

# High-level talks bolster Bahrain-Cyprus relations

TDT | Manama

The Cabinet commended the outcomes of the talks held by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa with Cyprus President, His Excellency Nikos Christodoulides, underscoring the significance of his visit to Bahrain in strengthening bilateral relations and expanding cooperation across key sectors.

The visit marked several milestones, including the opening of the Embassy of Cyprus in Manama, the convening of the Bahrain-Cyprus Business Forum, and the announcement of nine agreements and memoranda of understanding covering education, culture, tourism and information technology.

Chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, at Gudaibiya



HRH Prince Salman chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting

Palace, the Cabinet emphasised that the outcomes of the visit reflect the Kingdom's commitment to deepening international partnerships and advancing mutually beneficial economic and development initiatives.

During the meeting, the Cabi-

net expressed its appreciation to the US President Donald Trump for his efforts in safeguarding global and regional peace.

It also commended the Board of Peace and wished its success in achieving its objectives of enhancing cooperation, supporting

stability and promoting development.

The Cabinet further praised the participation of the high-level Bahraini delegation in the 2026 World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos.

The delegation, led on behalf of HM King Hamad by His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister of the Prime Minister's Court, took part in a series of high-level discussions and meetings that highlighted Bahrain's

achievements and development progress.

## Transmission

In addition, the Cabinet welcomed the selection of Manama as the Arab Youth Entrepreneurs Capital for 2026, as approved by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and noted the strategic importance of the Al Jasra Transmission Station, the largest transmission station in the Kingdom.

Marking the upcoming Bahrain Sports Day, the Cabinet announced that Thursday, 12 February 2026, will be a half-working day for all ministries and government agencies, enabling employees to take part in sports activities and reinforcing the role of physical activity in community life.

## Art exhibition inaugurated



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday inaugurated the Rashid bin Khalifa Art Collection exhibition, which highlights Arabic and Islamic art. He affirmed that the Kingdom's achievements, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, inspire creative artists and enrich Bahrain's artistic and cultural landscape. HRH Prince Salman outlined the Kingdom's commitment to encouraging an environment that promotes creativity, while reinforcing national identity and embracing cultural openness. His Royal Highness highlighted the Kingdom's advancement across various sectors, particularly in culture and the arts, reflecting the positive progress made in the Bahraini creative sector. HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister emphasised that these artworks embody national identity, Bahrain's rich history, and its future aspirations. His Royal Highness added that they are an important tool in raising societal awareness and cultural diversity.

# Green strategy

HRH Prince Salman reaffirms Bahrain's push for renewable energy and climate action

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday reaffirmed the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment to advancing renewable energy projects as part of its broader energy diversification strategy.

He underscored the role of these initiatives in supporting sustainable development and strengthening the Kingdom's position in global efforts to address climate challenges.

The Kingdom of Bahrain continues to adopt innovative renewable energy solutions that contribute to achieving our sustainable development goals, in line with the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa," HRH Prince Salman said during a meeting with Mo-



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister with Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi

hamed Jameel Al Ramahi, Chief Executive Officer of Masdar, at Gudaibiya Palace.

## Initiatives

He stressed that these initiatives form a key pillar of the country's long-term economic and environmental planning.

His Royal Highness emphasised the importance of expand-

ing clean energy partnerships, noting that "our commitment to renewable energy projects is an essential component of Bahrain's energy diversification strategy and reinforces the Kingdom's role as an active and responsible partner in international climate action."

During the meeting, HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minis-

ter highlighted the depth of the longstanding and historic ties between Bahrain and the UAE, attributing their strength to the support of HM the King and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE.

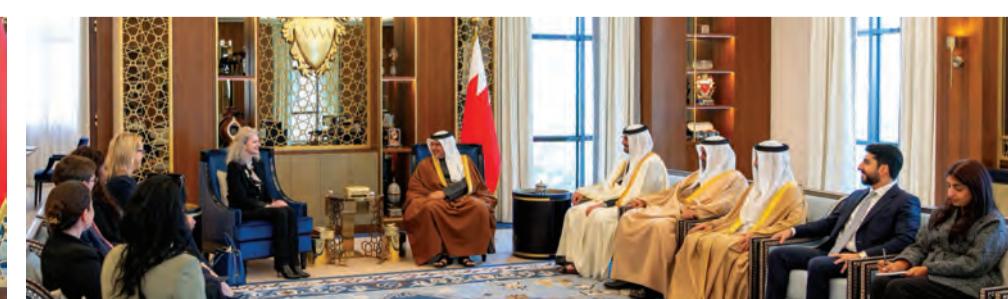
He also commended the efforts of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Mak-

toum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, in enhancing bilateral cooperation across various sectors.

Discussions also focused on reviewing existing areas of cooperation with Masdar and exploring opportunities to further strengthen collaboration in renewable and clean energy initiatives, in support of Bahrain's sustainable development objectives.

Al Ramahi expressed his appreciation for the continued support of His Royal Highness towards renewable energy projects, highlighting their importance in promoting environmental security and addressing the challenges posed by climate change. The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs.

## Bahrain-US strategic partnership



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, emphasised the strength of the longstanding Bahrain-US strategic partnership, which is underpinned by multisectoral collaboration and agreements, including the Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement (CSIPA). He welcomed the mutual commitment between both countries to further bolster the bilateral partnership across various sectors and aligned with mutual interests. HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he met yesterday Her Excellency Allison Hooker, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs of the US, at Gudaibiya Palace. HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister underscored the vital role of the US, alongside allied countries, in safeguarding regional and international stability and in supporting sustainable development. His Royal Highness also outlined the Kingdom's aspirations for the Board of Peace to achieve its objectives in enhancing security and stability for all.

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# 77th Republic Day celebrated at Indian Embassy

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The 77th Republic Day celebrations were held at the Embassy of India premises in Seef yesterday morning.

The national flag was hoisted by His Excellency Mr. Vinod K Jacob, Ambassador of India to Bahrain, after offering a floral tribute before the statue of the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

Key excerpts from the Republic Day message of the President of India, Her Excellency Smt. Droupadi Murmu, were also read out by the Ambassador during the flag-hoisting ceremony.

Speaking to the media after the ceremony, H.E. the Ambassador highlighted the longstanding and growing friendship between India and the Kingdom of Bahrain.

#### Diplomatic relations

H.E. Ambassador Jacob noted that India and Bahrain established diplomatic relations in October 1971, and this year marks 55 years since that historic milestone.

H.E. recalled that when His

Excellency Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, visited India in November last year for the 5th High Joint Commission Meeting with His Excellency Dr. S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India, both sides agreed to commemorate the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations with a series of events.

#### Programmes

The embassy has since launched various programmes to celebrate the relationship across different areas, H.E. said.

His Excellency Ambassador Jacob expressed hope that the entire Bahraini society, along with all Indians living in the Kingdom of Bahrain, will work together with the embassy to make this a memorable year and help take bilateral relations to the next level.

On the occasion of the 77th Republic Day, H.E. conveyed his warm greetings to all 3.15 lakh Indians living in the Kingdom.

His Excellency said Indians should feel proud of India's achievements, including the



H.E. Indian Ambassador Jacob delivers a speech

strong economic growth the country continues to register.

#### Economy

Referring to a recent International Monetary Fund report, H.E. noted that the Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.3 percent in fiscal 2026, well above the global average of 3.3 percent, and said this performance reflects an economy thriving and

growing stronger year after year.

The ambassador urged the Indian community to continue being involved in India's growth story and to support the strengthening of India-Bahrain bilateral relations.

H.E. reiterated his hope that the community will join the embassy in making this year's commemorations of diplomatic relations a great success.



H.E. Ambassador Mr. Vinod K Jacob at the flag-hoisting ceremony



Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS) held a flag-hoisting ceremony yesterday morning that was led by president P. V. Radhakrishna Pillai in the presence of general secretary Varghese Karakkal and other senior members. (Pictures credit: Anchalo Bensiger)



A floral tribute before the statue of the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi

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# 'Key achievement in Bahrain-Cyprus strategic partnership'

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His Excellency Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, described the visit of H.E. Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides as a key milestone in the long-standing cooperation and close strategic partnership between Bahrain and Cyprus, underpinned by trust, understanding, mutual respect, and shared human values.

"This visit reflects the depth of our historic relations and the mutual commitment of our leaderships to strengthening bilateral ties," H.E. Dr. Al Zayani said.

He added, "The opening of the Embassy of Cyprus in Manama marks a new chapter in our diplomatic journey, coinciding with 44 years of fruitful relations."

His Excellency highlighted that "the agreements signed during this visit underscore our shared commitment to advancing cooperation across defence, culture, education, tourism, transport, technology, and maritime services."

## Dedication

H.E. Dr. Al Zayani commended the outcomes of the official visit, noting that it demonstrates the governments' dedication to further developing the strategic partnership and serving the mutual interests of both countries.

He emphasised Bahrain's commitment, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime



Minister, to enhance bilateral relations and contribute to regional and international peace, security, and sustainable development.

The Minister underscored the

peaceful means, and supporting the Palestinian cause based on the two-state solution.

**The official visit demonstrates the governments' dedication to further developing the strategic partnership and serving the mutual interests of both countries.**

H.E. DR. ABDULLATIF BIN RASHID AL ZAYANI, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

diplomatic alignment of Bahrain and Cyprus on key international issues, reflecting a shared commitment to achieving just and comprehensive peace in the region, resolving disputes by

He welcomed Cyprus's participation in the 21st IISS Manama Dialogue 2025 and Bahrain's hosting of the annual regional meeting of Cypriot ambassadors accredited to the Gulf Cooperation Council, reflecting mutual trust and the key role of diplomacy in strengthening bilateral cooperation.

He also highlighted the importance of international cooperation in ensuring maritime security, safeguarding global trade routes, and promoting tolerance, human fraternity, and dialogue between civilizations, in line with the initiatives of the King Hamad Global Center for Coexistence and Tolerance.

H.E. Dr. Al Zayani expressed appreciation for the strong coordination between the two foreign ministries, noting high-level exchanges and three rounds of political consultations, the latest in Nicosia.

## Trust

He concluded by underlining the success of the Bahrain-Cyprus summit in highlighting the significant progress achieved in strategic cooperation and shared commitment to further developing relations across political, economic, social, cultural, and security domains, to benefit both countries and support broader diplomatic efforts aimed at building a world of peace, coexistence, and sustainable prosperity.

# Diplomatic milestone

H.E. Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides inaugurates new Cypriot Embassy in Manama

Ashen Tharaka  
TDT | Manama

"Bahrain and Cyprus are aligned on the same goals, from supporting a two-state solution for lasting peace to prioritizing security, trade protection, and education," said His Excellency Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

He highlighted the potential for deeper cooperation as Bahrain and Cyprus currently hold the presidencies of the GCC and the EU Council, respectively, emphasizing the importance of nurturing genuine friendship and partnerships between the two nations.

H.E. Dr. Al Zayani made the remarks during the official inauguration of the new Cypriot Embassy premises in Manama as a part of the state visit of President Nikos Christodoulides.

## Dignitaries

The event was also attended by H.E. Dr. Constantinos Kombos, Cyprus' Minister of Foreign



H.E. Cyprus' Ambassador Dr. Andreas Eliades speaks at the event, attended by H.E. Dr. Constantinos Kombos

Affairs, and other dignitaries.

"The establishment of this embassy will strengthen our bilateral partnerships and open new opportunities for collaboration across various sectors," H.E.



H.E. Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani and H.E. Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides at the embassy inauguration

Dr. Al Zayani added.

He reflected on his recent visit to Nicosia, noting the strong shared values, perspectives, and warm hospitality he experienced, reinforcing the solid

foundation of Bahrain-Cyprus relations.

Speaking at the event, H.E. Dr. Andreas Eliades, Cyprus Ambassador to Bahrain, highlighted the historical and stra-

tegic ties between the two island nations.

He noted that the signing of multiple agreements during recent high-level meetings between leaders of the two countries pushes to a new era of cooperation across defense and security, culture and education, trade and investment, tourism, and maritime collaboration.

H.E. Ambassador Eliades also recognized the contributions of Cypriot professionals

to Bahrain's development over the years, praising the enduring people-to-people connections and cultural exchanges between the countries.

"The opening of our resident embassy reflects a shared commitment to a forward-looking partnership that will enhance diplomatic, economic, educational, and cultural relations, benefiting both Cypriot and Bahraini citizens," the ambassador said.

# Cyprus president departs Bahrain

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Cyprus President, His Excellency Nikos Christodoulides, and his accompanying delegation departed the Kingdom of Bahrain yesterday, marking the conclusion of their official visit.

During the visit, H.E. President Christodoulides held discussions with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, focusing on strengthening bilateral cooperation to serve mutual interests.

Upon departure from Bahrain International Airport, H.E. the President was bid farewell by H.E. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce and Head of the Mission of Honour; H.E. Salman bin Isa bin Hindi Al Mannai, Gover-



H.E. Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides receives a warm farewell

nor of Muharraq Governorate; H.E. Dr. Andreas Eliades, Ambassador of Cyprus to Bahrain; H.E. Ambassador Khalid Yousif Al

Jalahma, Ambassador of Bahrain to Cyprus, resident in Tel Aviv; alongside a number of senior officials.

## Bahrain-US defense training



In a move aimed at strengthening the defence partnership between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United States, Rear Admiral Matthew Kawas, Deputy Commander of US Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT), met with senior leadership of the Bahrain Defence Force during a joint bilateral exercise focused on developing capabilities to counter unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) systems. The exercise seeks to enhance mutual trust, strengthen operational coordination, and improve interoperability between the armed forces of both countries, contributing to greater security readiness and regional stability.

# Bahrain committed to achieving clean energy transition

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain is committed to transitioning towards a more sustainable and efficient energy system, in line with the visions of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

This was emphasised by His Excellency Yasser bin Ibrahim Humaidan, Minister of Elec-

tricity and Water Affairs, as he noted that the Kingdom's efforts are ongoing to achieve ambitious visions that ensure a sustainable future for coming generations.

Marking International Clean Energy Day, observed annually on January 26, he said the occasion highlights the importance of sustainability pathways and clean energy, in line with the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Minister explained that



H.E. Yasser bin Ibrahim Humaidan

clean energy represents a key pillar of comprehensive development, given its central role in reducing carbon emissions, improving resource-use efficiency, and supporting sustainable economic growth.

He noted that the Kingdom continues to align its policies and national programmes with international best practices and standards, while accelerating efforts to achieve its declared goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2060.

H.E. Humaidan added that the Ministry of Electricity and Water Affairs has launched a series of initiatives and strategic projects aimed at expanding the use of clean and renewable energy sources, encouraging innovation and the adoption of modern technological solutions, and strengthening partnerships with regional and international entities.

## Expertise

These efforts contribute to

the exchange of expertise, the development of national capacities, improved energy efficiency, better resource management, and reduced losses.

The Minister emphasised that the transition to clean energy is a national responsibility and a shared obligation that requires integrated efforts and the adoption of sustainable practices, contributing to improved energy efficiency and supporting long-term environmental objectives.

# Legal setback

Unauthorised lawyer leads to dismissal of Bahraini's fatal maritime accident appeal

## Cassation court upholds three-year prison sentence

Rehab Mohammad  
TDT | Manama

The Court of Cassation has rejected an appeal by a man sentenced to three years in prison over a maritime accident that killed two people.

The court ruled that his lawyer was not authorised to represent him in the appeal.

It explained that filing a cassation appeal in criminal cases is a personal right that only the convicted person can exercise, or someone specifically authorized by them.

## Representation

The power of attorney issued to the lawyer allowed representation in lower courts but did not include the right to file a cassation appeal.

The court dismissed the appeal on procedural grounds.

Previously, the Second High Criminal Court of Appeal increased the man's sentence from seven months to three years following the Public Prosecution's appeal.

## Fine

The court also confirmed a



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The case originated from a collision between two boats near Al-Muhammadiya Island.

fine of BD1,150 and ordered the confiscation of the fishing nets and the boat.

The case originated from a collision between two boats near Al-Muhammadiya Island.

The defendant had towed the damaged boat to the coast of Malkiya, where one victim's body was found.

Search operations later recovered the second body near

Budaiya Port.

Prosecutors said the defendant caused the deaths while under the influence of drugs.

He also possessed pregabalin illegally, failed to provide safety equipment on the boat, did not install an identification device, and did not operate navigation lights. In addition, he and others conducted illegal trawling fishing in territorial waters.

Two other defendants were charged with staying in Bahrain illegally after failing to renew their residence permits.

# Northern Council seeks action on waste bags distribution

## Public concerns grow over current service

Hasan Barakat  
TDT | Manama

The Northern Area Municipal Council has approved raising an official letter to His Excellency Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, urging an urgent review of the household waste bag distribution system amid growing public dissatisfaction with the current service.

The decision was taken during the council's tenth ordinary meeting of the sixth municipal term, fourth session, following detailed discussions on recur-

ring technical failures affecting the machines used to dispense waste bags to residents in the Northern Governorate.

Municipal Council member Abdullah Ashoor, representative of the Sixth Constituency, outlined persistent operational issues linked to the dispensing machines.

## Devices

He said the devices suffer from frequent breakdowns and sudden stoppages, depriving citizens of a basic municipal service and creating daily frustration.

Ashoor noted that councillors receive repeated complaints from residents, with some members reporting several messages each week regarding the same problem.



Waste bag machine

He stressed that the situation is compounded by the limited number of machines available, which remain insufficient even when functioning properly.

## Recommendations

The Northern Area Municipal Council also approved raising a formal recommendation calling for urgent action to provide concrete seating in Salman City, Block 581.

It approved raising a formal recommendation to H.E. Al Mubarak calling for ministerial review of a proposal to support permanent youth sports facilities in the Northern Governorate.

The Council discussed a request to lower pavements located near Ahmed bin Hassan Al Khan Mosque in Salman City.

primary healthcare centres and military hospitals over the next two years.

The purchasing will be overseen by the National Unified Procurement Committee for Medicines and Medical Supplies under the Supreme Council of Health.

The committee monitors the national strategic stock of medicines, sets benchmarks for warehousing and delivery, and reviews and approves purchasing contracts and supplies sent to the warehouses.

# New ILA Executive Committee



Smitha Jensen



Sunanda Gaikwad



Sheetal Shah



Sarmistha Dey



Tessy Cherian



Meena Thaker



Vijay Lakshmi



Hilda Lobo



Meena Bhatia

The Indian Ladies Association (ILA) has announced the newly elected Executive Committee for the year 2026-27. This dynamic team is once again led by Smitha Jensen, who has been re-elected for a second term and is committed to driving ILA's mission of community service, cultural exchange, and empowerment forward. The new Executive Committee comprises: Hon. President Smitha Jensen; Hon. Vice-President Sunanda Gaikwad; Hon. Treasurer Sheetal Shah; Hon. General Secretary Sarmistha Dey; Hon. Secretary for Public Relations Tessy Cherian; Hon. Secretary for Entertainment Meena Thaker; Hon. Secretary for Membership Vijay Lakshmi; Hon. Secretary for Operations Hilda Lobo; and Hon. Secretary for Activities Meena Bhatia.

# BD140m medicines and vaccines tenders awarded

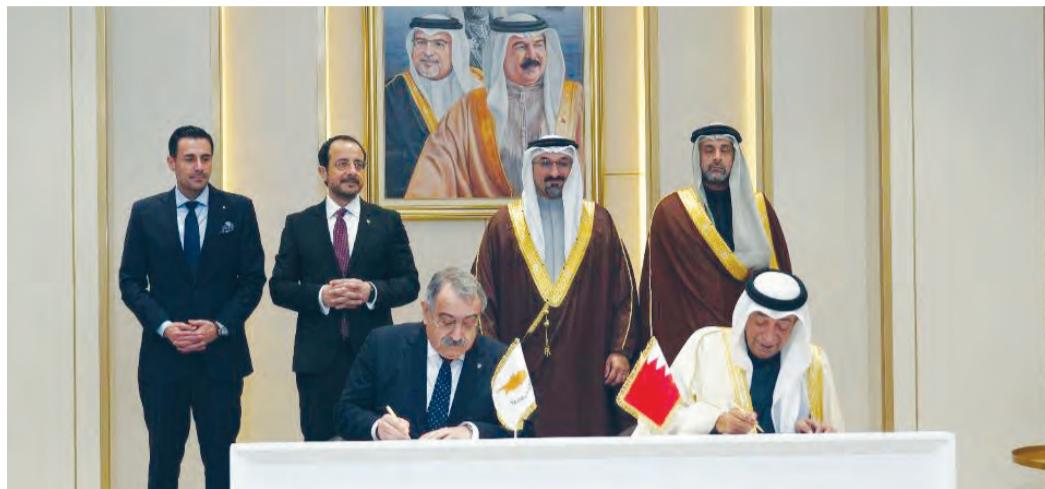
## Mohammed Darwish

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is preparing to buy medicines, vaccines and serums worth about BD 140 million to meet demand across the health sector in 2026 and 2027, according to newly released Tender Board figures.

The Board awarded a tender worth BD139,886,871 to supply medicines, vaccines and serums to Shifa'a National Medical Supply warehouses, for use by government hospitals,

# Cyprus President visits Bahrain Chamber, reaffirms commitment to strengthening ties



Manama

**H**is Excellency Mr Nikos Christodoulides, President of the Republic of Cyprus, and the accompanying delegation visited the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the presence of His Excellency Mr Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce and Head of the

Honorary Mission. The delegation was received by His Excellency Mr Sameer bin Abdullah Nass, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, along with Chamber members and officials.

Discussions focused on prospects for strengthening economic relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Republic of Cyprus and advancing

bilateral cooperation. During the visit, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by His Excellency Mr Sameer bin Abdullah Nass and His Excellency Mr Stavros Stavrou, President of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, aimed at consolidating economic partnership, enhancing the investment environment, supporting mutual investments, exchang-

ing expertise and expanding commercial cooperation.

On the sidelines, the Bahrain-Cyprus Business Forum was convened, reflecting growing momentum in trade and investment relations. President Nikos Christodoulides praised the Bahrain Chamber's role in positioning Bahrain as a regional and international investment hub and highlighted

the importance of chambers of commerce in economic integration. He noted that Cyprus' Presidency of the Council of the European Union would prioritise strengthening EU-Gulf relations, with Bahrain as a key partner.

His Excellency Mr Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro highlighted the long-standing ties between the two countries, while His

Excellency Mr Sameer bin Abdullah Nass said the visit marks a milestone in bilateral cooperation. His Excellency Mr Khalid Mohammed Najiabi, First Vice-Chairman, and His Excellency Mr Mohammed Abduljabbar Al-Kooheji, Second Vice-Chairman, reaffirmed the Chamber's commitment to expanding Bahraini-Cypriot partnerships and trade.

## Bahrain Bourse joins Bahrain Association of Banks to strengthen collaboration with financial markets



Manama

**B**ahrain Bourse (BHB), a licensed exchange by the Central Bank of Bahrain, announced that it has joined the Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB), reinforcing collaboration with the financial markets and supporting the continued development of Bahrain's capital markets through structured dialogue and stakeholder engagement.

Bahrain Bourse will play an active role within the Investment and Capital Mar-

kets Committee, reflecting its commitment to strengthening collaboration between capital markets and the banking sector amid growing alignment across financial services and regulatory frameworks.

Shaikh Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al-Khalifa, CEO of Bahrain Bourse, commented, "Joining the Bahrain Association of Banks underscores Bahrain Bourse's commitment to collaboration, responsible market development, and meaningful engagement across the financial ecosystem."

"We look forward to collaborate with BAB and its members to advance sector-wide priorities and play an active role in shaping the future of Bahrain's financial services industry," Shaikh Khalifa added.

Zeeba Askar, CEO of the Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB), commented, "We look forward to working closely with Bahrain Bourse through structured engagement and shared initiatives that support the ongoing development and resilience of Bahrain's financial sector."

## 11 Bahraini enterprises showcase their products to a global audience at Bahrain Pavilion in Gulfood Dubai

### Supported by Labour Fund "Tamkeen"

Manama

**T**he Labour Fund "Tamkeen" inaugurated yesterday the Kingdom of Bahrain's pavilion at Gulfood Dubai, with the participation of 11 Bahraini enterprises. This event is recognized as one of the largest annual exhibitions dedicated to the food and beverage industry. The 31st edition of the event is being held in Dubai, United Arab



Emirates, across two major venues: the Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) and the Dubai Exhibition Centre at Expo City Dubai. This edition will feature more than 6,500 exhibitors from over 130 countries showcasing more than one million products.

Participating companies will be given a unique platform to showcase their products to a global audience, gain insight into the latest developments and trends in the sector, strengthen business networks, secure partnerships and exchange expertise with industry leaders. The

companies participating in the pavilion include: Al Salwa Meat Factory, Deniz Food Packing Factory, Al Ameer Spices, Al Muharraq Pickles and Spices Factory, The Food Supply Company, Fermendiet Food, Early Riser Food, Quba Factory, Alkamel Factory, Amalfi Foods and Awal Dairy Company.

Gulfood Dubai is an annual event that serves as a global platform for food and beverage industry professionals. It offers valuable opportunities for networking, deal-making, product launches and industry announcements.

## News in brief

◆ A visiting Qatari official yesterday announced a multi-million dollar aid package for Lebanon, primarily to support the country's crumbling electricity sector. In a separate statement, the Qatar Development Fund said the package was valued at about \$430 million, the majority of it to support the energy sector, adding that it would benefit some 1.5 million people. "The support includes a contribution of up to \$400 million to support the energy sector," of which 10 percent would be allocated as a grant, it added. At a press conference in Beirut, Qatari state minister for foreign affairs Mohammed al-Khulaifi announced "a package of development and humanitarian projects" for Lebanon, including "a grant of \$40 million to support the electricity sector". Lebanon's electricity sector has cost Lebanon more than \$40 billion since the end of its 1975-1990 civil war, and successive governments have failed to reduce losses or repair crumbling infrastructure.



**Qatar announces \$430 mn in support for Lebanon**

◆ France on Sunday took into custody the Indian captain of an oil tanker suspected of belonging to Russia's sanctions-busting "shadow fleet" for the vessel failing to fly a flag, prosecutors said. The 58-year-old captain was in charge of the tanker, the Grinch, which was seized by the French navy in the Mediterranean on Thursday and is now moored, under guard, at a southern French port near Marseille. The Marseille prosecutors' office, in charge of investigating the case, said the rest of the ship's crewmembers -- all also Indians -- were being "kept on board". The Grinch is thought to be part of a fleet of mostly old tankers used to transport Russian oil in violation of a crude price cap imposed by Western countries and the G7 over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Vessels in that "shadow fleet" frequently change the flags they fly, in a practice known as "flag-hopping" and sometimes sail under invalid flags, in an attempt to escape detection and tracking. The Grinch was escorted by the French navy on Saturday to the Gulf of Fos, in southern France. It was anchored about 500 metres (1,600 feet) off the town of Martigues, an AFP photographer observed on Sunday. A French navy ship and two gendarmerie patrol boats were stationed nearby. The local prefecture said nautical and air exclusion zones had been established around the anchorage site.

### SPOTLIGHT

## Gold hits records as US policy rattles investors

**Key figures at around 1630 GMT**

Gold -	▲ 2.3% at \$5,094.90 per ounce
Silver -	▲ 11.7 percent at 113.16 per ounce
New York - Dow:	▲ 0.3% at 49,266.80 points
New York - S&P 500:	▲ 0.6% at 6,955.07
NASDAQ Composite:	▲ 0.7% 23,655.99
London - FTSE 100:	▲ less than 0.1% at 10,148.85 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.2% at 8,131.15 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX:	▲ 0.1% at 24,933.08 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 1.8% at 52,885.25 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▲ 0.1% at 26,765.52 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 0.1% at 4,132.61 (close)
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 153.98 yen from 157.00 yen on Friday
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1885 from \$1.1823
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.3702 from \$1.3636
Euro/pound:	▲ at 86.71 from 86.70 pence
Brent North Sea Crude:	▼ 0.8% at \$64.58 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▼ 1.0% at \$60.49 per barrel

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Investors nervous about geopolitics, tariff threats and US budgetary issues flocked to buy gold Monday, pushing the safe-haven precious metal well into record territory.

The dollar sank, meanwhile, amid speculation of US-Japan central bank coordination to support the yen.

Gold climbed above \$5,100 an ounce, having cracked \$5,000 on Sunday, amid rising global uncertainty and turmoil set off by US President Donald Trump's policies.

"It vaulted over the psychologically important 5,000 mark on a glittering streak, heading sharply higher as trade tensions emanating from the US unnerved investors," said Susan Streeter, chief investment strategist at Wealth Club.

By comparison, gold could be had for just over \$2,000 an ounce only two years ago. this week.

Silver prices have also spiked to record territory.

"The relentless quest for hard assets continued amid yet more talk of tariffs and US government shutdowns," said Neil Wilson, a strategist at Saxo UK.

Several US senators have said they would vote against coming government spending bills after federal agents killed a second American citizen in Minneapolis, significantly increasing the chances of a government shutdown next week.

The US Fed is expected to hold interest rates steady this week despite Trump's pressure to slash them, which is seen as a threat to its independence, which has traditionally been one of the pillars of US assets' solidity.

US stocks began the week firmer, with several of the so-called Magnificent Seven tech firms set to report earnings this week.



## Cyprus and Bahrain enter New Strategic Phase

President Christodoulides Highlights Strengthened Ties

**Tamam AbuSafi / Rashid Al-hamer**

The President of the Republic of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides, outlined a new era in Bahraini-Cypriot relations during a comprehensive interview with Al-Ayam, conducted during his reception of the Editor-in-Chief, Nabeel Rashid Al-Hamer, highlighting a shift from traditional friendship to a strategic partnership encompassing political coordination, economic integration, and regional security.

The interview took place on the sidelines of President Christodoulides's official visit to Bahrain—his third visit to the Kingdom and the first since assuming the presidency—where he received a warm welcome from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister. The President described the hospitality and organization as a reflection of the deep trust and respect between the two nations.

President Christodoulides emphasized the timing of the visit, coinciding with Bahrain's presidency of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Cyprus's presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU), which he said opens new opportunities for institutional and strategic cooperation between Europe and the Gulf.

During the visit, Cyprus and Bahrain signed nine memoranda of understanding across key sectors, along with a joint action plan featuring more than 14 practical initiatives at bilateral and regional levels. The agreements reflect close coordination between the two countries' foreign ministries, national



security advisers, and relevant agencies.

The Cypriot President highlighted his country's priorities during its EU presidency in 2026, including, Resuming negotiations on the EU-GCC Free Trade Agreement, Advancing visa-free access for Bahrainis to EU countries and Strengthening energy

cooperation through joint initiatives and meetings between GCC and EU energy ministers.

President Christodoulides reaffirmed that resolving the division of the island remains an absolute national priority, insisting that the status quo since 1974 is not a solution.

He emphasized efforts to resume negotiations in line with UN Security Council resolutions, leveraging the EU presidency to foster political momentum.

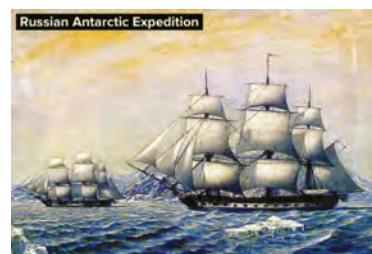
Finally, the interview explored economic, investment, and tourism opportunities, with the President calling on the private sector to transform agreements into tangible outcomes, signaling a shift from dialogue to action in the Bahrain-Cyprus partnership.

1820

1825

Russian Antarctic expedition led by Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen and Mikhail Lazarev discover the continent of Antarctica.

US President James Monroe urges Congress to approve creation of Indian Territory, west of the Mississippi River, for the relocation of Eastern Indian tribes to 'promote their welfare and happiness'



1924

1944

Vladimir Lenin is placed in a Mausoleum in Red Square, Moscow

Siege of Leningrad lifted by the Soviets after 880 days and more than 2 million Russians killed

TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Thank you for hosting us on Republic Day, President @rashtrapatibhvn. Europe and India are the world's largest democracies, committed to working together to shape a new global order. This is why we are here to take our partnership to new heights.

@vonderleyen  
02

Thank you my dear friend, President Emmanuel Macron for your warm wishes on India's 77th Republic Day. I look forward to welcoming you in India soon and further deepen and diversify the India-France strategic partnership.

@narendramodi

03



Renewable energy is the engine that can drive a just & equitable transition away from fossil fuels. The roadmap is clear: we must triple global renewable capacity by 2030. A clean energy future is within reach.

@antoniofurtherres

04



Join @WHO to make an impact in global health. We're looking for a Director of Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health to advance #HealthForAll by anticipating change and integrating promotion, prevention and care across all health and disease areas to address today's greatest health burdens and tomorrow's challenges.

@DrTedros

# EU leaders join India's Republic Day parade ahead of trade deal

AFP | New Delhi, India

European Union leaders joined India's Republic Day parade as the guests of honour yesterday, a day before New Delhi and Brussels are expected to seal a long-awaited free trade agreement.

Military bands and horse and camel cavalry units paraded through capital New Delhi, while fighter jets buzzed overhead and India's latest military hardware was put on display.

"The occasion inspires us in our collective resolve to build a developed India," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said before the parade.

The fanfare also featured Indian air defence systems -- including missiles and drones -- that were deployed in the four-day conflict with arch-enemy Pakistan last year.

European Council President Antonio Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen are both in attendance, before an EU-India summit Tuesday, when the two sides are widely expected to announce a landmark free trade deal and security partnership.

They had been working on a trade agreement for over a decade before US President Donald Trump's trade tariffs pushed India and the 27-nation EU to expedite their efforts last year.



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President of the European Council António Costa, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, India's President Droupadi Murmu and India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh attend the country's 77th Republic Day parade at Kartavya Path in New Delhi

Republic Day marks the adoption of India's post-independence constitution in 1950 with the parade staged along a colonial-era boulevard that also hosts important government buildings.

The annual show is a colourful and tightly choreographed spectacle that also features floats from different Indian states to highlight the diversity of the country's 1.4 billion people.

India is on track to become the world's fourth-largest economy this year, according to International Monetary Fund projections.

Bilateral India-EU trade in goods reached 120 billion euros (\$139 billion) in 2024, an increase of nearly 90 percent over the past decade, according to EU



Indian military's armoured vehicles are pictured during the country's 77th Republic Day parade at Kartavya Path in New Delhi



Indian soldiers perform a motorcycle stunt

figures, with a further 60 billion euros (\$69 billion) in trade in services.

The pact would be a major win for Brussels and New Delhi as both seek to open up new markets to counter US tariffs and Chinese export controls.

While the EU sees India as an important market, New Delhi sees Brussels as an important source of much-needed technology and investments to rapidly upscale its infrastructure and create millions of new jobs for its people.

# US deploys aircraft carrier as Iran warns against attack

USS Abraham Lincoln dramatically boosts American firepower

The United States backed and briefly joined Israel's 12-day war against Iran in June

AFP | Paris, France

A US naval strike group led by an aircraft carrier has deployed to Middle Eastern waters, the United States said yesterday, as Tehran warned it was ready to hit back at any American attack launched in response to a crackdown on anti-government protests.

A US-based rights group said yesterday that it had confirmed the deaths of nearly 6,000 people in the wave of protests suppressed by Iran's security forces, but emphasised the actual toll could be several times higher.

US President Donald Trump has previously threatened to step in, saying last week that Washington was sending a "massive fleet" to the region "just in case".

The deployment of the USS



Cars drive past an anti-US billboard installed on a building at the Enqelab Square in Tehran

Abraham Lincoln carrier strike group dramatically boosts American firepower in the region.

The United States backed and briefly joined Israel's 12-day war against Iran in June, and while Trump last week appeared to step back from his threats of new military intervention, he has never ruled the option out.

The Lincoln's strike group has arrived in the region, US Central Command said in a post on X, adding the ships were "currently deployed to the Middle East to promote regional security

and stability".

**'Regret-inducing response'**

Iran's foreign ministry warned yesterday of a "comprehensive and regret-inducing response to any aggression".

Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said Iran was "confident in its own capabilities".

In apparent reference to the Lincoln, he added: "The arrival of such a battleship is not going to affect Iran's determination and seriousness to defend the Iranian nation."

Meanwhile, a new anti-US



Over the weekend, Persian-language TV channel Iran International, which is based outside the country, said more than 36,500 Iranians were killed by security forces from January 8 to 9, citing reports, documents and sources.

billboard has appeared in the central Enghelab Square in Tehran that appears to show an American aircraft carrier being destroyed.

"If you sow the wind, you will reap the whirlwind," its English-language caption reads.

State news agency IRNA quoted the commander of the Iranian navy Shahram Irani as saying on Monday: "Iran's naval power is not merely defensive but also acts as an anchor of stability in the region."

**Rushdie warns of political violence as he recounts his attack**

Park City, United States

The horrific knife attack that almost killed Salman Rushdie was an example of violence unleashed by unscrupulous political leaders, the author said Sunday, warning that "everybody's in danger now" in the increasingly febrile United States.

Speaking at the premiere of the documentary "Knife: The Attempted Murder of Salman Rushdie," the writer pointed to events unfolding across the country, where a second protester was shot dead by federal agents 24 hours earlier.

"The idea of danger and violence is close to everyone now in this country," he told AFP at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

"I think everybody's in danger now."

The film, directed by documentarian Alex Gibney, is the companion piece to Rushdie's "Knife," a memoir recounting the harrowing 2022 attack and its aftermath.

The British-American author was at an event in Chautauqua, New York when 24-year-old Hadi Matar leapt onto the stage and stabbed him 15 times.

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

# Digital City Bahrain appoints Brewer Smith Brewer Group as Design Architect and Lead Consultant

Manama

Digital City Bahrain is pleased to announce the appointment of Brewer Smith Brewer Group (BSBG) as Design Architect and Lead Consultant for Trio Park, the first phase of Digital City Bahrain, which will be developed at the Beyon Campus, Hamala, Bahrain.

The agreement was signed by Daniel Dugina, CEO of Digital City Development Company and Alistair McMillan, Managing Partner at BSBG, in the presence of Digital City Development Company Chairman Faisal Al Jalalma and other senior representatives. Under the agreement, BSBG will design Trio Park, which encompasses three circular buildings of ap-



proximately 39,000m<sup>2</sup> Gross Floor Area with private internal courtyards and serves as the new headquarters for Beyon Group, and BNET (Bahrain Network), the project's joint anchor tenants. The design also

comprises the design of new retail food and beverage spaces along with extensive publicly accessible landscaped areas for employees and visitors to enjoy.

With almost 50 years of de-

sign leadership in the region and a distinguished portfolio that includes a recent collaboration with Foster + Partners on the award-winning ICD Brookfield Place, and the design and delivery of DMCC

Phase 2 in Uptown Dubai, Managing Partner at BSBG said, "We are proud to be entrusted with shaping the architectural vision for Trio Park, a project that represents innovation, connectivity, and design excellence.

"Our goal is to deliver a space that not only embodies Digital City's pioneering spirit but also sets a new benchmark for smart, sustainable urban development in the region."

The wider Digital City development is actively progressing, and efforts are underway to secure end-users and tenants for the third ring of Trio Park, completing Phase 1 of the project. The design vision emphasizes the advantages of business clustering, enabling connectivity, innovation and shared services, while delivering a world-class workplace.

Alistair McMillan, Manag-

## American Mission Hospital to conduct Internal Medicine Conference in April

### ● Signing Ceremony held

Manama

An agreement was signed to organize the first American Mission Hospital Conference in Internal Medicine, scheduled to be held on 1-2 April 2026 at the Diplomat Hotel, as part of the early preparations to ensure the success of this scientific medical event.

The agreement was signed on behalf of American Mission Hospital by Dr. George Cherian, Chief Executive Officer, and on behalf of the organizing company by Dr. Ameen Abdullah, General Manager of Education Plus, the company specialized in conference organization.

The signing ceremony was attended by Professor Dr. Jamila Al Salman, Chair of the Scientific Committee of the Conference and Member of the Shura Council, as well as Ahmed Juma, Operations



Manager at Education Plus. Dr. George Cherian emphasized that the conference represents an important step in enhancing continuing medical education and exchanging scientific expertise in the field of internal medicine, noting the hospital's commitment to organizing a scientific conference that keeps pace with the latest medical developments.

Dr. Ameen Abdullah stated that Education Plus aims to deliver a distinguished conference

in terms of organization and scientific content, in a manner that reflects the reputation of American Mission Hospital and achieves its scientific and professional objectives.

The conference is expected to attract a distinguished group of physicians, consultants, and specialists in internal medicine from within and outside the Kingdom, with the committee set to announce full conference details in the coming period.



BENEFIT and Social Insurance Organization signed a memorandum of understanding on Monday to integrate and exchange data, streamlining financial procedures and speeding up transactions for private sector insured individuals and retirees.



## Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club renews partnership with Gulf Air as official carrier for the 2025/2026 Horseracing season

Manama

As part of the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club's (REHC) efforts to strengthen its strategic partnerships, in line with its development plans and the Kingdom of Bahrain's hosting of international horseracing championships and events, the Club has renewed its sponsorship agreement with Gulf Air, under which the national carrier will serve as the official carrier for the 2025/2026 horseracing season.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Mr. Yusuf Osama Buheji, Member of the High Committee of the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club, and Acting Chief Executive Officer of REHC, and Mr. Martin Gauss, Chief Executive Officer of Gulf Air, along with a number of of-



ficials from both sides.

On this occasion, Mr. Yusuf Buheji affirmed that the renewal of the agreement reflects the strength of the existing partnership and the pivotal role played

by the national carrier in supporting the sporting events and championships hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain. He praised Gulf Air's continued support for horseracing and its commitment to contributing to the development of the sport and enhancing



the Kingdom's presence on the international stage.

Mr. Buheji noted that this partnership carries particular significance in light of the Kingdom of Bahrain's hosting of numerous international champi-

onships and races, which serve as an effective platform for attracting horseracing enthusiasts and followers from around the world. He also expressed his appreciation for the ongoing cooperation between the two sides.

In this occasion, Mr. Martin Gauss expressed Gulf Air's pride in this agreement, which aligns with the airline's commitment to national responsibility and community partnership, as well as its support for vital sectors in the Kingdom of Bahrain—including the equestrian and horseracing sector, which is witnessing rapid development at both local and international levels.

Mr. Gauss explained that the sponsorship aims to support organizational efforts and strengthen marketing and promotional activities for the international races and championships hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain, helping to showcase the Kingdom's achievements and reinforce its position on the global horseracing map.

# CAMPUS

## campus

### BIS Celebrates Republic Day with Patriotism and Student-Led Activities



Manama

Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School (BIS) commemorated India's Republic Day with great enthusiasm and national pride, marking the occasion with a ceremonial unfurling of the Tri-colour and a heartfelt rendition of the National Anthem. The campus resonated with patriotic spirit as students, staff, and faculty came together to honour the values of democracy, unity, and national integrity.



Students arrived dressed in vibrant tri-colour attire, transforming the campus into a visual tribute to the nation's identity. The celebrations showcased youthful energy and creativity, with learners actively participating in a variety of engaging

activities, including art and craft sessions, patriotic word games, and other themed competitions designed to deepen their understanding of India's heritage and constitutional values. BIS Directors Mr. Himanshu Verma & Ms. Ritu Verma and Principal Mr. Saji Jacob extended their best wishes to one and all on the occasion of India's Republic Day.



### Republic Day fervour at NMS Bahrain



The New Millennium School, Bahrain, celebrated the 77th Republic Day of India with great enthusiasm, pride, and patriotic spirit. The occasion served as a reminder of India's rich democratic heritage and the values that guide the nation.

Special assemblies conducted by both the Junior and Senior Sections reflected the spirit of national pride and honour through a vibrant showcase of patriotic songs, dances, speeches, and skits.

The students eloquently expressed their love for the motherland and highlighted the sacrifices of the freedom fighters who paved the way for India's independence. The entire campus was beautifully decorated in the colours of the Tiranga and reverberated with patriotic fervour as students solemnly read out the Preamble of India.

Students took a pledge to preserve and promote the culture and rich heritage of both India and the Kingdom of Bahrain. Various activities such as self-composed poem recitations on the motherland, flag decoration, role plays, and speeches on Indian freedom fighters were conducted, fostering a deep sense of patriotism and respect for national values among the students.

Principal Dr. Arun Kumar Sharma addressed the gathering and motivated the students to imbibe the true meaning of patriotism by becoming responsible, compassionate, and visionary citizens.

Dr. Ravi Pillai, Chairman, and Mrs. Geetha Pillai, Managing Director, extended their warm wishes to the entire NMS family on the occasion and encouraged the students to grow into socially responsible individuals who uphold the values of unity, peace, and progress.

### Young Patriots Shine at New Horizon School's Republic Day Commemoration



Manama

The event commenced with a ceremonial march past, showcasing discipline and coordination among the students. This was followed by the solemn flag hoisting ceremony by the Chairman, Mr. Joy Mathews, Principal, Mrs. Vandana Sa-teesh and Junior principal Mrs. Nirmala Angelose, a moment that filled the atmosphere with national pride and reverence.

A highlight of the event was a soulful song dedicated to the spirit of "Vande Mataram" performed with heartfelt passion by the students. The Chairman, Mr. Joy Mathews, addressed

the students and staff, emphasizing the responsibilities of young citizens in building a strong and united nation.

Adding to the pride of the occasion, the school also celebrated a remarkable achievement by one of its students. Riya Dawane of Class V was selected as one of the best performers in singing at the prestigious 'Vande Mataram Competition' conducted by the Government of India. In recognition of her outstanding talent, she received an invitation to witness the Republic Day Parade 2026 at Karmavita Path, New Delhi.

### The Indian School Celebrates Republic Day



The Indian School marked the 77th Republic Day of India with a grand flag-hoisting ceremony and an awards distribution event at the school's Isa Town campus. The event, which took place on January 26, 2026, brought together students, teachers, and parents from both campuses, making the celebration a vibrant and memorable occasion for all. The event was graced by distinguished guests, including ISB Hon. Chairman Adv. Binu Mannil Varughese, Hon. Secretary V. Rajapandian, Hon. Member - Finance & IT Bonny Joseph, Principal VR Palaniswamy, Junior Wing Principal Pamela Xavier, Senior School & Academic Administration Vice-Principal G. Sathesh, Junior Wing Vice-Principal Priya Laji, and Staff Representative Parvathi Devadas.

# Classifieds

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AL-NAMAL CONTRACTING & TRADING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17251444 or NAMALCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

Ahmedi Industries B.S.C Closed has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17271333 or hr@ahmadipepsi.com

PROJECTS ACCESS SCAFFOLDING & FORMWORK CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17737891 or jose@projectsaccess.net

BOX MAKER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17231660 or layla@hardiasp.com

HOUSE OF ADMIRE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33555166 or HGOD8908@GMAIL.COM

CNL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17360000 or abbas.fardan@thekhotel.com

S KHAN CLEANING & FACILITIES SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38244491 or DOCUMENTMB9A@GMAIL.COM

BAHRAIN SERVICES & MAINTENANCE COMPANY B.S.C. (CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727676 or aqeel@basma.com.bh

DESI SHERAZ MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37034219 or SHERAZSAL-EEM13@GMAIL.COM

DIAMOND T ABAYAT has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33739009 or F.ALDSERI33@GMAIL.COM

INTERIOR SOLUTIONS COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17216099 or gigi@RGPME.COM

BOX MAKER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17231660 or layla@hardiasp.com

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CNL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17360000 or abbas.fardan@thekhotel.com

# Classifieds

## VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

OZNI INTERNATIONAL SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35002840 or OZNI.BH@GMAIL.COM

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

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

GOLDEN PRINT MEDIA has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39905003 or GOLDEN-PRM@GMAIL.COM

GULF HOTELS GROUP - GULF HOTEL has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17713000 or khalid.alwadi@gulfhotelbahrain.com

ALYAMAMA HOUSE FOR CLEANING CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345569 or YAMAHOUSE1@GMAIL.COM

MUBASHAR YOUNIS MAALIK CONSTRUCTIONS CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36729990 or RAZA4070@GMAIL.COM

home box has a vacancy for the occupation of INVENTORY SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 177116280 or info@rih.com.bh

SUCCESSBRIDGE CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33234445 or CHERUSSERIL@GMAIL.COM

ULTRA DISCOUNT SOLUTIONS CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37972967 or DISCOUNTSHOP973@GMAIL.COM

Abu Amin car wash and polish has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36155379 or BATOOLY129@GMAIL.COM

SHAMA ESSA M. RAIS (193522) has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33008054 or RAYMUSTAFA1919@GMAIL.COM

SHAMA ESSA M. RAIS (193522) has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33008054 or RAYMUSTAFA1919@GMAIL.COM

TRAIGS GENERAL TRADING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38473248 or ABDULRAHMAN1051@GMAIL.COM

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

VAVAD MAINTENANCE CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33342951 or Nasaravad191@gmail.com

Zohai Contracting Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33001435 or MRTASAWAR@GMAIL.COM

STONEY COMBINED FACILITES SUPPORT ACTIVITIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 11223344 or FARHADKHAN39071453@GMAIL.COM

AL FAROOQ GATE FOR HOME APPLIANCES MAINTENANCE has a vacancy for the occupation of REPAIRMAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17601454 or DSR.2030@GMAIL.COM

AL THUNAYAN GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33676786 or OMAR. ALTHUNAYAN1990@GMAIL.COM

BOLDBEAM EVENTS CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33768106 or AQIB.1221989@GMAIL.COM

SABAR AYOOB REASTURANT AND GRILLS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33008082 or sabarayoub.bh@gmail.com

BARIDHARA FACILITIES SUPPORT CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33331276 or SAJBONWLL@GMAIL.COM

AL REHMANI BAHRAIN PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of BUILDING TRADES FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36311262 or YASEENANMOL3145@GMAIL.COM

DOALAH TEA HUT CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39236272 or DOA-LAHT3@GMAIL.COM

ONE 2 GO SUPERMARKET CO W.L.L has a va-

cancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39181591 or ZAKIRKASHMIRI.ZK512@GMAIL.COM

M TEL CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39012460 or SHIBUJOY@YAHOO.COM

AHMED MANSOOR ALAALI has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 1765555 or adeel.hameed@al-aali.com

AHMED MANSOOR ALAALI has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 1765555 or adeel.hameed@al-aali.com

ALEA WORLD CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33556673 or AHMEDSAWSAN67@GMAIL.COM

DIL BAGH C SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 3421874 or DILB.BH.IND@GMAIL.COM

Wyndham Garden W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66316666 or manmai.hr@mannaotrading.com

LEGACY GENTS SALOON CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36250305 or hgdynamicc@gmail.com

HARD DREAM W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38881547 or hgdynamicc@gmail.com

WISE RISE CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33965626 or UZMARAZZQUE15@GMAIL.COM

MOUNTAIN HILLS SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34424537 or jefnisha-nava456@gmail.com

ALHILAL MEDICAL CENTER MANAMA BSC CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of CUSTOMER SERVICES COORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39338879 or HRD@ALHILALHEALTHCARE.COM

LULU BAHRAIN HYPERMARKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RETAIL TRADE SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17558558 or careers@bh.lulumea.com

ALHILAL MEDICAL CENTER MANAMA BSC CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of CUSTOMER SERVICES COORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34030402 or BBH90946@GMAIL.COM

SEVEN HILLS SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39697979 or hr@7hills-group.com

SAPPHIRE ALUMINUM COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38383956 or TMBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

DURRAT AL MUHARRAQ CLEANING & MAINTENANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17531518 or bucheerif5@gmail.com

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

MODERN MECHANICAL ELECTRICAL & TRANSPORT CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35429003 or emadelhakeem9@gmail.com

KKC INDUSTRY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39413666 or GARYXU@KKCIND.COM

SUBHAN INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66904153 or FATHIHOORAB100@GMAIL.COM

ALSHUROOQ SWEET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKERS(FOOD & BEVERAGES INDUSTRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33214563 or ALSHUROOQSWEETS@GMAIL.COM

ADETOLA COMBINED FACILITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STORE MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33667325 or ZSB79994@GMAIL.COM

ESTIQLAL CORNER CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(FALAFEL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37777701 or BOSSCO99@GMAIL.COM

PAKWAN GHAR RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33981326 or AAMIR786BAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

LAIBA TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17870207 or KINGDOM-PACK@GMAIL.COM

AL BARQA SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34035930 or SHAHADATHAQUE20@GMAIL.COM

SHAMA ESSA M. RAIS (193522) has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39001533 or AJMAL.AL18598@

act 39330955 or MASOOMA@MSQUAREBH.COM

GHUFRAN COMBINED SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33028821 or GHUFRANCOMBINED36@GMAIL.COM

ALHAJ HASSAN GROUP B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of PIPEFITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or hr.admin@hajhassan.com

RED TAP ELECTRONICS has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37778298 or ALLSOP-ERTAMODII@GMAIL.COM

KARAK AL SHARQI has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33556673 or AHMEDSAWSAN67@GMAIL.COM

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ably qualified applicants can contact 33008054 or RAYMUSTAFA1919@GMAIL.COM

PINDAR SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33015010 or INFO28TRAVEL@GMAIL.COM

SABAR AYOOB REASTURANT AND GRILLS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33008082 or AYESHEH\_ALI@GMAIL.COM

AABIDH TRADING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35975878 or NIRSHADT421@GMAIL.COM

BURGERLAND RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77157777 or tina@jasgroup.co

WADI SHINKIARI FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36484758 or ATTAU3421@GMAIL.COM

RUMI PERFUMES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39686980 or HUSSAIN-NASSER939@GMAIL.COM

VELVET CROWN CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3338192 or AFNANMECH31@GMAIL.COM

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

BBH CARGO SERVICE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAREHOUSE KEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3208318 or HK425493@GMAIL.COM

Fine fin Consultancy Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77157777 or tina@jasgroup.co

# Classifieds

## VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

BEN EID TOWERS CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAIN-  
TENANCE).GENERAL, suitably qualified  
applicants can contact 17250078 or KEHF-  
2011@HOTMAIL.COM

ALRAHILA CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vac-  
ancy for the occupation of CARPENTER,  
suitably qualified applicants can contact  
33865286 or alrahilaconstruction@gmail.com

CAPRICON TRADING & CONTRACTING CO.  
BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vac-  
ancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION  
WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can  
contact 39531396 or CKMANAGEMENT.BH@  
GMAIL.COM

TECHNO PRO CONTRACTING SERVICES W.L.L  
has a vacancy for the occupation of FABRI-  
CATOR(FIBERGLASS PRODUCTS), suitably  
qualified applicants can contact 35078579 or  
INFO@TECHNOPROBH.COM

MASALA VILLAGE RESTAURANT has a vac-  
ancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT),  
suitably qualified applicants can contact  
38144438 or EBUSHEHAB@GMAIL.COM

ELECTRA PUBLICITY & ADVERTISING BA-  
HRAIN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupa-  
tion of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants  
can contact 17785961 or ELECTRAPAB@  
GMAIL.COM

SEA BIRD MECHANICAL AND MARINE CON-  
TRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occu-  
pation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applica-  
nts can contact 17273133 or SIAM7373@  
BATELCO.COM.BH

A - KARIM ALJAHROMI CONTRACTING COM-  
PANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupa-  
tion of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL,  
suitably qualified applicants can contact  
17831000 or akjcont@gmail.com

ITIBIT CONTRACTING EST. has a vacancy for  
the occupation of DRAFTSMAN, suitably  
qualified applicants can contact 39444923 or  
bigbossvip91@gmail.com

KRISPY KREME W.L.L has a vacancy for the  
occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably  
qualified applicants can contact 17262998 or  
ssaled@AMERICANA-FOOD.COM

GHADEER BUSINESS MANAGEMENT W.L.L  
has a vacancy for the occupation of EXECU-  
TIVE DIRECTOR, suitably qualified applicants  
can contact 17262604 or majeed@gbm.bh

AI fateh cleaning and Maintenance Com-  
pany w.l.l has a vacancy for the occupa-  
tion of CLEANER, suitably qualified applica-  
nts can contact 17830078 or kanakaraj.pk@horizon-  
intgroup.com

DURRAT AL MUHARRAQ CLEANING & MAINTENANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupa-  
tion of CLEANER, suitably qualified applica-  
nts can contact 17535158 or bucheeri5@gmail.com

AL RAFEEQ TOWER EXCAVATION W.L.L has a  
vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CON-  
STRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified  
applicants can contact 39000116 or MOSA-  
WI67@HOTMAIL.COM

HIGHRISE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY  
CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupa-  
tion of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applica-  
nts can contact 33249430 or KIANIBRAZILIAN@  
GMAIL.COM

MOHAMMED AHMADI CO W.L.L has a vac-  
ancy for the occupation of WORKER-CLEAN-  
ING(HAND & CHEMICAL SOLUTIONS),  
suitably qualified applicants can contact  
17268111 or hrd1@macbh.com

Analytica One Trading W.L.L has a vacancy for  
the occupation of ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT,  
suitably qualified applicants can contact  
17002629 or TRAHMEH@HOTMAIL.COM

GOLD TOWN IRONING has a vacancy for the  
occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably  
qualified applicants can contact 39853626 or  
ABDULHAMEED6439@GMAIL.COM

ALSABAH CONSTRUCTION CO W.L.L has a  
vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR,  
suitably qualified applicants can contact  
17714015 or info@alsabahconstruction.com

ALAMAHANAH SANDWICHES & JUICE has a  
vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JUICE &  
SANDWICHES), suitably qualified applicants  
can contact 17334088 or EBRAHIMALAMA-  
NA@GMAIL.COM

BY SNA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupa-  
tion of WORKER(SPINNERS,WEAVERS & DY-  
ERS), suitably qualified applicants can contact  
39090804 or BS4CLEARANCE@GMAIL.COM

NORTH STAR ALUMINUM WORKSHOP has a  
vacancy for the occupation of BLACKSMITH,  
suitably qualified applicants can contact  
33115368 or northstaralum@gmail.com

JALAL SIRAZ AUTO SPARE PARTS CENTER  
has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHAN-  
IC, suitably qualified applicants can contact  
33265900 or ALABER122@GMAIL.COM

DUST BUNNY CARGO HANDLING CO W.L.L  
has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(HAND  
WRAPPING), suitably qualified  
applicants can contact 33768106 or  
AQIB.1221989@GMAIL.COM

# Bahrain's King's Cup returns

All eyes on Al Khaldiya chasing back-to-back glory

**Hussain Almaskati**  
TDT | Manama

The next chapter in Bahrain's premier domestic football competition begins this Saturday, February 1, as the 2025-26 King's Cup enters its Round of 16. The Bahrain Football Association confirmed the schedule yesterday, moving the kingdom's top clubs closer to the knockout stage.

Defending champions Al Khaldiya, who lifted their second King's Cup last season under Ali Ashoor by edging past Sitra 3-2 in the April 2025 final, headline the draw. Founded in 2020, the men in yellow have quickly emerged as a dominant force in Bahraini football and now look to defend their crown under Tunisian coach Lassaad Chabbi. The club also claimed the 2021-22 title, winning a penalty shootout over East Riffa.

The action opens at Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Stadium, where Bahrain Club take on Al Hidd at 4:35 PM, followed by Al Shabab facing Al Malkiya



Al Khaldiya crowned King's Cup champions last season

at 7:40 PM. Winners will advance to the quarter-finals, joining

sides that have progressed through the preliminary rounds.

On Monday, February 2, league holders Muharraq host

Isa Town at Khalifa Sports City Stadium at 7 PM, while Manama meet Riffa at 7 PM at Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Stadium. Both matches promise high stakes as league form meets knockout intensity.

Tuesday, February 3, sees defending champions Al Khaldiya return to Khalifa Sports City Stadium to face Al Hala at 7 PM. At the same time, Al Ittifaq will take on Sitra at Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Stadium, completing the midweek fixtures.

The Round of 16 concludes on Thursday, February 5, with Al Budaiya against Al Ahli at Khalifa Sports City Stadium, and A'ali facing Al Najma at Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Stadium, both kicking off at 7 PM.

The draw now comes to life as clubs across Bahrain begin their pursuit of the kingdom's crown jewel. With defending champions Al Khaldiya among the contenders, the stage is set for a fiercely competitive knockout round that will determine which sides advance in the 49th edition of the King's Cup.

## Bahrain Open Tennis Challenger kicks off, open to public



Captain Safeya Alhajeri and Mohamed Alsayed, Tournament Director

**Ashen Tharaka**  
TDT | Manama

The fifth edition of the Bahrain Open Tennis Challenger has officially begun at the Police Officers Club and will run until February 1. The tournament, open to the public, highlights Bahrain's growing reputation as a host for world-class sporting events.

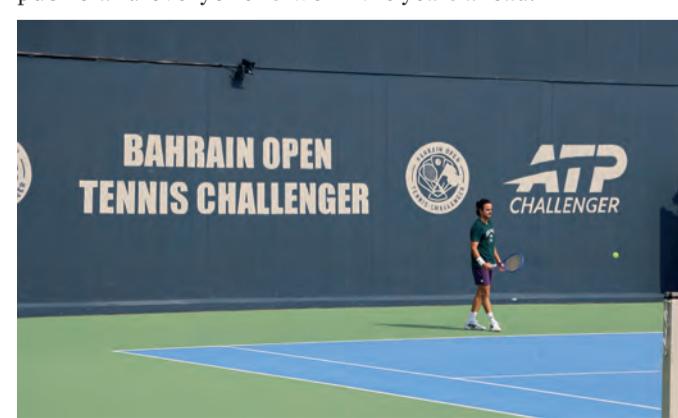
Mohamed Alsayed, Tournament Director, told Daily Tribune, "Having so many international players in Bahrain is a great achievement for us. The Police Officers Club is very proud. This year, we introduced electronic line calling for the first time in Bahrain, marking a new milestone in our tournament."

Captain Safeya Alhajeri, Tournament Organizer, added that "The event is open to the public and everyone is wel-

come. Last year, this Challenger Series was recognized as the best tournament, which was a huge accomplishment for us. Each year, we continue to improve and raise the standard."

This year's edition features six players ranked in the top 100, underlining the tournament's competitive appeal. Organizers also highlighted a new digital application that streamlines the experience for players and spectators, providing easy access to bookings, schedules, results, and ticketing through a single platform.

The fifth edition of the Bahrain Open Tennis Challenger now stands as a clear marker of the Kingdom's ambition and growing confidence on the international tennis stage. Preparations for the next edition have already begun, promising even higher standards in the years ahead.



## Debutant Coutinho Stuns League Leaders

**Hussain Almaskati**  
TDT | Manama

Matchday 13 of the Nasr Bin Hamad Premier League got underway last night with a surprise at Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Stadium, as Al Ahli edged league leaders Al Khaldiya 1-0 thanks to a debut goal from Joao Victor Coutinho. The Brazilian, who only joined Al Ahli a day earlier from Saudi Second Division side Al Njoom FC, struck in the 40th minute to condemn Al Khaldiya to their first defeat since Matchday 4.

The loss dents their grip on the summit (30 pts) and gives chasing Muharraq the chance to reclaim top spot on goal difference, while Al Ahli climb to seventh (15 pts) after a disciplined display.

Al Khaldiya, led by Tunisian coach Lassaad Chabbi, started brightly and thought they had taken the lead inside two minutes. A swift move involving Moroccan duo Saiffidine Bouhra and Anas Ouahim ended with Ouahim finishing from close range, but VAR ruled Bouhra marginally offside in the build-up. Moments later, Bouhra was fouled in the box by Al Hashash; the penalty was confirmed by VAR, but Joel Beya sent his effort over the bar.

Al Ahli punished that wastefulness five minutes before the break. Seconds after Abbas Al Asfour rattled the post with a



Al Ahli's Joao Coutinho shields the ball from Al Khaldiya's Ayman Dairani

half-volley, Coutinho picked up the ball outside the box and fired a shot that deflected off Al Khaldiya captain Ahmed Bughammar and into the bottom corner, sealing a dream debut.

The second half followed a similar pattern, with Al Khaldiya pressing for an equaliser as frustration mounted. Their clearest chance came in the final two minutes when Bouhra drifted into space on the left and struck the side netting. Moments later, Ouahim, who had a frustrating game, narrowly avoided a sec-

ond yellow for a stamp on Al Ahli's Fabrice Onana, but it proved inconsequential as Al Khaldiya could not find their equalizer.

Earlier at Khalifa Sports City, Budaiya and Al Malkiya played out a goalless draw, leaving Budaiya fifth on 16 points, with Al Khaldiya one place above (23 pts). Matchday 13 continues tonight as Al Hidd face Bahrain Club at Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Stadium and defending champions Muharraq host Al Shabab at Khalifa Sports City, both at 7pm.

## Emery plays down Villa's title bid

**AFP | London**

Unai Emery insists Aston Villa will only be Premier League title contenders if they are still in the hunt with three games left.

Villa moved within four points of leaders Arsenal with a 2-0 win at Newcastle, just hours before the Gunners crashed to a surprise 3-2 home defeat to resurgent Manchester United.



Unai Emery reacts during a match (file photo)

Emery's third-placed side

are level on points with second-placed Manchester City as the title race heats up.

Despite Villa's first victory at St James' Park since 2005, the always-cautious Emery refused to get carried away dreaming of his club's first title since 1981.

"Last week we lost against Everton and no-one asked me about contenders for the title, but now yes?" he said.

# Stars ready to shine at Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship

Past winner Frittelli returns as stellar field descends on Royal Golf Club for third edition of tournament

Manama

The Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship is set to welcome a stellar field to Royal Golf Club this week as the third edition of the tournament tees off from Thursday January 29 to Sunday February 1.

Held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the \$2.75 million DP World Tour event features defending champion Laurie Canter, past winner Dylan Frittelli and Major champions Pádraig Harrington, Patrick Reed – fresh from his victory at the Hero Dubai Desert Classic – and Sergio Garcia among a field packed with international talent.

South Africa's Frittelli, who claimed victory when the tournament returned to the DP World Tour in 2024, is relishing the prospect of returning to a venue that holds fond memories.

"I love it," said Frittelli. "Obviously, I won the tournament two years ago. I've got fond memories of the golf course, but I really do enjoy the country as well. I stayed in the city the first year, and then last year I managed to stay on the Arabian Gulf – beautiful ocean, beautiful beach, and wonderful resort. I also love the cool aircraft flying over – some military helicopters – I'm an aviation guy, so on the golf course I'm often just staring up at those. It's a wonderful place and I can't wait to go back there."



Dylan Frittelli



Jayden Schaper



Marcel Siem

Jayden Schaper arrives in the Kingdom as the current leader of the Race to Dubai Rankings. The 24-year-old South African has enjoyed a strong start to the 2026 season and is eager to continue his momentum on a course he knows well.

"I've played there the last two years and it's a really cool place to be," said Schaper. "The golf course is just pretty cool. It's got a lot of character, and the weather conditions are always tougher when you get out there. There's a lot more slope than what we're used to,

but it's a good track. The tournament is part of a big few weeks of golf across the Middle East and I'm looking forward to getting back there – Bahrain is definitely a place I'd like to get out and see a bit more of."

Germany's Marcel Siem, a six-time DP World Tour winner, is also looking forward to the return to Bahrain – the third of four events in the Middle East, as part of the Tour's International Swing.

"It's always a fantastic stretch – the

Middle East stretch," said Siem. "It's easy travelling and having Bahrain the third one in a row, I'm really looking forward to it. It's a great golf course. It's most of the time quite windy there as well, a bit windier than in Dubai. The players' lounge is great, the facilities are great, the golf course itself is really fun to play. It's a risk and reward golf course, a little bit, which suits me. Really looking forward to it."

The field also includes Spain's Nacho Elvira, who won the Dubai Invi-

tational two weeks ago, France's Julien Guerrier, and rising stars such as 2025 Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year Martin Couvra and Spain's Ángel Hidalgo. Three Bahraini golfers – Ahmed Alzayed, Khalifa Almaraisi and Ali Alkowari – will also compete after earning their places through the national qualifying pathway, showcasing the growth of the game in the Kingdom.

Beyond the fairways, the Champion's Village transforms Royal Golf Club into a festival atmosphere for the whole family. Thrill-seekers can soar over crowds on a 100-metre zip line, while a dedicated Kids' Zone helps keep younger visitors entertained throughout the day. Live music, a traditional Bahraini souq celebrating local culture and crafts, plus a wide range of food trucks and dining options create the perfect weekend destination – whether you're a golfer or not.

General admission to the Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship is completely free for all four days. Premium experiences including Ticket+, Ticket+ Brunch and Championship Chalet packages are also available for those seeking an elevated hospitality experience.

To register for free general admission or to purchase a premium package, please visit [Platinum List](#).

For the latest news and updates, follow [@bahrain\\_golf\\_champ](#) on Instagram.

## Bahrain take first step toward Asia 2029

National basketball team aim to build on recent continental progress

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's journey toward the 2029 FIBA Asia Cup begins this August, as the senior men's national team has been drawn into Group A for the first round of pre-qualifiers. The FIBA Asia Regional Office confirmed the draw yesterday, placing Bahrain alongside hosts the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, and Nepal. The round-robin tournament will take place in Dubai from August 24 to September 1, 2026.

Seventeen teams from Asia and Oceania will compete across four host cities – Dubai, Atyrau, Seremban, and Ulaanbaatar – in the first stage, divided between Western and Eastern regions. The top three teams from each group will advance to the second round of pre-qualifiers, where they will be placed in Groups E and F, each comprising six teams. These fixtures are scheduled from November 23 to December 1, 2026, also in a round-robin format.



Coach Vovoras leads Bahrain during 2025 William Jones Cup campaign

The top four finishers from Asia Cup, joining 16 teams that each second-round group will automatically qualify based on their participation in the 2025

edition in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. For Bahrain, the upcoming pre-qualifiers represent a crucial step in consolidating their position in Asian basketball, offering valuable international experience and an opportunity to continue building on their recent successes.

The national team has enjoyed a period of rapid development, reflected in their highest-ever FIBA ranking: 66th in the world and 11th in Asia as of March 2025. Under coach Georgios Vovoras, Bahrain has also shown strong performances at tournaments such as the William Jones Cup and the FIBA Asia Cup 2025 qualifiers, laying a solid foundation for the challenges of multi-window international play.

With the draw confirmed and the schedule set, attention now turns to Dubai this August, where Bahrain will take the first steps in its campaign to reach the FIBA Asia Cup 2029 and further cement its growing reputation on the continental stage.

## Pakistan delay final call on T20 World Cup participation

AFP | Islamabad

Pakistan cricket chief Mohammad Naqvi said yesterday a final decision on the team's participation in next month's Twenty20 World Cup will be delayed by up to a week,

keeping open a possible boycott over Bangladesh's withdrawal.

Naqvi met Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif yesterday to take his advice on the situation, after which a call was

cricket board boss posted on X that "the final decision will be taken either on Friday or next Monday".

Describing a "productive meeting" with the premier, he said Sharif "directed that we resolve it while keeping all options

on the table".

Naqvi threw the national cricket team's participation into doubt on Saturday, saying Pakistan could pull out after the International Cricket Council (ICC) replaced Bangladesh in the tournament.

## Barca chief Laporta upset by impending Dro switch to PSG

AFP | Barcelona

Barcelona president Joan Laporta said that teenage talent Dro Fernandez's decision to leave the club for a planned move to Paris Saint-Germain, despite having previously agreed a new deal with the Catalan giants, was "unpleasant".

Central midfielder Dro, 18, is poised to join French giants PSG, with Spanish media reporting that they will pay Barca slightly more than his six-million-euro (\$7 million) release clause as a goodwill gesture.

"We will speak when it's all done, it has been an unpleasant situation," Laporta told Catalunya Radio late on Sunday.

"It came as a surprise be-



Dro Fernandez

cause we had agreed on a different solution for when he turned 18," continued the Barca chief.

"Surprisingly, his representative told us he couldn't follow through on what we'd agreed to."

Laporta indicated that Barca would be able to "change the situation as it was presented" to them, seemingly referring to receiving up to 8.5 million euros for Dro from PSG, rather than the figure stipulated in his release clause.

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# Shaikh Saif on podium at prestigious 'Dubai O Plate' karting championship

Manama

Bahrain's young karting prodigy, Shaikh Saif bin Hassan Al Khalifa, secured a third-place podium finish for the Kingdom of Bahrain at the prestigious Dubai O Plate Karting Championship held at the Dubai Kartdrome.

The talented 9-year-old Bahraini driver battled through an intense weekend of racing against a highly competitive international domain to claim his place on the podium. Drivers from across the globe converged on the Dubai Kartdrome with hopes of winning the coveted O Plate title.

The Dubai O Plate is a unique, one-off championship weekend designed to crown champions in a high-pressure race format. It is widely regarded as one of the most competitive karting events in the region, featuring multiple categories including Micro, Mini, Junior, Senior, and DD2, with winners earning prestigious prizes such as tickets to the Rotax MAX Challenge Grand Finals.



Based in Dubai, Shaikh Saif bin Hassan races for Xcel Motorsport, one of Europe's most competitive teams, operating from the UAE and competing from karting through to Formula racing. He currently competes in both the ROTAX and IAME championships in the UAE and is scheduled to race in Europe later this summer.

Shaikh Saif bin Hassan said he had been training intensively with his team, Xcel Motorsport. He dedicated the podium finish to his family for their continued support, as well as to his team and coaches for their guidance and role in helping him enjoy the sport of racing. He added that while he would cherish the result, his focus would shift immediately to preparing for the next race with his team.

This podium finish further underlines Shaikh Saif bin Hassan's growing reputation as one of Bahrain's most promising young motorsport talents, as he continues his development on both regional and international stages.

## Sinner races on, 'gross' pie for Keys as heatwave hits Melbourne

● Jannik Sinner advances to quarterfinals

● Madison Keys loses title defense

● Jessica Pegula wins all-American clash

● Iga Swiatek dominates to progress

AFP | Melbourne

Jannik Sinner sent an Australian Open statement in rolling into the quarter-finals yesterday but fellow champion Madison Keys was dethroned as Melbourne braced for forecast 45C heat.

Fifth seed Lorenzo Musetti battled stifling conditions to set up a last-eight showdown with Novak Djokovic and six-time major champion Iga Swiatek progressed in rampant fashion.

Two-time defending champion Sinner raced to a 6-1, 6-3, 7-6 (7/2) victory over fellow Italian and close friend Luciano Darderi.

The second seed plays the United States' all-action eighth seed Ben Shelton after he beat Norway's 12th-seeded Casper Ruud in four sets.

Djokovic and Sinner are on course for a blockbuster last-four showdown.

Sinner told Margaret Court Arena, where temperatures hovered around 30C in the early evening: "It was difficult to put the match away, happy I closed it in three sets."

Sinner sent down a bumper 19 aces in the match, and said his



Italy's Jannik Sinner hits a shot against Italy's Luciano Darderi

hard work had paid off.

"Still room to improve but happy how I have come back in the new season," he added.

In another clash between compatriots and friends, Jessica Pegula defeated title-holder Keys, 6-3, 6-4.

The Americans host a tennis podcast together, "The Player's Box", and had even been planning to record an episode on the eve of their match.

All that was put aside as a clinical Pegula dominated to set up a last-eight encounter with another American in fourth seed Amanda Anisimova.

Anisimova, beaten finalist at last year's US Open and Wimbledon, cooled herself off with bags of ice before taming China's

Wang Xinyu 7-6 (7/4), 6-4.

Pegula, the sixth seed, is chasing an elusive Grand Slam title aged 31, her best performance to date reaching the US Open final in 2024.

An erratic Keys made 27 unforced errors to Pegula's 17 and fired down six double faults as her title defence folded.

The forfeit, as a part of a joke bet with Pegula, will be a slice of apple pie with melted cheddar cheese on top.

"A bet is a bet, so I'll do it. I hope it's less gross than I think it's going to be, but we will find out," said Keys, who described herself as proud despite defeat.

Fifth seed Elena Rybakina dismantled 21st seed Elise Mertens of Belgium 6-1, 6-3 and will play

second seed Swiatek.

The Pole demolished home qualifier Maddison Inglis 6-0, 6-3 as she closes on a first Australian crown, having won all three of the other majors.

Inglis, ranked 168, was in the biggest match of her life after two-time Melbourne champion Naomi Osaka pulled out injured from their third-round meeting.

Just being in the fourth round earned Inglis a life-changing Aus\$480,000 (US\$330,000) -- she plans to buy a toaster and a kettle with the windfall.

### Melbourne sizzles

After brutal weather caused the suspension of matches on Saturday, temperatures rose sharply again.



USA's Jessica Pegula (L) and USA's Madison Keys embrace after their women's singles match



A bet is a bet, so I'll do it. I hope it's less gross than I think it's going to be, but we will find out

MADISON KEYS

Longer matches yesterday had 10-minute breaks in certain circumstances as part of measures to protect player health.

Temperatures are forecast to hit a blistering 45C on Tuesday, meaning matches are likely to be played under roofs on the three courts that have them.

In the last match of the day on Rod Laver Arena, Shelton defeated father-to-be Ruud 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, letting out an almighty roar in victory.

Melbourne Park king Djokovic was supposed to face the 20-year-old Jakub Mensik in the night match.

But the Czech player pulled out injured on Sunday, sending 10-time champion Djokovic into

As part of a friendly bet, the defeated Madison Keys now owes Jessica Pegula a slice of apple pie with melted cheddar cheese on top, a forfeit she hopes is "less gross" than expected

the last eight without hitting a ball.

The 38-year-old Serb will play Musetti after the Italian defeated American ninth seed Taylor Fritz 6-2, 7-5, 6-4.

Djokovic has won nine of their 10 previous meetings, but Musetti said: "I feel ready to try to push him to his maximum."