

Bahrain, Lebanon keen to deepen cooperation

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, emphasised that both the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Republic of Lebanon are committed to strengthening this cooperation to benefit both their peoples.

HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he received His Excellency Hadi Hachem, the newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Lebanon to the Kingdom of Bahrain, at Riffa Palace.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister highlighted the strength of ties between Bahrain and Lebanon and highlighted the steady growth of cooperation



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister with H.E. Lebanese Ambassador Hadi Hachem



between both nations.

During the meeting, the latest regional and international devel-

opments and issues of common interest were discussed.

For his part, H.E. Hachem ex-

pressed his gratitude for His Royal Highness's support in advancing the bilateral ties and wished

the Kingdom of Bahrain further progress and prosperity.

H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Ahmed

bin Salman Al Khalifa, President of the Court of the Crown Prince, was also in attendance.

HM King hailed on Bahrain's Asian handball title

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received a cable of congratulations from His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, on the occasion of the Kingdom of Bahrain national handball team capturing the title in the prestigious Asian Handball Championship, hosted by the State of Kuwait. HRH Prince Salman congratulated HM the King on the achievement, attributing the victory to His Majesty's continued support for Bahraini sport, which has contributed to the advancement of national teams and their success at regional and international competitions.

His Royal Highness noted that the title represents a source of pride and an important sporting achievement, reflecting the advanced level reached by Bahraini sport and the dedication of the athletes to win the title for the first time.

(Detailed report on Page 11)

Guinness joy for Bahraini rapper

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Bahraini rapper Hussam Aseem, better known as Fliperachi, has officially entered the Guinness World Records after his hit song "Faqla" achieved an unprecedented milestone on the Billboard Arabic charts.

Economic flow

Shura Council to review unified GCC road transport law for fairness and safety

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Shura Council members will consider on Sunday a report urging approval of Decree-Law No. 35 of 2025, which adopts a unified GCC framework for international road transport.

The Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee said it reviewed the lower chamber's decision and its papers, alongside the view of the Shura Council's Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee, which found the decree-law sound in constitutional and legal terms.

The committee also examined a separate legal opinion memorandum and discussed the text with two legal advisers before recommending approval.

Bahrain needs to upgrade its procedures in line with the GCC-wide rules to protect Bahraini carriers and ensure equal terms, while also supporting trade and raising road safety.



Dr Ali Al Rumaihi, Head of Shura Council's Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee

Delay

In its reasoning, the committee pointed to a delay in bringing the GCC framework into force after the planned start date had already passed.

It said the delay risked leaving a gap in the rules that could disrupt cross-border road transport, particularly as Saudi Arabia has already begun applying the unified provisions.

The committee said Bahrain needed to bring its procedures into line to protect Bahraini carriers and ensure equal terms, while also supporting trade and raising road safety through shared technical rules and stricter controls on vehicles and transport operations.

The decree-law has six articles.

Regulation

It approves the attached unified regulation, defines the 'competent authority' as the body to



be designated by decree, and, for the purposes of applying the regulation, sets the rate at one Bahraini dinar to ten riyals.

It also sets out how appeals can be made against decisions issued under the regulation, its executive rules and related decisions, keeps existing decisions in force until the executive rules are issued, and includes an implementing article.

The attached regulation contains 25 articles. It opens with definitions, aims and scope.

It then deals with operating cards and covers return trips, entry without a load, transport by unregistered vehicles, and domestic transport of passengers and goods.

Requirements

It also sets technical requirements for vehicles, rules on carrying goods and on exceptional loads, and duties placed on carriers and drivers, including limits on how long a vehicle may remain within a member state and rules on weights and dimensions.

Later articles deal with violations and administrative penalties, repeat offences and how fines are paid.

The final provisions cover appeals, fees and taxes, judicial enforcement powers, and the mechanism for issuing the executive rules.

The committee also explained why the measure was issued as a decree-law under Article 38 of the Constitution.

Recess

It said it was issued on 19 August 2025 during the recess, after the close of the third session of the sixth legislative term and before the start of the fourth session, and was submitted to both the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives on 24 August 2025 for review.

It said the conditions in Article 38 were met, including the need for urgent action, and that the decree-law satisfied the required legal and procedural tests.



Focus on gas sector development strategies



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, chairs the 34th meeting of the Higher Committee for Energy and Natural Resources. Several development strategies related to the Kingdom of Bahrain's gas sector were reviewed.



Financial hub

Bahrain strengthens role as leading banking and investment centre in Gulf region

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The Kingdom of Bahrain has succeeded in consolidating its position as a leading financial and banking hub in the region and a key bridge for Gulf economic integration, making it a preferred destination for regional and international financial institutions.

This was affirmed by His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, as he attributed this achievement to the Kingdom's advanced regulatory environment and balanced economic policies, which continue to strengthen confidence in the Kingdom's financial sector.

Speaking during a reception marking the golden jubilee of the Gulf International Bank (GIB), H.E. Shaikh Salman said the milestone reflected "pride in a successful banking journey and a pioneering institutional experience that has demonstrated resilience and adaptability amid economic and financial changes."



H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa speaks at the event

Progress

He added that GIB's progress had played a vital role in "strengthening trust and partnership between governments and the private sector in the markets where the bank operates, particularly in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Kingdom of Saudi

Arabia."

The Minister highlighted that Bahrain's financial achievements align with the comprehensive development process led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the balanced economic policies of the government headed by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and

Prime Minister.

"These foundations have enabled the Kingdom to enhance its competitiveness and reinforce its role as a regional financial centre," he said.

H.E. Shaikh Salman noted that GIB represents a successful model of economic, financial and banking cooperation between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, drawing strength from the deep-rooted historical ties and close coordination between the two countries.

Cooperation

He stressed that such cooperation contributes to advancing development pathways and fostering shared prosperity and growth for both nations.

His Excellency underscored the importance of the financial and banking sector as one of the main contributors to Bahrain's gross domestic product, citing its central role in financing projects, stimulating investment, supporting economic diversification and driving sustainable growth within a comprehensive economic vision based on fairness, sustainability and competitiveness.

BDF-Finance Ministry coordination



His Excellency Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), received H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy. The meeting reviewed topics related to areas of cooperation and ongoing coordination between the BDF and the Ministry of Finance and National Economy.

Traffic awareness platform introduces new systems

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cational programmes related to the new traffic cameras, in addition to introducing the traffic services provided by the Directorate and explaining how to benefit from them.

The General Directorate affirmed that it will intensify its awareness programmes during the coming period, calling on citizens and residents to update their contact details via the eTraffic and MyGov applications to ensure the direct receipt of alerts and notifications.

The platform featured a range of awareness and edu-

Kani shawls worth BD1,150 at Autumn Fair

Ghadeer Alkumaish
TDT | Manama

One of the standout highlights of the Autumn Fair was a rare hand-embroidered Kashmiri shawl, valued at over BD1,000, which can take up to two years to complete.

Veteran exhibitor Mohammed Rafeal, who has participated in the fair for 22 years, said some exclusive pieces reach BD1,150, reflecting the skill, patience, and heritage behind each creation.

Rafeal stressed that true craftsmanship remains unmatched, saying every shawl is entirely handcrafted, from spinning the wool to the final Sozoni embroidery.

He explained that some rare Kani shawls are woven using wooden needles, with pashmi-

na wool sourced from Ladakh, a region known for extreme sub-zero temperatures.

"This wool is a gift of nature," he said.

Long-time customer Um Ali, who has been purchasing Kashmiri shawls for more than 15 years, shared her appreciation for the craftsmanship.

She said the pieces are timeless investments, often passed down through generations, adding that quality and heritage matter more than price.

Beyond Kashmiri craftsmanship, the Autumn Fair also showcased strong international participation. Vendors from India, Syria, Oman, Yemen, and Africa praised the fair's organisation and visitor turnout, with many confirming their intention to return next year.

First-time African exhibitors

Unique skills, patience, and heritage are behind each creation.



This exclusive fiber comes only from the Ladakh region



Kashmiri craftsmanship

Woman cleared of trafficking

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A woman has been acquitted of human trafficking after the High Criminal Court quashed a three-year jail term handed down in her absence, saying the case file did not show she was responsible for paying a domestic worker's wages or for bringing her to Bahrain.

The court said it was not satisfied the charge was properly attributed to her and found the elements of the offence were not made out.

In its reasoning, it said the complaint was filed by the Labour Market Regulatory Authority against the woman's husband as the employer responsible for paying the worker.

It also cited documents showing the husband filed a report with the police directorate stating the maid had absconded.

Statement

The judgment said the defence produced a written statement from the worker's husband confirming he alone was responsible for all of her entitlements and monthly wages, and that the accused

had no role in paying her.

He also said he recruited the worker and brought her from her country under his sponsorship, adding that his wife had no involvement and was not required to pay the worker's wages. With nothing in the case file showing the accused was obliged to pay the worker, the court said the charge could not stand. It added that it found no indication of human trafficking on the facts, and it therefore overturned the in-absentia verdict and acquitted her under Article 255 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Her lawyer, Zahra Hussain, had earlier asked for an acquittal, saying her client denied the allegation and had no legal or factual connection to the worker. She argued the woman was not the sponsor, not the employer, and was not involved in recruiting the worker or entering into any agreement to employ her.

Hussain told the court the case file contained no document linking the accused to the worker through sponsorship, an employment contract or any other legal relationship that would make her responsible for the worker's presence in the country or for managing her affairs.

Shura Council to debate Disability Law changes



Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The Shura Council will debate on Sunday a decree-law that updates the governance and terminology of the committee responsible for disability affairs, after its Services Committee said the amendments meet constitutional and legal requirements and do not affect existing rights or benefits.

The Services Committee said it examined the decree-law following extended discussions among members and the committee's legal adviser, and after reviewing an opinion from the Shura Council's Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee, which confirmed its constitutional and legal soundness.

It also said it reviewed the decision of the Council of Representatives and the documents attached to it.

In explaining its view, the committee said the changes are intended to keep the legislation in step with modern rights-based standards, reinforce the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities, and

update the legal framework to match national policies and the government programme aimed at empowerment and inclusion.

A central amendment changes how the relevant committee is defined in law.

The title 'Higher Committee' is removed and replaced with a reference to the committee established under Article 16, with its name, composition and term of membership to be set by a decision issued by the Prime Minister.

The Services Committee said this approach allows future administrative adjustments without repeated amendments to the law.

It added that the updated naming also follows the state's direction towards using inclusive language that emphasises capability, participation and full inclusion in society, rather than language centred solely on care.

The Services Committee said the amendments are limited to organisational and co-ordinating matters, including titles and the committee's arrangements, and do not alter the substantive provisions of the 2006 law.

Family refusal

Couple charged after leaving disabled son in hospital for 10 years

Rehab Mohammad
TD | Manama

The Head of the Family and Child Prosecution said that the Public Prosecution received a complaint from government hospitals after the parents of a patient with disabilities refused to take him home after his treatment was completed.

According to the complaint, the patient, who has a mild intellectual disability, was admitted to a government hospital in 2015 due to an immune disease. All necessary medical tests and treatment were completed within two weeks of his admission.

However, his parents repeatedly refused to take their son home, despite many attempts by hospital staff to convince them of their responsibility to care for him.

Refusal

As a result, the patient remained in the government hospital for more than ten years due to his parents' continued refusal to receive him because of his intellectual disability.

The Public Prosecution immediately started an investigation and heard the testimony of the Deputy Head of the Long-



The patient's parents repeatedly refused to take their son home, despite many attempts by hospital staff to convince them of their responsibility to care for him.

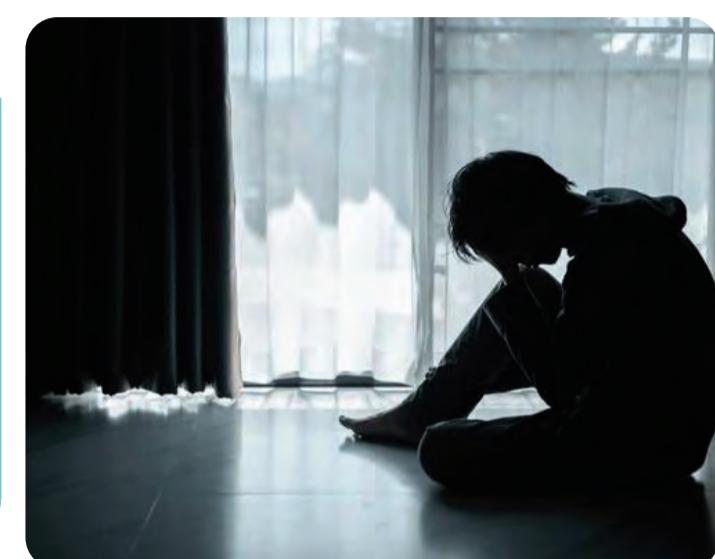
Stay Committee at government hospitals.

She confirmed that the patient's health condition does not require hospital admission and that several meetings were held with both parents to persuade them to take their son, but without success.

Danger

She added that the son is in his forties, that his intellectual disability makes his thinking similar to that of a ten-year-old child, and that he does not pose any danger to his family or to society.

Investigations also showed



that the son has been registered with the Ministry of Social Development as a person with disabilities since 2005, and that his parents have been receiving his disability allowance since that time.

The parents were questioned and clearly refused to take their son, claiming they were unable to care for him.

Findings

Based on these findings, the Public Prosecution ordered that the parents be referred to trial on charges of neglecting their legal duty to care for their son with disabilities, an offense punishable by imprisonment

and a fine under Law No. (74) of 2006 on the care, rehabilitation, and employment of persons with disabilities.

The Head of the Prosecution stressed that while the state is committed to protecting the rights of all members of society, parents and legal guardians also have a legal and moral responsibility to care for those under their care.

She noted that the parents' refusal to take their son from the hospital for more than ten years represents a serious breach of this responsibility, especially as they continued to receive his disability allowance during that period.

Draft law on International Date Observatory HQ set for review

Mohammed Darwish
TD | Manama

The Shura Council will debate on Sunday a draft law approving an agreement between Bahrain and the International Date Council to establish the headquarters of the International Date Observatory in Bahrain, accompanying Decree No. 64 of 2025.

The agreement was signed in Manama on 22 September 2025 and would need to be enacted as a law to take effect in Bahrain, under Article 37 of the Constitution.

The bill is brief, consisting of a preamble and two articles. The first approves the agreement, while the second covers implementation.

Under the agreement, the Observatory's permanent headquarters would be in Bahrain.

Powers

It would have legal personality and the power to enter into contracts, and to acquire, own and dispose of movable and immovable property, provided this does not conflict with Bahraini law.

The agreement also allows



From left, Dr Jihad Al Fadhel, Shura Council's Second Deputy Chairperson, and Jamal Fakhr, First Deputy Chairman

the Observatory to carry out its work, which focuses on collecting, analysing and publishing data on the global dates market to support decision-making by the International Date Council's member states.

The agreement also allows

the Observatory to hold funds, open accounts in different currencies, and bring in money, securities and foreign currency or transfer them abroad in line with applicable rules.

Recommendations

The committee said the Observatory would be required to have regard to any observations and recommendations

made by the Bahraini government when exercising those rights.

It said the Director of the International Date Council would submit to Bahrain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs a list of the names and addresses of the Observatory's director and staff, and would notify the ministry of any changes.

The report said the agreement would not affect Bahrain's right to take steps to protect security, safety and public order in emergency or exceptional circumstances.

Correspondence

It also requires the Observatory's correspondence with government bodies in Bahrain to go through the Observatory's director via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The committee said the remaining provisions set out an amicable settlement process for disputes over the agreement's application or interpretation, as well as rules for amendment, entry into force, duration and termination, and the number of copies and the language of the text.

Eight convicted over work permits linked to fake companies

Rehab Mohammad
TD | Manama

The Public Prosecutor, head of the Ministries and Public Authorities Prosecution, said that criminal courts issued three rulings convicting eight people.

They had obtained work permits linked to fake companies and kept them without any real need.

In the first case, five people were sentenced to one year in prison and deported permanently. They had obtained 93

work permits linked to 51 fake company records without needing them.

In the second case, one person was fined 61,000 dinars and another person was fined 2,000 dinars, and both were deported permanently. They had obtained 42 work permits linked to 21 fake company records.

Peace education

Ministry curricula and student activities promote dialogue, tolerance and coexistence

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The Ministry of Education, through its curricula – particularly citizenship education – and various student activities, aims to promote a culture of peace, tolerance and dialogue.

Its efforts also emphasise respect for diversity, human dignity and international solidarity, contributing to the building of safe and sustainable societies in line with national goals and ongoing initiatives in this field.

This was emphasised by Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education.

He noted that the UN Gen-



The Kingdom is a model of tolerance, coexistence, openness, and religious freedom.

H.E. DR. MOHAMMED BIN MUBARAK JUMA, MINISTER OF EDUCATION

eral Assembly's adoption of an International Day of Peaceful Coexistence is a significant global achievement reflecting the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin

Initiatives

He noted that the theme, "Commitment to Peaceful Co-

existence and a Safe, Inclusive World," highlights Bahrain's leading royal initiatives both regionally and internationally, positioning the Kingdom as a model of tolerance, coexistence, openness, and religious freedom.

The Minister also commended the efforts of the King Hamad Global Center for Coexistence and Tolerance in providing educational, academic, and awareness programs that empower youth and communities, in cooperation with relevant ministries and institutions locally and globally, to foster tolerance and respect for cultural and religious diversity.

Health tourism visa and new supervising committee included in Shura draft law

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Invoices, upfront quotes and a health tourism visa would be introduced for medical visitors under a Shura Council draft law that also creates a national committee to coordinate the sector and increases what hospitals must tell patients before they fly in.



Dr Ebtesam Al Dallal



Dr Jameela Al Salman

YOU KNOW WHAT
The committee would be tasked with drawing up and carrying out a national plan for health tourism, including the strategy and general policy.

The proposal, put forward by Shura members Dr Jameela Al Salman, Dr Jehad Al Fadhel, Dalal Al Zayed, Dr Ebtesam Al Dallal and Ali Al Aradi, would require health providers to publish and stick to declared prices, give patients itemised bills, and submit periodic reports to the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA), which would oversee compliance.

Health establishments seeking to agree treatment with a pa-

tient before arrival would have to send a written invitation explaining an estimated diagnosis and the documents relied upon, the proposed course of treatment, major risks linked to the treatment because of its nature or the patient's circumstances, and an assessment of expected outcomes.

Quote

The invitation would also need to include a detailed price

quote for the proposed treatment, alongside an approximate estimate for extra treatments outside the original plan that may be needed.

The draft defines a health tourism visa as an entry permit allowing individuals to enter Bahrain to receive health services.

It defines the service recipient as any person who enters the kingdom for that purpose.

Services

Health tourism services are described in wide terms, covering examination, diagnosis and treatment, as well as nursing, healthcare, dietary programmes, accommodation and convalescence.

The definition also covers related support such as first aid, medicines, lab work and radiology tests, and allows the Supreme Council of Health to specify other similar services by decision.

Alongside the pre-arrival invitation requirement, the draft would place duties on health establishments providing health tourism services.

KBL holds inaugural Commissioner's Cup at Busaiteen Club

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The Kingdom of Bahrain League (KBL) marked a major milestone in Filipino basketball as it successfully staged its inaugural Commissioner's Cup on 22 January at the Busaiteen Club.

It celebrated the league's first season while honoring Commissioner Ruby Twinkle Quizon for her pivotal role in founding and leading the organization.

Conceived as a platform committed to fairness, inclusivity, and excellence, KBL was established in response to the need for a more transparent and well-organized Filipino basketball league in Bahrain.

This vision was carefully developed into a concrete blueprint that ultimately led to the league's official tip-off, made



Team members and spectators at the event

possible through the collaboration and generous support of sponsors and partner organizations. The program formally opened with an invocation led by Pastor Ignacio Reyes, Head Pastor of Jesus Is Alive Community Bahrain, followed by a Muslim prayer, setting a solemn yet uplifting tone that reflected unity and mutual respect among the participants.

One of the highlights of the Commissioner's Cup was the announcement of the Best Muse Award.

Maryanne "Sally" Pangilinan, one of the event's judges and a noted entrepreneur, proclaimed Shery Mercado of the Radicals Team as this year's Best Muse after she garnered the highest number of votes on social media and impressed the panel

with her poise, confidence, and strong stage presence.

The Best Muse competition was evaluated by panel of judges composed of Rosalie Wood Nochebranca, Lorenze Recaña Barcelos, and Eden Mangundayao.

The Commissioner's Cup featured eight participating teams: Drink Team, Dkars Legends, Hopsay Bahrain, Nemesis, Radicals, Scorpion, Tigbas Warrior, and WellMed.

Following the formal program, the opening game between Radicals and Tigbas Warrior thrilled spectators, with Radicals securing a 101-92 victory.

Jordan Bungay of the Radicals was named Player of the Game, while Jason Dalisay of Tigbas Warrior earned the Defensive Player of the Game award for his outstanding performance.

A street of Turkey inside Bahrain's Autumn Fair



Turkish traditional sweets

Hasan Barakat

TDT | Manama

thentic Turkish coffee brewed slowly on hot sand.

The scene feels immersive and carefully curated, drawing crowds almost instantly.

Confectionery

What stands out most is the presence of well-known Turkish confectionery brands that are popular among Bahrainis.

These are shops many visitors recognise from trips to Istanbul and other Turkish cities, places they deliberately seek out whenever they travel.

Their arrival at the Autumn Fair has turned the section into a destination in its own right, offering a rare opportunity for those unable to travel to enjoy the same flavours locally.

MPs call for 24-hour cancer emergency wing at hospital



MP Mohammed Al Rifai

Mohammed Darwish

TDT | Manama

diotherapy, leaving them exposed to serious, potentially life-threatening complications if urgent care is delayed.

They describe King Hamad University Hospital as a key referral centre for cancer care in Bahrain, and say a dedicated emergency wing would improve the quality of care, reduce infection rates and provide a safer setting for patients with low immunity.

The document also says the move would ease pressure on general A&E services by directing sensitive cases to a specialised unit, with added privacy and greater efficiency, in line with efforts to improve health services and quality of life.

The proposal was submitted by MPs Mohammed Al Rifai and Mohammed Mousa, along with Abdulwahid Qarata, Ali Saqer Al Doseri and Hisham Al Awadhi.

PROCODE and Kinderhaus awarded first and second place in the 23rd edition of StartUp Bahrain Pitch

Manama

As part of its ongoing efforts to enhance the entrepreneurship ecosystem and support the growth of Bahraini startups, StartUp Bahrain – the Kingdom's leading national platform for supporting emerging enterprises, supported by Tamkeen, hosted the 23rd edition of StartUp Bahrain Pitch. The event was held in the presence of H.E. Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce and Chairman of the SME Development Board, and H.E. Maha Abdulhameed Mofeez, Chief Executive of the Labour Fund "Tamkeen".

This edition featured a judging panel of leading experts and seasoned investors in the entrepreneurship sector, including: Luca Barbi, General Partner and COO at STV, Khalid Saad, Founder and Managing Partner at Bunat Ventures, Emon Shakoor, CEO of Blossom Accelerator, and Laith Al Khalili, Associate Partner at



Mumtalakat.

The event also showcased a group of Bahraini startups including W.I.S.E.R Technologies, a company specializing in legal and government technologies offering 24/7 advisory support; Mawaheb, a digital platform that connects designers, artists and content creators with freelance opportunities; and PROCODE, an esports platform offering skill development courses, profes-

sional coaching sessions and competitive tournaments to help players connect with experts and enhance their gaming capabilities.

Additionally, Kinderhaus, an AI powered educational technology platform supporting children with dyslexia and learning difficulties through personalized tools designed to build reading and writing skills, also participated in this edition.

After the startups presented their projects and were evaluated by the judging panel, the winners were announced, with PROCODE awarded first place and Kinderhaus awarded second place.

On this occasion, Shahad Al Zaki, Co Founder of PROCODE, expressed her pride in earning first place, saying:

"We are proud to have achieved first place in this edi-

tion of StartUp Bahrain Pitch, the leading platform that embraces innovators and supports emerging ventures in the Kingdom. This milestone marks a pivotal moment in our journey and reinforces our commitment to achieving our aspirations for growth and expansion."

Second place winner, Huda Radhi, Founder of Kinderhaus, expressed her appreciation, saying:

"We are honored to have secured second place and to have participated in this competition, which enabled us to showcase our project to a distinguished panel of experts and investors. This event opened new opportunities for communication and collaboration with fellow entrepreneurs. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the mentors who supported us throughout the program, as well as to Tamkeen and all the partners for their vital role in fostering innovation and strengthening the entrepreneurship ecosystem in the

Kingdom of Bahrain."

Startup Pitch is supported by Tamkeen and organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Bahrain Economic Development Board and the Bahrain Development Bank, in line with efforts to inspire innovation among Bahraini youth and reinforce the role of entrepreneurship in contributing to the national economy.

Tamkeen's support aligns with its strategic priorities for 2026, which focus on areas with the highest on the economy and Bahrain. It also reflects Tamkeen's role in shaping career pathways through programs that connect skills with opportunities in the labor market, adopting innovative approaches to stimulate private sector growth and financing, and implementing programs that enhance the Fund's efficiency and effectiveness by developing internal mechanisms and continuously strengthening governance.

World-Renowned Motivational & Inspirational Speaker BK Shivani to Address Audiences in Bahrain

Manama

The Bahrain Meditation Centre for Self Development in association with The Art Hotel and Resort is set to host internationally acclaimed motivational and inspirational speaker BK Shivani for a two-day public talk series on 14th and 15th February at The Art Hotel, Bahrain.



BK Shivani

BK Shivani is globally respected for her ability to present life-transforming insights in a clear, practical, and relatable manner. An Electronics Engineering graduate from Pune University, India, she has been a practitioner and teacher of Rajyoga Meditation since 1996 and has dedicated her life to empowering individuals to take responsibility for their thoughts, emotions, relationships, and overall wellbeing.

She rose to international prominence through her widely watched television series "Awakening With Brahma Kumaris," first telecast in 2007, which has completed over 2,000 episodes. The programme has reached audiences across India, the USA, Canada, the UK, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, the Middle East, and South-East Asia, helping millions address stress, emotional challenges, addictions, low self-esteem, and relationship issues through inner awareness and conscious living.

Over the years, BK Shivani has delivered more than 5,500 talks in over 35 countries, including sessions for leading global corporations such as Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Cisco, and Intel in Silicon Valley, USA. Her work is widely recognized for bridging inner clarity with practical leadership, emotional balance, and personal responsibility.

In recognition of her contribution to social and emotional wellbeing, BK Shivani received the prestigious Nari

14 February – Awakening the Power of Now and

15 February – Inner Happiness Amidst a Chaotic World.

The sessions are free of charge, with prior registration mandatory through a QR-code-based system shared via flyers and social media platforms.

In Cooperation with the Family Business Council Gulf Bahrain Chamber Organizes "Family Governance Lab"

Manama

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in cooperation with the Family Business Council Gulf, organized the "Family Business Governance Lab," with the participation of representatives from family businesses in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. The initiative aims to enhance the sustainability of family businesses and support successful leadership transition across generations.

The Lab provided an interactive platform for family business owners, board members, and next-generation leaders to strengthen governance practices, improve intergenerational communication, and establish clear frameworks for ownership, leadership, and decision-making. The program included a presentation on Bahrain's Family Business Governance Guide, along with interactive sessions and practical simulations led by specialized governance and succession-planning consultants.

His Excellency Mr. Sameer Abdullah Nass, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, emphasized that family businesses are a cornerstone of the national economy and that adopting institutional governance is essential to ensure continuity, improve decision-making, and protect family legacy. He highlighted the importance of empowering the next generation and preparing them to meet evolving economic challenges.

He added that the Bahrain Chamber places strong emphasis on family businesses and, through various initiatives and partnerships, supports the sector by strengthening governance, building capabilities, and promoting best practices, reinforcing Bahrain's position as a sustainable model for family enterprises.

His Excellency Mr. Khalid Mohammed Najibi, First Vice Chairman of the Chamber,



noted that establishing family councils helps align family

stressed that early succession planning and intergenerational



The Family Business Governance Lab is a strategic step to protect the legacy of business families

SAMEER ABDULLAH NASS

it helps protect relationships, foster harmony, and ensure business sustainability across generations. Through this initiative, the Kingdom of Bahrain is reinforcing a clear regional model for sound family governance."

The "Family Governance Lab" is the first in a series of interactive workshops aimed at transforming knowledge into practical application and building a strong community of family business leaders committed to institutional governance in Bahrain and the Gulf region.

News in brief

China executes 11 linked to Myanmar scam compounds



◆ China executed 11 people linked to Myanmar criminal gangs, including "key members" involved in telecom scam operations, state media reported. Fraud compounds have flourished in Myanmar's lawless borderlands, part of a multibillion-dollar illicit industry. The centres are typically staffed by foreigners - including many Chinese - with many saying they were trafficked and forced to swindle people online. Beijing has stepped up cooperation with South-east Asian nations in recent years to crack down on the compounds, and thousands of people have been repatriated to China.

◆ Denmark's foreign minister said yesterday he was "more optimistic" after technical talks kicked off with the United States over Greenland. "We have had the very first meeting at senior official level in Washington yesterday regarding the Greenlandic issue," Lars Lokke Rasmussen told journalists at an EU meeting in Brussels. "It went well in a very constructive atmosphere and tone, and new meetings are planned. It's not that things are solved, but it's good." The trilateral talks come after US President Donald Trump last week backed down from his threats to seize the autonomous Arctic territory of EU and NATO member Denmark.

Denmark hails 'very constructive' meeting with US over Greenland



Bodies pulled from sea as Philippine ferry toll rises to 29



◆ Eleven more bodies were pulled from waters off the southern Philippines yesterday, the coast guard said, days after a ferry capsized and threw hundreds of people into the sea. The discovery brought the confirmed death toll to 29, officials said in a statement, three days after the MV Trisha Kerstin 3 went down off southwestern Mindanao in the early hours of Monday. The ferry was carrying at least 344 passengers and crew, most of whom were rescued in the immediate aftermath.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

'I am a knight': Paris' last newspaper hawker gets top French award



President Emmanuel Macron made newspaper hawker Ali Akbar a knight in the national order of merit

AFP | Paris

told Akbar, who was surrounded by his family.

Akbar, who is known for inventing sensational headlines, sells his wares round the upmarket streets of Saint-Germain-des-Pres where he has become a neighbourhood legend.

French has "become your language", Macron told the slim, sharply dressed man. "You have learned to play with it, making it your own."

"You have carried, if I may say so, the world in your arms and France in your heart," Macron added.

He praised Akbar as an example of integration which "makes our country stronger and prouder."

"He is a magnificent example at a time when we so often hear bad news," Macron said.

"There are also many stories like Ali's, of women and men who fled poverty to choose a country of freedom."

Akbar said he was "deeply moved" and already knew what he would shout on the streets of Paris in the coming days.

"You are the accent of the 6th arrondissement. The voice of the French press," Macron

Starmer hails progress in China

Visit marks thaw in ties as Starmer, Xi discuss trade, migration, and global stability

Visa-free travel agreed for Britons

Trade, health and security deals signed

China calls for "restart" of UK-China golden era

AFP | Beijing

Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer hailed "really good progress" on issues including visa-free travel and tariffs during talks with Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Beijing yesterday.

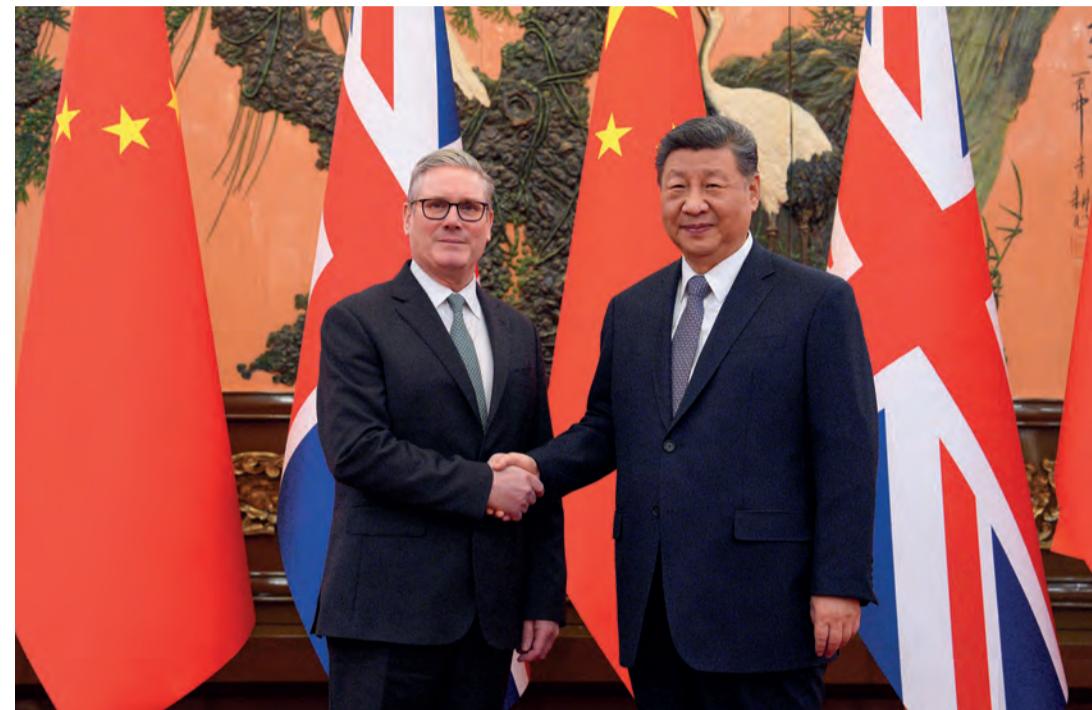
Starmer's visit to China is the first by a British premier since 2018 and follows a slew of Western leaders seeking a rapprochement with Beijing recently, pivoting from an increasingly unpredictable United States.

Xi and Starmer met at the opulent Great Hall of the People and both stressed the need for closer relations in order to face geopolitical headwinds.

Starmer told Xi that China is a "vital player on the global stage" and that they needed to "build a more sophisticated relationship where we identify opportunities to collaborate".

The Chinese leader also stressed the need for stronger ties with a "long-term view" in the context of what he called a "complex" international situation.

Cooperation, he said, would unlock a "new chapter" in their relations.



China's President Xi Jinping (R) and Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer shake hands before their meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

Starmer, who is in China until Saturday, later told reporters that the bilateral relationship was in "a strong place", with progress made on issues such as whisky tariffs.

He signed a series of cooperation agreements after meeting Premier Li Qiang, with Downing Street announcing Beijing had agreed to visa-free travel for British passport holders visiting China for under 30 days.

That brings Britain in line with about 50 other countries allowed visa-free access, including France, Germany, Australia and Japan, and follows a similar agreement made between China and Canada this month.

The agreements also included cooperation on targeting



As part of the diplomatic push, British pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca announced it would invest \$15 billion in China through 2030

supply chains used by migrant smugglers, as well as on British exports to China, health and strengthening a UK-China trade

commission. The issue of irregular migrants is highly sensitive for Starmer, who has promised to crack down on people smugglers and stem a wave of arrivals that has fuelled rising support for the far right.

Li hinted that "China and the UK can restart their golden era", enjoyed by the two countries a decade ago.

"China and the UK have successively resumed dialogue and exchanges in multiple fields... This fully demonstrates that China and the UK are adhering to development and cooperation," Li told Starmer.

The British leader in turn reiterated his commitment to "find ways to work together in a manner which is fit for these times".

US border chief says not 'surrendering' immigration mission

AFP | Minneapolis

President Donald Trump's border chief vowed yesterday to press on with the federal immigration crackdown in Minneapolis while acknowledging the mission needed to improve and promising to hold agents to account.

"We're going to make sure we do targeted enforcement operations," Tom Homan told reporters in the Minnesota city. "We are not surrendering our mission at all. We're just doing it smarter."

"President Trump wants this fixed. And I'm going to fix it."

The border czar called on Minneapolis' residents to turn down the temperature and stop what he called "hateful rhetoric" against federal agents carrying out immigration raids.

Minneapolis has been gripped by weeks of protests against the roundup of undocumented migrants. Two Americans demonstrating against the sweeps have been shot dead by federal agents.

Homan struck a conciliatory tone at his first press conference, a marked difference from the Border Patrol commander who was previously heading the mission on the ground and has since been removed.

"That's exactly what I'm doing here," he said.

Homan said any federal agents



Security restrains a man who sprayed an unknown substance at US Representative Ilhan Omar (left) during a town hall she was hosting in Minneapolis

ty safety is paramount," Homan said.

"The mission is going to improve because of the changes we're making internally," he said. "President Trump and I, along with others in the administration, have recognized that certain improvements could and should be made."

"That's exactly what I'm doing here," he said.

Homan said any federal agents

who breach codes of conduct will be dealt with."

The two agents involved in the latest shooting -- that of 37-year-old Veterans Hospital nurse Alex Pretti -- have been placed on leave pending an investigation.

Trump has scrambled to stem outrage across the political aisle over the killing, saying Tuesday he wanted to "de-escalate a little bit" in Minneapolis.

But the president on Wednes-

day accused the city's mayor Jacob Frey of "PLAYING WITH FIRE" for refusing to rally local police to enforce the federal immigration sweeps.

The political battle could soon move to Congress, where Democrats are threatening to hold up authorization for swathes of government funding if reforms are not made to rein in the sprawling military-style immigration agencies.

1661

Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England is ritually executed after having been dead for two years

1933

President Paul von Hindenburg appoints Adolf Hitler as Reich Chancellor of Germany who forms a government with Franz von Papen



1939

Adolf Hitler threatens Jews during his speech to the German Reichstag (Parliament)

1948

Mahatma Gandhi is assassinated in the garden of the New Delhi home he is visiting by Nathuram Godse

Iran vows 'crushing response', EU targets Revolutionary Guards

Tehran threatens retaliation as Trump issues a nuclear deadline and the EU acts

● Turkey offers to mediate between US and Iran

AFP | Paris

Iran yesterday vowed a "crushing response" to any attack after US President Donald Trump warned time was running out for a nuclear deal, and as the European Union looked to declare the Revolutionary Guards a terrorist organisation.

Foes Washington and Tehran have exchanged sharp warnings since a protest wave in Iran led Trump to threaten military action over a violent crackdown, while the Islamic republic blamed the United States for fuelling what it deemed "riots".

The face-off has sent diplomatic shock waves across the region, with calls for negotiations to defuse tensions drawing in key regional actors.

The EU is expected yesterday to agree to put Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) on the bloc's "terrorist list" over the crackdown, which rights groups say saw thousands killed by security forces, including the IRGC -- the ideological arm of Tehran's military.

"If you act as a terrorist, you should also be treated as terrorists," top diplomat Kaja Kallas told journalists ahead of a ministers' meeting in Brussels, adding that the step puts the Guards on the same level as jihadist groups such as Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group.

The symbolic move will send a strong message of condemnation to Iran, though it is expected



Supporters of the National Council of Resistance of Iran wave Iranian flags and hold placards reading "Blacklist Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps" as they take part in a demonstration in support of the Iranian people in Brussels

to have little practical impact, as the organisation and senior commanders are already under EU sanctions. The bloc yesterday added another 15 Iranian officials and six entities to its asset freeze and visa ban blacklist.

However, Iran has warned of "destructive consequences" if the designation is greenlit, state media reported Tuesday.

Potential for negotiations

Iranian officials have also ratcheted up warnings that Tehran would respond forcefully to any US military action, while not ruling out diplomatic solutions.

Iran's army chief Amir Hatami yesterday vowed a "crushing response" to any attack, according to state television, which reported 1,000 "strategic drones" had

joined the combat regiments.

A US naval strike group arrived in Middle East waters on Monday, with Trump warning it was "ready, willing and able" to hit Iran "if necessary".

He said Wednesday that "time is running out" for Iran to negotiate a deal over its nuclear programme, which the West believes is aimed at making an atomic bomb.

The United States had hit Iranian nuclear targets when it briefly joined Israel's war against Iran in June.

Iran's neighbours, including Gulf states that host US military sites, have called for calm.

A Gulf official told AFP that fears of a US strike on Iran are "very clear".

"It would bring the region into chaos, it would hurt the economy

not just in the region but in the US and cause oil and gas prices to skyrocket," the official added.

Turkey yesterday said it would offer to mediate between Washington and Tehran during an upcoming visit by Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, after Ankara's top diplomat urged Washington to start nuclear talks with Tehran.

"It's wrong to attack Iran. It's wrong to start the war again. Iran is ready to negotiate on the nuclear file again," Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan told Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television in English.

NATO member Turkey is also weighing contingency plans along its 530-kilometre (330-mile) border with Iran should the dispute escalate, a senior official told AFP.

Iran ally Russia yesterday also said "the potential for negotiations is not exhausted".

"Any use of force can only create chaos in the region and lead to very dangerous consequences," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdellaty in a call with his French counterpart Jean-Noel Barrot stressed the need for "the resumption of dialogue between the United States and Iran regarding the Iranian nuclear file", Cairo said.

Trump's recent statements have focused more on Iran's nuclear programme than the fate of protesters in the anti-government demonstrations that erupted in late December and peaked on January 8 and 9.

In an updated toll, the US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) said it had confirmed that 6,373 people had been killed and more than 40,000 arrested, as internet restrictions persisted after a shutdown imposed on January 8.

Heavy security near Niger capital's airport after gunfire, blasts



A satellite image shows the military zone of Niamey airport in Niger

AFP | Niamey

Security forces were deployed around the international airport in Niger's capital yesterday after heavy gunfire and explosions erupted overnight in what several observers said bore the hallmark of a jihadist attack.

Niger, a Sahelian country regularly hit by jihadist violence, has been led for more than two years by Abdourahamane Tiani, the head of a junta that over-

threw the elected civilian president in 2023.

The shooting began shortly after midnight, according to residents of a neighbourhood near the airport in Niamey.

Calm returned two hours later, they said.

Videos filmed by local people showed streaks of light in the sky with the sound of loud explosions, while other images showed flames several metres high and charred cars.

EU eyes migration clampdown with push on deportations, visas

AFP | London

The European Union yesterday laid out plans to overhaul its visa system and step up deportations as part of a five-year migration strategy that cements a hardening line on the hot-button issue.

Irregular arrivals in the 27-nation bloc were down by more than a quarter in 2025, according to the EU's border agency -- but political pressure to act remains high.

"The priority is clear: bringing illegal arrival numbers down and keeping them down," Magnus Brunner, the EU's commissioner for migration, said.

The strategy unveiled yesterday stressed the need to boost deportations of failed asylum-seekers among the bloc's priorities.

"Abuse gives migration a bad name -- it undermines public



Police stand in front of migrants as they clear a camp under the overhead railway line at Stalingrad metro station in Paris

trust and ultimately takes away from our ability to provide protection and undercuts our drive to attract talent," said Brunner.

The European Parliament is currently examining a legal text put forward by the European Commission allowing for so-

called "return hubs" to be set up outside the EU's borders.

Criticised by rights groups, the proposal also envisages harsher penalties for migrants who refuse to leave European territory, including longer periods of detention.

X
TOP
4
TWEETS
01



The Russians are preparing a new massive strike -- our intelligence indicates this. The United States, Europe, and all our partners have to understand how this discredits diplomatic talks. Every single Russian strike does. @ZelenskyyUa

02

For 35 years, the EU-Viet Nam partnership has grown in depth and ambition. Today, we take it to the highest level, launching a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to deepen cooperation on trade, green & digital transition, security & people-to-people ties. @eucopresident

03

The military has already ordered 240k+ drones and other weapons through "Amazon for war" @BRAVE1ua Market using combat points. More than half of these assets have already been delivered to the front line. Our goal is to expand the military's ability to defeat the enemy. @FedorovMykhailo

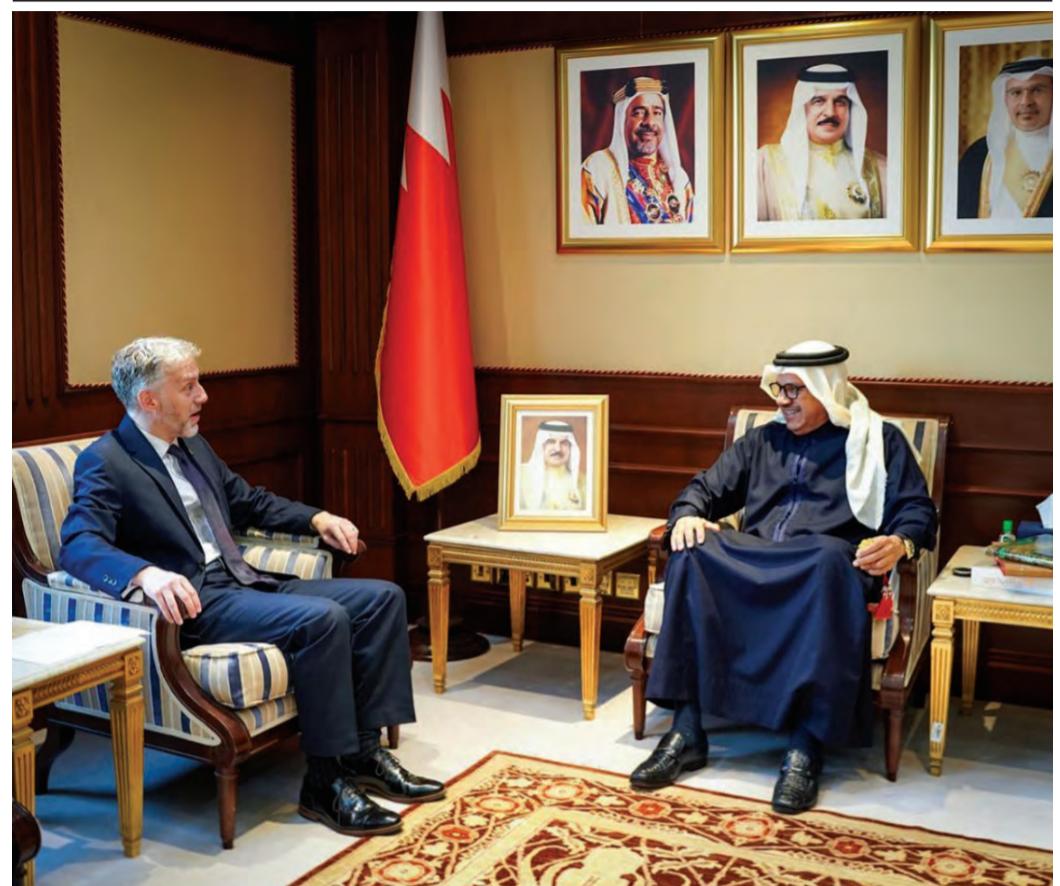
04

A meaningful morning at the Vatican during an audience with His Holiness Pope Leo XIV. Grateful for his clarity of purpose and for our shared reflections on advancing peace through dialogue across Europe and the world. @EP_President

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

Southern Governor Receives Literary and Historical Publications

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Governor of the Southern Governorate, received His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, who presented a collection of literary and historical works authored by his father, H.E. Sheikh Khalifa bin Abdullah Al Khalifa. During the meeting, the Governor praised the intellectual value of these publications, noting their vital role in enriching Bahrain's national library and documenting the Kingdom's heritage. He emphasized the importance of supporting works that reflect national identity and enhance community awareness. His Highness also commended the distinguished literary standing and contributions of H.E. Sheikh Khalifa bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

Foreign Minister Meets British Ambassador

Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Dr. Abdul Latif bin Rashid Al Zayani, received the British Ambassador to Bahrain, H.E. Alistair Long, at the Ministry headquarters. The meeting focused on the deep-rooted historical ties and the strategic partnership between Bahrain and the United Kingdom. Both officials discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation across various fields to achieve shared goals and interests. They also exchanged views on several regional and international issues of mutual concern. The meeting was attended by Sheikha Al Anoud bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Acting Head of the European Affairs Sector at the Ministry.

BWEC Hosts Muharraq Social Care Centre Members at Autumn Fair

The Bahrain World Exhibition Centre (BWEC) recently hosted senior citizens and staff from the Muharraq Social Care Centre for a special visit to the 36th Autumn Fair. During the event, guests enjoyed a guided shopping experience and spent time with the BWEC team. The visit concluded with a lunch prepared by the Centre's culinary team and the distribution of souvenirs. This initiative highlights BWEC's strategic commitment to social responsibility and its dedication to serving the local community.

Interior Minister Receives New US Ambassador

Interior Minister, H.E. Lieutenant General Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, received the newly appointed US Ambassador to Bahrain, H.E. Stephanie Hallett, this morning. The meeting was attended by Chief of Police, H.E. Lieutenant General Tariq bin Hassan Al Hassan. The Minister welcomed the Ambassador and praised the long-standing strategic partnership between the two nations. He highlighted the ongoing development in security cooperation and the shared commitment to exchanging expertise across various fields of joint security work.

Northern Governor Strengthens Community Ties in Majlis Meeting

Northern Governor, H.E. Hassan Abdullah Al Madani, hosted a gathering of local dignitaries, residents, and civil society representatives at the Governorate Council. The meeting was attended by Deputy Governor Brigadier Abdullah Ali Rashid Ma'antar and other officials. The Governor reaffirmed the Governorate's commitment to direct communication, ensuring that residents' needs and feedback are heard. He praised the Ministry of Interior for its essential role in maintaining public safety and social stability. H.E. Al Madani highlighted that the Governorate is actively coordinating with relevant authorities to address local service issues and enhance community partnership.

Classifieds

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ANN BEAUTY SALON Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIRDRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33065711 or SHAHZAD0476@GMAIL.COM

ABU ALBURGER has a vacancy for the oc-

cupation of SANDWICHES MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17252195 or HIHCON@GMAIL.COM

satkar contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39995531 or rajesh.poojary@alshatra.com

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

FIRST LINE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34111999 or sharef.works@gmail.com

ALLAQ RESORT COMPANY BSC CLOSED SOFTEL BAHRAIN ZALLAQ THALA has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38244491 or DOCUMENTBHA9@GMAIL.COM

Dream World Construction Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(Construction), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34112433 or SAIQAGHAURI@GMAIL.COM

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

ABDULQADER TRADING AND LOGISTICS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAREHOUSE PORTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17737722 or AKADER.AAK@GMAIL.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

S KHAN CLEANING

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

ALIFAH FURNITURE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER(FURNITURE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36602943 or AJWADADAM619@YAHOO.COM

Bahrain Electromechanical Services Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSISTANT TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17536275 or BEMCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

HUSN ALDIYAF RESTAURANT AND BAKERY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33991305 or MADANALBANI@GMAIL.COM

R AND R SQUARE GENERAL TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38103231 or ROYARVA@GMAIL.COM

fitness track has a vacancy for the occupation of TRAINER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39908040 or ade@fitnesstrackbh.com

YOUR SISTER MEN BARBER SHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIRDRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35918682 or SOSOSALON1995@GMAIL.COM

GOLDEN QUALITY CARGO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38881547 or SYED251285@GMAIL.COM

AD CREW ADVERTISING BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38782839 or SHANAC6@GMAIL.COM

SMART SHIELD CAR CARE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33330979 or DOSERI4870@GMAIL.COM

CHAI SAMOOSA SNACKS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(GRILLING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36667516 or NAUMANULLAH143@GMAIL.COM

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

MERSAL MARKETING & IT SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33334524 or HYHNET@GMAIL.COM

ONE WAY AUTO SHINE has a vacancy for the occupation of CAR WASHER/CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36656416 or ALI.NABEEL02@HOTMAIL.COM

FARAHAT ELECTRO MECHANICAL CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39659325 or JAMILAHMEDHAJI50@GMAIL.COM

M M A S DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37560151 or Infommaw@GMAIL.COM

MAS LINE FOR ABAYAT EST has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR MADE TO MEASURE GARMENTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38889911 or ALAAALIZAINAB@GMAIL.COM

BAHRAIN ASPHALT ESTABLISHMENT B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or MOHAMED.ABALI@HAJHASSAN.COM

ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM

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

ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM

DECCAN BIRYANI RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17232445 or DECCANBIRYANI@GMAIL.COM

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OPERATOR (FORK-LIFT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674319 or DUAJIMALKHALIFA@ASRY.NET

DREAMLOOM SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37050560 or ZAHEERIBM2@GMAIL.COM

TWO WHEELS MOTORCYCLE SERVICE has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33606669 or TWO.WHEELS.BH@GMAIL.COM

KOOHEJI CONTRACTORS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON ASST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786500 or careers@kcbahrain.com

ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM

ALTHABIT CARPENTRY WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER(FURNITURE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36858778 or AL.Thabet.c.w@gmail.com

Al fateh cleaning and Maintenance Company w.l.l has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830078 or kanakaraj.pk@horizontalgroup.com

WOOD HOUSE OF TEA has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDWICHES MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34049415 or INFO@BUREXTRADING.COM

MUHAMMAD USMAN ASLAM INTERIOR DECORATION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35577620 or USMANBH69999@GMAIL.COM

ABU HASSAN GARAGE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38385157 or Abbas.MOSCOW@GMAIL.COM

ALMOALEM INSTITUTE CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of INSTRUCTOR / COACH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17553808 or ALMOALEM@ALMOALEM.NET

ENERSERV TECHNICAL SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(GAS EXTRACTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17599031 or ABDULLA.HASAN@ENERSERV.COM.BH

PAN ARAB COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17514166 or info@panarabco.net

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

KHALIFA HAMAD SULTAN MOHAMED ALGHAMEM (192928) has a vacancy for the occupation of PROMOTER(COMMERCIAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33555166 or MNOUR8374@GMAIL.COM

DESI SHERAZ MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38307897 or AZIZKHANJEE85@GMAIL.COM

WOODEN DIAMOND CARPENTRY has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33332180 or ALIWOODWORK.BH@GMAIL.COM

DESI SHERAZ MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38307897 or AZIZKHANJEE85@GMAIL.COM

RAMO COMBINED FACILITIES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36574942 or RS0926563@GMAIL.COM

FM FOR DIGITAL SIGNAGE SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35191207 or VANGUARDCONSULTANTS@HOTMAIL.COM

METALKRAFT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORK SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33236467 or INFO@METALKFT.COM

RED NEEL FOR TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39872272 or JAFEEB-BASHEER86@GMAIL.COM

WESTON SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17702123 or md@weston-services.COM

KHALIDA IOBAL AHMED KHAN has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39222512 or kahida2015@hotmail.com

AT4 AUTO SERVIVES has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35060566 or WALEEDKHALIDPC@GMAIL.COM

SPEED FIX LINE TYRES has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32321718 or UMHUSSAIN001977@GMAIL.COM

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

Bahrain Al Arabi International Decoration Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of GYPSUM CARVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17715919 or alarabi@alarabi-bh.com

QAMAR AL JAZEERA MAINTENANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33858745 or QAMARALJAZEERA18@GMAIL.COM

CNL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3388886 or HAMAD@SPECTRUMOILFIELD.COM

NASS MARINE SHIPYARD COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725522 or yousif@aanass.net

KHALIFA HAMAD SULTAN MOHAMED ALGHAMEM (192928) has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33555166 or MNOUR8374@GMAIL.COM

REPAIR PLUS FOR MAINTINANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33323816 or ABBASJAMRI78@GMAIL.COM

USMANS NEW LOOK SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33379334 or USMAN_DC@YAHOO.COM

FALAFELPIE RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39992565 or FALAFELPIE@GMAIL.COM

ALSAMAN FOR SAND AND BLOCK W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OPERATOR(EXCAVATION MACHINE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786818 or ZKALWANI@GMAIL.COM

SAUDI GEOPHYSICAL CONSULTING OFFICE COMPANY BRANCH OF A FOREIGN COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of TRADE / VOCATIONAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33325575 or PUBLICRELATION@SAUDIGEOPHYSICAL.COM

SAEAT ALSUFR CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 1764319 or SJBREEL1981@GMAIL.COM

AMONDS JUICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JUICE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37363129 or AMONDS.BH@GMAIL.COM

KHALIFA HAMAD SULTAN MOHAMED ALGHAMEM (192928) has a vacancy for the occupation of PROMOTER(COMMERCIAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33555166 or MNOUR8374@GMAIL.COM

BRAVO LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of LAUNDERER/PRESSER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39859833 or MOHDALTHEFPC91@GMAIL.COM

COOL BREEZE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of REPAIRMAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33348519 or S39000D333@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

QAMAR AL JAZEERA MAINTENANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(INTERNAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33681568 or SATHARH@GMAIL.COM

AL SHAHER FOR SANDWICHES has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39635990 or MANALHAMAIDAN1992@GMAIL.COM

MARIAM AHMED KHALID ALMUBARAK has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35468570 or MARIM.SKY014@GMAIL.COM

HUMAYUN CITY RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33557733 or SATHARH@GMAIL.COM

Combi Supermarket W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39817261 or mohd.akter1974@gmail.com

LEVORA GARMENTS & TAILORING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33339662 or ZTOUCHSALON@GMAIL.COM

QURESHI HAZARA CARGO CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33888860 or HUSAINQURESHI072@GMAIL.COM

EAGLE FOR SAFE AND SECURITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17270140 or alialtmimi@yahoo.com

GULF TOBACCO COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of AUDITOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39666544 or amani.alaradi@gmail.com

ZAHERA STYLE FASHION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36258287 or TABMECHANICAL@GMAIL.COM

GCS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37722884 or government@mre.co

RACING FORCE INTERNATIONAL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TEAM LEADER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 1783999 or gov.rfi@racingforce.com

ALNEMRAN CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of STOREKEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39456488 or info@alnemranbh.com

GROWCART W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37381111 or growcartbh@gmail.com

ALBARAKA BAKERY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33018063 or ALYOU-SUF123@HOTMAIL.COM

ARROW EXPRESS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36819991 or ARROWEXPRESS.BH@GMAIL.COM

green circle Real Estate management has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34443540 or FAWAZ83IM@GMAIL.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 HESSAHESAH@YAHOO.COM

MAJESTIC ROSARIES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36225335 or MAJESTICROSARY@GMAIL.COM

S U K H B CARGO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34213088 or SUKH.BH.786@GMAIL.COM

NATIONAL MOTOR COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of STOREKEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17457160 or jalal.salmam@nmc.com.bh

Havelock One Interiors W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832202 or HAMDA.ALHUBAIL@HAVELOCKONE.COM

GOLDEN FACILITY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37056660 or rojigouda51@GMAIL.COM

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

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

SEISSENSE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (OPERATIONS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38410710 or H.FARAH@SEISSENSE.COM

FOUR SEASONS FOR FOODSTUFF & SWEET WATER & ICE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38117639 or HASSAN9107@GMAIL.COM

Mazari Taste Cafeteria W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66997274 or EHSAN-MASSOUD500@GMAIL.COM

BLUE STAR FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36234070 or MUHAMMADAYYAN3

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

MACDONALD W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17220000 or mcd.hr@mcdbah.com

MACDONALD W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17220000 or mcd.hr@mcdbah.com

MACDONALD W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17220000 or mcd.hr@mcdbah.com

DAY BY DAY has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37400173 or ABOHADEEL44@GMAIL.COM

S B R SECOND HAND FURNITURE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33715201 or MOHAMMEDRASEB@HOTMAIL.COM

RADHE CONTRACTING AND MAINTENANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35912338 or DEVMEHER.MEHER@GMAIL.COM

ALBARZAKH CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17592120 or haifa@alrowishgroup.com

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

ALORUBA BAKARY has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17772239 or 2010ELECTRICAL.WORKS@GMAIL.COM

REDDY PRASAD BAHRAIN READYMATES AND TAILORS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33101397 or REDDYPRASADBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

GUARDUS SECURITY CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or HRD@ALMOAYYEDCG.COM

AHEL FAS TAILORING OF MAGHRABI JALABIYAT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34427617 or CHKARIALI@GMAIL.COM

Restaurant Reef Alyemen has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34000422 or Whaidarah@gmail.com

MOVENPICK HOTEL BAHRAIN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17460046 or yusuf.alzayani@BAS.COM.BH

JEREH GROUP MIDDLE EAST BAHRAIN Branch of a Foreign Company has a vacancy for the occupation of SENIOR SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77904677 or ZHONGSHU.GAN@JEREH.COM

UM SALIS BIRYANI CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17642816 or RASOOLAI-ZAZ@YMAIL.COM

WEST BREAD has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38388777 or UMFAWAZ213@HOTMAIL.COM

SULZER SERVICES BAHRAIN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR(INTERNAL WORKS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39725445 or MARTIN.STRATFORD@D-mills.COM

ABN AL NAFIS PALACE TAILORING - BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66664123 or DEEPMULAN4123@GMAIL.COM

EBROOK CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE), GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33305789 or AM2PM@GMAIL.COM

WAIZ MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3809089 or DIRECTOR@COLOSSIANGROUP.COM

SHAH NAWAZ SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33020047 or SHAH.VIRK2@GMAIL.COM

BEST MAN SALOON has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIR DRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39891362 or MARYOOUMA.UM@GMAIL.COM

SARAZAAN MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34690477 or ADNAN.SCONSULTANCY-BH@GMAIL.COM

AL ADL GARAGE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY/FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36909408 or sabiralinutti0@gmail.com

Bahrain's Warriors Conquer Asia



Captain AlSayyad Lifts the 22nd Asian Handball Championship for Bahrain

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

In a moment destined to live forever in Bahraini sport, the national men's handball team captured their first-ever Asian Championship, defeating defending champions Qatar 29-26 in extra time in Kuwait City. After years of dedication and ambition, this generation etched their names into the nation's sporting history with a performance of rare quality. Head coach Robert Hedin, whose impact since his appointment in 2025 has been transformative, guided the team masterfully throughout the tournament. His players entered the final with

confidence, having lost only one game up till this point and already defeated Qatar in the preliminary round.

Yesterday's final began at a blistering pace. Captain Hussain AlSayyad opened the scoring at 01:34, quickly matched by Qatar's Rafael Capote. AlSayyad struck again at 02:46, followed by Jasim Khamis at 03:33. Qatar's Ahmad Madadi and Ahmed Kadhem kept the game close, but AlSayyad, ever the leader, scored once more at 08:16. Head coach Robert Hedin, whose impact since his appointment in 2025 has been transformative, guided the team masterfully throughout the tournament. His players entered the final with

Mohammed Abdulhussain, a fortress throughout the campaign, frustrated the Qataris with crucial saves, stopping 13 of 39 shots.

The second half saw Danijel Saric's side rally. Waeel Mzoughi scored early to narrow the gap, and Madadi's goal leveled the score at 13-13. AlShowaikh responded at 05:40, Khamis at 06:56, keeping Bahrain ahead. Both sides traded goals over the next 20 minutes, with Hasan Madan and AlSayyad contributing important strikes. Abdulhussain repeatedly denied fast breaks and seven-metre attempts, while Qatar's men kept the contest tight, and sent the match into extra time at 24-24.

The extra period was a tense spectacle. Salman AlShowaikh broke through from the wing, assisted by AlSayyad, to put Bahrain ahead 25-24. In the eighth minute, Bahrain led 26-24 when Abdulhussain produced another seven-metre save. Moments later, a fast break following Abdurrazzaq Murad's two-minute suspension extended Bahrain's lead. As celebrations began, AlShowaikh converted a flawless seven-metre throw, and Madan bullied his way past Qatar's defense to make it 28-25. Abdulhussain denied another seven-metre attempt at 29-25, prompting a joyous eruption from his teammates as the win became inevitable.

Bahrain held on to secure a 29-26 victory, with AlSayyad visibly emotional at the final whistle as he celebrated with the traveling fans. Earlier in the day, hosts Kuwait claimed the bronze medal after a 33-32 win over Japan, but it was Bahrain who stole the show. The title-win reflected both collective effort and individual brilliance: Hussain AlSayyad and Mohammed Habib Nasser each scored 7 apiece, Jassim Khamis 6, and Salman AlShowaikh 6. With this historic win, Bahrain now turns its focus to the 2027 World Championship in Germany, joining Qatar, Kuwait, and Japan among Asia's handball elite.

No handshake as Sabalenka sets up repeat of 2023 Melbourne final

AFP | Melbourne

Belarusian world number one Aryna Sabalenka crushed Ukraine's Elina Svitolina in a politically charged Australian Open semi-final yesterday and faces Elena Rybakina for a third Melbourne title.

There was no handshake after Sabalenka dismantled Svitolina 6-2, 6-3, before Kazakhstan's Rybakina was also a straight-sets winner, over Jessica Pegula of the United States.

The ruthless Sabalenka will take some stopping as she pursues a third Melbourne crown in four years.

She is on an 11-match win



Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka hits a return to Ukraine's Elina Svitolina

streak this year, having come into the first major of 2026 on the back of claiming the title in Brisbane.

The hard-hitting 27-year-

old is into her fourth Australian Open final in a row and yet to drop a set all year.

Sabalenka and Moscow-born

14 times, with the Belarusian winning eight of them.

That includes the Melbourne final in 2023, when Sabalenka fought back to win in three sets.

Ahead of her semi-final clash with 12th seed Svitolina, an announcement was made at Rod Laver Arena that there would be no handshake afterwards, asking fans to "respect" that.

Like other players from Ukraine, Svitolina does not shake hands with opponents from Russia or Moscow's ally Belarus because of the war.

Sabalenka and Moscow-born fifth seed Rybakina have met

After a dominant victory, Sabalenka was close to tears as she reflected on the "dream" life she leads.

She had warm words for Svitolina, saying: "I'm super happy with the win, she's a really tough opponent, she was playing really incredible tennis throughout the whole week." There was controversy at the start of the fourth game. With the match on serve, Sabalenka was hit with a hindrance call from the umpire for grunting, triggering a long video review and boos.

A clearly irritated Sabalenka lost the point but recovered her poise and a break of serve early in the second set to surge home.

Bahrain Golf Championship bursts into action

Spain's Del Rey, Germany's Schott hold early lead after Round 1

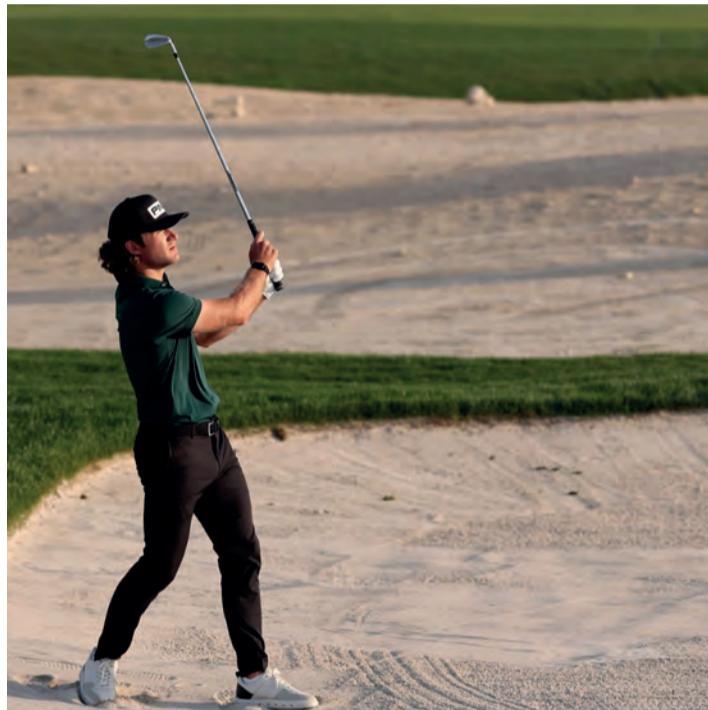
Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Spain's Alejandro Del Rey and Germany's Freddy Schott made a spectacular start to the BAPCO Energies Bahrain Golf Championship yesterday, sharing the lead after the opening round with identical scores of 65, seven under par.

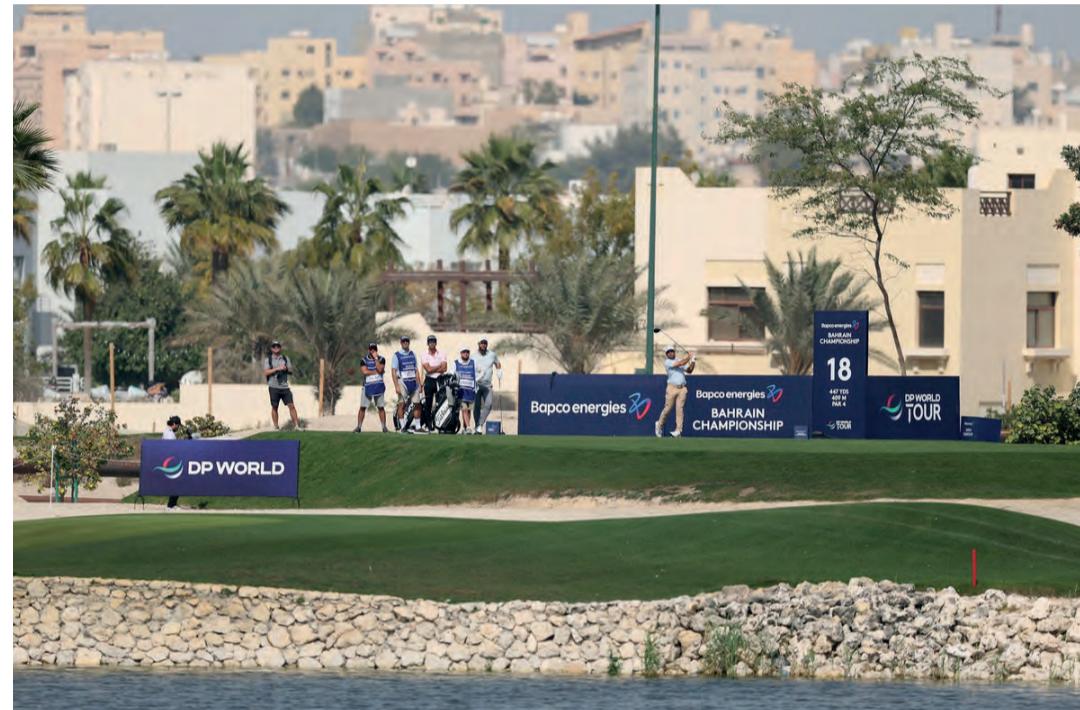
The tournament, held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, has attracted 138 players from 28 countries and forms part of the DP World Tour, with a total prize fund of \$2.75 million. The championship continues today with the second round, with the final two rounds scheduled for Saturday and Sunday.

Del Rey, 27, has yet to miss a cut in the 2026 DP World Tour and carried his strong early-season form into Bahrain. He carded seven birdies, including three consecutive birdies to open his round, marking his lowest score of the season.

"The course felt softer than last year and the conditions were favourable early on," Del Rey said. "I wanted to start aggressively and build momentum, and overall I hit the ball very well. I really enjoy this first swing here in the desert. The course suits me and I feel comfortable



Freddy Schott in action yesterday



Alejandro Del Rey takes a shot during the opening round at the stunning Royal Golf Club

playing here in January."

Schott, 24, joined Del Rey at the top after an eventful round. Starting on the back nine, he surged with six birdies in his opening seven holes, but also dropped two shots. He finished strongly with a birdie-eagle on the 18th hole, cementing a share of the lead.

"It was a good round overall

— a strong start and a strong finish," said Schott. "I just tried to stay focused and hit my comfortable shots, and it worked out in the end."

One shot behind at six under par is a pack of four players, including defending champion Laurie Canter of England, Australia's Daniel Hillier, Sweden's Niklas Lemke, and Germany's

Nicolai von Dellinghausen. Canter praised the course's challenge, noting the importance of adapting to the wind while taking advantage of early scoring opportunities.

Veteran Irish golfer Pádraig Harrington praised Bahrain's ongoing efforts to develop golf, highlighting improvements to the course and growing local

participation, while expressing satisfaction with his own form heading into a long season.

Among players with local connections, Tom Sloman, winner of the King Hamad Cup, posted 74 (+2), while Zubair Firdaus of Malaysia, champion of the Bahrain Open Amateur Championship, carded 75 (+3). Bahraini golfers Ali Al Kowari and Khalifa

Al Maraisi finished on 79 (+7) and 88 (+16) respectively.

Ten players will return this morning at 07:15 to complete their first round, which was suspended at 17:25 due to darkness. The second round takes place today, determining the cut as half the field will advance to the final two rounds on Saturday and Sunday.

Ayub star in Pakistan's win over Australia in first T20I

AFP | Lahore

All-rounder Saim Ayub starred in Pakistan's spin-assisted 22-run win over Australia in the first Twenty20 international in Lahore yesterday.

Ayub top-scored in Pakistan's 168-8 with a 22-ball 40 that included two sixes and three fours, while Salman Agha added four sixes and a four in his 27-ball 39.

The tourists managed 146-8 in their 20 overs with spinners taking six wickets for Pakistan.

With the ball, Ayub dismissed Australian openers Matthew Short (five) and Travis Head, who hit two sixes and two fours in his 13-ball 23.

Cameroon Green resisted with a 31-ball 36 but Australia succumbed to spin with Abrar Ahmed taking 2-10 while Mohammad Nawaz and Shadab Khan took a wicket apiece.

Both teams were tuning up for the Twenty20 World Cup starting in India and Sri Lanka from February 7.

BIKC set for high-octane karting battles in round five of Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', hosts today the fifth round of the 2025/2026 Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge (BRMC), the Kingdom's premier karting championship.

The very best of local talent will be going wheel-to-wheel in their very own Rotax-powered karts at BIC's world-class grassroots motorsport facility, Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC).

Competitors will be battling it out along BIKC's 1.414-kilometre CIK-FIA track across five high-octane categories, including Micro MAX, Mini MAX, Junior MAX, Senior MAX, and DD2 MAX.

Action on Friday is scheduled to begin at 10:50am with free practices. They are to be followed by qualifying practice from 11:55am, while the pre-finals will be held from 1:10pm.

That will then set the stage for the finals, flagging off from 2:42pm. The podium ceremony



will follow all the exciting action, slated for 5:12pm.

All are welcome to attend and cheer for the karters. Entrance to BIKC is free of charge.

A stacked field of some of Bahrain's leading karting talents are set to line up on the grid at BIKC.

In the Micro MAX class, championship leader Enzo Younes leads the field, which also features Sami Ramiz Albandak,

Rashid Almahoos, and Ahmed Almudahka.

Rayyan Najjar heads the Mini MAX field where he will be facing stiff competition from Faisal Alnajjar, Leo Saruhan, Saish Chinchrekar, Hasan Bader, Rhys Daulat, and Ehan Anjam.

The Senior MAX boasts the largest field for this round, with 17 competitors set to hit the track. They include championship leader Musaad Albasam and defending champion Tye Mejia. They will be going up against Filipa Dorres, Samy

Landy, Ahmad Jawed, Karim Rizkallah, Griffin Mecklenburg, Farhan Bin Shafeel, Khaled Najjar, Mohammed Alhasan, Younis Alaa, Demir Abali, Luca Houghton, Mohammed Hilal, Rashid Hilal, Noor Van Veldhoven, and Vedant Menon.

The DD2 MAX category will be spearheaded by points leader Rakan Alfayez and last season's title winner Abdulla Sajjad, and they will be racing Mohammed Sajjad and Abdulqader Qasem.

The BRMC features a total of eight rounds in its 2025/2026 calendar. Following this weekend's programme, which kicks off the second half of this exciting campaign, round six is set for 13 February. The seventh and penultimate meeting will then be held on 28 March, which will pave the way for the championship finale, scheduled for 18 April at BIKC.

For more information on the BRMC or other events and activities at BIC or BIKC, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000, or follow the circuit's official social media channels.