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Skipper Steve Smith says green Melbourne pitch justifies selecting four fast bowlers | **P12**

Prime minister hopeful Rahman returns from exile ahead of polls

Golden Year for Bahrain Sports

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Trade tops BD970 Million in November



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday received His Excellency Shmuel Revel, the newly appointed Ambassador of the State of Israel to the Kingdom of Bahrain. at Riffa Palace. His Royal Highness reaffirmed the Kingdom of Bahrain's unwavering commitment to advancing the principles of peace and mutual coexistence. During the meeting, the latest regional and international developments were discussed. His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Ahmed bin Salman Al Khalifa, President of the Court of the Crown Prince, also attended the meeting.



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday received His Excellency Aref Yousuf Hosain Saleh, the newly appointed Ambassador of the State of Palestine to the Kingdom of Bahrain, at Riffa Palace. His Royal Highness reaffirmed the Kingdom of Bahrain's unwavering commitment to advancing the principles of peace and mutual coexistence. During the meeting, the latest regional and international developments were discussed. HE Shaikh Salman bin Ahmed bin Salman Al Khalifa, President of the Court of the Crown Prince, also attended the meeting

Government offices to close on 1 **January 2026**

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Ministries, government departments and public institutions will remain closed on 1 January 2026. His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, announced this in a circular marking the New Year holiday.





Israeli settler attack injures Palestinian baby, five arrested

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israeli security forces announced yesterday the arrest of five Israeli settlers over their alleged involvement in an attack on a Palestinian home that injured a baby girl in the occupied West Bank.

The eight-month-old infant suffered "moderate injuries to the face and head" in the late Wednesday attack, according to the official Palestinian news agency Wafa.

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Bahrain takes a giant green leap forward

Kingdom plants 2.4 million trees under national afforestation drive



• 67% of the 3.6 million trees National **Afforestation Plan** target achieved

Mangroves initiative exceeds goal, reaching 138% of its target with 2.2 million seedlings planted

Efforts support Bahrain's 2060 carbon neutrality commitment

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green leap in its sustainability journey, planting 2.4 million trees under the National Afforestation Plan and moving significantly closer to its target of 3.6 million trees by

all goal and is progressing at protect natural resources. a strong pace to expand green to achieving carbon neutrality by 2060.

At the same time, the Bahrain environmental initi-

passed expectations, reaching 138 per cent of its target. A total of 2.2 million mangrove seedlings have been planted, exceeding the original objective of 1.6 million seedlings set for 2035.

These milestones were highlighted as His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, received a briefing on the latest developments of the National Afforestation Plan at Riffa Palace. The briefing was delivered by Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture.

His Royal Highness emphasised that environmental preservation is a shared societal responsibility, noting that ahrain has taken a giant collective efforts are essential to expanding afforestation and achieving Bahrain's long-term sustainability goals, including carbon neutrality by 2060.

The Crown Prince and Prime Minister reaffirmed the Kingdom's commitment to imple-The initiative has already menting programmes that achieved 67 per cent of its over- preserve the environment and

"These efforts, guided by cover across the Kingdom, rein-clear plans and performance forcing Bahrain's commitment indicators, reinforce Bahrain's position as a leading model in adopting sustainable Mangroves Initiative has sur- atives, in line with

guided by clear plans and performance indicators, reinforce **Bahrain's position as** a leading model in adopting sustainable environmental initiatives, in line

with the vision of His **Majesty King Hamad** Isa Al Khalifa

HRH CP, PM

the vision of His Majesty King Hamad Isa Al Khalifa," His Royal Highness said.

In this context, His Royal Highness reiterated Bahrain's support for international efforts aimed at achieving environmental security and commended Team Bahrain for its role in the success of the initiatives. He also stressed the importance of partnership, integration and cooperation among community institutions.

His Royal Highness expressed his appreciation to His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa for his continued commitment and support for the National Afforestation Plan and the Bahrain

Mangroves Initiative. The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister, along with a number of senior officials.

HH Shaikh Nasser wins first place in 6th Royal Bahraini **Air Force Golf Tournament**

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ieutenant General His Lieutenant General Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, National Security Advisor, Royal Guard Commander, and Secretary General of the Supreme Defence Council, won first place in the individual category of the 6th Royal Bahraini Air Force Golf Tournament, held at Al Sugoor Golf Course at the Royal Bahraini Air Force's Isa Air Base, with wide participation and a distinguished sporting atmosphere.

The tournament featured competition over 18 holes, with His Highness securing first place in the gross scoring. Khalifa Al Marisi placed second, Nasser Yaqoob third, and Khalifa Al Kaabi fourth.

Hawa Al Manama festival returns

