

HH Shaikh Nasser attends opening ceremony of Bapco Energies Bahrain Golf Championship

14 **SPORTS**

BUSINESS

6

NBB introduces dedicated SME service points across flagship branches

HM King names new Agriculture Ministry directors

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued Decree (2) of 2026, transferring and appointing two directors general at the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, following a proposal by the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture and the approval of the Cabinet.

Mohammed Saad Mohammed Al Sahli, Director General of the Capital Municipality Secretariat at the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, is transferred and appointed as Director General of the Northern Municipality at the same ministry, succeeding Lamia Yousif Al Fadhal.

Aliah Yousif Yahya Hassan Yousif is appointed Director-General of the Capital Municipality Secretariat at the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, succeeding Mohammed Saad Mohammed Al Sahli.

Kingdom supports extension of UN mission in Yemen

TDT | New York

His Excellency Jamal Faris Al Rowaie, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations in New York, participated in the Security Council voting session held under the agenda item Middle East – Yemen, during which Bahrain voted in favour of Resolution 2813, submitted by the United Kingdom.

The resolution aims to restructure the operations of the United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA) and to integrate its core related tasks with the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Yemen.

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Teaching force

HM King Hamad calls for continued dedication to education at Bahrain First Festival 2026

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa commended the Kingdom of Bahrain's educators on the sector's achievements.

He urged them to remain dedicated to advancing knowledge and learning as a cornerstone of national development.

Speaking at the Bahrain First Festival 2026 at Bahrain National Stadium, HM the King highlighted the importance of building on the Kingdom's rich heritage and its longstanding role as a hub of education and culture.

Congratulations

"I extend my congratulations to all those working in the education sector for their achievements, both institutional and individual," His Majesty said.

He emphasised the pivotal role of teachers, students, and educational institutions in shaping the nation's future.

"We must continue our efforts to support Bahrain's de-



HM the King

velopment through knowledge and learning," he added, stressing that education is central to national progress and societal growth.

Commitment

Marking the Kingdom's historical commitment to education, HM King Hamad noted, "Bahrain will soon commem-

orate the centenary of formal government education for girls and the establishment of the first girls' school in 1928."

He directed that adequate preparations be made to reflect the occasion's national significance and recognise the contributions of women to education and societal development.

Following His Majesty's direc-

BETTER YOU KNOW
HM the King Hamad has announced that Bahrain will soon commemorate the centenary of formal government education for girls and the establishment of the first girls' school in 1928.

tives, the Ministry of Education confirmed that preparations would begin immediately for the centenary commemoration of formal education for girls, recognising generations of Bahraini women and their contributions to the nation's development.

Attendees

The festival, organised by the

Ministry of Education, was attended by approximately 30,000 students from public and private schools.

His Majesty was welcomed upon arrival by His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education, and other ministry officials.

The ceremony opened with the national anthem, followed by a Quranic recitation, before the Minister of Education highlighted Bahrain's international educational achievements, including first place globally in the Microsoft Showcase Schools programme for 2025 and the University of Bahrain's entry into the Times Higher Education World University Rankings for the first time since its establishment.

The Minister also cited a World Bank report commending the Mohammed Jaber Al Ansari Teachers College and noted that the Ministry of Education had won the Arab Government Excellence Award for the best educational project.

Bahrain enters Guinness World Records for religious diversity

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain has officially entered the Guinness World Records, not through size or spectacle, but through a powerful global message of unity, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence.

The announcement was made at the King Hamad Global Center for Coexistence and Tolerance in Manama, during an event marking the International Day of Peaceful Coexistence.

Following a detailed verification process, Guinness World Records confirmed that Bahrain now holds the title for the highest density of houses of worship in a country.

To qualify for the record, a minimum density of 2,300 houses of worship per square kilometre was required.

Benchmark

Bahrain exceeded this bench-



H.E. Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa receives the Guinness World Records certificate

mark, achieving an official density of 2,577 houses of worship per square kilometre, based on data verified on January 28, 2026.

The Kingdom is home to 2,123 houses of worship, serving a population of over 1.5 million.

These include mosques, churches, temples, and other places of worship representing both Abrahamic and non-Abra-

hamic faiths. The figures highlight a society where religious diversity is not unusual, but part of everyday life.

During the announcement, the Guinness World Records adjudicator stressed that the achievement is not just about

statistics, but about what those numbers represent – a living model where different faiths

coexist openly, respectfully, and

Coexistence

Speaking at the event, His Excellency Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the King Hamad Global Center for Coexistence and Tolerance, said Bahrain is celebrating coexistence as a lived reality, not a slogan.

He noted that coexistence in Bahrain is sustained through leadership and has been advanced as a national value and public policy, guided by the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and supported by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

He also announced the introduction of a postgraduate diploma in coexistence, aimed at developing trained practition-

ers who can embed coexistence principles into institutions and daily practice.

Achievement

Highlighting the global significance of the achievement, Khaled El Mekwad, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bahrain, praised the leadership of HM King Hamad for advancing peace through vision and action.

He said peace is more than the absence of conflict, and that Bahrain's achievement reflects the true spirit of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those linked to peace, justice, and strong institutions.

This Guinness World Record is not just a global first for Bahrain, but a reflection of the Kingdom's enduring values of tolerance, harmony, and unity in diversity – values that continue to shape its society and inspire international recognition.

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New secured transactions law issued, implementation set for next year

TDT | Manama

A new law governing secured transactions has been issued in Bahrain, with its implementation scheduled to begin next year following a phased rollout.

Law (3) of 2026, establishing the Secured Transactions Law, was ratified and promulgated by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday, after receiving approval from the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives. Under the law, its

provisions will come into force from the first day of the month following twelve months from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette. Before that, the minister concerned with commerce, or another minister assigned by decree, is required to issue the executive regulations needed to implement the law, after Cabinet approval, within eight months from the day following publication.

For matters related to the right of security that are not



HM the King

specifically addressed in the new law, existing legislation will continue to apply, provided there is no conflict. These include the Commercial Companies Law, the Civil Code, and the Central Bank of Bahrain and Financial Institutions Law.

As outlined during the Shura Council's approval of the bill last year, the Secured Transactions Law is intended to create a unified legal framework allowing businesses to use movable assets such as receivables, inventory,

stock, and other non-real-estate assets as collateral for financing.

The legislation was presented to legislators as a way to widen access to credit, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises, by giving lenders clearer security rights and allowing companies to keep using pledged assets in their operations. Central to the system is an electronic notice register designed to record security rights, clarify priorities between creditors, and support enforcement.

During earlier debates, legislators also noted that much of the law's practical impact would depend on the executive regulations, including rules governing transparency, creditor priorities, and enforcement procedures, with calls for sufficient transition time to allow banks and businesses to adjust.

The Prime Minister and the ministers, each within their respective capacities, will implement the provisions of the law once it enters into force.

Training future officers

Lt-General Tariq Al Hassan attends graduation ceremony of 878 new police personnel

TDT | Manama

Chief of Police, Lt-General Tariq Al Hassan, Chairman of the Scientific Council of the Royal Academy of Police, attended yesterday morning the graduation ceremony of 878 new police personnel, representing several batches, in addition to the seventh batch of Community Police, in the presence of officers and officials from the Ministry of Interior.

On this occasion, the Chief of Police affirmed that the progress and achievements attained by the Bahrain Police are the result of the Royal support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

He also hailed the close follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, of all efforts aimed at safeguarding security and reinforcing stability.

Al Hassan explained that development and modernisation across all sectors of the Ministry of Interior continue steadily, in line with the instructions of His Excellency Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, and his support to achieve the highest levels of readiness and efficiency through the continued implementation of development plans aimed at strengthening security and stability.

Efforts

He noted the ongoing efforts to enhance the policing system, reinforce community partnership and strengthen engagement with the public.

The Chief praised the comprehensive development programmes implemented by the Royal Academy of Police, within the framework of skills development in accordance with the latest international standards applied in academic and training curricula, in line with operation-



Lt-General Tariq Al Hassan salutes the graduates



The graduates who completed the integrated academic and practical training programmes

al developments and modern technologies in police work.

He noted that the 878 new police personnel who graduated today were prepared in accordance with the latest scientific and training systems, taking into account contemporary concepts and challenges, modern approaches to combating organised crime, and adherence to the rules and procedures of police work.

Al Hassan also commended Tamkeen's cooperation in supporting national talents and competencies, and in enhancing their capabilities by preparing qualified cadres capable of carrying out duties and responsibilities with high efficiency and precision.

He added that the advanced training programmes received by the graduates enhance their readiness to perform their duties

in accordance with the highest standards of professionalism and commitment to the law, reflecting a civilised image and contributing to strengthening mutual trust between police officers and the community.

For his part, the Commander of the Royal Academy of Police, Major-General Fawaz Hassan Al Hassan, confirmed that during their period of study, the graduates received integrated

academic programmes alongside practical training, field skills, computer skills and best practices in dealing with the public, ensuring their full readiness.

In his address at the ceremony, he added that the graduation of the seventh batch of Community Policing represents an important step in strengthening community partnerships and in building bridges of trust and cooperation with citizens and residents.

Following the graduates' taking of the oath, the Chief honoured the top-ranking graduates, congratulating all new police personnel on their graduation after being prepared to the highest academic and training standards, praising the positive results they achieved, which will be reflected in security performance, and wishing them continued success in serving the nation.

180 kitchen fires linked to 'cooking negligence'

Ghadeer Alkumaish

TDT | Manama

Kitchen fires remain one of the most common causes of home accidents worldwide. Statistics show that 49% of all fires start in the kitchen.

In Bahrain, authorities recorded 180 fires in 2024 and 2025 caused by unattended cooking pots, often resulting in entire kitchens burning down, fires spreading through the house, or people suffering burns from hot oil, some of which were mod-

erate.

Speaking on the Interior Ministry's Al Aman social media programme, Hidd Police Station Head, Colonel Dr. Osama Bahar, highlighted the importance of kitchen safety and preventive measures.

He stressed that many of these accidents can be avoided by simple awareness and precautions, saying: "To avoid these dangerous situations, teach your children and those who work for you not to leave a frying pan with oil on the stove unattended. You

might be distracted or forgetful, but constant supervision can save lives."

Colonel Dr. Bahar offered practical advice for households, emphasizing the importance of never leaving cooking unattended, ensuring proper ventilation.



Colonel Dr. Osama Bahar

Private schools given one year to comply under new education law

TDT | Manama

Private educational institutions in Bahrain will have one year to regularise their status once a new law governing the sector comes into effect, following its ratification by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday.

Law (4) of 2026, issuing the

Law on Private Educational Institutions, was ratified and promulgated after receiving approval from both the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives.

The law will come into force from the day following its publication in the Official Gazette.

Under its provisions, private educational institutions that are operating at the time the law en-

ters into force must align their status with the new requirements within one year from the date of implementation.

The Minister of Education has been tasked with issuing the executive regulations and decisions necessary to implement the law.

Existing decisions related to private educational institutions will remain in effect, provided



HM the King

they do not conflict with the new law, until the required implementing regulations are issued.

The law also repeals provisions related to private educational institutions contained in Decree-Law (25) of 1998 on Private Educational and Training Institutions, as well as any other provisions that conflict with the new legislation.

For matters not specifically addressed in the new law, the provisions of the Education Law (27) of 2005 will continue to apply, as long as they do not conflict with the new framework.

he Prime Minister and the ministers, each within their respective responsibilities, will oversee the implementation of the law once it comes into effect.

Classroom balance

IQ and behaviour checks required for public school inclusion programme

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

An IQ score between 50 and 75, an age range of six to 15, and no history of severe behavioural or emotional problems are among the requirements the Education Ministry says it uses before a child is placed in its public school inclusion programme.

The details came in a written response to Shura Council member Abdullah Al Nuaimi, who asked how the ministry decides which pupils join mainstream classes, which remain in specialist classes, and what steps are taken to keep classrooms safe for everyone.

The ministry said pupils are placed either through full inclusion in mainstream classes or through partial inclusion via specialist classes, depending on academic assessment, medical reports and classroom behaviour.

Limit

It also confirmed a limit of two fully included pupils per classroom, saying the cap is meant to support teaching quality and keep classes orderly.

The ministry also provided figures on the size of the programmes.

It said mild intellectual disability and Down syndrome programmes operate in 67 schools, covering 382 students under the supervision of 125 teachers.

Autism

Autism programmes, it said, operate in 51 schools across 52



classes, covering 286 students in autism classes and 154 pupils fully included in mainstream classes under the supervision of 126 teachers.

Pupils with sensory and physical disabilities, it said, are included across public schools, numbering 264 students with physical disabilities, 321 with hearing disabilities and 93 with visual disabilities.

It referred to the constitution and the Education Law as the basis for its approach, saying the law requires educational opportunities for all and teaching that is adjusted for different needs.

Line

It also drew a line between the catch-all phrase 'persons with special needs' and the smaller group covered by the inclusion programme it was asked about.

The ministry said the wider term can include pupils with learning difficulties, speech and language disorders, behavioural problems, cancer, sickle-cell anaemia and gifted pupils. But it said its inclusion programme, in full or partial form, applies only

to mild intellectual disability and Down syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, and sensory or physical disabilities.

For pupils with mild intellectual disability and Down syndrome, the ministry said placements can range from specialist classes to full placement in mainstream classes, depending on an assessment of ability.

Rehabilitation

Pupils with autism start in specialist classes and follow intensive rehabilitation programmes before any gradual move into mainstream lessons.

Pupils with hearing, visual or physical disabilities are placed in mainstream classes, with assistive devices, access support and other services where needed.

The ministry described two routes. Under partial inclusion, a student studies in a specialist class using a programme suited to their needs, backed by an individual learning plan.

Ability

The student can join main-



H.E. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma



Abdullah Al Nuaimi

stream classmates for lessons such as physical education, art and technology, and, depending on ability, for some lessons in main subjects including Arabic, mathematics, Islamic education, English and science.

It said students are also included in school events and competitions inside and outside Bahrain.

A move from partial to full inclusion can follow if a student shows academic and behavioural progress and can manage in a mainstream class.

60,635 medical emergencies



Ambulances on standby for emergency response

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Interior announced that the National Ambulance Centre recorded 60,635 reports of various medical emergencies during 2025.

Ambulance crews provided first aid and primary healthcare services through ambulance vehicles deployed at centres across all governorates of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in addition to the motorcycle first-responder ambulance service.

This comes one year after the launch of this advanced service, which has contributed to faster access to emergency cases and more efficient patient preparation compared with traditional ambulances, particularly in narrow streets and during traffic congestion.

The National Ambulance Centre explained that the incidents handled were classified across a range of cases, including resuscitation, traffic accidents, fires, childbirth, as well as other medical conditions.

This reflects the advanced level achieved by the centre in managing emergency medical calls and underscores the International Accreditation of Excellence it has received for the Medical Priority Dispatch System (ProQA) from the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch (IAED), in recognition of its high quality and efficiency in handling and accurately classifying medical cases in line with approved standards.

The centre noted that these statistical indicators reflect the ongoing strategic development plan adopted year after year within the Government Action Programme, under close follow-up by the Ministry of Interior and in coordination with relevant health authorities, with the aim of enhancing ambulance and primary healthcare services as a core component of Bahrain's comprehensive healthcare system.

The National Ambulance Centre further stated that 2025 witnessed geographic expansion of ambulance centres and response points across all governorates, helping to cover a wider segment of society and handle a greater number of emergency medical reports with high efficiency and quality.

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'Economic laws need more time for review'

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The head and members of the Shura Council's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee said laws with an economic or trade focus must be handled with care, arguing that any text put forward needs time in committee so it can balance economic growth with sustainable development.

In a statement yesterday, the committee said this is the yardstick it uses when weighing draft laws and proposals.

It said that taking time and exercising full care during review helps ensure any law, if issued, is well made, lasts, and meets the aims it was written for.

The committee said its work follows a set process laid down



Financial and Economic Affairs Committee

in the Shura Council's Rules of Procedure.

Before issuing any recommendation, it said it completes the steps needed to study each draft in a detailed and full way.

That includes checking a draft's constitutional and legal soundness through the Council's Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee.

Review

It also said it reviews the

views and proposals of relevant bodies, and takes account of the views of Shura Council members if a draft is raised during a sitting.

The committee said it understands that views and statements can be made about laws being discussed, and it welcomed MPs' interest in tracking the progress of draft texts.

But it said review and checking are carried out according to the approved rules, to give

full assurance that any recommendation sent up on a draft law is sound, serves the public interest, and builds trust in legislation issued by the Council.

Doubt

It added that it would not accept attempts to cast doubt on its work, and repeated its view that laws should not be rushed.

Each draft, it said, should be given enough time for study and analysis.

Lawyer ordered to pay BD1,000 to MP over social media defamation

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A court has ordered a lawyer to pay BD1,000 to a sitting MP after finding he defamed him in an Instagram video.

The High Civil Court said the sum was compensation for moral harm.

It also ordered the lawyer to pay court costs and BD100 in

lawyers' fees.

The dispute centres on a recorded clip posted on Instagram in 2025, in which the lawyer spoke about the MP and claimed he had attended an unlawful gathering.

Court documents said the account had about 25,000 followers. The MP filed a criminal complaint and the matter was sent to the Public Prosecution.

Woman hurt in rear-end crash awarded BD9,000

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Compensation

A woman who suffered a head injury in a rear-end crash has won BD9,000 dinars in damages after a civil court ruled that the driver at fault and his insurer must pay up.

The High Civil Court also held the pair jointly liable for court costs, a contribution towards her legal fees, and 90 dinars to cover the medical committee's fees.

The woman sued the insurance company as first defendant and the motorist as second defendant, asking to be referred to medical committees to assess the lasting harm she said the crash had caused.

She also sought compensation for material and moral damage, plus statutory interest from the date of the injury until full payment. Her lawyer, Mohammed Al Mahdi, said she was travelling with her grandson when another car, insured with the first defendant, drove into the back of their vehicle.

The claim said the second defendant failed to keep a safe distance and did not take proper care and attention, leaving the woman with various injuries and causing damage to the car.

The driver had already faced criminal proceedings in the Minor Criminal Court on charges linked to causing harm through



BETTER YOU KNOW
The High Civil Court ruled that the driver was at fault for reckless driving and his insurer must pay up.

his fault by failing to take the required care while driving. He was fined 100 dinars, paid

it, and did not appeal, making that ruling final.

In the civil case, the court appointed medical committees to examine the woman and report on her condition.

Injury

They said she suffered a head injury involving a fracture and a small haemorrhage that was treated.

The report noted pain at the site of the injury, dizziness and reduced vision, and put her permanent disability at 20 per cent.

In its reasoning, the court cited Article 158 of the Civil Code, which states that anyone whose fault causes harm to another must compensate the injured party.

New measures reviewed to regulate food truck operations

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

The Capital Municipal Council discussed, during its tenth session, the latest developments related to the regulation of food truck gatherings across Bahrain, amid increasing concerns over unregulated practices and their impact on public order, safety and fair competition.

During the session, the Director General of the Capital Municipality, engineer Mohammed Al Sahli, delivered a detailed briefing on recent changes observed in the food truck sector, particularly following the Covid-19 pandemic.

He noted that a number of food truck operators had adopted undesirable commercial practices, including relocating trucks without authorisation and operating outside approved locations.

Operators

Al Sahli explained that some operators attempted to monopolise busy areas or expand their operations even though licensed businesses were already present nearby to dominate high traffic areas or expand their operating spaces despite the presence of licensed commercial establish-



Authorities regulate food truck gatherings amid safety and fairness concerns

ments nearby.

He said such practices resembled informal street vending and resulted in unfair competition, undermining regulated businesses and disrupting the urban environment.

He also drew attention to organisational and safety issues, including the installation of unauthorised power generators, air conditioning units and lighting systems, which pose potential health and safety risks.

He confirmed that the municipality has received multiple complaints from shop owners regarding these practices.

While health oversight does not fall directly within the municipality's remit, coordination



Eng. Mohammed Al Sahli

covering both supervisory and enforcement aspects, which will be presented in the near future and evaluated following implementation.

Experiences

The Director General referred to experiences in other Gulf countries, where food trucks operate within clearly designated zones.

By contrast, the current framework allows food trucks to operate with landowner approval, a situation that has led to misuse of spaces and monopolisation of locations.

Enforcement measures have been taken in cases involving encroachment and exclusion.

He confirmed that work is ongoing to introduce a structured regulatory mechanism,

Municipal Council member Maytham Al Hayki emphasised the importance of allocating designated sites and visual zones for food trucks to support entrepreneurs while preserving public safety and Bahrain's urban character.

He noted that all four municipalities have nominated municipal owned sites and called for clear identification through detailed mapping, stressing the need for full compliance with licensing requirements issued by the authorities.

168 flats planned in Seef under new housing push



Eskan Bank representatives with Capital Trustees Board members during a meeting

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Projects planned under Eskan Bank's new housing programme feature a 168-flat complex in Seef, a second Seef scheme due to start in March, and new residential blocks in East Sitra and Nabih Saleh.

The bank laid out the package in a briefing to the Capital Trustees Board, describing work under way and other schemes still in preparation across the Capital.

It said the programme centres on large housing projects and mixed-use buildings that pair homes with service and retail space.

Project

In Seef, the bank said the 'Al Seef Greens' project will consist of four buildings containing 168 apartments, with shops in the same complex. The site is opposite La Chocola.

The briefing also referred to a future idea tied to the project: a study into building a bridge that would link the Al Seef Greens complex to Seef Mall.

A separate housing project in Seef remains under study, with the bank expecting work to begin in March.

In East Sitra, the bank said an approved project calls for six residential buildings.

Service

Three are due to start next month and are planned to include service outlets and a supermarket.

The other three are still being designed, with construction expected to begin in the third quarter of this year.

In Nabih Saleh, the bank said a housing project that includes service outlets remains at the design stage, though a building permit has been issued. Work is due to begin in March.

Mail parcel of marijuana lands three Asians in court

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court in Bahrain has begun hearing the case of three Asian men accused of receiving a mail parcel from the United States containing 560.27 grams of marijuana hidden among

clothing.

The public prosecution charged the first and second defendants with importing and selling marijuana for trafficking purposes, while the third defendant was charged with possession and intent to distribute the drug without legal authorization.

Property acquisition to address parking shortages in Sitra

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

The Capital Municipal Council reviewed in its tenth session, a recommendation concerning the acquisition of three privately owned properties in the External Area of Sitra for conversion into public parking facilities serving surrounding religious and community sites.



Cars compete for space across various areas in Sitra

The recommendation was listed within the Council's agenda as part of ongoing municipal efforts to improve traffic management and service accessibility.

The proposal was submitted by Municipal Council member engineer Mohammed Tawfiq Al Abbas, who clarified that the objective is to secure land for organised parking to support facilities that experience sustained daily use and significant seasonal demand.

He said the area had benefited from open spaces used informally for parking.

NBB introduces dedicated SME service points across flagship branches

Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has introduced dedicated SME services across six of its flagship branches, including the Main Branch, Al Eteqlal Highway Branch, Souq Waqif Branch, Isa Town Branch, Seef Mall Branch, and Muharraq Souq Branch.

The initiative is part of the Bank's wider efforts to strengthen long-term relationships with entrepreneurs and business owners through improved service delivery. By offering tailored in-branch support, NBB aims to address the evolving



needs of Bahrain's SMEs, which are an essential pillar of national economic development.

The new suite of services includes priority lanes for business transactions, dedicated services to enable faster deposit and withdrawal processing, and staff specialised in SME-specific products and services, including onboarding, Know Your Customer (KYC), and trade finance, among others.

Commenting on the occasion, Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani, Chief Executive – Retail Banking at NBB, stated, "Our goal is to ensure that SME clients receive the support they need to manage and grow their busi-

nesses confidently. By deploying dedicated business banking teams across key locations, we are expanding our reach to this critical sector, improving transaction efficiency, and further reinforcing our role as a trusted financial partner to the Kingdom's SME community."

This step contributes to supporting the Bank's strategic objectives, which include increasing customer satisfaction levels, reducing the turnaround time for SME transactions, and providing key services such as point-of-sale solutions, foreign exchange services, credit and prepaid cards, and trade services.

BCFC partners with The Ritz-Carlton Bahrain to provide customers with exclusive offers

Manama

The commercial brand IMTIAZ, under Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company (BCFC), announced its strategic partnership with The Ritz Carlton Bahrain.



Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain, to provide exclusive benefits to IMTIAZ Mastercard cardholders.

This partnership allows IMTIAZ cardholders to enjoy an exclusive 15% discount across the hotel's restaurants and cafes, as well as its luxurious spa services.

This partnership comes as part of IMTIAZ's ongoing efforts to enhance the value of benefits offered to its customers and to expand the scope of exclusive offers through premium partnerships with leading hospitality destinations in the Kingdom. Additionally, this initiative reflects the company's commitment to providing its customers with refined experiences and exceptional privileges.

On this occasion, Mr. Mohamed Jehad Bukamal, Deputy Chief Executive Officer at BCFC, commented: "We are pleased

to collaborate with The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain, as this strategic partnership reinforces our ongoing commitment to enriching the IMTIAZ Mastercard experience. Through this partnership, we aim to provide

Mr. Mohamed Jehad Bukamal, Deputy Chief Executive Officer at BCFC



our cardholders with refined experiences and distinctive lifestyle benefits."

Bernard de Villèle, General Manager of The Ritz Carlton Bahrain, said: "We are pleased to deepen our partnership with the commercial brand 'IMTIAZ', extending a selection of bespoke privileges to their valued customers across our resort—from our award winning dining venues to our serene spa sanctuary. This collaboration reflects our unwavering commitment to crafting exceptional, memorable experiences that embody the legendary service and genuine care for which The Ritz Carlton is renowned."

AmCham Bahrain Board Members Meet with Stephanie L. Hallett, New US Ambassador to Bahrain



Manama

The American Chamber of Commerce in Bahrain (AmCham Bahrain) convened an

exclusive introductory meeting with the newly appointed U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.E. Stephanie L. Hallett. The discussion focused on strengthening U.S.-Bahrain eco-

nomic and diplomatic relations. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for a warm and productive discussion on potential collaborations between AmCham and the U.S.

Embassy. Both parties explored avenues to strengthen ties and support the business community in Bahrain. Topics of discussion included initiatives aimed at advancing sectors such as

artificial intelligence (AI), energy, and technology, facilitating cooperation on congressional delegations, and enhancing trade relations.

AmCham Bahrain extends

its appreciation to Ambassador Hallett for her engagement, partnership, and continued commitment to advancing U.S.-Bahrain commercial relations.

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain strengthens academic ties with Italian Republic



Manama

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) - Medical University of Bahrain was honoured to welcome a high-level delegation from the Italian Republic to the Kingdom of Bahrain, led by His Excellency Andrea Catalano, Ambassador of the Italian Republic, alongside Professor Manfredi Rizzo, Rector's Delegate for International Cooperation & Professor of Endocrinology, University of Palermo in Italy and President (2026-2030) of the Central European Diabetes Association (CEDA).

The delegation was received on campus by Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, who welcomed the visitors and provided an overview of the University's history, mission and international standing. The success of three Italian graduates of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, who have completed their studies at the University was also highlighted.

Professor Otoom commented: "We are delighted to welcome His Excellency Andrea Catalano

and our distinguished colleague Professor Manfredi Rizzo from the Italian Republic. This visit represents an important step in strengthening our international partnerships and creating meaningful opportunities for our students and staff through collaborative initiatives."

During the visit, His Excellency Andrea Catalano expressed his support for a student exchange programme between RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and the University of Palermo, demonstrating a shared commitment to advancing collaboration between uni-

versities in Bahrain and Italy.

His Excellency Andrea Catalano stated: "RCSI Medical University of Bahrain is a valued partner in fostering educational and cultural exchange. We are keen to support initiatives that enable students to gain international exposure and strengthen ties between Italy and Bahrain."

Further discussions were held with the University's Heads of School, Professor Alf Nicholson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine, Professor Kathryn Strachan, Head of School of

Nursing and Midwifery, and Professor Stephen Atkin, Head of Postgraduate Studies and Research, focusing on the development of a Summer School Elective at the University of Palermo starting in September 2026. The proposed two-week programme will be open to nursing and medical students, combining research activities at the University of Palermo with clinical observerships across eight departments at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Palermo.

Professor Manfredi Rizzo remarked: "This collaboration reflects our shared vision for academic and research excellence and international engagement. We look forward to welcoming students and staff from RCSI Medical University of Bahrain to Palermo and building a sustainable partnership for the future."

This visit underscores RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's strategic commitment to enhancing our students' personal and professional identity while strengthening our international outlook through globally connected education, research and clinical observerships.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds redefines jewellery shopping in Malaysia with new flagship showroom at Kuala Lumpur

Manama

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the world's 5th largest jewellery retailer with over 420 showrooms across 14 countries, has unveiled its new flagship showroom in Malaysia at Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur. Strategically located in one of the city's most prestigious neighborhoods, the landmark showroom reaffirms the brand's commitment to redefining the jewellery shopping experience.

The showroom was inaugurated on 17 January 2026 by Yang Mulia Tengku Dato' Dr. Hishammuddin Zaizi bin Y.A.M. Tengku Bendahara Azman Shah Alhaj, a member of the Selangor Royal Family together with Yang Berbahagia Datin Hezeita bte Mohd. Hafiz and Datuk Bahria, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI), in the presence of Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, Managing Director - International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Ajith Murali, Regional Head - Far East & Australasia Operations; Mr. Nijeeb Parayil, Country Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds - Malaysia, along with other senior management team members, customers, and well-wishers.

Located at 67, Jalan Maarof, Bangsar, the new flagship standalone showroom marks Malabar Gold & Diamonds' 9th showroom in Malaysia and introduces a premium high-street showroom concept thoughtfully designed to offer an elevated and immersive jewellery experience.



Conceptualized with a strong focus on design-conscious Malay consumers, the showroom showcases an exquisite array of never-before-seen gold and diamond creations across the brand's exclusive labels, reflecting a harmonious blend of luxury, craftsmanship and contemporary elegance.

Adding a distinctive local touch, the showroom presents a specially curated jewellery collection tailored to the refined preferences of Malay jewellery connoisseurs, seamlessly integrating cultural sophistication with modern design sensibilities. Enhancing the overall experience are bespoke jewellery design services for personalized

amenities including a luxurious customer lounge and more.

Chairman of Malabar Group, M.P Ahammad, commented: "At Malabar Gold & Diamonds, enhancing the jewellery shopping experience for our customers remains at the core of everything we do. We are delighted to introduce our new flagship showroom at Bangsar, a premium high-street destination that reflects our deep commitment to the Malaysian market. The new showroom reaffirms our dedication to customers across continents who continue to place their trust in our brand. It is not merely about adding new retail spaces, but about building cultural bridges but creating new standards of transparency. We

remain focused on strengthening our global presence through responsible practices, innovation, and the unwavering values that have guided us for over three decades."

Abdul Salam K.P, Vice Chairman of Malabar Group said: As we expand our footprint across Malaysia; sustainability, responsibility, and ethical business practices remain central to our growth strategy. The launch of our Bangsar showroom is another step in delivering a retail experience that combines global luxury with ethical value. As we grow internationally, we remain committed to fostering local relationships, creating employment opportunities, and introducing customers to world-class

jewellery backed by the highest standards of responsibility and craftsmanship."

"This concept showroom has been thoughtfully designed to cater to the evolving tastes of the design-savvy Malay consumers and HNI Indian sub-continental audience. We are proud of the strong in-roads we are making within the local Malay community through curated collections, elevated design and personalized experiences. The showroom introduces a uniquely local flair with a curated jewellery selection crafted for the discerning tastes of jewellery enthusiasts, blending cultural elegance with contemporary design aesthetics," commented Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

With this launch, Malabar Gold & Diamonds now operates nine world-class showrooms across Malaysia, located at Jalan Masjid India (two showrooms), Penang, Klang, Seremban (two showrooms), Ipoh, Ampang Point Shopping Centre, and Bangsar, further strengthening its presence in the region.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds is renowned globally for offering an unparalleled jewellery buying experience with convenience and customer-friendly policies along with the 'Malabar Promise' of incomparable quality and service assurance. Apart from this, the Malabar Promise also includes transparent pricing, assured lifetime maintenance from any of the showrooms across 14

countries, guaranteed buyback, tested and certified diamonds, 100% value on diamond and gold jewellery exchange, 100% hallmark jewellery, responsible sourcing, fair price policy, and fair labour practices.

ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) initiatives have been the primary commitment of Malabar Group since its inception in 1993, with 5% of net profits set aside towards such initiatives in each country of operations. The key focus is in the areas of Health, Hunger Free World, Housing, Education, Women Empowerment & Environment.

As part of the group's Hunger Free World initiative, over 115,000 meals are distributed daily across 119 locations, including 3 schools in the African country of Zambia.

In India alone, the group has established 1,531 micro learning centres, enrolling more than 61,000 underprivileged children, many of whom transition into formal schooling. Additionally, Malabar Group has awarded more than 128,000 scholarships to female students, supporting their academic journey and empowering the next generation of women leaders.

The company also runs the "Grandma Home" project, providing accommodation for needy and destitute women. With several such initiatives already in place, the company's long-term goal is to ensure its global success benefits local communities wherever it operates.

News in brief

◆ **A South Korean judge** handed the country's former first lady Kim Keon Hee 20 months in jail yesterday for accepting lavish gifts from a cult-like church, but acquitted her of alleged stock manipulation and other charges. Controversy has long followed 53-year-old Kim, while accusations of graft, influence peddling and even academic fraud have dominated her husband Yoon Suk Yeol's time in office. Both are now in custody -- Yoon for actions taken during his disastrous declaration of martial law in December 2024 and Kim for corruption. On Wednesday, Judge Woo In-sung of the Seoul Central District Court found Kim guilty of corruption and sentenced her to 20 months in prison. She was found to have accepted lavish bribes from the cult-like Unification Church -- including a Chanel bag and a Graff necklace. Prosecutors requested 15 years, but Kim was acquitted of stock manipulation and violations of campaign financing laws on Wednesday, and received a far lighter sentence.



South Korea's ex-first lady jailed for 20 months for taking bribes

◆ **Nearly 2 million military casualties in Ukraine war: study**

Ukraine nearly four years ago, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) found. "No major power has suffered anywhere near these numbers of casualties or fatalities in any war since World War II," CSIS said, noting that "Russian forces are advancing remarkably slowly on the battlefield." Ukrainian forces have also suffered major losses -- between 500,000 and 600,000 casualties, of which between 100,000 and 140,000 were killed -- from February 2022 to December 2025, the think tank said. "Combined Russian and Ukrainian casualties may be as high as 1.8 million and could reach two million total casualties by the spring of 2026," CSIS said.

◆ **President Donald Trump** on Tuesday threatened to end all US support for Iraq if Nouri al-Maliki, a former prime minister with ties to Iran, returns to the post. Trump, in his latest blatant intervention in another country's politics, said that Iraq would make a "very bad choice" with Maliki, who has been nominated as prime minister by the largest Shiite bloc. "Last time Maliki was in power, the Country descended into poverty and total chaos. That should not be allowed to happen again," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. "Because of his insane policies and ideologies, if elected, the United States of America will no longer help Iraq," he said.

Trump warns US to end support for Iraq if Maliki returns



SPOTLIGHT

Brazil declares acai a national fruit to ward off 'biopiracy'



Farmer Jose Santos Diogo climbs an acai palm tree to pull out its fruit bunches to harvest berries at his plantation in Abaetetuba, Para State, in the Brazilian Amazon Forest

AFP | Rio De Janeiro, Brazil

Brazil has declared the acai berry a national fruit, a move to stamp its ownership on the popular "superfood" as concerns grow about foreign companies staking claims to the Amazon's biological richness.

Acai has been a savory staple in the Amazon for centuries, eaten as a thick paste alongside fish and manioc flour.

The dark purple berry went global in the early 2000s after it was reinvented as a sweet sorbet, often topped with granola and fruit, and marketed for its antioxidant-rich properties.

Acai's active ingredients piqued the interest of food and cosmetic companies world-

wide.

In one case cited in parliamentary debates, a Japanese company trademarked the use of the name acai in 2003. It took Brazil four years to cancel the registration.

Cases like these drove the law declaring acai a national fruit, first introduced in 2011 and signed earlier this month.

Brazil's agriculture ministry told AFP the measure helps showcase acai as a "genuinely Brazilian product" that generates income for thousands of Amazonian families.

However, experts say the law is largely symbolic and aimed at highlighting the challenge of growing international interest in a wide range of fruits native to the Amazon.

Trump says 'time running out' as Iran rejects talks amid 'threats'

Iran rejects negotiations with US in 'atmosphere of threats': foreign minister

● "Armada" led by USS Abraham Lincoln is in Middle East

● Trump said Iran needed to negotiate a deal over its nuclear programme

● The next attack will be far worse! Don't make that happen again"

AFP | Paris, France

President Donald Trump yesterday warned Iran that time was running out for the Islamic republic to prevent American military intervention as Tehran rejected holding negotiations against a backdrop of threats.

Trump has never ruled out a new attack on Iran in the wake of its deadly crackdown on protests this month, to follow the 12-day June war between the Islamic republic and Israel which the US backed and joined.

A US naval strike group that Trump described as an "armada" led by aircraft carrier the USS Abraham Lincoln is now lurking in Middle East waters.

In his latest post on Truth Social, Trump did not mention the protests but said Iran needed to negotiate a deal over its nuclear programme, which the West believes is aimed at making an atomic bomb.

"Hopefully Iran will quickly 'Come to the Table' and negotiate a fair and equitable deal - NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS -- one that is good for all parties. Time is running out, it is truly of the essence!" said Trump.

Referring to American strikes against Iranian nuclear targets during the June war which he said resulted in "major destruction of Iran", he added: "The next attack will be far worse! Don't make that happen again".

Analysts say options include strikes on military facilities or targeted hits against the leadership under Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in a full-scale bid to bring down the system that has ruled Iran since the 1979 Islamic revo-



A US Navy officer walks past fighter jets sitting on the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln during a media tour in Port Klang, on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur,



US MILITARY BASES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Main bases and facilities housing US personnel

Type

Navy

Army

Air Force

Iran will 'respond like never before' if US attacks: Iranian mission to UN

United Nations, United States

Iran will deliver an unprecedented retaliation to any US attack, its mission to the United Nations said Wednesday, in response to a military threat from President Donald Trump.

"Iran stands ready for dialogue based on mutual respect and interests -- BUT IF PUSHED, IT WILL DEFEND ITSELF AND RESPOND LIKE NEVER BEFORE!" the mission wrote on X along-

side a screenshot of Trump's social media threat early Wednesday that a "massive Armada" was heading towards the Islamic Republic.

The Iranian mission, warning against US intervention, also referenced the United States' casualties and expenditures in its past two wars. "Last time the US blundered into wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, it squandered over \$7 trillion and lost

more than 7,000 American lives," the mission said.

Hamas ready to transfer Gaza governance to Palestinian committee

AFP | Deir El-Balah, Palestinian Territories

Hamas said yesterday it was ready to transfer the governance of Gaza to a Palestinian technocratic committee, while insisting the key Rafah border crossing be fully reopened within days.

"Protocols are prepared, files are complete, and committees are in place to oversee the handover, ensuring a complete transfer of governance in the Gaza Strip across all sectors to the

technocratic committee," Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem told AFP. The 15-member National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG) is a team of Palestinian technocrats creat-

ed as part of the US-sponsored ceasefire agreement which came into effect on October 10.

It is charged with managing the day-to-day governance of post-war Gaza and will work under

lution that ousted the shah.

'Severe damage'

But Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said before Trump's comments were published that "conducting diplomacy through military threat cannot be effective or useful".

"If they want negotiations to take shape, they must certainly set aside threats, excessive demands and raising illogical issues," he said in televised comments.

Araghchi said he had "no contact" with US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff in recent days and that "Iran has not sought negotiations".

Iranian armed forces chief of staff Habibollah Sayyari warned the US against any "miscalculation", saying that "they too would suffer damage".

New billboards have meanwhile appeared in Tehran, including one showing Iran striking an American aircraft carrier, according to AFP journalists.

'Ease tensions'

Following a call on Tuesday between Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and de facto Saudi leader Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Iran reached out to other US allies in the region, in an apparent bid to rally support.

The Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani spoke with Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, who is also foreign minister, both sides said.

the supervision of the "Board of Peace", which US President Donald Trump will chair.

The NCAG, headed by former Palestinian Authority deputy minister Ali Shaath, is expected to enter the Gaza Strip once the territory's Rafah crossing, on its border with Egypt, reopens.

Hamas spokesman Qassem added that the Rafah crossing "must be opened in both directions, with full freedom of exit and entry to the Gaza Strip, without any Israeli obstacles".



Rafah is Gaza's only gateway to the outside world that does not lead to Israel and is a key entry point for both people and goods. It has been closed since Israeli forces took control of it in May 2024.

Zeno is crowned co-emperor of the Byzantine Empire with his son Leo II (age 6 or 7)

Rashidun Caliphate, then the largest empire in history, ends with the death of its leader, Ali. Succeeded by the Umayyad Caliphate.



William Shakespeare's play "Romeo and Juliet" is thought to have been first performed; officially published early 1597

The Coca-Cola Company is incorporated in Atlanta, Georgia

X

TOP
4
TWEETS

01



"I wish I knew then what I know now. Cervical Cancer can be avoided all together." These words from Selina Yeop, a cervical cancer survivor and advocate from #Malaysia and Founder of Teal Asia, remind us why prevention matters – and why no one should suffer from a disease we can stop. The science is clear: HPV vaccines protect, early screening detects, and treatment saves lives.

@DrTedros

02



Scalded by the tragic air crash in Baramati, Maharashtra. My thoughts are with all those who lost their loved ones in the crash. Praying for strength and courage for the bereaved families in this moment of profound grief.

@narendramodi

03



We do not just trade more. We invest in each other's future. Our strengths complement each other. And our scale gives us global influence. Now with these agreements, we can scale even greater heights.

@vonderleyen

04



We ask our troops to do the hardest thing in the world, which is to fight our nation's battles and to represent the United States all over the world in the proudest and most profound way possible. We're going to keep on winning America's Wars.

@VP

Starmer in China to defend 'pragmatic' partnership

British PM will later make a brief stop in Japan



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer is welcomed upon his arrival at an airport in Beijing

Starmer will meet with Xi for lunch today

AFP | Beijing, China

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer arrived in Beijing on Wednesday to meet with Chinese leader Xi Jinping, hoping to restore long-fraught relations.

It is the first visit to China by a UK prime minister since 2018 and follows a string of Western leaders courting Beijing in recent weeks, pivoting from a mercurial United States.

Starmer, who is also expected to visit Shanghai on Friday, will later make a brief stop in Japan to meet with Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi.

For Xi, the trip is an opportunity to show Beijing can be a reliable partner at a time when President Donald Trump's pol-

icies have rattled historic ties between Washington and its Western allies.

Starmer is battling record low popularity polls and hopes the visit can boost Britain's beleaguered economy.

The trip has been lauded by Downing Street as a chance to boost trade and investment ties while raising thorny issues such as national security and human rights. Starmer will meet with Xi for lunch on Thursday, followed by a meeting with Premier Li Qiang.

The British leader said on Wednesday this visit to China was "going to be a really important trip for us", vowing to make "some real progress".

There are "opportunities" to deepen bilateral relations, Starmer told reporters traveling with him on the plane to China.

"It doesn't make sense to stick our head in the ground

and bury in the sand when it comes to China, it's in our interests to engage and not compromise on national security," he added.

China, for its part, "is willing to take this visit as an opportunity to enhance political mutual trust", foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun reiterated Wednesday during a news briefing.

Starmer is the latest Western leader to be hosted by Beijing in recent months, following visits by Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and French President Emmanuel Macron.

Faced with Trump's threats to impose tariffs on Canada for signing a trade agreement with China, and the US president's attempts to create a new international institution with his "Board of Peace", Beijing has been affirming its support for the United Nations to visiting leaders.

Syrian leader meets Putin, Russia eyes deal on military bases

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa met Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin for talks in Moscow yesterday, as the Kremlin seeks to secure the future of military bases vital for its operations in the Middle East.

Russia was a key ally of Sharraa's predecessor Bashar al-Assad during the bloody 14-year Syrian civil war.

Putin has been working to build relations with Sharraa since, though Russia's continued sheltering of Assad and his wife in Moscow remains a major obstacle to improving ties.

"Much has been accomplished in terms of restoring our interstate relations," Putin said in a televised meeting with Sharraa. "We have closely mon-



Russian President Vladimir Putin welcomes Syria's President Ahmed al-Sharaa during a meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow

itored your efforts to restore Syria's territorial integrity and I want to congratulate you on the momentum this process is

gaining," Putin said, apparently referring to Sharraa's recent offensive against Kurdish forces in Syria's northeast.

'Pride of the entire nation': Israel holds funeral for last Gaza hostage



Mourners attend the funeral of Israeli hostage Ran Gvili, whose remains were finally brought back to Israel

AFP | Meitar, Israel

Hundreds of tearful mourners packed a stadium in southern Israel yesterday for the funeral of Ran Gvili, the last Gaza hostage whose burial marks the end of a painful national saga triggered by Hamas's 2023 attack.

Israeli forces on Monday brought home the remains of Gvili, who was killed in action and whose body Palestinian militants took into Gaza during their October 7 attack, which triggered a devastating two-year war.

A large banner bearing the portrait of Gvili hung in a stadium in the town of Meitar, the 24-year-old police officer's hometown and where he will be laid to rest.

In front of the sombre crowd, which included tearful family members, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Isaac Herzog, Gvili's coffin lay draped in an Israeli flag.

"I hoped you would come back on your own two feet, and that gave me strength," said his mother Talik Gvili, who described her son as "the first to leave, last to return."

"For two years and four

months, we talked about you constantly, and you became everyone's child," she added.

"Rani, you are with me all the time."

Herzog hailed the return of his remains but said he could only regret not having known Gvili while he was alive.

"Gvili family, I ask you, as president, for forgiveness that we were not there for him... an entire nation mourns with you today," he said during the ceremony.

An officer in the elite Yassam unit, Gvili was on medical leave ahead of shoulder surgery when Hamas launched its deadly attack in southern Israel, but grabbed his gun and raced towards the area.

Of the 251 hostages taken, Gvili's were the last remains held in the Palestinian territory.

The return of the hostages held in Gaza dragged on over the course of the war between Israel and Hamas in a series of ceasefire and prisoner-swap deals as well as efforts to rescue them militarily.

The most recent set of hostage handovers was part of the US-backed Gaza ceasefire deal that took effect on October 10.

India says two Nipah virus cases, but situation contained

AFP | Mumbai, India

Indian authorities said they had ensured "timely containment" of the deadly Nipah virus after two cases were confirmed in West Bengal state.

Nipah, spreads from animals to humans, has no vaccine and a fatality rate ranging from 40 to 75 percent, according to the World Health Organization.

"Enhanced surveillance, laboratory testing, and field investigations were undertaken... which ensured timely containment of the cases," India's health ministry said in a statement late Tuesday.

It did not give further details on the two infected patients.

"The situation is under constant monitoring, and all necessary public health measures are in place", it added, saying 196 contacts linked to the cases had been traced, and all were negative.

Nipah was first identified in 1998 after it spread among pig farmers in Malaysia.

In India, the first Nipah outbreak was reported in West Bengal in 2001.

In 2018, at least 17 people

died from Nipah in Kerala, and in 2023, two people died from the virus, also in the southern state.

Symptoms include intense fever, vomiting and a respiratory infection, but severe cases can involve seizures and brain inflammation that results in a coma.

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Nipah virus is a zoonotic virus first identified in 1998 in Malaysia, and it is naturally carried by fruit bats (Pteropus species). It can spread to humans through contaminated food, infected animals, or direct human-to-human transmission, and outbreaks have shown a high fatality rate, often between 40% and 75%.

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

Indian deputy state leader killed in plane crash

● The plane carrying Ajit Pawar, Maharashtra's deputy chief minister, crashed in an open field

● Pawar's personal security officer and an assistant as well as two crew members were also on board

AFP | Mumbai, India

An Indian state's deputy leader was killed along with four other people yesterday after their chartered aircraft crashed in the country's west, officials said.

The plane carrying Ajit Pawar, Maharashtra's deputy chief minister, crashed in an open field at about 8:44 am (0314 GMT) while landing at the state's Baramati airport, the civil aviation ministry said in a statement.

The 66-year-old, a key political figure in Maharashtra which is home to India's financial hub Mumbai, was travelling in a Bombardier Learjet 45 aircraft, operated by private firm VSR Aviation.



Rescue personnel and onlookers gather around the wreckage of the aircraft carrying Maharashtra's deputy chief minister, Ajit Pawar, after it crashed in an open field while landing near Baramati airport in India's Maharashtra state

Pawar's personal security officer and an assistant as well as two crew members were also on board at the time of the crash, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said in a statement.

VSR Aviation owner V.K. Singh said the aircraft was "very well maintained", ruling out any technical failure.

"There was absolutely no problem in the aircraft. There was no technical failure as far as we know," he told reporters in New Delhi where the company is based.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi described Pawar as a "leader of the people" in a post on X following the crash.

Modi said Pawar's death was "shocking and saddening", calling him a "widely respected" and "hardworking" political stalwart.

"His understanding of administrative matters and passion for empowering the poor and downtrodden were also noteworthy."



UK proposes to let websites refuse Google AI search

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Britain's competition watchdog proposed Wednesday that websites be allowed to opt out of having content used by Google's "AI Overviews" feature as it tackles the technology giant's dominance in online search.

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) in October paved the way for tougher regulation on the matter, under new targeted measures focused on technology giants.

Last year it designated Google with "strategic market status" (SMS), subjecting it to special requirements, following a nine-month investigation.

CMA chief executive Sarah Cardell said Wednesday that the regulator's proposal, which is out for consultation until February 25, "would give UK businesses and consumers more choice and control over how they interact with Google's search services".

She added in a statement that it "would also provide a fairer deal for content publishers, particularly news organisations, over how their content is used in Google's AI Overviews".

The CMA proposed that publishers "be able to opt out of their content being used to power AI features such as AI Overviews or to train AI models outside of Google search".

"Google will also be required to take practical steps to en-

sure publisher content is properly attributed in AI results," it added.

Website publishers, particularly media outlets, say that AI pilfers their content without compensation to feed its models.

They also argue that the AI-generated summaries discourage clicks to publishers' original pages, reducing traffic to their sites and in turn cutting their advertising revenue.

"Google is able to extract valuable data without reward, harming publishers and giving the company an unfair advantage over competitors in the AI model market," said Owen Meredith, chief executive of industry group, News Media Association.



Google AI powers products used by billions of people daily – including Search, Maps, Gmail and Photos – and its DeepMind division created AlphaFold, an AI system that has predicted the structure of over 200 million proteins, transforming biological research worldwide.

Trump issues fierce warning to Minneapolis mayor over immigration



A group of anti-US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) protesters hold signs and shout slogans in downtown Minneapolis, Minnesota

AFP | Minneapolis, United States

President Donald Trump yesterday warned the mayor of Minneapolis -- where the brutal killings of two US protesters by immigration agents sparked nationwide outrage -- that he is "playing with fire."

Trump told Mayor Jacob Frey that his refusal to cooperate with federal authorities on rooting out suspected illegal immigrants was "a very serious violation of the law."

The statement on Trump's Truth Social platform contra-

dicted the 79-year-old Republican president's earlier statement that he wanted to "de-escalate."

A top hard-line White House official retreated late Tuesday on his initial attempt to justify the shooting of a protester Saturday. And Trump shuffled the leadership of immigration agents deployed in Minneapolis, putting a less confrontational figure in charge.

But the Minnesota city remains the focal point for national tensions over the immigration crackdown.

While the White House insists that it is targeting hardened criminals, the use of masked, heavily armed men to snatch people from streets, homes and workplaces has caused widespread shock.

That turned to fury this month after immigration agents shot dead two Minneapolis protesters at point-blank range. The latest, intensive care unit nurse Alex Petti, was shot multiple times after being forced to the ground by camouflaged officers.

Rubio expects US diplomatic presence to return in Venezuela soon

AFP | Washington, United States

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Wednesday he expected a US diplomatic presence to return soon to Venezuela following the US attack that toppled Nicolas Maduro.

"We think very quickly we'll be able to open a US diplomatic presence on the ground," Rubio told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The restored US mission "will allow us to have real-time information" and improve interaction with Venezuelan authorities as well as "members of civil society, the opposition," Rubio said.

The United States last week named Laura Dogu, a former ambassador to Nicaragua and Honduras, as the top US diplomat in Venezuela and it earlier sent a mission to assess the embassy.

The United States shuttered its embassy in 2019 shortly after Washington and other major powers declared Maduro to be illegitimate following an election marred by reports of irregularities.

New Indian School Students Drive Food Charity Initiative



Students of The New Indian School, Bahrain, recently spearheaded a student-led charity initiative to support community welfare and foster values of empathy and social responsibility. Students from Classes 2 to 5 actively participated in collecting food items, demonstrating remarkable enthusiasm and compassion. The school authorities officially handed over the collected items to representatives of the Indian Community Welfare Association (ICWA), a gesture aimed at strengthening community bonds and supporting those in need. The success of the drive was celebrated during a special school assembly, where leaders lauded the collective efforts of the young learners.

Municipalities Minister Visits New Capital Governorate Council Headquarters



Minister of Municipalities and Agriculture, H.E. Engineer Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, visited the new Capital Governorate Council headquarters in Tubli following its official inauguration. Received by Chairman Engineer Saleh Taher Tarada, the Minister toured the modern facilities, highlighting the building as a vital addition to improving municipal efficiency and service delivery. The visit included a comprehensive review of the 2026 development plan, featuring key projects such as the King Faisal Corniche waterfront, the Sitra Central Market upgrade, and the Al-Naeem Park development. Discussions also covered the second phase of the Sheikh Isa Bin Salman intersection beautification and the Cities and Villages Development Project.

Ministry of Works Honored by GCC Commercial Arbitration Centre



The Ministry of Works was recently honored by the Commercial Arbitration Centre of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) for its pivotal role in promoting a culture of commercial dispute resolution. The award recognizes the Ministry's commitment to implementing arbitration practices that align with both regional and international standards. The honor was presented during the Centre's opening ceremony, attended by H.E. Jassim Mohammed Al-Budaiwi, Secretary General of the GCC. Engineer Khawla Khalid Hayat, Director of the Cost Engineering Department, accepted the award on behalf of the Ministry.

Royal Bahrain Hospital Celebrates 15 Years of Medical Excellence



Royal Bahrain Hospital (RBH) marked its 15th anniversary, celebrating a significant journey of dedication to patient care since its establishment in 2011. The commemorative event was attended by senior management and medical staff from the KIMS Health Group, highlighting the institution's numerous achievements in the Kingdom's healthcare sector. During the celebration, leadership reaffirmed the hospital's "patient-first" approach, emphasizing that this philosophy guides every stage of the medical journey, from admission to post-treatment care.

Wajda Group Launches Sangfor's Next-Gen HCI in Bahrain



Wajda Group has officially introduced Sangfor Technologies' advanced Hyperconverged Infrastructure (HCI) to the Kingdom. The launch, held at the Wyndham Grand Hotel, marks Wajda Group as the first company in Bahrain to bring this integrated solution to the local market. The event was hosted by CEO Muhammad Asif and Director Mohammed Faisal Ikrak, with Dr. Khalid Abdulrahman Al Haidan from the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications serving as Chief Guest. During the ceremony, Sangfor's Regional Sales Director, Mr. Sudhir, presented Wajda Group with the Sangfor Gold Partner-2026 Shield, solidifying their strategic partnership.

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE

dar alameerat beauty saloon has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36333557 or AHLAM030@YAHOO.COM

CNL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33888886 or HAMAD@SPECTRUMOILFIELD.COM

MILANO STYLE MENS HAIRCUTTING SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38359671 or MAHMUD.ALAA2485@GMAIL.COM

THE K - HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17360000 or abbas.fardan@thekhotel.com

KONNECTIN TALENTS STAFFING WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17530670 or BURASHEDDOCUMENT@YAHOO.COM

ABU ABDULLA FRAMES CENTRE BAHRAIN PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33023151 or dilbarkhan22567@gmail.com

CHIC MODA FASHION has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33326442 or CHIC_MODA_BH@HOTMAIL.COM

ALLAQ RESORT COMPANY BSC CLOSED SOFTEL BAHRAIN ZALLAQ THALA has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17631660 or ahmed@jazayani.com

TRAINING PLUS INSTITUTE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of INSTRUCTOR / COACH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17535393 or info@trainingplusbh.com

NICE STAR RESTURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17241014 or FADHEELASAYED@OUTLOOK.COM

SYNERGIC MAN POWER CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(FOOD DISTRIBUTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39100088 or HESSAHESAHESAH@YAHOO.COM

DOZER TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33620915 or MOHAMMED-ZAM4141@GMAIL.COM

AZAN DECORATION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35315886 or HAMID-MAQSOOD309@GMAIL.COM

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

ZOHAIB AHSAN SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34354460 or INFO.TRUEOUTH@GMAIL.COM

IQRA INTERIOR DESIGN AND MAINTENENCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DATA ENTRY OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33783884 or IQRAINTERIORWLL@GMAIL.COM

TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES LTD BAHRAIN has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSULTING ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17531709 or K.MAHESH@TCS.COM

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

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

HT UNIFORMS TAILORING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39970063 or IMGEORGE@GMAIL.COM

LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION, LLC BRANCH OF A FOREIGN COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of DRAFTSMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17000574 or BAHRAIN@LIBERALCO.COM

AIRMECH COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17762000 or AIRMECH.BAHRAIN@AIRMECH.NET

YAMOLAKO SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33015010 or INFO28TRAVEL@GMAIL.COM

SHABAB AL BAHRAIN ELECTRONICS W.I has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact

39385930 or SHABABRIFFA@GMAIL.COM

ALMAMOORA FACTORY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36687408 or alalmoorafactory@yahoo.com

MACAS SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33208384 or USSJIL@GMAIL.COM

FUTURE STEPS COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37114484 or

LIN XI TRADING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39535467 or 2621818867@QQ.COM

TEA TIME W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36960999 or HASH2H2@GMAIL.COM

diva hotel has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17251444 or BUAHMED101@HOTMAIL.COM

HIGHRISE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33249430 or KIANIBRAZILIAN@GMAIL.COM

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

FOOD CITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77325444 or SALIH@FOODITY-BAHRAIN.COM

ROX SOURCE AUTO PARTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36278601 or ABARMUHSIN@GMAIL.COM

BAVARIA TRAVEL AND TOURS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TICKETING CLERK, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39223779 or KUTKUT.WJDAN@GMAIL.COM

DAHIYAT AALI CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33234666 or info@jeezangate.com

AL MUJAHED BOUTIQUE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39819803 or abdulkarim.almodaweb@gmail.com

FALCON ISLAND CLEANING EST has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or profice@almoayyedcg.com

JEEZAN GATE TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17227206 or GEE-PASBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

ALMOAYYED INTERIORS has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36456663 or F2FFF@HOTMAIL.COM

AL RFAAH HOME FOR FIXING FURNITURE CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33668682 or RAFAHHOME@HOTMAIL.COM

CHICKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35029762 or DPASIF@LIVE.COM

AL MAZAD LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of PRESSER (HAND), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33192576 or KUNJUMON367@GMAIL.COM

TOP UP EVENTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33956205 or QUEbecgroup9@gmail.com

ALBARHAN CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33995674 or ALBARHANCONTRACTING.BH@GMAIL.COM

CONCEPTEX INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35002840 or BAHRAIN.BH1947@GMAIL.COM

BELTAC REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34126711 or ACIBCHAUDHY225@GMAIL.COM

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

B&H ELECTRONICS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39349688 or UMERUL6197@GMAIL.COM

ADAM PASTRIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(MOTOR-CYCLE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39609989 or PAINTPLUS@HOTMAIL.COM

ANS SUPPORT SERVICE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33182718 or MHDUZAIR9@GMAIL.COM

ALASHRAQ ELECTRICALS CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17732505 or ALTERCARGO21@GMAIL.COM

CHANDPUR FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suit-

ably qualified applicants can contact 33993590 or EMONCHATRODOL@GMAIL.COM

NAJON RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17613376 or NAJON-PAINTS@GMAIL.COM

LA ROSA HERMOSA has a vacancy for the occupation of FLORIST/FLOWER SETTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77084708 or KHALIDSHARYANCO@GMAIL.COM

LONG TERM GENERAL TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33592927 or ALRAMINORAMINO@GMAIL.COM

METHU INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3444913 or SAJBONWLL@GMAIL.COM

MANGUARD SECURITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17404949 or SECURITY@MANGUARD.COM.BH

Kingdom Security Protection Services W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17821593 or RASHEED@SECURICORE.BH

BLINK DELIVERY has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36456663 or F2FFF@HOTMAIL.COM

NANO CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17227206 or GEE-PASBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

ALMOAYYED INTERIORS has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or profice@almoayyedcg.com

BZDKAR COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17538561 or MOODD65U@GMAIL.COM

JEEZAN GATE TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33234666 or NAHI.CONTRACTING@HOTMAIL.COM

ALMOAYYED INTERIORS has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36456663 or F2FFF@HOTMAIL.COM

ALMOAYYED INTERIORS has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36456663 or F2FFF@HOTMAIL.COM

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ALMOAYYED INTERIORS has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36456663 or F2FFF@HOTMAIL.COM

POWER LINE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36752630 or AYWASH1949@GMAIL.COM

POLLUX GENTS TAILORING has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 6669022 or MU-HANNED1616@GMAIL.COM

WADI ALQAMAR TECHNICAL CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33223734 or CH.MUHAMMADMUNAWAR23@GMAIL.COM

CAA EVENTS MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR(INTERNAL WORKS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34730101 or DREAMEYES444@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

SHAN SALOON has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIR DRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17533125 or GOLDEN-GROUPBAH@GMAIL.COM

ALNAHYA CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33331643 or NAHI.CONTRACTING@HOTMAIL.COM

TRUE OATH W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICER (ADMINISTRATIVE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33667325 or ZSB7994@GMAIL.COM

ANCELANSI REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33015010 or INFO28TRAVEL@GMAIL.COM

AVTAR SINGH DREAM SERVICES BAHRAIN PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33268512 or AVTAR.SINGH24248@GMAIL.COM

BAHRAIN SPECIAL TECHNICAL SERVICES STS CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FABRICATOR(FIBERGLASS PRODUCTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17622082 or info@BAHSTS.COM

JUMINOUS BEAUTY SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37347325 or ISMAILLEPCHA@GMAIL.COM

Alsalam Gas has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17401212 or cv@salamgas.com

BIKIS DEMES MARKETING BAHRAIN PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17622082 or info@BAHSTS.COM

A J Trading W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33786003 or ALPHA.EDACKAT3@GMAIL.COM

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

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

MHI POWER MIDDLE EAST LLC BAHRAIN BRANCH - BRANCH OF A FOREIGN COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of INSTALLATIONS TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17502828 or CHERIAN.JOHN.UE@MHI.COM

MISTER MACHINE B.S.C has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17705050 or mustafa@mister-machine.com

EXCELLENCE INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17532010 or a.jawahery@exibah.com

EXCELLENCE INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17532010 or a.jawahery@exibah.com

MENTICS CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33125626 or INOVATEDGE@GMAIL.COM

TAWAKAL MOTORCYCLE GARAGE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35523820 or KHAN.SHAMEER.754@GMAIL.COM

KIRANDEEP SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37476000 or ASADM6607@GMAIL.COM

KAFLAN CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33316767 or kaflanconstruction@gmail.com

HAMDAN ELECTRONICS REPAIRING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33715781 or SAQIBUAETT.NET@GMAIL.COM

alzain secrets abaya has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17246308 or AHMAD.BUTT1985@YAHOO.COM

ANOOS BUSINESS SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39874225 or CPSHAHUL@GMAIL.COM

ELAPH TAILORING has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66707072 or AHMED88BUSH-AQUR@GMAIL.COM

GLITTER LI LI SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIR DRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32211866 or ALISA@ALNOOHWD.COM

PAK KASHMIR RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36544676 or asif12t@gmail.com

ABU USA CARPENTRY WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39654547 or OMAR.AKRAM143@GMAIL.COM

ESTHEVA WELLNESS AND SPA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33194444 or FGROUP.BH@GMAIL.COM

Desert Landscape Co S P C has a vacancy for the occupation of PROJECTS COORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33152222 or AHMAD.JUMA@DESERTGROUP.AE

SKY HIGH CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COMPUTER OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38005875 or Khalidibraheem967@gmail.com

DESI SHERAZ MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37034219 or SHERAZSALEEM613@GMAIL.COM

HASAN ASGHAR CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33555166 or S2N2N259HERBHT2@GMAIL.COM

CODESLOOK IT CONSULTATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33240566 or WAQASLILLA@GMAIL.COM

Bright Future Contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33681568 or brightfuturecont@gmail.com

BEWE DELIVERY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3213121 or ABBAS@BW-BH.COM

AMBH VALET PARKING SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(-

SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34112433 or SAIQAGHAURI@GMAIL.COM

baja trading est has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66385700 or MJABER60@GMAIL.COM

SANTIAGO FOOD TRANSPORTATION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33974695 or SHAFIQKIYANI@YAHOO.COM

Dream World Construction Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34111999 or sharef.works@gmail.com

ABU MUZAMIL CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39338879 or HRD@ALHILALHEALTHCARE.COM

EXCELLENCE INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17532010 or a.jawahery@exibah.com

EXCELLENCE INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17532010 or a.jawahery@exibah.com

MENTICS CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33125626 or INOVATEDGE@GMAIL.COM

Real Value Contracting W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL CHIPPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36767312 or INFO@REALVALUECONTRACTING.COM

HIJAZ FIBERGLASS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33972452 or BLUERIVER3628@GMAIL.COM

ZAINAB JAAFAR ABDULNABI AHMED YUSUF (192939) has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36491411 or choicefirst82@gmail.com

ALSABAH CONSTRUCTION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PROJECTS COORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 63178430 or MOJN2476@GMAIL.COM

ANCHOR SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33886033 or SUPERWASPC@GMAIL.COM

HIZAJ FIBERGLASS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37581576 or RTALAT982@GMAIL.COM

ALBASHA CLEAN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of LAUNDERER/PRESSER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37787960 or HSULAIMAN@GFH.COM

TEAM CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32018708 or BOMESHAL07@GMAIL.COM

DAB CAR WASH AND POLISHING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CAR WASHER/ CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33506161 or ALEEMASGHAR577@GMAIL.COM

FORCE POINT SECURITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66767587 or Forceps17@gmail.com

EARLY WISH AUTO UPHOLSTERY CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33853414 or IZZHANADEEM2014@GMAIL.COM

QUEBEC BUILDING CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39755200 or Quebecgroup9@gmail.com

KANDAHER COLD STORE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39227066 or SAMEERKHAN678910@GMAIL.COM

Dhafayer Ladies Beauty Salon has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33290001 or DAFAIRSALON@GMAIL.COM

dar alfeeleh cafeteria has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39725550 or ahama da1959@gmail.com

ELITE CRYSTAL HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17313372 or saju@elitegrouphotels.com

MAGIC BUBBLES EVENTS & PRODUCTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17470509 or PRAVEEN@BUBBLESADS.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

A - KARIM ALJAHROMI CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17831000 or akjcont@gmail.com

CIRCLE INTEGRATED SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17822228 or INFO@CIRCLE.BH

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

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38080801 or HR@issbh.com

AL ANJOM AL ZAHERA BUILDING MAINTENANCE has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON ASST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33795726 or SAMINAYASMEEN.BH@GMAIL.COM

ZOHAL CONSTRUCTION CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877277 or zohalcc@batelco.com.bn

ZOHAL CONSTRUCTION CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877277 or zohalcc@batelco.com.bn

THC FACILITY MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77225050 or satish@cinqo-me.com

ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICAL

CIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17536275 or BEMCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

FTG VISITOR ASSISTANCE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13112363 or FASTTRACKBCB@GMAIL.COM

MOHAMMED AHMADI CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER-CLEANING-(HAND & CHEMICAL SOLUTIONS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17268111 or hr1@macbh.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

YARA MEDICAL HOSPITALIA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77157777 or tina@jasgroup.co

COMBI SUPERMARKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39817261 or mohd.akter1974@gmail.com

DOT THREE SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35506271 or MALIRAZA8088@GMAIL.COM

COMBI SUPERMARKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39817261 or mohd.akter1974@gmail.com

BRITUS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TEACHER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17787960 or HSULAIMAN@GFH.COM

SUPER WELDING & ALUMINUM WORK SHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33886033 or SUPERWASPC@GMAIL.COM

SUPER WELDING & ALUMINUM WORK SHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33886033 or SUPERWASPC@GMAIL.COM

ADVERTO GULF COMBINED FACILITIES SUPPORT CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 0

ALMAHOOD COMPANY LTD.W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400484 or AHMED@ALMAHOOD.CO

Seven Energy W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MECHANICAL ENGINEERING).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33733576 or TAMERBAHAAR@GMAIL.COM

IRTAZA TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38953538 or AAQIBAYAZ603@GMAIL.COM

668 cafe has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33113352 or info@668.cafe.com

East Plum Services Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33444227 or PHAGAMAS.COURTS@EASTPLUM.COM

KRISPY CREAM has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17272883 or ssaleh@AMERICANA-FOOD.COM

GULF CITY CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39641612 or yousif@aaanass.net

AL Afrah Food Industries W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33065842 or AFRAWSWEETSBH@GMAIL.COM

LEMONGRASS HEAD SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77160333 or LEMONGRASSADISSPA@GMAIL.COM

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HH Shaikh Nasser attends opening ceremony of Bapco Energies Bahrain Golf Championship

Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa delegated His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty's Representative for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, to attend the official opening ceremony of the Bapco Energies Bahrain Golf Championship, which will be held at the Royal Golf Club from January 29 to February 1.

Upon his arrival, His Highness was received by His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the General Authority for Sports and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee.

The opening ceremony was also attended by His Excellency Lieutenant General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior, and a number of Their Highnesses, Excellencies, and other high-ranking officials.

On this occasion, His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa expressed his profound gratitude and appreciation to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for his generous patronage of the tournament, which reflects His Majesty's great interest in Bahraini sports and his continuous support for hosting international sporting events. He also commended the ongoing support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and his commitment to creating the ideal environment for hosting world-class championships.

His Highness noted that the Bapco Energies Bahrain Golf Championship is a prominent event on the international golf calendar, distinguished by its exceptional organization and high



level of competition. He added that it also provides an opportunity to showcase Bahrain's advanced sporting and tourism capabilities to the world, and wished all participants every success.

The opening ceremony began with the playing of the national anthem, followed by a speech from His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, who expressed his gratitude and appreciation to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa,

may God protect him, for His Majesty's continued support of the sports movement in general and golf in particular, and to His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister for his ongoing support of the sports sector.

His Highness also expressed his thanks to His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa for his care and attention to the development of Bahraini sports.

His Highness announced

the renewal of the Kingdom of Bahrain's hosting rights for this tournament for the next 10 years, reflecting confidence in Bahrain's ability to organize professionally, sustain success, and strengthen international sports partnerships.

His Highness noted that this year's tournament features a selection of the world's top golfers, including three Bahraini players, along with a comprehensive program of entertainment events. He commended the efforts of

all those involved in organizing the tournament, including Bapco Energies, the sponsors, partners, working committees, and volunteers.

Tom Phillips, representing the DP World Tour, delivered a speech during the opening ceremony, praising the exceptional organization and extensive preparations for the tournament. He commended the efforts of the organizing committee and all those involved in ensuring its success.

Riffa Stay Firm in Title Hunt

Hussain Almaskati

TDT | Manama

Matchday 13 of the Nasmer Bin Hamad Premier League wrapped up yesterday with decisive victories for Riffa and A'ali, shaking up both the top and mid-table standings.

At Khalifa Sports City, Riffa defeated Sitra 3-1 to move level on points with leaders Al Khaldiya and second-placed Muharraq. Mohammad Mashaan's side started brightly and were rewarded in the 25th minute. Ali Madan delivered a precise long-range free kick that Samuel Toscas met with a low header, beating goalkeeper Youssef Habib. On the stroke of halftime, Riffa thought they had doubled their advantage through Yacouba Diarra, but VAR ruled the goal out due to a handball in the build-up, leaving the score 1-0 at the break.

The second half saw Riffa pull away. Madan struck a superb goal in the 67th minute, skipping past his marker to slot into the near post. Just three minutes later, Wellington's cross found Toscas, who squared the ball for Gabryel de Andrade to score. The Brazilian's first-time finish into the top corner left Sitra



Joy for Riffa players as they keep the pressure on the league leaders

helpless. A late penalty rebound gave Sitra a consolation, with Carlos Cavafe heading home after Abdulkarim Fardan saved the initial strike from Juda da Silva. Meanwhile, A'ali overcame

Al Najma 2-0 at Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Stadium. Captain Faisal Ghazi's sensational delivery from the wing led to Diego Cardoso rising to head home in the 53rd minute.

Seven minutes later, a midfield scramble ended with Riad Idouigui finding Englishman Layton Nduwku, who fired emphatically into the top-right corner.

With these results, Riffa join Al Khaldiya and Muharraq on 30 points at the summit. Sitra are in ninth on 15 points, A'ali sit fifth on 16, and Al Najma occupy 10th with 12 points.

The Crown Prince's Cup Festival Gets Underway with Elite Horses and a Diverse Lineup of Events

Manama

Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the Crown Prince's Cup Festival, sponsored by Cebarco, will take place on Thursday and Friday, January 29 and 30, at the Rashid Equestrian & Horseracing Club (REHC) in Al Raffah.

The REHC continues the preparations for the Festival through a comprehensive program of accompanying events, reflecting the Club's commitment to delivering a complete entertainment experience. This comes amid growing anticipation among horseracing enthusiasts for competitions marked by the highest levels of excitement, speed, and challenge.

The Festival will feature 17 races over two days, with the participation of 195 elite Bahraini and international horses, ridden by leading jockeys. The races promise intense competition in an exceptional sporting atmosphere that combines excitement and enjoyment.

Racegoers can purchase tickets via the Club's official website, BahrainTurfclub.com, providing the opportunity to attend, enjoy the Festival's entertainment offerings, and follow the races across both days.

Participating stables are preparing for strong competition with high-caliber horses holding distinguished records in major races. These horses will compete for the Crown Prince's



Cups for Arabian, imported, and Bahrain-bred horses, in addition to several major titles, most notably: Bahrain Oaks (sponsored by Al Muzdaher Stud), Bahrain Derby (sponsored by Bapco Energies), The Howden Cup, Gulf Air Cup, Investcorp Cup, The Bahrain Mile (sponsored by BBK), Grand Seiko – Bahrain Jewellery Centre Cup, Irish Thoroughbred Marketing Cup, Lexus Cup, and Bahrain Turf Club Cup.

The first day of the Crown Prince's Cup Festival begins at 5:30 PM on Thursday, January 29, and includes nine races, two of which form part of the Bahrain Turf Series.

Day 1 Rounds

- Round 1: Gulf Air Cup for Bahraini Purebred Arabian Horses (WAHO) over 1200 meters, featuring 16 maiden horses seeking their first victory.
- Round 2: Lexus Cup for Bahraini-bred horses over 2200 meters. A close competition is expected, given the similar abilities of the horses, with Majarah, Zafarani, and Pegasus among the favorites.
- Round 3: Investcorp Cup for imported horses over 2400 meters. Bleak is considered a strong contender based on his level and results this season.
- Round 4: Grand Seiko – Bahrain Jewellery Centre Cup for Class 4 and maiden Bahraini-bred horses over 1400 meters, with 18 horses participating. The competition is expected to be between Ezz Al Bahrain and Call of Duty.
- Round 5: Irish Thoroughbred Marketing Cup – Handicap (Imported) over 1600 meters. This race is expected to be high-



ly competitive due to the closely matched abilities of the participating horses.

• Round 6: Bahrain Oaks, sponsored by Al Muzdaher Stud, for Class 1 Bahraini-bred horses over 1800 meters. The mare Wanisa is considered a strong contender after her victories over the same horses earlier this season.

• Round 9 (final round): Handicap race (Bahraini-bred) over 1000 meters, with 11 horses participating, most notably the mares Blues Queen and Alhadba.

Bahraini and International Horses Compete for the Anchorman Cup and the Hawar Cup

The Crown Prince's Cup Festival includes the fourth round of the Bahrain Turf Series, featuring the seventh and eighth races. These races will showcase top Bahraini and imported horses.

es ridden by leading Bahraini and international professional jockeys.

This strong turnout reflects the growing importance and prestige of the Bahrain Turf Series in the horseracing world, both in terms of participation and horse rankings. The field includes several horses that have previously won and competed in Series races.

The seventh race of the Bahrain Turf Series, the Anchorman Cup, sponsored by Howden, will be run over 2000 meters, with 15 horses competing. Notable contenders include Wave Rider and Soldier's Empire. The eighth race, the Hawar Cup, sponsored by Cebarco, will be run over a straight 1200 meters, promising fierce competition and a speed challenge among closely matched horses.

BIC set for packed weekend of excitement

Batelco Fitness on Track, Open Track Day, and Track Experiences set for this weekend

Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', hosts a busy weekend of exciting on-track experiences for members of the public with all kinds of interests.

Those looking to keep physically fit with a unique exercise activity can join in on BIC's widely popular Batelco Fitness on Track, scheduled for Friday morning. BIC will then be turning things up a notch with an Open Track Day featuring an all-new format, set to take place right after.

The action will remain in the fast lane on Saturday when BIC welcomes race lovers for Track Experiences, featuring three ultra-quick cars.

These three experiences and so much more are part of BIC's stacked calendar of events for the 2025/2026 season. Those interested in being a part of any of these occasions can book their spot online at bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

Friday's Batelco Fitness on Track offers the chance for participants to get a workout in within a safe and controlled setting of a world-class Formula 1 venue.

The activity is scheduled from 6am to 10am, making for a bright and early start to the day.



Those taking part will be able to exercise either individually or with family and friends. The activity can be done on foot or on a bicycle, giving participants the chance to select their preferred workout programme.

Runners and walkers will be utilising BIC's 2.550-kilometre Inner Circuit, while cyclists will get to ride their bikes along the 3.543-kilometre Outer Circuit, with another dedicated area for children's cycling.

The cost to take part is BD2 for cyclists and BD1 for runners. Payment must be made upon booking. Children under the age

of 12 can participate for free if accompanied by a paying adult.

BIC's Batelco Fitness on Track Season Pass is still also available – ideal for regular participants as it grants access to all Batelco Fitness on Track events. At the affordable price of just BD15, the

pass is a great way to save money over the course of the season, with Batelco Fitness on Track being held multiple times each month until April. Season Passes can be purchased by contacting the BIC Hotline.

Open Track Day will then heat

the track up from 11am to 6pm.

This highly sought-after experi-

ence offers thrills like no other, as participants can take their very own private vehicles, both cars and motorbikes, and power them along BIC's 2.554-kilometre Inner Track – the same raced on in the Kingdom's national championships.

Friday's event will have a unique spin to it, as it will feature an open pit-lane format, featuring dedicated timing slots for cars and bikes. This allows for longer, uninterrupted track time for each group, and it offers

a new and different dynamic for all those taking part.

Those interested in joining



Open Track Day can book in advance at a discounted rate.

The full day would cost BD82.5, while a half day would be BD55. If booking on the day itself, the cost is BD93.5 for the full day, and BD66 for half the day.

Instructor sessions are also available, while additional drivers and passengers can be a part of the action, all for an additional fee.

As in every Open Track activity, driver etiquette is of ultimate importance, and there is no close or aggressive overtaking permitted. Overtaking is by invitation between corners and driving is monitored, with poor or dangerous driving being dealt with swiftly.

Following Friday's activities, the high-octane thrills carry over to Saturday at BIC with Track Experiences, scheduled

for 8am to 3.30pm.

Participants will have the opportunity to get into the hot seat for a Clio Cup Driver Experience, an SR1 Driver Experience, or an SR3 Passenger Experience.

Both the Clio Cup Driver Experience and the Radical SR1 Driving Experience are already sold out for Saturday, but the Radical SR3 Passenger Experience is still available. Fans will be taken from zero to 100kph in about 3.4 seconds, making for an amazing number of laps around BIC. The cost to be a part of the Radical SR3 Passenger Experience is BD38.500.

For more information on Batelco Fitness on Track, Open Track Day, or Track Experiences, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline, or follow the circuit's official social media channels.

Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship tees off

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

The 2026 Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship tees off today at Royal Golf Club, marking the start of four days of competition as the DP World Tour returns to the kingdom for its third successive edition. Following yesterday's Pro-Am, attention now turns fully to tournament play, with a strong international field chasing early-season momentum on a course that has already proven demanding.

This year's championship features a stellar lineup, led by Major champions Patrick Reed and Sergio Garcia, alongside former Bahrain winner Dylan Frittelli. Reed arrives in top form after lifting the Hero Dubai Desert Classic last week, adding further intrigue to a field packed with pedigree.

The Royal Golf Club is expected to test every aspect of a player's game, rewarding accuracy and patience over four competitive rounds. With conditions familiar to many in the field, margins are likely to be tight as the tournament unfolds.



Bahrain's flag is paraded during Tuesday's opening ceremony at Royal Golf Club

Among those teeing it up this week are three Bahraini golfers who earned their places through the national qualifying pathway, gaining invaluable exposure alongside the world's best. Ali Alkowari returns for a second consecutive year and is eager to build on last season's experience.

"I cannot describe the feeling of playing here again – it's really nice," Alkowari said. "Last year was tough, but we trained very well to qualify. It was a four-day qualifier and very demanding. This year I feel more confident, and the course looks great. We've been playing it every day, so we know it well."

Sharing the fairways with global stars is an added motivation. "Players like Sergio Garcia and Patrick Reed are here, and it's really special to compete in the same tournament as them," he added.

Ahmed Alzayed is also representing Bahrain for the second time and believes last year's debut has better prepared him for this week's challenge. "I'm very proud to represent Bahrain again," he said. "Last year I was nervous because it was my first time at this level. This year I



trust myself more."

Alzayed noted that experience has shaped his strategy. "I learned that patience is key here. You don't need to be aggressive. The last four holes are tricky, so you have to be smart and safe."

Khalifa Almaraisi completes the Bahraini trio, highlighting the continued growth of golf in the kingdom.

The championship was officially launched on Tuesday with

an opening ceremony at Royal Golf Club, where a landmark 10-year agreement was announced securing the event's place on the DP World Tour calendar until at least 2036. Also unveiled was the Nasser Golf Academy, a new initiative aimed at nurturing future talent in the kingdom. Now, however, the focus is firmly on the competition, as Bahrain once again firmly positions itself at the heart of international golf.

Canter excited to defend Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship title in the Kingdom

Manama

Laurie Canter will be aiming to replicate his winning ways at Royal Golf Club this week when he defends his title at the Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship.

Last year's event saw the Englishman secure the second DP World Tour win of his career, claiming victory in a three-way play-off over compatriot Daniel Brown and Spain's Pablo Larrazabal.

Twelve months on, Canter is hoping his knowledge of the impressive course, mixed with fond memories of a successful week, sets him up well for a strong finish afront of local fans in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

"It's great to be back. There are obviously a lot of good memories," said Canter. "It's the first time I've been able to defend a tournament on the DP World Tour, so it was great to get out and play the front nine in the Pro-Am today."

"It's a big buzz to come back, I think you sort of get a natural lift. You obviously know the golf course and getting to grips with it, but you do really have your memories within what we did. It took me over 150 events to win my first one, so those kind of emotions are always going to be around when you're back at



Laurie Canter

a venue that that has happened.

"It was the beginning of a really good run of golf. A couple of weeks later, I had a good result in South Africa, lost in a play-off there, so that got me into the Masters and the Players' Championship, and a few cool things at the beginning of the year. It's cool to think it kickstarted that period of really good play for me. Hopefully I can get myself going again this year early in the season."

On course changes and conditions, Canter added: "They've made a change to 17, slightly changed where the rough and the fairway line goes there, and

I think the 11th hole is about 40 yards longer as well. Other than that, it's the same but I would say it's in fantastic condition. They've done a really good job here."

One player who will be aiming to stand in his way is Patrick Reed.

The American registered his first Rolex Series win at the Hero Dubai Desert Classic last week, which saw him move to the top of the International Swing rankings, to second on the Race to Dubai leaderboard and become the World Number 29.

Reed, whose off-season focus centred around consistency in

his ball strike, is looking to build on the confidence gained in Dubai, for what will be his second appearance in Bahrain.

"The game feels really solid and we're looking forward to getting right back at it and getting playing here this week, and just trying to take that confidence in the way I was playing last week into this week," said Reed.

"The first couple of weeks out on the road, at the start of the season after an off-season, is really to kind of see if what you worked on during the off-season actually worked, and to come out and play the way we did, especially to go out and get a win at such a demanding golf course last week, definitely allows me to have the confidence and hopefully jumpstart to having a really good year."

On his off-season work, Reed explained: "The biggest thing was obviously hitting fairways – drive the ball a little better, get the irons a little sharper, just allow the short game to continue being short game. This year, the focus was let's hit the ball a little better, let's get the ball striking back, so then we can go out and shoot lower numbers and just be more consistent off the tee and on the approaches, so that I

can allow the short game to be a weapon rather than a saviour."

The pair join Major champions Padraig Harrington and Sergio Garcia in this week's field, alongside a host of international stars, including Larrazabal, 2024 winner Dylan Frittelli and current Race to Dubai leader Jayden Schaper. Dubai Invitational winner Nacho Elvira and France's Julien Guerrier, who has recorded back-to-back top-three finishes, will also tee it up at Royal Golf Club.

Harrington, making his latest appearance in the Kingdom, spoke highly of the venue's evolution: "The golf course has matured over the years, it has grown into a good tournament venue. When we first came here in 2011, they had to manage it a lot. Now the players are bigger, stronger and hit it further, and we can be let loose on this golf course. It's definitely matured into a really good tournament."

"Out here in Bahrain, they're really putting the effort in to grow the game. You've got a lot of people new to the game here, there's a lot of locals, not necessarily expats. It is important that we have a good tournament and a good show. I think this course lends itself to that; the last couple of holes are very dramatic, plenty of water, so if you can get a tight finish, there will be some drama for sure."

Larrazabal, who narrowly

missed out on victory last year, returns with determination: "I have great memories from this place, from the people of Bahrain, and it's great to be back. Today I had the pleasure to play with His Highness, and it was a beautiful experience, and hopefully I play the same way for 71 holes, and I manage to finish on top this time."

The \$2.75 million DP World Tour tournament, held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, was officially launched on Tuesday night, with an Opening Ceremony held at Royal Golf Club.

The prestigious event, attended by His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al Khalifa and His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, also saw the announcement of a new multi-year partnership with the DP World Tour and the Bahrain Olympic Committee, which will secure the Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship on the Tour's schedule until at least 2036.

The extended agreement reinforces the Tour's commitment to delivering world-class sporting experiences, driving innovation and sustainability, and further strengthening Bahrain's position as a leading destination for international sport, tourism and business.