DANAT names Safa Abdul Khaliq as CEO

Abdul Khaliq succeeds Noora Abdulrahman Jamsheer as CEO

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Institute for Pearls and Gemstones (DANAT) has appointed Safa Sharif Abdul Khaliq as Chief Executive Officer, effective August 31. Abdul Khaliq succeeds Noora Abdulrahman Jamsheer as CEO. She joins DANAT from Export Bahrain, the Kingdom's national export development agency, where she served as CEO and led the organisation from its establishment through to full operational maturity.

Prior to Export Bahrain, Abdul Khaliq spent more than a decade at Tamkeen, most recently serving as Director of the Investment Department. She previously held the position of Manager of Corporate Planning and began her career in the banking sector.

Abdul Khaliq is a member of the Bahrain National SME Development Board and has represented Bahrain on several national and regional committees, including the National Committee for the World Trade Organization and the Saudi-Bahraini Coordination Committee for Integrated Industries.

She holds an MBA in Project Management and a Bachelor of Business Management with double majors in Finance and Marketing. She is also a certified Key Performance Indicator (KPI) and Balanced Scorecard practitioner.

Established by Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat) in 2017, DANAT plays a key role in preserving and promoting Bahrain's pearling heritage and strengthening the Kingdom's position as a global centre for pearl and gemstone expertise.

The institute provides internationally recognised laboratory services, scientific research, education, and industry outreach, supporting transparency and confidence across the global pearl and gemstone sector while contributing to the development of specialised Bahraini talent.

Canada unveils counter tariffs of **15% to 50%** on US goods

AFP | Ottawa, Canada

Canada yesterday announced counter-tariffs on US goods ranging between 15% and 50%, intensifying the trade war between the historically close allies.

Ottawa's retaliation takes effect September 8, a timeframe earlier outlined by Prime Minister Mark Carney after US President Donald Trump's 50-percent duties on Canadian products came into place Saturday.

In detailing Ottawa's response, officials said Tuesday that its duties will match US levels. These impact industries like steel, dairy and electronics.

Canada's government also announced a $5.4 billion (CA$7.5 billion) aid package for impacted firms and workers.

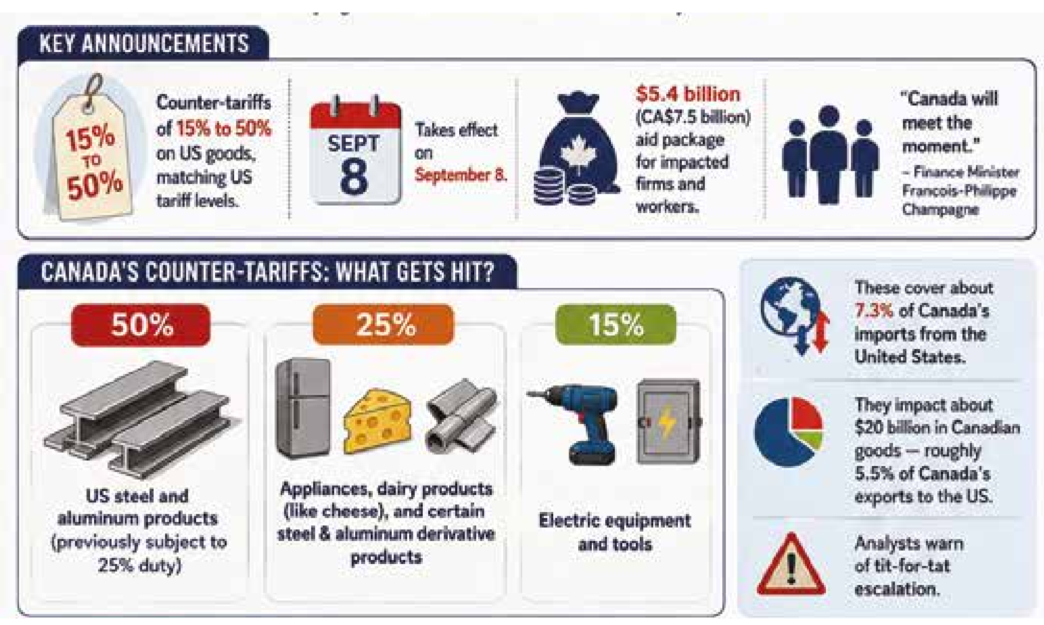
"This is an unprecedented challenge imposed on Canada. But Canada will meet the moment," Canada's Finance Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne said.

"I think what Canadians can see this morning is that we stand united. We stand united in our response," he added.

Tit-for-tat?

The steep US tariffs hit about $20 billion in Canadian goods -- about 5.5% of its exports to the United States -- after trade negotiations collapsed at the eleventh hour.

Under Canada's planned response, US steel and aluminum products previously subject to a 25% duty will soon face 50-percent tariffs.



Goods facing 25% tariffs will include appliances, dairy products like cheese, as well as certain steel and aluminum derivative products.

A small category will see a 15% duty, including electric equipment and tools.

Overall, these form about 7.3% of Canada's imports from the United states.

But analysts warn of tit-for-tat escalation.

Already, Trump additionally pledged Monday to double tariffs on Canadian autos starting next year, up to 50% from the current 25% for non-US content.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford criticized Trump's threat on autos, saying he could "kiss my ass" and threatening an electricity export surcharge.

In an earlier phase of the dispute, Ontario imposed a temporary 25% surcharge on electricity exports to three US states.

Trump lashed out at Ford, warning of "far worse" consequences. He also referred to Carney as a "governor," re-upping his inflammatory push for Canada to become the 51st US state.

Highlighting the animosity, Trump said Tuesday he was considering renaming Lake Ontario as "Lake America," as he did last year with the Gulf of Mexico, which he said should now be called the "Gulf of America."

Trump's latest tariffs do not exempt products covered by the US-Mexico-Canada free trade agreement (USMCA). They raise the US effective tariff rate on Canadian exports to 6.9% from 5.1%, Oxford Economics estimates.

Tariffs on plastics, electrical machinery, and wood and paper products contribute most to the increase.

"Manufacturers in Quebec, New Brunswick, and Ontario will be affected the most," Oxford Economics said.

Brazil fines TikTok $30 mn over child data management

Rio De Janeiro, Brazil

Brazil's National Data Protection Agency (ANPD) said yesterday it had imposed a fine of nearly $30 million on TikTok for "irregularities in the processing of data belonging to children and adolescents."

In addition to the fine of 153.7 million reais ($29.9 million), the agency ordered parent company ByteDance to "delete the data collected in violation of regulations."

TikTok has committed to "implementing a compliance plan to improve the protection of children and adolescents," the ANPD said. The platform will be required to automatically apply stricter privacy settings to accounts belonging to children under the age of 16, strengthen parental supervision systems, and implement stricter content filters.

TikTok did not immediately respond to requests for comment from AFP.

The ANPD this month also ordered popular streaming platform Discord to suspend livestreams and video calls after a teenage girl was allegedly encouraged to take her own life during a broadcast.

YOU KNOW WHAT

TikTok's recommendation algorithm is a major reason the platform can quickly personalize the "For You" feed—its system learns from signals such as what users watch, like, share, skip, and search for.

Finnair suspends flights to Dubai over Mideast instability

AFP | Helsinki, Finland

Finnish carrier Finnair said yesterday it had cancelled all of its flights to Dubai for the winter season due to the heightened security situation in the Middle East.

Finnair flights will be suspended between Helsinki and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates from October 25, 2026 to March 27, 2027, the airline said in a statement.

"The security situation in the Middle East has remained unstable, with no clear signs of improvement," it added.

The carrier said it would be in contact with passengers affected by the changes.

Six months after the start of the Middle East war, the strategic Strait of Hormuz remains largely paralysed and an agreement between Washington and Tehran has not been reached.

Trump policies to double power sector carbon emissions by 2035

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump's fossil fuel agenda will result in the loss of $700 billion in clean energy investments over the next decade while doubling the power sector's climate footprint, according to analysis published Tuesday.

The report by the nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council examined the cumulative impact of policies passed by Trump -- who campaigned on cutting utility bills in half within 18 months in office, though in reality they rose 16 percent as of May 2026, according to Energy Information Administration data.

U.S. President Donald Trump speaks with Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen (L) and Secretary of Education Linda McMahon (R) while giving a tour of the White House helipad construction on the South Lawn of the White House

These actions include the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act in July 2025, which gutted tax credits on clean energy, and the global tariff war that has strained supply chains and raised the cost of electricity generation technologies as a whole.

Trump's policies have also focused on propping up the fossil fuel industry -- including forcing utilities to keep old, expensive fossil fuel plants beyond their planned retirement, and restarting or building new coal plants, while stalling federal permits for wind development.

In all, Trump's agenda will result in $700 billion in lost investment between now and 2035, and the loss of between 390 to 540 gigawatts of new wind, solar and energy storage, the report found. By comparison, India's total installed capacity is currently around 520 gigawatts.

By 2035, US consumers will spend up to $30 billion a year more on electricity, with household bills increasing by up to 25 percent in some parts of the country.

"From day one of this term, the Trump administration has waged war on clean energy, destroying new investments, while owners of old, polluting coal plants get handouts and free passes to pollute," said Amanda Levin, director of policy analysis at NRDC.

"As a result, utility bills are on the rise, projects are cancelled, jobs are lost and more pollution is endangering the health of our families and the climate."

Titled "An Affordability Crisis of Trump's Making," the report used an energy model to compare the impact on the electricity sector of Trump's policies to those before he took office.

These included the planned repeal of power plant emission standards, tariffs, the end of tax credits for wind and solar, and permitting delays and cancellations.

Both scenarios included the rapid growth in demand for electricity driven by data centers.

The report found that power sector carbon dioxide emissions could be twice as high by 2035, up to more than a billion metric tons compared to just over 500 million metric tons in the counterfactual scenario.

More air pollution from older coal and gas plants running more will result in up to 69,000 additional early deaths and 85,000 extra emergency room visits and hospital admissions over the next decade, it found.