

Ministry of Industry and Commerce grants 'Green Factory Seal' to over 40 factories



Manama

As part of national efforts to promote sustainability and enhance industrial efficiency, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce has awarded the "Green Factory Seal" to more than 40 factories. The initiative encourages sustainable industrial practices, strengthens environmental compliance, and boosts the competitiveness of Bahrain's industrial sector.

The initiative aligns with the Industry Sector Strategy (2022-2026) and supports the Kingdom of Bahrain's goals in circular carbon economy, environmental and social governance (ESG), and low-emission solutions. It offers benefits and incentives to factories in cooperation with private sector partners.

H.E. Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Com-



merce, stated that the initiative reflects effective public-private partnership and highlights the advanced environmental awareness of participating factories.

He affirmed the Ministry's commitment to expanding the program to enhance the sector's readiness for environ-

mental and economic changes and global supply chain shifts.

The Green Factory Mark serves as a key incentive tool supporting Bahrain's carbon neutrality goals. It encourages improved operational efficiency, responsible resource use, and adoption of environ-



mentally friendly technologies in line with global best practices.

The Ministry updated the mark's criteria to reflect recent sustainability developments, adding a tree-planting standard during Bahrain's Tree Week, alongside requirements such as industrial waste reuse, re-

newable energy adoption, ESG policies, emissions monitoring and greenhouse gas accounting, and carbon capture technologies.

New strategic partners have joined the initiative: BBK will provide concessional financing solutions, while Copa Company will offer solar en-

ergy installations and other sustainable solutions at competitive prices. These partnerships aim to support factories in moving from commitment to practical implementation, strengthening the initiative's environmental and economic impact.

US says trade deals in force despite court ruling on tariffs

AFP | New York, United States

US trade deals with the European Union, China and other partners remain in force despite the Supreme Court ruling that struck down many of President Donald Trump's tariffs, a top official said Sunday.

"So we're having active conversations with them. We want them to understand that these deals are going to be good deals," US Trade Representative Jamie Greer said on the CBS program "Face the Nation."

He added: "We expect to stand by them. We expect our partners to stand by them."

But European Central Bank

president Christine Lagarde said on the same show she is not sure what the consequences of the US court decision are.

"So I hope it's going to be clarified, and it's going to be sufficiently thought through, so that we don't have, again, more challenges, and the proposals will be in compliance with the constitution, in compliance with the law," said Lagarde.

Greer said a meeting planned for April between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping is "not to fight about trade."

"It's to maintain stability, make sure that the Chinese are holding up their end of our deal and buying American agricul-

tural products and Boeings and other things, and making sure they're sending us the rare earth that we need," Greer said on ABC.

On Friday the US Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that the president had exceeded his authority in imposing tariffs under a 1977 economic emergency powers act, saying Congress had to give its approval.

New tariffs

Trump reacted furiously and announced a new 10 percent global duty on imports under a different legal authority, then raised it to 15 percent on Saturday. It kicks in on Tuesday, is due to last 150 days and has



US President Donald Trump

exemptions for some products. "It's important to understand that over the years, Congress has

delegated enormous tariff setting authority to the president," Greer said on CBS. He added

that tariffs imposed outside the authority struck down by the court remain in effect.

Asked about Trump's decision to quickly raise the new tariff from 10 percent to 15 percent, Greer said the latter was the top level the president was allowed by law.

Greer was also asked about Trump's aggressive use of tariffs despite the fact that polls show most Americans disapprove of this policy. "The president has been campaigning on tariffs and protecting American industry for many years, and he does what he says, he delivers on his promises," Greer said.

Hungary says will block EU's latest package of sanctions on Russia

The European Union in early February proposed new sanctions against Russia

AFP | Budapest, Hungary

Hungary will block the European Union's latest package of sanctions against Russia unless Ukraine re-opens



Prime Minister Viktor Orbán

a key oil pipeline that supplies the country, Hungary's prime minister and foreign minister both said yesterday.

"No support for sanctions; the 20th Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto posted, also on X.

Ukraine says the Druzhba pipeline that crosses its territory to deliver Russian oil to Slovakia and Hungary was damaged January 27 by Russian strikes.

The European Union in early February proposed new sanc-

ctions against Russia, targeting the banking and energy sectors, its 20th package since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022.

The European Commission also intends to activate its anti-coercion tool, for the first time, to ban the export of all machine tools and radio equipment to countries where there is a high risk that these products will be re-exported to Russia.

All the EU's 27 member states must give their approval before the new sanctions can take effect.

Macron asks Trump to lift sanctions on European officials

AFP | Paris, France

French President Emmanuel Macron recently wrote to his US counterpart Donald Trump asking him to lift sanctions placed on several European figures, including former European commissioner Thierry Breton and ICC judge Nicolas Guillou, according to extracts of a letter seen by AFP.

In the letter, Macron says he is making a personal appeal to Trump to reconsider the sanctions, which he argues were

unjustly imposed. The letter's existence was first reported in La Tribune Dimanche.

Breton has been banned from entering the United States since December 2025 because of his work on regulating digital platforms in the European Union, which the Trump administration views as an infringement on freedom of expression. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has denounced EU rules as "blatant acts of extraterritorial censorship."