

## BRX primed for toughest test as Dakar stretches into empty quarter

Sebastien Loeb raring to go as he leads four-car challenge by Bahrain Raid Xtreme in Saudi Arabia | **P12**

Philippines hunts for 26 still missing after weekend weather disaster

# THE DAILY tribune



Daniel Craig prepares well for Knives Out monologues

Ship insurers to cancel war cover for Russia, Ukraine



## Expansion of West Bank settlements is 'top priority'

Jerusalem

Benjamin Netanyahu's incoming hard-line government put West Bank settlement expansion at the top of its list of priorities yesterday, vowing to legalise dozens of illegally built outposts and annex the occupied territory as part of its coalition deal with its ultranational allies.

The coalition deals were released a day before the government is to be sworn into office.

## Woman frozen to death in her car



Trapped in blizzard for 18 hours  
New York

A 22-year-old woman has tragically frozen to death after spending 18 hours in her car while trying to wait out a historic snowstorm currently devastating Buffalo.

Anndel Taylor died over the weekend after her vehicle was stranded in snow on Friday afternoon on her way home from work. She is just one of 35 who have succumbed to frigid conditions currently being seen in New York's second-largest city.

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## Tamkeen launches updated Riyadat financing program to help them expand their businesses

TDI | Manama

The Labour Fund, Tamkeen, has stepped up its efforts to provide Bahraini women with financial assistance so they can start, grow, and expand their businesses.

The updated Riyadat program was launched yesterday at a press conference organised by Tamkeen, in partnership with the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) and the Bahrain Development Bank (BDB).

Through the updated program, Tamkeen will incentivise a percentage of the profit payable by small, medium and large enterprises, depending on the support track.

The profit subsidy increases when the amount is paid regularly within five years, as per the terms and conditions of the program, in addition to providing advisory services to the supported enterprises.

The financing amount can be used for fixed assets, to cover operating expenses, enhance the products and services offered by enterprises, and obtain licenses and other necessary requirements needed by the enterprise to grow and expand its operations, in addition to supporting marketing activities.



SCW Assistant Secretary General Shaikha Deena bint Rashid Al Khalifa, centre, Tamkeen Acting Chief Executive Maha Mofeez, right, and BDB Chief Executive Officer Dalal Al Qais at the event

Applications to the updated Riyadat Program will open on 1 January through Bahrain Development Bank.

### Praise for support

SCW Assistant Secretary General Shaikha Deena bint Rashid Al Khalifa praised the ongoing support provided by Tamkeen and the BDB that caters to the establishment and growth of Bahraini women's business ventures.

She noted that the updated version of the Riyadat Financing scheme is in line with the Economic Recovery Plan and labour market changes.

### National priorities

Tamkeen Acting Chief Executive Maha Mofeez said that this scheme is a continuation of the comprehensive transformation plan announced earlier this year, which introduced 16 programs, in line with national priorities

and labour market changes.

"Tamkeen has always believed in the role of Bahraini women as active and influential players in the sustainability and development of Bahrain's economy, in line with Tamkeen's mandate. We are constantly exploring various forms of support, including financial, technical and advisory, which enable progress and business development," she said.

"We have introduced the Riyadat financing program which provides an opportunity for

Bahraini women to benefit from accessible financing solutions to develop their commercial activities, translating to further and continued success."

She pointed out that the updates introduced to the program came as a result of the collaboration with the SCW and BDB that conducted a comprehensive review on the performance of the enterprises which have previously benefited from the support program.

### Financing solutions

During the past years, financing solutions that exceeded BD7.5 million for 318 women-owned enterprises in various economic sectors were provided through the Riyadat financing scheme.

"Riyadat finance is one of the most important schemes that BDB offers in partnership with the Supreme Council for Women and Tamkeen to support entrepreneurship field in Bahrain and to empower women specially to achieve their goals and take an effective part in economy development," said Dalal Al Qais, BDB Chief Executive Officer, stressing the importance of the changes implied on Riyadat Financing Scheme.

## Military preparations underway

# Israel 'ready' to attack Iran nuclear sites: Gantz

Jerusalem

Israel has improved its readiness to attack Iran, outgoing Defense Minister Benny Gantz said yesterday as he cited preparations that the military is making to hit nuclear sites.

Speaking at an Air Force graduation ceremony, Gantz said that pilots may one day be called upon to take part in such

an offensive.

"You may cross the sky to the east in two or three years and take part in an attack on nuclear sites in Iran, for which we are preparing, while significantly increasing readiness in recent years, Gantz said.

Israel is becoming increasingly concerned that Russia's growing dependence on Iran's military potential in Ukraine



Outgoing Israel Defense Minister

Israel destroyed an unfinished nuclear reactor in Syria in 2007. Iraq under Saddam Hussein had a well-developed program until Israel, an unacknowledged nuclear state, stifled his ambitions by destroying the Osirak research reactor in an air raid in 1981.

could prompt Tehran to seek Russian assistance for its nuclear program in return.

Israel rejects Iran's assertions that the nuclear program is for peaceful purposes.

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