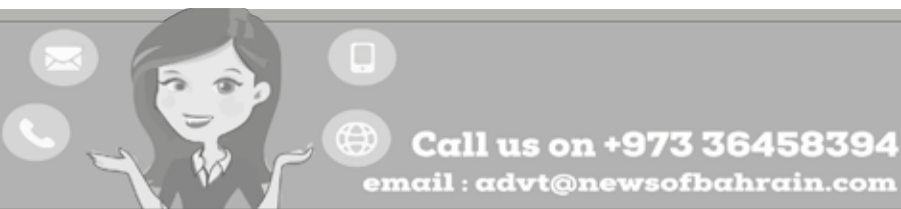
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MIRACLE LAND CONTRACTOR W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39696047 or HASAN@MIRACLEGROUPS.COM

Celluloid co wll has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 16010160 or all-seasonjewellers@gmail.com

SURFACES FURNISHING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17178301 or yusufkooheji@carpetlandme.com

LUKY G SOHAN SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34342088 or LAKI.BH.IND@gmail.com

PANORAMA CONTRACTING & ENGINEERING SERVI has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17729935 or AHMED@PANORAMABH.COM

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

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THE TUNNEL ZIVA HYDE M LOUNGE WITH SHEESHA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33383940 or MAD-HAVANKANNAN727@gmail.com

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Harris leads Pistons past Celtics in thriller; Thunder bounce back



Tobias Harris (left) celebrates with teammates
AFP | Los Angeles

Tobias Harris scored 25 points as the Detroit Pistons held off the Boston Celtics to score a 104-103 victory in their top-of-the-table Eastern Conference showdown on Monday.

Harris was one of four Detroit players to finish in double figures, with Jalen Duren adding 18 points and point guard Cade Cunningham scoring 16 points with 14 assists.

The win sees Detroit extend their lead at the top of the Eastern Conference to 31-10, 5.5 games ahead of second-placed Boston, who fell to 26-16 with the defeat.

Jaylen Brown led the Celtics scoring with 32 points and almost snatched victory in the final seconds, his attempted buzzer-beater bouncing off

the rim as Detroit clung on for a one-point victory.

“We wanted this game,” Harris said afterwards. “Obviously, two of the best teams in the East; our group is always up for the challenge. It’s a heck of a win for us.”

The Pistons-Celtics showdown was one of a packed slate of fixtures as the NBA marked the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday in the United States.

Elsewhere in the Eastern Conference on Monday, the third-placed New York Knicks slumped to their fourth straight loss with a surprising 114-97 defeat to the Dallas Mavericks at Madison Square Garden.

Max Christie led the Mavs’ scoring with 26 points, 24 of them coming from outside the arc, with Naji Marshall scoring 19 and Cooper Flagg 18.

Djokovic jokes that he wants slice of Alcaraz’s winnings



Spain’s Carlos Alcaraz and Serbia’s Novak Djokovic (L) hug at the net after a match (file photo)
AFP | Melbourne

Carlos Alcaraz’s new-look serve at the Australian Open has been compared to Novak Djokovic and the Serbian great says he is expecting a slice of the Spanish superstar’s winnings.

World number one Alcaraz has at times struggled with precision and a lack of consistency in his serving technique and has mixed it up for the opening Grand Slam of the year.

Eagled-eyed fans noticed that his more compact action now bears a striking resemblance to Djokovic, who was asked about it after coasting into the second round at Melbourne Park.

“As soon as I saw it, I sent him a message. I said, ‘we have to speak about the copyrights,’” the 24-time major winner joked.

“Then when I saw him here, I told him we have to talk about a percentage of his winnings.

“Every ace I expect, you know, a tribute to me. Every

As soon as I saw it, I sent him a message. I said, ‘we have to speak about the copyrights’. Then when I saw him here, I told him we have to talk about a percentage of his winnings. Every ace I expect, you know, a tribute to me. Every ace that he makes here. Let’s see if he’s going to stick to the agreement

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

ace that he makes here. Let’s see if he’s going to stick to the agreement.”

Asked about his new serve ahead of the tournament, Alcaraz said he was flattered by the comparison to Djokovic, he insisted it was a coincidence.

“No. I didn’t think about, or I wasn’t thinking about making the same serve as Djokovic,” he told reporters. “But at the end, I can even see the similarities.”

‘I never felt like a world-class coach’, says Jurgen Klopp

- Klopp says he never viewed himself as elite coach
- Aims to support coaches in new role
- Values performance over results

AFP | Leipzig

Despite leaving Liverpool as one of the most highly regarded coaches in world football in 2024, Jurgen Klopp said he never thought of himself as amongst the game’s best.

“I never considered myself a world-class coach,” Klopp told AFP and other media in an interview in Leipzig, “because I still had so many questions when I



German football coach and global head of Football at Red Bull, Jurgen Klopp (L) speaks with Paris FC’s French President Pierre Ferracci (C) next to French representative of the Agache family holding company, Antoine Arnault (R) ahead of the French L1 football match between Paris FC and FC Metz at the Stade Jean-Bouin in Paris (file photo)

felt odd.

“Grave-digger of the coaches -- that’s a title I never wanted to win!”

‘I never watch the goals back’

From taking Mainz to the Bundesliga to breaking Liverpool’s Premier League drought, Klopp improved clubs and players wherever he went.

Often taking over with teams at a low ebb, the coach would try and put things in perspective.

“How did I start a game? I would say ‘the worst news is you can lose it’ -- so let’s try and win it... Do not try to avoid defeat -- try to win.”

The coach said he told his players: “Giving your all doesn’t mean you will get anything, but it’s your only chance to get something. That’s pretty much how you do it.

“We gave everything -- and sometimes we got something.”

Klopp said that media and fans were too focused on results.

“I never watch the goals back, because I want to understand the game to the left and the right of the result.

“I want to understand why it happened... Results are the result of the performance. So we worked on the performance and the results came later.”

The 58-year-old said that he

My role with the coaches is to be the guy I never had. I sat in my office very, very, very often, very, very, very alone. A lot of people gave me advice and have great ideas... It’s great to have ideas, but it’s really not that easy to make the final decision. I want to be in moments when I know they are alone, or feel alone. I want to be there

JURGEN KLOPP

“didn’t take any pride” out of trophy ceremonies and parades.

“I love being a part of it, not in the middle of it. You might see pictures where someone gave me a trophy and I’d take it, but I didn’t need to touch it.

“For me, it was the journey that I loved. That gave me much more than the moment (of winning).”

‘You know if Jurgen Klopp is in the room’

Klopp retains cult-like status at his former clubs, with fans remembering the German for

his sideline antics and everyman appeal as much as his successes.

RB Leipzig sporting director Marcel Schaefer told AFP that Klopp has brought the same presence into his new role, even if he is no longer on the sideline.

“He has something that is unique. He has a god-given talent which everyone knows from his coaching jobs.

“He can catch people in five to 10 minutes.”

Schaefer said that Klopp plays an important role in player recruitment by “talking to families, talking to players about our vision, about our project.

“You know if Jurgen Klopp is in the room.”

Since stepping down at Anfield, Klopp has been linked to an array of high-profile coaching jobs, but said that a return to the dugout is unlikely.

“I don’t expect to change my mind, but I don’t know.

“We’re building a house right now and my missus wanted to have a really big trophy room. There was another small room and I said ‘this is enough, because we know how many trophies we have, we will not add any’.

“It might sound arrogant, but I know I can coach a football team. But I don’t need to do it until my last day.”

Man Utd greats tell Martinez to ‘grow up’ as feud rumbles on

AFP | London

Manchester United defender Lisandro Martinez has been told to “grow up” by Old Trafford greats Paul Scholes and Nicky Butt after his scathing response to their criticism.

Martinez challenged Scholes to come to his house to speak to him after the former England midfielder and his ex-United team-mate Butt had mocked the Argentine’s height.

Scholes and Butt made fun of the diminutive centre-back’s chances of winning his duels with towering Manchester City striker Erling Haaland during Saturday’s derby.

The pair had joked that Haaland would pick up Martinez and “run with him”.

But Martinez had the last laugh with a commanding dis-



Manchester United defender Lisandro Martinez in action (file photo)

play in United’s 2-0 win, followed by his stinging response to the criticism from Scholes and Butt.

The former United duo address Martinez’s comments in

the latest episode of their podcast The Good, The Bad and The Football on Monday.

Scholes praised Martinez’s performance but said he still has some doubts about the 28-year-

old.

“It fuels people,” he said of criticism. “I think we have to take a bit of the credit for Martinez’s performance on Saturday.

“He’s had one brilliant game, but when you start talking and shouting your mouth off, this game has a habit of coming and biting you back.

“I haven’t changed my opinion yet. I’m still not sure you can win a league with him. He’s got to do it over a period of time. What he did on Saturday, brilliant, but you’ve got to do it over a period of time.”

Scholes claimed he had exchanged messages with Martinez on social media and given the player his phone number but had “not heard anything”.

Osaka steals show at Australian Open as Sinner strolls through

- Jannik Sinner wins after opponent retires
- Gael Monfils loses epic first-round match
- Naomi Osaka makes dramatic fashion entrance

AFP | Melbourne

Jannik Sinner barely broke sweat in launching his quest to win a third Australian Open in a row yesterday as Naomi Osaka stole the show with a bold fashion statement.

Popular Frenchman Gael Monfils meanwhile bid farewell to Melbourne Park with an epic defeat and thanks for “an amazing ride”.

The Italian Sinner strolled into round two when French opponent Hugo Gaston retired on Rod Laver Arena with the second seed in full control at 6-2, 6-1.

Gaston slumped to his chair and shook his head as his Australian Open ended in distress.

Two-time reigning champion Sinner said it was not how he wanted to win, but was pleased with his night’s work.

“I knew from the beginning that I had to play a very high level and was trying to be as aggressive as possible, which I’ve done,” he said.

Should he win three titles in a row in Melbourne, Sinner would join Novak Djokovic as the only men in the Open era to do so.

Great entertainer Monfils was bundled out in the first round in a brave goodbye to a tournament



Italy's Jannik Sinner serves to France's Hugo Gaston

he has lit up so many times down the years.

The 39-year-old, one of the most colourful and popular players in men’s tennis, battled all the way but Australian qualifier Dane Sweeny prevailed 6-7 (3/7), 7-5, 6-4, 7-5 in an epic lasting nearly four hours.

There was an on-court presentation and standing ovation afterwards for Monfils, who said: “Somehow it is the finish line, but thank you so much for an amazing ride.”

Monfils, who has won 13 ATP titles in a career stretching back to 2004, said in October that this year would be his last in tennis.

Italian fifth seed Lorenzo Musetti moved on when his Belgian opponent Raphael Collignon retired in the fourth set.

Ben Shelton, the eighth seed and a semi-finalist last year, saw off France’s Ugo Humbert, 6-3, 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/5).

But Brazilian 19-year-old Joao Fonseca, touted on the eve of the tournament by Roger Federer as a star of the future, was dumped out by Eliot Spizzirri at the first hurdle.

The American defied the crowd of chanting Brazilian fans to win 6-4, 2-6, 6-1, 6-2.

Fashion statement

Ahead of the final match on day three on Rod Laver Arena, former world number one Osaka emerged holding a white umbrella and wearing a matching wide-brimmed hat and veil.

The 28-year-old from Japan is well known for her on-court fashion statements.

She wore her latest outfit as she came out for her night match at centre court against Croatia’s Antonia Ruzic.

She waved regally to the crowd and the four-time Grand Slam champion then folded up

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Naomi Osaka entered Rod Laver Arena holding a white umbrella and wearing a matching wide-brimmed hat and veil for her night match, creating a dramatic and regal fashion statement before the contest began

the umbrella and neatly put the hat and veil to the side.

In the first match of the day, Madison Keys admitted being “very nervous” as she launched her title defence with a shaky win.



Japan's Naomi Osaka arrives to face Croatia's Antonia Ruzic

Keys lost the first four games before rallying to beat Ukraine’s Oleksandra Oliynykova 7-6 (8/6), 6-1.

“I’ve been thinking about this moment for basically a year,” the American said of walking out on centre court again.

“Obviously I was very nervous at the start.”

Keys stunned Aryna Sabalenka 12 months ago in a three-set epic to win her first major crown at the age of 29, but she failed to push on, winning no more titles in 2025.

She started her season with quarter-final exits at Brisbane and Adelaide, admitting before the Grand Slam to feeling the weight of expectation as defending champion.

And so it proved as she threat-

ened to implode against the Ukrainian ranked 92, before finding her feet to pull away with ease in the second set.

Also in the women’s draw, Janice Tjen clocked another milestone in her rapid rise as she became the first Indonesian to win a match at the Australian Open in 28 years.

Unseeded Tjen stunned Canadian 22nd seed Leylah Fernandez 6-2, 7-6 (7/1).

Tjen, who this time last year was ranked 413 but is now the world number 59, is the first Indonesian to win a match at the major since Yayuk Basuki in 1998.

Also through was Elena Rybakina, the fifth seed from Kazakhstan who eased past Kaja Juvan of Slovenia 6-4, 6-3.

Ten-Man Muharraq Stun Sitra

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Muharraq overcame a rollercoaster of a match to come out 5-3 winners over Sitra at Khalifa Sports City yesterday, booking their spot in the Khalid Bin Hamad Cup final against Riffa on Saturday.

The game started with Sitra on the front foot, probing Muharraq’s defence and creating early pressure, but the Red Wolves struck first in the 15th minute. Soufiane Mahrouk met a clever delivery from Facundo Tobares, and headed low into the corner, giving ten-man Muharraq an early lead.

Minutes later, their momentum slipped way after a VAR review awarded Sitra a penalty. Muharraq’s Amine Bennadi was shown a second yellow for clipping Karl Namnganda’s heel as he rose to meet a cross, and Juda da Silva converted emphatically from the spot to level the score at 1-1.

Despite being a man down,



Juninho strikes his trademark celebration after his 3rd goal

Muharraq regained the lead in the 38th minute. Edimar Ribeiro da Costa expertly controlled a Rezende delivery under pres-

sure and finished to make it 2-1. However, Ali Abdulmajeed’s men were undeterred. They equalized in first-half stoppage

time through Abdulwasea Al Matari, who finished beautifully to the far post, sending the teams at halftime at 2-2.

The second half belonged to Ribeiro da Costa. He restored Muharraq’s advantage in the 54th minute, volleying in from a corner delivered by Gervasio Oliveira. Four minutes later, he completed his hat-trick, again set up by Oliveira, who delivered a dead-ball free kick from the left wing. Ribeiro da Costa beat Carlos Cavafe to the ball, and his powerful strike bounced off the crossbar and over the line.

Sitra earned a late penalty in the 75th minute after Abdulwasea Al Matari’s effort struck Waleed Al Hayyam’s arm. Juda da Silva’s second penalty cut the deficit to 4-3, giving his side a fleeting chance to fight back. That hope, however, vanished in stoppage time as Arthur Rezende’s low floated ball found Facundo Tobares, who volleyed emphatically to make it 5-3 and send Nandinho’s men to the final.

Man City’s Foden to play through pain of broken hand

AFP | London

Manchester City forward Phil Foden is set to face Bodo/Glimt yesterday despite suffering a broken hand as Pep Guardiola looks to erase the bitter taste of defeat in the Manchester derby.

Foden was forced off at half-time against Manchester United on Saturday after landing awkwardly on his arm.

But the England star’s hand injury won’t stop him playing in City’s Champions League group phase tie in Norway.

“He has, a little bit, broken his bones but he has protection and he is fine for tomorrow,” Guardiola told reporters on Monday.

Guardiola dismissed suggestions that City striker Erling Haaland, who has not scored from open play in his last seven matches, could be rested on his return to his homeland.

“He said to me he slept unbelievably, so he is fit,” said Guardiola of Haaland, who has netted 39 times for club and



Phil Foden

country this season.

City’s winless run in the Premier League extended to four matches after their 2-0 loss at Old Trafford, allowing Arsenal to increase their lead at the top to seven points.

Guardiola has postponed an inquest into the damaging loss to focus on City’s bid to secure a place in the Champions League last 16.

City are currently fourth, with the top eight automatically advancing to the last 16, while the teams finishing ninth to 24th go into the play-off round.

Boxing reimagedined in Bahrain

AA Boxing opens doors with mission beyond the ring

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

AA Boxing has opened its doors with a vision that goes beyond producing fighters. Founded by Bahrain national team welterweight Ali AlAradi, the gym aims to reshape how boxing is seen in the Kingdom. For AlAradi, boxing is not simply a combat sport, but a way of life built on values and character. The gym is located at SixtyOffices Building, 4th Floor, Studio 401, Manama.

Speaking exclusively to The Daily Tribune, AlAradi traced that philosophy back to his own beginnings in the sport. He first took up boxing in 2013, motivated by a desire to stand up to bullying and encouraged by his brother Ahmed. What started as self-defence quickly became something deeper.

“After 26 fights and being exposed to the international boxing scene, I realised boxing is more than physical contact,” AlAradi said. “It’s about how a champion carries himself inside and outside the ring.”

That belief became the foundation of AA Boxing. AlAradi describes the sport as an elegant form of expression that rewards control and intelligence. He believes true boxing is built on pre-



Ali AlAradi stands proudly in front of the AA Boxing wall

cision rather than aggression. “Boxing is the art of hitting and not getting hit,” he said. “You don’t need labels. It shows in your character and in how you handle pressure.”

Inside the gym, that philosophy translates into a culture where values are taught alongside technique. AlAradi emphasised that discipline, integrity, and compassion are non-nego-

tiable traits, even in a sport often misunderstood as purely aggressive. “People assume boxers are brutal,” he said. “But when you look at the greatest champions — Muhammad Ali, Canelo, Bivol

Training and Membership

Fight-Ready Personal Training: single session BHD 23, 4 sessions/month BHD 90, 8 sessions/month BHD 160, 12 sessions/month BHD 229, 20 sessions/3 months BHD 382

Fighters’ Circle PT: single session BHD 13, 4 sessions/month BHD 54, 8 sessions/month BHD 138, 12 sessions/month BHD 198, 20 sessions/3 months BHD 229

Development Squad: drop-in class BHD 5, 8 classes BHD 22, 12 classes BHD 31, monthly unlimited BHD 43, 3 months unlimited BHD 112, 6 months unlimited BHD 207

High Performance Squad: monthly unlimited BHD 54, 3 months BHD 144, 6 months BHD 259

Women’s Squad: drop-in class BHD 7, monthly unlimited BHD 50, 3 months BHD 150, 6 months BHD 225

Contact: Instagram @aa.boxing.bh, Mobile 37771732, Email aaboxing.bh@gmail.com

— you see confidence balanced with humility. Champions know they’ve been through the hardest moments, and that creates compassion.”

AA Boxing also carries a clear developmental mission. Beyond recreational training, the gym is designed to support competitive athletes with aspirations of representing Bahrain internationally. “We want to inspire young boxers,” AlAradi said. “To give them a place where they can grow, compete, and one day wear the national colours.” He con-

firmed close cooperation with the national federation, alongside plans to accommodate fitness-focused members, personal training, group sessions, and an upcoming women’s squad.

Looking ahead, AlAradi sees AA Boxing as a long-term investment in people rather than trophies. “A champion is someone who balances strength with humility,” he said. “If we can pass those values to the next generation, boxing can make a real difference — in and out of the ring.”

Asian U14 tennis main draw opens in Bahrain



TDT | Manama

The main draw of the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF) Bahrain Under-14 Championship (Category One – West Asia) got under way on Saturday, delivering high-quality performances and keen competition as the tournament runs from January 18 to 24 under the host Bahrain Tennis Federation.

In the boys’ singles, a series of closely fought matches highlighted the opening day, with players from across Asia advancing after intense three-set and straight-set encounters. Indian players featured strongly, while competitors from Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Iran

also booked places in the next round, underscoring the depth of talent on display.

The girls’ singles also produced compelling contests, with players from Hong Kong, Uzbekistan, Russia, India and China progressing after confident performances. Several matches saw momentum swings and comeback victories, reflecting the competitive balance among the region’s leading young prospects.

The tournament continues throughout the week with further singles and doubles matches, as emerging players vie for ranking points and regional honours in one of West Asia’s most prominent junior tennis events.

Upsets and strong performances mark Bahrain women’s open round of 32

TDT | Manama

The round of 32 at the Bahrain Open Women’s Tennis Championship (M75) delivered promising matchups and notable upsets yesterday, as players battled through an action-packed day of competition at the Bahrain Tennis Federation courts.

The standout result saw Russia’s Ekaterina Ovcharenko produce a major surprise by eliminating top seed compatriot Aliftina Ibragimova in a hard-fought three-set match, winning 6-3, 3-6, 6-4. Japan’s second seed Rina Saigo continued her strong run, overcoming Ekaterina Yashina 7-5, 6-3 after a closely contested opening set.

Elsewhere, China’s Shuai Cheng secured a straight-sets



victory over India’s Ankita Raina, while Maria Kalyakina staged an impressive comeback to defeat Bulgarian contender Isabella Shinikova in three sets. France’s fifth seed Fiona Ferro

advanced with a solid win over American Gina D. Valco, as several other seeded players were tested or knocked out.

The tournament continues with growing anticipation as the



remaining contenders advance toward the later rounds, with the Bahrain Open once again showcasing high-level women’s tennis and intense competition on the international stage.

Salah back in Liverpool squad after AFCON

AFP | London

Mohamed Salah made his much-anticipated return to the Liverpool squad yesterday following the Africa Cup of Nations as the club prepare to face Marseille in the Champions League.

A smiling Salah was put through his paces at the club’s training centre with the rest

of Arne Slot’s squad ahead of Wednesday’s match in France.

The return of the Egypt forward has been a major talking point after he took aim at Liverpool in an explosive interview early last month.

Salah accused the club of throwing him “under the bus” after he was benched for three games in a row and said he had no relationship with Slot.

But he appeared as a substitute in a 2-0 Premier League win against Brighton on December 13, providing an assist, and Slot subsequently said the club had moved on from the furore.

Last week, Slot said he welcomed Salah’s return, refusing to divulge the content of his conversations with the 33-year-old, whose team finished fourth at the Africa Cup of Nations.



Mohamed Salah