

## Israel seals off Palestine village

AFP | Qabatiyah

Israeli forces imposed a lockdown on a Palestinian village in the occupied West Bank yesterday, their second day of operations there after a local resident killed two people in Israel.

Bilal Hunaisha, a resident of Qabatiya, south of Jenin in the northern West Bank, said the town “is being subjected to collective punishment by the Israeli occupation”.

“As you can see, they blocked the way to my house and I am no longer able to move around,” he said, pointing to a pile of rubble obstructing the road.

## Russia ‘captured’ two Ukraine towns

AFP | Moscow

Russia claimed yesterday to have captured two more towns in eastern Ukraine, Myrnodgrad and Guliaipole, a day ahead of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky’s meeting with US President Donald Trump.

A Kremlin statement said Russian President Vladimir Putin had received a report from military command on “the liberation of Dimitrov (the Russian name for Myrnodgrad) and of Guliaipole”.

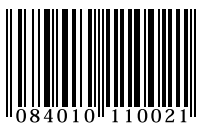
## 131 migrants rescued at sea

AFP | Athens

The Greek coast guard yesterday rescued 131 would-be migrants off Crete, bringing the number of people brought out of the sea in the area over the past five days to 840, a police spokesperson said.

The migrants rescued yesterday morning.

220 fils (includes VAT)



6 084010 110021 >

# Fraud shield

Bahrain moves to bolster safeguards against money laundering and financial crime

### Parliament to vote on 72-hour freeze power on suspicious money transactions

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

A 72-hour window to pause suspicious transactions is due to be written into Bahrain’s anti-money laundering law on Tuesday, when Parliament votes on Decree-Law No. 36 of 2025.

The changes name the Financial Intelligence National Centre (FINC) as the “executing unit”, give it a wider role in receiving suspicious transaction reports and carrying out financial tracing, and spell out new rules for sharing information with overseas counterparts.

The government says the package is needed to match global standards and the National Risk Assessment, while the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf has warned that delays could harm Bahrain’s standing and raise the risk of “grey list” scrutiny.

#### Decision

MPS will decide on the decree-law amending Decree-Law No. 4 of 2001 on the prohibition



Hassan Bukhammas, Chairman of Parliament’s Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee

and combating of money laundering and terrorist financing.

The Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee, which studied the text and prepared the report for the chamber, recommended approval with the agreement of members present.

The Ministry of Interior said it agreed with the decree-law as issued.

Under the amended provisions, FINC can order the stopping or deferral of a suspected transaction for up to 72 hours to complete enquiries.

#### Action

A matching step is also provided for when a peer unit abroad

asks for action, within the same time limit.

The decree-law also widens the scope for work with other states, including joint enquiries, asset tracing and recovery, and the exchange of material linked to suspicious transactions and related cases.

It places limits on how shared material, and the results of joint analysis, can be used and passed on.

Alongside the new powers, the legal text updates core terms in the 2001 law.

It replaces the earlier wording on the proceeds of crime with a definition covering funds gained directly or indirectly, in whole or part, from criminal



**Under the amended provisions, the Financial Intelligence National Centre (FINC) can order the stopping or deferral of a suspected transaction for up to 72 hours to complete enquiries.**

activity, including any profit, interest, yield or other return, even where the funds are converted into other property or investment returns.

#### Approach

Two new definitions are added: a “risk-based approach”, described as steps aimed at spotting, judging, tracking, managing and reducing the risks of money laundering, terrorist financing and the financing of the proliferation of armaments; and ‘good faith’, aimed at protecting natural or legal persons who gained rights in the funds through a lawful act without knowing their true nature or source, and without grounds for

suspicion.

The amended text restates the acts that make up money laundering, covering transactions involving criminal proceeds, concealment of their nature or source, acquiring or moving them, and holding them, where there is knowledge, belief, or grounds to believe the funds stem from crime.

It also strengthens confiscation rules while requiring the courts to deal with the rights of bona fide third parties before ordering confiscation.

#### Evidence

The amended provisions allow confiscation where a criminal case ends because the accused has died, when the evidence shows the funds were gained from crime, and require the court to act if other suspect assets come to light.

Institutions would face clearer duties to report suspicious activity to FINC and the competent bodies, and to put in place internal checks and management-level responsibility for compliance, along with audit rules to test those steps.

The decree-law also reinforces the duty on natural and legal persons to apply, without delay, relevant United Nations Security Council decisions issued under Chapter VII on terrorism, and its financing.

### Public safety advisory

## Alert: Brace for cold weather and strong winds!

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is set to experience cold weather starting this evening, with conditions expected to persist until Thursday, January 1, 2026.

The Meteorological Directorate at the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications has forecast the return of northerly winds across the country.

Winds are expected to be moderate to active, intensify-

ing at times on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 30–31.

The directorate warned that these winds may cause blowing dust in some areas and create unsettled sea conditions.

Wave heights are anticipated to range from one to three feet along the coast and three to six feet offshore.

Temperatures are also expected to drop, with maximum daytime temperatures ranging between 17–19°C and minimum



Image used for illustrative purposes only

nighttime temperatures between 11–13°C.

Due to the winds, felt temperatures may be lower, particularly during the night and early morning hours.

According to the Meteorological Directorate, these temperatures fall below the January average, which typically stands at 21°C for highs and 15°C for lows.

The directorate urged the public, especially those heading to sea, to exercise caution.



Celebrate  
Bahrain

Al Hilal Healthcare Group  
Wishes you a 54<sup>th</sup> Healthy National Day

Now Available  
**NATIONAL DAY**  
CHECK-UP PACKAGE AT AL HILAL

54 Tests

BD 5.4/-

Only

Package Includes:

- Diabetes Screening
- Lipid Profile
- Kidney Profile
- Liver Profile
- Anaemia Profile

\*Available at all Al Hilal branches except Segaya  
\*Valid until 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
\*Terms & Conditions Apply



Follow us on: [www.alhilalhealthcare.com](http://www.alhilalhealthcare.com)

**80408080**

مستشفيات الهلال و المراكز الطبية  
**AL HILAL**  
HOSPITALS & MEDICAL CENTERS