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Bahrain rides the wave: steady growth ahead

## Bahrain condemns Israeli bills on West Bank, urges international action

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has condemned Israeli Knesset's approval of two bills aimed at imposing Israeli sovereignty over the occupied West Bank and illegal settlements, calling the move a clear violation of international law and UN resolutions.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomed US President Donald Trump's statement supporting the preservation of the West Bank and praised his efforts to promote peace in the region.

The Ministry called on the international community to uphold its legal and moral responsibilities and urged Israel to halt its escalation and illegal measures. It also stressed the importance of protecting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to establish an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital, describing this as essential for achieving just and lasting peace, and ensuring regional security and stability.



## Palestinian factions agree to hand Gaza to technocrat committee

Cairo, Egypt

The main Palestinian political factions, including Hamas, said yesterday they had agreed that an independent committee of technocrats would take over the running of post-war Gaza.

During a meeting in Cairo, according to a joint statement published on the Hamas website, the groups agreed to hand "over the administration of the Gaza Strip to a temporary Palestinian committee composed of independent technocrats".

It said the committee would "manage the affairs of life and basic services in cooperation with Arab brothers and international institutions".

220 fils (includes VAT)



Playing the game in the spirit of the game

Every game, every cheer a reminder that their presence on court is itself an act of resistance. Palestine's Nour Joha (#1), Alma Abuju-ma (#30), and Marie Musleh (#21) during their match against Indonesia yesterday.

## Rubio says more countries ready to recognise Israel

Kiryat Gat, Israel

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said yesterday that more countries are ready to normalise relations with Israel but the decision would await a broader regional agreement.

Rubio, who was touring a US-led multinational centre in Israel aimed at coordinating a ceasefire in Gaza, said that a sustained end to the war would encourage more countries to join the so-called Abraham Accords, under which a number of Arab countries normalised ties with Israel in 2020.

"We have a lot of countries that want to join" the accords, he said.

"I think there are some countries you could probably add right now if you wanted to, but we want to do a big thing about it, and so we're working on it," Rubio told reporters on a visit to Israel.

"So I think that would be great, and I think that could be a byproduct of achieving some of this," he said, referring to the Gaza ceasefire.

Rubio did not mention specific countries, saying that they needed to address their domestic audiences first, but said "there's some bigger than others".

## Forgotten Picasso portrait of Dora Maar sells for \$37 mn

AFP | Paris, France

A previously unknown portrait by Pablo Picasso of French artist Dora Maar -- sold for 32 million euros (\$37 million) in Paris on Friday, auction house Drouot told AFP.

Entitled "Bust of a Woman With a Flowery Hat", the oil portrait of photographer, painter and poet Maar is a riot of colours and thick, black lines.

It was "sold to a foreign buyer present in the room", the auction house said.

The Spanish master painted it on July 11, 1943 and it was acquired in August 1944 by a private French collector, grandfather of the former anonymous owners.

The sale far outstripped the reserve price of eight million euros (\$9.5 million).



# Quota clash

Government rejects 50% Bahrainisation rule in privatisation bill

● Officials warn a fixed quota would deter bidders and complicate privatisation contracts.

● Current bid scoring already rewards firms for hiring nationals and training initiatives.

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Mandating a flat 50% Bahrainisation clause in privatisation contracts conflicts with existing laws and curbs economic freedom, the government said in objections to a bill recently tabled.

The memo adds that the clause would complicate contracts, deter bidders in capi-

It would complicate contracts, scare away bidders in capital-heavy projects with small teams, and strain sectors that require higher skills that are scarce locally

GOVERNMENT MEMO

tal-intensive projects with small teams, and strain sectors requiring skills that are scarce locally.

Opposing the move, the government warns that it contradicts Articles 2 and 6 of the Privatisation Policies and Controls Law, which give the Cabinet the authority to set policy and determine how to restructure assets in line with global practice.

If approved, the bill would add a paragraph to Article 4 of Decree-Law 41 of 2002, requiring that at least half of the staff be Bahraini in any privatisation deal.



"This would come down hard on the freedom of contracts," the memo warned.

The memo also points to Article 10(a) of the Constitution and the National Action Charter, which uphold free enterprise and the role of the private sector.

The government adds that Bahrainisation is already pursued through bid scoring, with current criteria rewarding higher national-labour ratios, training plans, knowledge transfer, and community engagement—allowing the state to favour bidders who pledge stronger outcomes without imposing a one-size-fits-all term in every contract.

After referral under Article 92(1) of the Constitution and Article 95 of Parliament's rules, the Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission drafted the text and attached its legal opinion.

Eyes on road

## Dash cams may soon get official push after ministry backs awareness drive

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Install dash cams in your car, if you wish — no prior approval needed

Drivers do not need prior approval from the General Directorate of Traffic, Interior Ministry representatives have announced.

This comes  
MP Maryam Al  
Dhaen

as MP Maryam Al Dhaen tabled a proposal urging the installation of dash cams in cars.

Parliament will discuss the proposal this Tuesday.

For now, there is no legal bar on installing dash cams or filming the road, Interior Ministry representatives said. However, they warned that people's privacy should not be violated by posting

footage from dash cams on social media.

MP Al Dhaen has called on the government to run an awareness campaign encouraging the use of dash cams through the relevant authorities.

Committee advises approval  
Supporters of the move say dash cams can help in accidents without witnesses or roadside cameras, deter staged crashes and insurance fraud, and encourage safer driv-

ing by promoting self-control and reducing reckless behaviour.

The Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee has advised the Council to approve the proposal by consensus of members present, citing clear public-interest grounds.

The ministry added that the initial phase should focus on awareness and encouragement.

