

**US Hits Iran's
Hormuz Revenue**
Washington imposed
fresh sanctions on
entities accused
of profiting from
commercial ships
transiting the Strait of
Hormuz through an
alleged extortion scheme.
| P10

GCC condemns Iran-backed attacks, pledges unwavering support for Saudi Arabia.

THE DAILY tribune

Abdullatif says he is ready for a fresh challenge after hanging up his boots.

BBK discloses its financial results for the half year ended 30th June 2026

Iraq Travel Rules



The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), in coordination with the General Directorate of Jaafari Affairs, has introduced new regulations for Bahraini citizens travelling to Iraq for Arbaeen, citing regional security concerns and instability.

Under the measures, travel must be arranged through licensed travel offices using approved flights from Bahrain International Airport, while overland travel is prohibited. Only Bahraini citizens aged 50 and above may travel through licensed campaigns, with all pilgrims required to return before August 15, 2026.

Kingdom Backs Saudi Response

Bahrain has reaffirmed its full solidarity with Saudi Arabia, supporting the Kingdom's right to defend itself against repeated attacks by Iranian-backed militias operating from Iraqi territory.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Saudi Arabia's actions are consistent with international law and the UN Charter's provisions on self-defence. Bahrain also expressed support for measures taken in coordination with the US Central Command and praised Saudi Arabia's commitment to de-escalation while maintaining strong defensive capabilities.

BCFC Reports BD 1.20 Million Net Profit in the First Half of 2026



P7

220 fils (includes VAT)



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Gulf's Iron Shield



GCC armed forces unite in three-day drill focused on combat readiness and regional deterrence

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Defence Force Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi inspected the Bahrain Shield joint exercise, which included armed forces from all Gulf Cooperation Council states.

The Chief of Staff said the exercise reflects the strength of collective Gulf military capabilities in addressing regional challenges. He stressed the BDF's commitment to joint drills as a means of enhancing combat readiness, developing operational performance, and unifying military concepts across participating forces.

Lieutenant General Al Nuaimi described Bahrain Shield as a practical expression of the GCC's shared approach to joint defence, conducted under the close attention of GCC leaders. He said

the exercise reinforces fraternal bonds among member states and serves as a strategic pillar for military solidarity — enabling Gulf forces to deter any aggression threatening regional security or national interests.

Pointing to ongoing hostile attacks across the region, he expressed confidence that the exercise marks a solid step toward strengthening collective Gulf action, boosting rapid response capabilities, and safeguarding the sovereignty and stability of all GCC states.



BDF Chief Inspects Bahrain Shield Joint Military Exercise



Longstanding Strategic Partnership

Bahrain, US Discuss Regional Security Cooperation

Meeting reviews regional developments and ways to enhance security cooperation

Lieutenant General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, National Security Advisor and Royal Guard Commander, received Lieutenant General Kevin Leahy, Commanding General of the United States Army Central (USARCENT) and Third Army, on Wednesday. The meeting was attended by Shaikh Khalid bin Ali bin Jaber Al Khalifa, Deputy National Security Advisor.

HH Shaikh Nasser reaffirmed the strength of the longstanding strategic partnership between Bahrain and the United States, highlighting the continued growth of bilateral relations

across various fields.

He said the close cooperation between the two countries reflects their shared commitment to advancing mutual interests and fulfilling the aspirations of both nations and peoples.

The meeting also reviewed the latest regional and international developments, as well as the current security situation in the region.

Both sides discussed issues of common interest and explored ways to further enhance coordination and consultation on security challenges to support regional and international peace and stability.



HH Shaikh Isa congratulates Ebrahim Nader on milestone victory



His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister of the Prime Minister's Court and Chairman of the High Committee of the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC), congratulated Bahraini jockey Ebrahim Nader on securing his first victory on British racecourses after winning aboard Distinct Spirit at Ffos Las Racecourse in the United Kingdom.

Read more on page 14.

Police Chief Honours Harvard Fellow



Chief of Public Security Lieutenant General Tariq bin Hassan Al Hassan congratulated Major Mohammed bin Ali Al Khalifa on successfully completing a fellowship programme in International Relations at Harvard University in the United States.

The Police Chief reaffirmed the Ministry of Interior's commitment to developing national talent through advanced education and specialised training, noting that such programmes strengthen professional expertise and enhance security capabilities.

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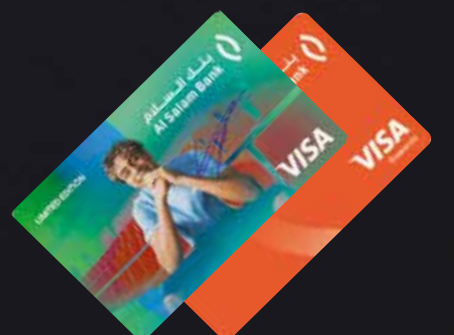
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Don't Register SIM Cards for Others, Police Warn

MOI warns that lending your identity for mobile numbers could lead to an investigation if those numbers are used in criminal activities.

TDT | Manama
Neethu V

Bahrain's Interior Ministry has renewed its warning against registering SIM cards on behalf of others, stating the practice could have serious legal consequences if the numbers are later used in crimes.

The latest episode of the Interior Ministry's Al Aman social media programme focused on the risks of registering SIM cards for others, with Hidd Police Station Head Colonel Dr. Osama Bahar urging the public to protect their digital identity.

He explained that mobile numbers are often linked to bank accounts, social media platforms and digital services, making them a key piece of evidence in investigations involving fraud, cyber-crime and suspicious financial transactions.

"If a number used in a crime is registered in your name, you will naturally be called in for questioning," he said, noting that investigators first trace the registered owner before determining who actually committed the offence.

He warned that allowing someone else to use a SIM card



“Why give a criminal cover to commit a crime? Why give someone the opportunity to harm people while using your identity?”

COLONEL DR OSAMA BAHAR

registered under your identity effectively gives criminals a layer of protection while placing the registered owner under suspicion.

He urged residents to review all mobile numbers registered under their names and immediately contact their telecommunications provider to disconnect any numbers they no longer use or control.

Parents were also advised to monitor SIM cards issued under their names and ensure they are used only by family members.

"Protect yourself and protect the country," Col. Dr. Bahar said, stressing that verifying registered SIM cards can help prevent fraud, protect personal reputations and support efforts to combat cybercrime.

Seven in 10 Insured Expats Earn Under BD200

New SIO Report Highlights Income Divide in Bahrain's Workforce

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Seven in ten insured foreign workers in Bahrain earned less than BD200 a month at the end of March, while only one in four insured Bahrainis took home BD1,000 or above, new figures show.

The pay gap runs through the Social Insurance Organisation's first-quarter data for 2026, which covered 158,322 Bahraini workers and 478,707 non-Bahrainis.

Bahrainis earned BD931 a month on average, though the median wage was far lower at BD618. Among foreign workers, the average was BD269.

The private sector employed 105,780 Bahrainis, roughly two thirds of all insured Bahraini workers. Government employed 52,542. Yet public-sector pay remained higher. The average monthly salary was BD970 in government and BD912 in private firms.

Some 42,105 Bahrainis, or 26.6pc, earned BD1,000 or above. Another 37,168, or 23.5pc, were paid between BD400 and BD599, while 34,794, or 22pc, earned between BD200 and BD399.

Only 2,221 insured Bahrainis received less than BD200 a month. Men made up 90,830 of the Bahraini total, compared with 67,492 women. The largest age group was 30 to 39, with 63,991 workers, or 40.4pc. Those aged 20 to 29 made up 27pc, while 22.8pc were aged between 40 and 49.

The average Bahraini worker was 36 years old, had spent



12 years in work and had begun service at 23. All 478,707 insured foreign workers were in the private sector. They included 427,414 men and 51,293 women. Of these, 339,472, or 70.9pc, earned less than BD200 a month. A further 13.7pc received between BD200 and BD399, while only 4.6pc were paid BD1,000 or above.

Their average age was 38 and their average length of service was nine years.

The figures also show a wide pension gap between former public and private-sector workers.

Bahrain had 86,861 pensioners at the end of March, made up of 55,044 men and 31,817 women. The average monthly pension, including the social allowance, was BD857, while the median stood at BD638.

The 36,462 government pensioners received BD1,085 a month on average. The 50,399 private-sector pensioners received BD692.

Pensioners were 58 years old on average. They had retired at 48 and had spent an average of 10 years drawing a pension.

- 70.9% of insured expatriate workers earn less than BD200 per month.
- One in four Bahrainis earns BD1,000 or more.
- Bahraini workers earn more than three times the average monthly salary of insured expatriates (BD931 vs. BD269).
- Government-sector employees continue to receive higher salaries and pensions than those in the private sector.

Expats earning under BD200 - 339,472 (70.9%)
Bahrainis earning BD1,000+ - 42,105 (26.6%)
Expats earning BD1,000+ - 4.6%
Government Bahraini Salary - BD970/month
Private Bahraini Salary - BD912/month
Government Pensioners - 36,462
Private-sector Pensioners - 50,399

Proposal to Bar Expats from Vehicle Inspector Jobs

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A proposal would bar foreign workers from vehicle inspector jobs and reserve every post for Bahrainis.

MP Bader Al Tamimi has called for private vehicle testing firms and state bodies to replace overseas staff with trained Bahraini workers under a clear timetable.

He said the job carried a heavy duty because inspectors rule on the roadworthiness of cars and help protect drivers, passengers and property.

The post was once reserved for Bahrainis at the General Directorate of Traffic and came with a high job grade, he said. But the growth of privately run testing centres has seen many roles go to foreign workers, leaving fewer openings for citizens.



Bader Al Tamimi, MP

Mr Al Tamimi called for a Bahraini-only rule across all vehicle testing centres.

His proposal also seeks approved training schemes to give citizens the skills needed to carry out checks to the required safety and work standards.

He said the move would uphold citizens' right to work and put Bahrainis into skilled

Appeal Court Upholds 15-Year Jail Term in Marijuana Smuggling Case

Asian man fined BD10,000 and to be deported after serving sentence

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

The First High Criminal Court of Appeal upheld a 15-year prison sentence against an Asian man in his thirties convicted of smuggling and trafficking marijuana in Bahrain.

The court also reaffirmed a BD10,000 fine, ordered the confiscation of the seized drugs and related items, and ruled that the man be permanently deported after completing his sentence.

The case began on January 20, 2026, when customs of-

ficers at Bahrain International Airport intercepted a suspicious travel bag arriving from an Asian country via another Gulf state. A search revealed 10 packages of marijuana weighing a total of 5,489.6 grams.

According to court records, a 20-year-old woman admitted she had transported the bag from an Asian country to Bahrain in exchange for payment and was instructed to hand it over to another individual. Her cooperation with investigators led authorities to the second defendant.

Police arrested the man after he arrived at a pre-arranged location to collect the shipment. A subsequent search of his residence uncovered an electronic weighing scale, drug-packaging materials, and quantities of methamphetamine.

Investigators said the pair were part of a drug trafficking network involved in smuggling and distributing narcotics in Bahrain. The woman's role was to transport the drugs into the Kingdom, while the man was responsible for receiving, storing, and distributing them.

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New National Award to Drive Anti-Trafficking Research

Kingdom retains Tier 1 status for eighth year running; 84 victims protected in 18 months

TDT | Manama

Bahrain marked the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons with a national workshop and a series of high-level statements reaffirming the Kingdom's commitment to eradicating human trafficking, as officials highlighted eight consecutive years at the top tier of global anti-trafficking rankings.

Interior Minister, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, has reaffirmed the Kingdom's dedication to combating human trafficking through regional co-ordination, modern technology, and artificial intelligence, marking World Day Against Trafficking in Persons today.

The minister said Bahrain's record in the field reflects directives from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the support of Crown Prince and Prime Minister His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. He also announced the launch of a new scientific research award dedicated to combating human trafficking, aimed at encouraging national studies into the crime.

Yousif bin Abdulhussain Khalaf, Minister of Labour and Minister of Legal Affairs stated that Bahrain's progress in combating human trafficking reflects its continued efforts to develop legislative and regulatory measures and strengthen institutional coordination through the National Committee to Combat



“Combating human trafficking requires innovation, regional cooperation and an unwavering commitment to protecting every individual.”

- GENERAL SHAIKH RASHID BIN ABDULLAH AL KHALIFA

Trafficking in Persons, reinforcing the sustainability and effectiveness of national efforts.

He said the occasion underscores the importance of strengthening cooperation and coordination at the national, regional and international levels, expanding the exchange of expertise and best practices, and supporting joint efforts to combat this cross-border crime.

Steps Up Anti-Trafficking Fight

The General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science held a national



“We remain committed to advancing Bahrain's national initiatives and building on our achievements to reinforce the Kingdom's leadership in this domain.”

- YOUSIF BIN ABDULHUSSAIN KHALAF

workshop entitled “The Crime of Human Trafficking and the Kingdom's Efforts in Combating It,” attended by 102 specialists from nine national and international bodies.

Opened by Brigadier Abdulwahab Rashid Bunashi, Director of the Anti-Human Trafficking and Public Morality Protection Department, the workshop covered four pillars: legislation, prosecution, protection, and prevention.

Speakers included the Head of Public Prosecution, Abdulrahman Hamad Al-Mannai, who highlighted Bahrain's distinction as one of the first countries to establish a specialised human trafficking prosecution office. Judge Mohammed Hisham Al-Maawda represented the Supreme Judicial Council, while Major Yousef Ahmed Jamal addressed crime detection and victim protection on behalf of the Directorate.

70 reports, 84 victims protected

Statistics from the Anti-Human Trafficking Directorate show 70 reports were handled between 2025 and the first half of 2026, with 84 victims protected and legal action taken against 92 suspects.



Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Shura Council Chairman

dul Latif bin Rashid Al Zayani and Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) CEO Nibras Mohammed Talib.

Talib, who also chairs the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons, said Bahrain's national strategy rests on five pillars: prevention, victim protection, law enforcement, international partnerships, and coordinated national policy.

The Foreign Minister praised Bahrain's integrated legislative and judicial system, pointing to the region's first specialised trafficking prosecution and court, the Centre for the Protection and Support of Migrant Workers, and established victim referral mechanisms as benchmarks for the wider region.

Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh said the achievement reflects the effectiveness of the Kingdom's laws and institutional frameworks under royal leadership.



Nibras Mohammed Talib, CEO - Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA)

Bahrain has maintained its Tier 1 classification in the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report for the eighth consecutive year — the first Arab country to achieve and sustain the ranking.

Digital threats top this year's global theme

This year's UN theme — “Trafficked on the Dark Web: Exploiting Technology for Human Trafficking” — was highlighted by multiple officials, including Foreign Minister Dr. Ab-

Einride to Support Bahrain's Future Freight Vision

Partnership to explore digital, electric and autonomous heavy transport solutions

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has signed a cooperation framework with Swedish technology company Einride to strengthen collaboration in digital, electric and autonomous heavy transport, supporting the Kingdom's drive towards a smarter and more sustainable logistics sector.

The agreement was signed via videoconference on Wednesday by Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, and Robert Falck, CEO of Einride.

The cooperation framework focuses on exploring advanced technologies for heavy transport, including digitalisation, electri-



fication and automation, while supporting the continued development of Bahrain's transport and logistics sector in line with the goals of Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.

The minister said the agreement reflects Bahrain's commitment to keeping pace with global developments in transport and logistics by embracing innovative technologies that improve efficiency and sustainability. He

noted that the initiative further strengthens the Kingdom's position as a leading regional logistics hub.

He added that the partnership demonstrates Bahrain's openness to emerging technologies while highlighting the importance of conducting technical and regulatory studies to ensure future projects meet national priorities and maintain the highest standards of efficiency, safety and sustainability.

Three Convicted for Bribing Government Official

Court sentences defendants to two years in prison and BD 1,400 fine each

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

The court has convicted three people for attempting to bribe a government employee to secure a job for one of their sons.

The First Lower Criminal Court handed each defendant a two-year prison term and a BD 1,400 fine. The first defendant will also be deported from Bahrain upon completing the sentence.

The government employee reported the approach to the Anti-Corruption Directorate after being offered money to use his influence in the hiring process. When the defendants later met him in person and offered BD 1,400, he again refused.

Public prosecutors immedi-



ately launched an investigation, obtaining authorisation to monitor and record the meeting. The recording confirmed all three defendants made the offer.

Prosecutors arrested, questioned, and detained the defendants before referring them

to court.

The Public Prosecution reaffirmed its commitment to fighting corruption, warning that bribery undermines public trust in state institutions and will be met with the full force of the law.

Korean Students Discover Bahrain

Embassy event highlights Kingdom's history, culture, economy and diplomacy for 120 young participants

The Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Seoul hosted an educational event introducing Korean students to Bahrain's rich history, cultural heritage, economic achievements and diplomatic values.

Organised in cooperation with the Young Ambassadors Academy for Diplomacy of the Korean Cultural Association, the event brought together 120 middle and high school students to promote greater understanding of Bahrain while encouraging cultural exchange and awareness of diplomacy.

Bahrain's Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, Saud Hassan Ali Al-Nisf, delivered a

presentation tracing the Kingdom's journey from its historic role in the gold and pearl trade and its renowned pearl diving heritage to its modern economic transformation.

The ambassador highlighted Bahrain's economic diversification and its growing position as a regional hub for business, technology, tourism and investment.

He also spoke about the importance of diplomacy in strengthening international relations, fostering mutual understanding and building bridges between nations, stressing the value of introducing young people to different cultures and global experiences.



Saud Hassan Ali Al-Nisf, Bahrain's Ambassador to the Republic of Korea



AUBH Awards Full Scholarships to Six Outstanding Bahraini Students

TDT | Manama

The American University of Bahrain (AUBH) has awarded full scholarships to 6 outstanding Bahraini students to pursue undergraduate studies across a range of academic disciplines, in recognition of their academic excellence, achievements, and potential.

The initiative reflects AUBH's continued commitment to investing in national talent and expanding access to distinguished higher education opportunities. It also reinforces the University's role in empowering ambitious Bahraini students by offering an academic experience that combines modern curricula, practical learning, and a supportive campus environment that nurtures personal and professional growth.

A total of 180 applications

were submitted this year and 6 scholarship recipients were selected following a review process conducted by a specialized committee, with candidates assessed on academic performance, leadership potential, and extracurricular activities. The successful recipients are Sama Altobiani, Yousif Alkoheji, Abrar Ghazwan, Salim Alsharqi, Omar Abdulrahman and Kawther Salman.

Dr. Wafa Almansoori, Interim President and Provost of the University, commented: "At the American University of Bahrain, supporting talented students is central to our mission. These scholarships reflect our commitment to expanding access to quality higher education and empowering Bahraini students to realize their full potential. By investing in their education, we are investing



in the future of Bahrain by preparing graduates with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to contribute meaningfully to the Kingdom's continued growth and development."

The students extended their sincere thanks and appreciation to AUBH for this valuable opportunity, noting that the scholarships represent a

significant milestone in their academic journey and a strong motivation to continue striving for excellence. They also shared their enthusiasm for joining the University community, engaging in its academic and student life, and developing the skills that will support their growth in the years ahead.

India's Military Journey on Display



Indian Ambassador to Bahrain Vinod K. Jacob inaugurates a photo exhibition at the Embassy of India showcasing the courage, dedication and professionalism of the Indian Armed Forces. The exhibition highlights the sacrifices of India's soldiers, sailors and air personnel, their contributions to humanitarian missions and disaster relief, and their growing role in strengthening regional maritime security and international peace through cooperation with the Combined Maritime Forces.

A Lost Art Returns to Bahrain in Young Hands

Workshop reveals the ancient grease trick that keeps tile colours sharp



TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Painting two colours side by side on a tile sounds simple. For centuries, it was impossible. Kilns burn above 1,000 degrees. At that heat, glazes melt and bleed into each other, turning a crisp blue beside bright white into neither. Potters faced a costly choice: fire each colour separately, or accept blurred results.

Then someone discovered that a thin line of grease could stop the colours from mixing. That discovery became the foundation of cuerda seca—the dry cord technique—which Egyptian artist Mohamed Fahmy brought to his Islamic Tile Techniques workshop at Youth City, Bahrain.

A design is drawn onto the tile, then every outline is traced with animal or plant fat mixed with manganese oxide. The greasy barrier stops liquid glazes from bleeding during

firing. The grease then burns away, leaving clean, dark outlines between each colour.

The technique first appeared in medieval Andalusia before resurfacing across Persia and Tunisia. Today its distinctive lines decorate mosques and palaces across the Islamic world — kept sharp by nothing more than a temporary line of grease.

Mohamed Fahmy,
Egyptian Artist



Text Neck: The Hidden Cost of Screen Time

Physiotherapist reports a near doubling of text neck cases since the pandemic

TDT | Manama
Neethu V

Text neck, a posture-related condition linked to the prolonged use of smartphones, tablets and computers, is becoming increasingly common as reliance on digital devices grows.

In a conversation with The Daily Tribune, physiotherapist Menatalla Hilal said around 40 per cent of patients visiting her clinic show symptoms that are at least partly linked to the condition, which results from prolonged forward head posture while using electronic devices.

She added that the number of text neck-related cases she sees in her practice has almost doubled compared with the period before the COVID-19 pandemic, reflecting the sharp rise in daily screen use.

Her observations mirror global findings. A 2025 systematic review published in BMC Public Health, which analysed 25 studies involving more than 43,000 participants, found that spending more than six hours a day in sedentary activities was associated with an almost 88 per cent higher risk of neck pain, with mobile phone use posing the greatest risk among screen-based activities.

"While technology has made life easier, the amount of time people spend looking at screens has resulted in more neck and posture problems," she said. "The pain



can extend beyond the neck to the shoulder blade (scapula) and even the arm."

Hilal said the main concern is not the number of hours spent on devices, but remaining in the same position for too long.

"There isn't a specific number of hours after which screen use becomes harmful. The real problem comes from maintaining poor posture repeatedly over months and years. People should avoid staying in the same position for more than 30 minutes and should regularly move their joints and change their posture."

The hidden strain

Looking down at a phone places significant stress on the cervical spine because the body is not designed to remain in that position for long periods, Hilal explained.

"Keeping the neck bent forward puts excessive pressure on the cervical discs and muscles, which can eventually lead to muscle strain, in-

flammation or even cervical disc problems."

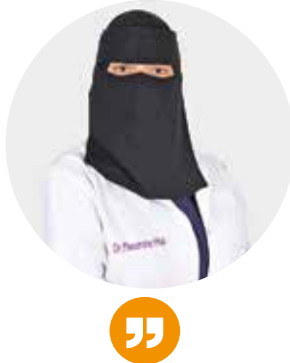
Children and teenagers are particularly vulnerable because they often spend longer periods using digital devices while their bodies are still developing, she said.

Fix it early

Hilal advised people not to ignore persistent neck pain, discomfort that spreads to the arm or shoulder blade, tenderness in the neck or middle back, or pain that occurs during simple daily activities.

If left untreated, text neck may contribute to cervical disc issues, changes in spinal alignment and inflammation of the supporting ligaments, she pointed out.

According to Hilal, posture correction combined with regular movement and appropriate neck exercises can significantly improve symptoms and prevent the condition from worsening. She recommended gentle neck stretches, nerve gliding exercises and neck



40% of my clinic cases show symptoms linked to text neck.

PHYSIOTHERAPIST MENATALLA HILAL

tilt exercises.

She added that standing desks and ergonomic equipment can help, but they should be used alongside regular movement and proper posture rather than as a standalone solution.

Healthy screen habits

Hilal said parents play an important role in encouraging healthier screen habits by setting a good example.

"When children see their parents maintaining good posture and taking care of their health, they are more likely to follow the same habits," she said.

She also encouraged families to use educational videos and articles to help children understand the importance of posture and movement.

Al Hilal Healthcare Group and Philippine Embassy Launch 'Healthy Pinoy Campaign 2026 - Season 3'

TDT | Manama
Pradeep Puravankara

Al Hilal Healthcare Group, in collaboration with the Philippine Embassy in Bahrain, announced the launch of the Healthy Pinoy Campaign 2026 - Season 3 during a press conference on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at Al Hilal Medical Center - Manama Central Branch.

The campaign officially launches on Friday, July 31, 2026, at the Manama Central Branch and will run from August 1 to August 31, 2026, across all Al Hilal Healthcare Group locations, excluding Al Hilal Premier Hospital.

Throughout August, Filipino nationals in Bahrain will receive free preventive health screenings and doctor consultations. The comprehensive package includes diagnostic tests for Blood Sugar, Total Cholesterol, Kidney Function (Creatinine), Liver Function (SGPT), and Uric Acid, alongside Blood Pressure checks, Oxygen Saturation (SpO2) assessments, and complimentary doctor consultations.

The press conference was led by His Excellency Gines Jaime Ricardo D. Gallaga, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to Bahrain, alongside Al Hilal Healthcare Group's CEO Dr. Sharath Chandran, Vice Presi-

dent of Business & Strategy Mr. Asif Mohammed, and Finance Manager Mr. Sahal Jamaludheen. Embassy officials in attendance included Vice Consul Charlie Florian Prenicolas, Attaché Jiemarie Mortel-Ladrica, Attaché Jeymar Cabrera, Attaché Jeff Andrey Santos, Labor Attaché Orville Ballitoc, and Welfare Officer Juvilyn Anns Gumabay, alongside media representatives.

Highlighting the public-private partnership, H.E. Ambassador Gallaga stated, "The Healthy Pinoy Campaign reflects our shared commitment to safeguarding the health of the Filipino community in Bahrain. As we launch Season 3, we appreciate Al Hilal

Healthcare Group for making quality healthcare accessible."

Dr. Sharath Chandran added, "At Al Hilal, we firmly believe healthcare should be accessible to everyone. We are proud to join hands with the Philippine Embassy once again. Our commitment extends beyond medical services to promoting preventive healthcare and early detection."

Mr. Asif Mohammed and Mr. Sahal Jamaludheen reaffirmed Al Hilal's dedication to supporting public-private initiatives for expatriate



welfare. As Bahrain's largest private healthcare network, Al Hilal Healthcare Group continues to deliver accessible, high-quality care through impactful community partnerships.

ASB Capital Appointed as Joint Lead Manager and Bookrunner on Ajman Bank’s Inaugural USD 300 Million AT1 Sukuk

TDT | Manama

ASB Capital announced its appointment as Joint Lead Manager and Bookrunner on Ajman Bank’s (BBB+) inaugural USD 300 million Additional Tier 1 (AT1) perpetual non-call 5.5-year Sukuk, facilitating the bank’s first issuance in the international AT1 market.

ASB Capital participated in the transaction alongside a syndicate of leading regional and international financial institutions, including Dubai Islamic Bank, Emirates NBD Capital, First Abu Dhabi Bank, J.P. Morgan, Mashreq, Morgan Stanley, Standard Chartered

Bank, and Warba Bank on the transaction.

The mandate marks ASB Capital’s fourth consecutive Joint Lead Manager and Bookrunner appointment on a GCC AT1 Sukuk issuance in recent weeks, following its roles on issuances for Alinma Bank, Dubai Islamic Bank, and AlJazira Bank across Saudi Arabia and the UAE, expanding involvement in GCC capital markets across regional financial institutions.

Commenting on the transaction, Hussain Abdulhaq, Chief Treasury Officer of Al Salam Bank, said: “We see the role of the group extending beyond individual transac-



Hichem Djouhri, Senior Executive Officer of ASB Capital



Hussain Abdulhaq, Chief Treasury Officer of Al Salam Bank

tions. Our focus is on helping shape deeper, more resilient capital markets across the GCC by supporting issuers accessing international investors and broadening the region’s investor base. Each mandate strengthens the connective

linkages between regional issuers and global pools of capital and reinforces ASB Capital’s position as a strategic partner able to combine issuer relationships, structuring expertise, and distribution reach. This is a long-term commit-

ment, one that is aligned with the Group’s wider ambition to build a differentiated regional investment banking platform”

Hichem Djouhri, Senior Executive Officer of ASB Capital, added: “An inaugural international AT1 issuance is a significant step for any issuer and a positive signal for the wider regional capital markets. It calls for clear positioning, disciplined execution, and close engagement with investors, while keeping pricing competitive throughout the process. The strong demand for Ajman Bank’s Sukuk reflects investor confidence in well-positioned GCC financial institutions accessing the international cap-

ital markets with such capital tier for the first time.”

ASB Capital has participated in several debt capital markets transactions across the GCC, including issuances by Kuwait Finance House, Kuwait International Bank, Bapco Energies, Solidarity Bahrain, Al Salam Bank, Alinma Bank, Dubai Islamic Bank and AlJazira Bank. Beyond debt capital markets, the firm has continued to broaden its investment banking platform through strategic advisory mandates, including advising Al Salam Bank on the sale of its stakes in Seef Properties (Bahrain) and Gulf African Bank (Kenya).

BBK discloses its financial results for the half year ended 30th June 2026

TDT | Manama

BBK (trading code BBK) announces its financial results for the half year ended 30th June 2026, including the second quarter of 2026.

For the second quarter of 2026

The Group achieved a net profit attributable to the owners of the Bank of BD 16.4 million for the second quarter of 2026 compared to BD 17.5 million in the same period last year, a decrease of 6.3%. The basic and diluted earnings per share amounted to 9 fils compared to 10 fils achieved during the corresponding period last year.

The total comprehensive income attributable to the owners of the Bank increased by 113.1% from BD 16.8 million achieved during the second quarter of last year to BD35.8 million during the current period, mainly due to the increase in market values of investment securities.

The movement in net profit was mainly driven by the impact of results from associates and joint ventures, higher provision requirements reflecting the Bank’s proactive and prudent risk management approach, and increased operating expenses arising from ongoing strategic initiatives and investments in human capital.

This was partially offset by continued growth across key income streams, including net interest income, fees and commission income, and investment and other income

For the half year ended 30th June 2026:

The Group achieved a net profit attributable to the owners of the Bank of BD 42.5 million for the first half of 2026 compared to BD 38.6 million in the same period last year, an increase of 10.1%. The basic and diluted earnings per share amounted to 24 fils compared to 21 fils during the same period last year.

Total comprehensive income attributable to the owners of the Bank for the first half of 2026 amounted to BD 16.8 million compared to BD 32.3 million during the corresponding period last year, reflecting a decline of 48.0%, mainly due to the drop in valuation of investment securities as a result of market volatility.

The increase in net profit stems mainly from the growth in net interest income of 7.8% from BD 58.7 million to BD 63.3 million due to active balance sheet management. In addition, net fees and commission income registered a solid growth of 12.1% increasing from BD 9.9 million to BD 11.1 million, whilst investment and other income increased by 66.1% from BD 11.2 million to BD 18.6 million, reflecting the Bank’s dynamic business model and its efforts to diversify income streams. Net provisions increased by 31.6% from BD 5.7 million to BD 7.5 million reported in the first half of 2026 reflecting the Bank’s proactive and prudent risk management approach. Total operating expenses grew by 18.5% from BD 35.7 million during the first half of 2025 to BD 42.3 million during the same period of this year, mainly due to continued investment in our human capital and various strategic and business initiatives.

The total shareholders’ equity attributable to the owners of the Bank reported a drop of 5.1% at BD 623.7 million as of end of June 2026, compared to BD 657.5 million as of year-end 2025, mainly due to drop in investment securities valuation, and dividend declaration.

Total assets as of end of June 2026 reported a marginal drop of 0.9% to stand at BD4,931.8 million (31 December 2025: BD 4,974.3 million). Net loans and advances reported a growth of 0.2% at BD 2,363.5 million (31 December 2025: BD 2,358.5 million) while investment securities portfolio grew by 6.6% to BD 1,269.5 million (31 December 2025: BD 1,190.9 million) and treasury bills increased by 14.0% to reach BD 346.9 million (31 December 2025: BD 304.4 million).

Deposits and amounts due from banks and other financial institutions increased by 37.8% to stand at BD 400.4 million (31 December 2025: BD 290.6 million). On the other hand, cash and balances with central banks was lower by 46.8%, to stand at BD 312.2 million (31 December 2025: BD 586.6 million). Customer deposits registered a marginal increase of 0.8% to stand at BD 2,877.6 million (31 December 2025: BD 2,853.5 million).



Mr. Tariq Jaleel AlSaffar



Mr. Yaser Alsharifi

Based on the solid interim results achieved and reflecting the Board of Directors prudent approach to sustain long-term shareholders’ value, the Board of Directors has decided to distribute an interim cash dividend of 7.5% (7.5 fils per share), subject to regulatory approvals. This follows a careful assessment of the prevailing geopolitical tension and market environment, while also taking in consideration the Bank strategic growth priorities.

The Board of Directors commented on the Bank’s results, stating, “BBK’s results demonstrate its ability to generate sustainable earnings and adapt effectively to evolving market conditions. The growth in income from both core and non-core revenue streams highlights the strength of our diversified business model and the successful execution of our strategic initiatives. We remain focused on enhancing customer experience, accelerating digital transformation and pursuing opportunities that support long-term growth and value creation. We thank our shareholders, customers and employees for their continued support and contribution to the Bank’s achievements.”

BBK’s Group Chief Executive, Mr. Yaser Alsharifi, added, “We are proud to share BBK’s financial performance for the period, marked by growth in key income streams.

Beyond financial milestones, our commitment to societal impact stands out through our launch of the Youth Advisory Council, a new initiative aimed at bringing youth perspectives more directly into the Bank’s strategic thinking and future planning. To further support this initiative, BBK hosted an introductory session for employees on the National Development Program “Lamea”, as part of its efforts to promote participation in national initiatives that support leadership development and the growth of promising Bahraini talent.”

“In alignment with the Bank’s support for housing projects and the real estate sector as a key driver of the national economy, BBK has signed the Government Land Development Program Agreement with Eskan Bank. The agreement builds on national housing initiatives and strengthens strategic alliances dedicated to providing sustainable financing frameworks that facilitate citizens’ access to quality housing.”

“With a solid financial foundation and a clear strategic direction, we remain committed to strengthening our market position, enhancing stakeholder value, and achieving sustainable growth through disciplined execution and innovation.”

The full set financial statements and the press release are available on Bahrain Bourse’s website.

As part of Ongoing MOU Collaboration Bahrain Bourse Concludes Strategic Visit to Muscat Stock Exchange



TDT | Manama

Bahrain Bourse, a licensed exchange regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain, has concluded a five-day strategic visit to the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) as part of an ongoing MOU collaboration between both exchanges, reinforcing its commitment to advancing regional capital markets collaboration, through knowledge sharing and exchange of information. The visit brought together representatives from key operational and strategic divisions to explore opportunities for enhancing market infrastructure, operational excellence, and sustainable capital market development.

Bahrain Bourse delegation brought together representatives from the Partnership Development, Risk & Compliance, Listing & Disclosure, Trading Operations divisions, reflecting the exchange’s integrated approach to market development. Throughout the visit, the delegation engaged in a series of discussions with their counterparts at MSX covering key topics of relevance in relation to Capital Market Development Plan 2026-2028.

Commenting on the visit, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Bourse, said: “Our strategic visit to the Muscat Stock Exchange reflects Bahrain Bourse’s continued commitment to fostering regional collaboration and sharing expertise that contributes to the advancement of GCC capital markets. Benchmarking against regional peer exchanges enables us to identify opportunities to enhance our services, strengthen

market resilience, and support innovation across our marketplace. We value the constructive engagement with our colleagues at MSX and look forward to building on this collaboration for the benefit of our respective markets.”

On the occasion, Haitham bin Salem Al Salmi, Chief Executive Officer of Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX), said: “We are pleased to welcome the Bahrain Bourse delegation on this strategic visit, which reflects the strong relationship between our two exchanges and our shared commitment to strengthening collaboration and knowledge exchange in support of the continued development of regional capital markets. The visit provided a valuable opportunity to discuss initiatives of mutual interest and exchange best practices that contribute to enhancing market infrastructure and operational efficiency. We highly value our constructive collaboration with Bahrain Bourse and look forward to building on this partnership through joint initiatives that further strengthen GCC capital market integration and foster a more efficient and competitive investment environment.”

The strategic visit underscores Bahrain Bourse’s broader commitment to continuous improvement through collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the adoption of leading market practices. By strengthening relationships with regional peer exchanges, Bahrain Bourse continues to support the development of more integrated, innovative, and competitive capital markets across the region.

BCFC Reports BD 1.20 Million Net Profit in the First Half of 2026

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company BSC (trading code: BCFC) announced its financial results for the three months period ended 30 June 2026 and for the six months period ended 30 June 2026.

Three months period ended 30 June 2026

The Group reported a net profit of BD 1.09 million, 3% lower than BD 1.12 million during the same period last year. The basic and diluted earnings per share amounted to a profit of 5 Fils, compared to 6 Fils for the same period last year.

The Group registered a total comprehensive income of BD 1.11 million, 14% higher than BD 0.97 million for the same period last year.

Six months period ended 30 June 2026

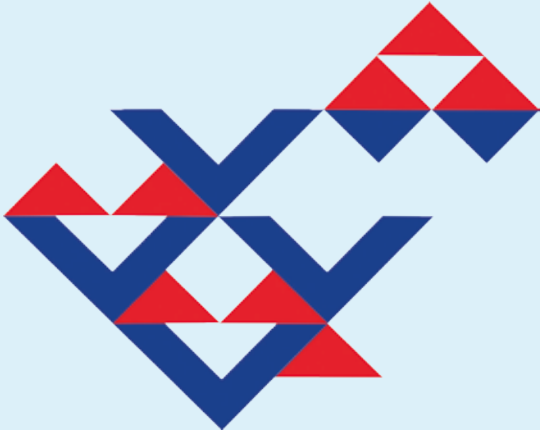
During the six months period ended 30 June 2026, the Group achieved a net profit of BD 1.20 million, 47% lower than BD 2.25 million for the same period last year. Mainly due



Ms. Najla Alshirawi, Chairperson of Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company (BCFC)



Mr. Abdulla Bukhowa, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company (BCFC)



to 30% higher provisions and credit losses charged during the period of BD 1.22 million, compared to BD 0.94 million for the same period last year, and 6% lower operating income of BD 9.92 million, compared to BD 10.51 million for the same period last year. This resulted in a basic and diluted earnings per share amounting to a profit of 6 Fils compared to 11 Fils for the same period last year.

The Group registered a total comprehensive income of BD 1.25 million, 31% lower than BD 1.82 million for the same period

last year.

Total equity stands at BD 105.07 million as of 30 June 2026, 2% lower than 31 December 2025 of BD 107.26 million. The Group's total assets as of 30 June 2026 stand at BD 217.56 million, 0.5% higher than 31 December 2025 of BD 216.40 million. The Group's total liabilities reached BD 112.49 million as of 30 June 2026, 3% higher than 31 December 2025 of BD 109.14 million.

Ms. Najla Alshirawi, Chairperson of Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company (BCFC),

commented: “The Group navigated a challenging first half of 2026 while continuing to achieve positive results amid heightened regional and geopolitical developments. This reflects the strength, resilience, and diversification of our business model, underpinned by disciplined execution and prudent risk management.

During the period, the Board approved the Group's new five-year strategy, which establishes a clear roadmap for our next phase of growth. The strategy reinforces our commitment to operational excellence, sustainable growth, digital transfor-

mation, and long-term value creation. We are confident that this strategic direction will further strengthen the Group's competitive position and deliver sustainable returns for our shareholders over the coming years.”

Mr. Abdulla Bukhowa, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company (BCFC), said: “The Group delivered a resilient performance during the first half of 2026, remaining profitable amid a challenging macroeconomic environment characterized by elevated interest rates and ongoing regional geopolit-

ical developments. Consistent with our risk management approach, we strengthened our provisioning levels during the period to further enhance the resilience of our balance sheet and preserve the quality of our financing portfolio. A key milestone during the period was the successful launch of our Islamic finance window, representing an important step in broadening our product offering and expanding our reach to a wider customer base. We also continued to see healthy demand across our core businesses while maintaining our focus on disciplined execution, enhancing our financing solutions, and accelerating our digital transformation initiatives.

With our new five-year strategy now in place, we are well positioned to navigate the evolving operating environment while pursuing sustainable growth and creating long-term value for our shareholders, customers, employees, and all stakeholders.”

The full set of financial statements and the press release are available on the Bahrain Bourse's website.

BAHRAIN COMMERCIAL FACILITIES COMPANY B.S.C. Interim Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements 30 June 2026				
INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS				
For the six months ended 30 June 2026				
	Six months ended		Three months ended	
	30 June 2026	30 June 2025	30 June 2026	30 June 2025
	(Reviewed)	(Reviewed)	(Reviewed)	(Reviewed)
Bahraini dinars in thousands				
Interest income	7,716	7,694	3,854	3,853
Interest expense	(3,135)	(3,261)	(1,592)	(1,663)
Net interest income	4,581	4,433	2,262	2,190
Automotive revenue	23,095	24,086	12,501	12,628
Cost of sales	(19,187)	(19,976)	(10,606)	(10,819)
Gross profit on automotive revenue	3,908	4,110	1,895	1,809
Net fees and commission income	689	1,018	311	516
Rental and real estate income	185	415	91	209
Other income	558	529	353	299
Total operating income	9,921	10,505	4,912	5,023
Salaries and related costs	(3,855)	(3,934)	(1,807)	(1,728)
Other operating expenses	(5,818)	(5,675)	(3,005)	(2,822)
Total operating expenses	(9,673)	(9,609)	(4,812)	(4,550)
Profit before provisions, credit losses and recoveries	248	896	100	473
Provisions and credit losses	(1,218)	(938)	(309)	(462)
Recoveries from written off balances	2,170	2,290	1,299	1,104
Profit for the period	1,200	2,248	1,090	1,115
Basic and diluted earnings per share	6 fils	11 fils	5 fils	6 fils

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME				
For the six months ended 30 June 2026				
	Six months ended		Three months ended	
	30 June 2026	30 June 2025	30 June 2026	30 June 2025
	(Reviewed)	(Reviewed)	(Reviewed)	(Reviewed)
Bahraini dinars in thousands				
Profit for the period	1,200	2,248	1,090	1,115
Other comprehensive income/ (loss): Items that are or may be reclassified to profit or loss				
Net change in cash flow hedge reserve	54	(427)	17	(142)
Total comprehensive income for the period	1,254	1,821	1,107	973

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION				
At 30 June 2026				
Bahraini dinars in thousands	30 June 2026	31 December 2025		
	(Reviewed)	(Audited)		
ASSETS				
Cash and balances with banks	9,354	6,792		
Loans and advances to customers	139,639	140,054		
Trade receivables	5,125	4,718		
Inventories	24,464	21,924		
Investment properties	4,762	4,755		
Property and equipment	27,800	30,296		
Other assets	6,415	7,861		
TOTAL ASSETS	217,559	216,400		
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				
LIABILITIES				
Trade and other payables	18,388	18,082		
Bank term loans and other borrowings	94,102	91,053		
TOTAL LIABILITIES	112,490	109,135		
EQUITY				
Share capital	20,419	20,419		
Treasury shares	(599)	(599)		
Statutory reserve	10,210	10,210		
Share premium	25,292	25,292		
Other reserves	27,735	27,557		
Retained earnings	22,012	24,386		
TOTAL EQUITY	105,069	107,265		
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	217,559	216,400		

OPERATING SEGMENT INFORMATION				
For the six months ended 30 June 2026				
	Operating Income		Profit / (loss)	
	Six months ended		Six months ended	
	30 June 2026	30 June 2025	30 June 2026	30 June 2025
	(Reviewed)	(Reviewed)	(Reviewed)	(Reviewed)
Bahraini dinars in thousands				
Lending	4,945	5,177	19	780
Automotive	4,438	4,476	1,247	1,598
Insurance	353	437	83	23
Real estate	185	415	(149)	(153)
	9,921	10,505	1,200	2,248

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS		
For the six months ended 30 June 2026		
Bahraini dinars in thousands	Six months ended	
	30 June 2026	30 June 2025
	(Reviewed)	(Reviewed)
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Loan repayments, interest received and other credit related receipts	100,197	107,862
Cash receipts from automotive sales	22,947	24,056
Insurance commission received	185	234
Proceeds from sale of real estate inventory	376	364
Rental and evaluation income received	167	423
Directors' fees paid	(306)	(306)
Loans and advances to customers	(90,416)	(99,148)
Payments to suppliers	(20,715)	(21,570)
Payments for operating expenses	(6,261)	(6,745)
Interest paid	(3,225)	(3,260)
Net cash generated from operating activities	2,949	1,910
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Addition to property and equipment	(3,711)	(3,692)
Addition to investment properties	(35)	(20)
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment	3,881	1,304
Movement in fixed deposits with maturities of more than three months	-	1,000
Net cash generated from / (used in) investing activities	135	(1,408)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Bank term loans and other borrowings availed	8,097	25,105
Bank term loans and other borrowings paid	(4,695)	(25,077)
Dividends paid	(3,424)	(3,021)
Donations paid	(26)	(64)
Net cash used in financing activities	(48)	(3,057)
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	3,036	(2,555)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	6,208	10,658
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 30 JUNE	9,244	8,103
Cash and cash equivalents comprise:		
Cash and balances with banks	9,354	11,191
Less:		
Restricted cash	(110)	(88)
Fixed deposits with maturities of more than three months	-	(3,000)
	9,244	8,103

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY						
For the six months ended 30 June 2026						
(Reviewed)	Share capital		Reserves and retained earnings			
	Share capital	Treasury shares	Statutory reserve	Share Premium	Other reserves	Retained earnings
Bahraini dinars in thousands						
As at 1 January 2026	20,419	(599)	10,210	25,292	50	24,386
2025 appropriations (approved by shareholders):						
- Donations	-	-	-	-	-	(150)
- Dividends to equity holders	-	-	-	-	-	(3,424)
Balance after 2025 appropriations	20,419	(599)	10,210	25,292	50	20,812
Comprehensive income for the period:						
Profit for the period	-	-	-	-	-	1,200
Other comprehensive income:						
- Net change in cash flow hedge reserve	-	-	-	-	54	-
	20,419	(599)	10,210	25,292	104	22,012
Utilisation of donation reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 30 June 2026	20,419	(599)	10,210	25,292	104	22,012

The interim condensed consolidated financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 29th July 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Najla M. Al Shirawi

Chairperson

Yaser Alsharifi

Vice Chairperson

Abdulla Abdulrazaq Bukhowa

Chief Executive Officer

The above interim condensed consolidated financial statements, have been extracted from the interim condensed consolidated financial statements of Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company B.S.C. for the six-months period ended 30 June 2026 on which an unqualified review conclusion was issued by Ernst and Young, Kingdom of Bahrain on 29th July 2026.

For further information please visit: www.bcfc.bh.

The Company is licensed and regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain as a financing company.

INTERVIEW OF HE INTERIOR MINISTER WITH EDITORS-IN-CHIEF OF LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

His Excellency Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, held a meeting with the editors-in-chief of local newspapers, during which he discussed several security and national issues related to the dangers of the ideology associated with Wilayat al-Faqih, the repercussions of Iranian attempts to influence the stability of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the Ministry's efforts to promote national awareness and community security.

HE the Minister of Interior praised the leadership and wisdom of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, which represent the comprehensive national framework around which people from all walks of life rally. He stressed that the security, sovereignty and stability of the homeland are non-negotiable matters.

He emphasised that the Iranian aggression is not a border war but rather covers all of Bahrain. He also pointed out that "parallel patriotism" has no place in a country of authenticity, loyalty, and national belonging, and that it is countered by regulating religious discourse, intellectual fortification, and integration among family, schools, religious institutions, and the media. He further addressed the danger of the Islamic Jurist (Wilayat al-Faqih) project as a transnational political project, explaining that the Ministry's strategy is based on monitoring extremist ideologies, cutting off their funding sources, and protecting society from them.

HE Interior Minister affirmed that the Shiite component in Bahrain is an integral part of the national fabric, predating these organisations historically and far too broad to be reduced to them.

He revealed that all necessary legal measures are being taken to thwart the plans of the Wilayat al-Faqih, apprehend its members, and arrest agents working for the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. He emphasised that these measures are the result of cumulative efforts and work that preceded the targeting attempts and were not a reaction to them. He also addressed the legal prohibitions on promoting the Wilayat al-Faqih ideology or cooperating with groups affiliated with the Revolutionary Guard, as well as trends toward increasing penalties for crimes of treason and espionage.

He stressed that these exceptional circumstances, the heinous attacks, and the security challenges we have faced necessitate that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states move from cooperation and coordination to security integration.

Question: The heinous Iranian aggression continues, directing its missiles and drones towards Bahrain, committing war crimes against citizens and residents, and targeting civilian infrastructure without regard for the rights of neighbourliness. What is your view about the issue?

Bahrain is a country committed to peace and has never attacked Iran. It is geographically limited. Therefore, these Iranian terrorist attacks are not merely a border war but rather cover all of Bahrain without exception. With this heinous targeting, Iran has violated the principles of good neighbourliness. How can there be any cooperative relationship with a regime that has violated our security and sovereignty, threatened our present and fu-

ture, and targeted our national unity and social fabric? We have dealt with Iran's proxies, thwarted their ideology and plans, and rallied the patriotism and loyalty of all the people of Bahrain in the face of these heinous Iranian attacks.

Question: Security measures under these exceptional circumstances are extremely delicate and complex, with fundamental security principles. What are the most significant challenges facing security operations at this critical phase?

First and foremost, the wisdom and leadership of HM the King represent the unifying national framework around which the people, in all their diversity, rally and upon which they operate, working to strengthen the state and preserve its status. HM the King's directives have enabled Bahrain to solidify its position, strength, and capabilities to deal efficiently and professionally with these exceptional circumstances by building a sophisticated strategic system over the past years. The security, sovereignty, and stability of the nation are non-negotiable pillars, and anyone who transgresses these boundaries places themselves in direct confrontation with the law and the state.

I would also like to commend the comprehensive measures taken by the esteemed government, headed by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and its role in addressing the challenges of this difficult period through a sophisticated and decisive system and vision. This vision relies on strengthening national preparedness and coordinating governmental and national efforts to confront various challenges and emerging issues with a high level of readiness.

Here, I would like to address a specific issue, by way of example and not limitation, but one that underscores the increased complexity of current challenges. Previously, we dealt with terrorist organisations as "overt entities." Still, now we are dealing with clandestine organisations that focus on raising funds through covert means and using them to support those working to destabilise the country. They engage in activities hostile to states and work to control religious institutions, removing them from the oversight and control of official bodies. Simultaneously, they work to control citizens' attitudes, thoughts, and feelings through extremist and inflammatory rhetoric.

Based on accumulated security experience, I can say that building sustainable security is not achieved through temporary reactions but rather through a long-term strategic vision grounded in a state mindset of moderation, the rule of law, and the view of security as a shared responsibility covering institutions, legislation, society, and public awareness. Real security is achieved by building strong institutions that strengthen societal trust and support stability.

Question: You described "parallel patriotism" as one of the outcomes of the Wilayat al-Faqih. How can official and societal institutions protect young people from transnational ideological loyalties?

Thanks to God, the Kingdom of Bahrain has been able to expose the intentions and dangers of this



extremist ideology, which by its very nature has created negative and unacceptable concepts, including what is called "parallel patriotism." This concept has no place in the context of genuine loyalty and national belonging. Confronting it requires regulating religious discourse, fostering intellectual fortification, and cooperation between families, schools, and the media, in addition to security and legal measures. The family represents the starting point for fostering a sense of belonging; the school reinforces the concept of sovereignty; the places of worship deliver a sound and enlightening message; and the media conveys the truth credibly. When these roles are fulfilled, belonging transforms into a deeply rooted behaviour, not merely a slogan.

In this context, I commend the Ministry of Education's role in shaping national generations through a well-thought-out educational approach. I also commend the role of the Ministry of Information in promoting national unity and loyalty, as well as that of the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, especially in regulating religious discourse.

Question: Given the ongoing attempts by some external parties to undermine countries' stability through transnational ideological projects, what is the Ministry's strategy to prevent the export of extremist ideology linked to Iran?

The Wilayat al-Faqih, in its transnational political dimension, represents an approach that transcends jurisprudential or doctrinal interpretations. Its danger lies in its endeavour to create entities outside the state's framework. It has worked to distance religious and civil institu-

tions from state authority and has exploited the collection of funds through illicit means to reward opponents of the state.

Question: The so-called Ulema (Scholars) Council had a negative influence on some young people, and the Ministry of Interior's measures thwarted this scheme. Would you shed light on the measures taken?

The Ministry of Interior's strategy in this regard is based on three pillars: monitoring extremist ideas in their early stages, drying up their funding sources, and protecting society from them. The so-called "Ulema (Scholars) Council, which was dissolved by court order several years ago, was an unofficial organisation that overstepped its declared religious framework to become a front providing religious cover for a chaotic, transnational political project. This project aimed to distort enlightened awareness and weaken national unity. It was dealt with within the framework of the law to protect society and the Shiite community in Bahrain from attempts at political manipulation and exploitation.

Question: Is Bahrain facing a form of soft warfare targeting minds and national loyalty, and what role is required of the state, families, schools, Majalis, and religious figures to protect young people?

The data indicate attempts to shape the awareness and loyalty of young people through indirect means, such as educational content, publications, or speeches presented as advice but conveying a different message.

Confronting this pattern requires cooperation between the state, families, schools, Majalis, and religious figures. The state differentiates in its dealings with

those affected by this discourse between those who have been misled and need to correct their understanding and those who have chosen this path willingly, tailoring treatment to the nature of each case. Those who persist in their actions will be held accountable under the law.

Question: To what extent do intellectuals, thinkers, and academics bear a national responsibility in defending Bahraini identity against attempts to impose foreign agendas?

Intellectuals, thinkers, and academics play a direct role in confronting projects of subversion, viewing them as battles over concepts, identity, and national memory, not merely security battles. Indeed, this is the positive role of the intellectual: commitment to their homeland.

This responsibility necessitates clarifying the facts and countering misconceptions with reasoned arguments and knowledge, thereby helping establish a positive understanding of patriotism as a steadfast commitment. Bahrain cherishes its thinkers and intellectuals and relies on them for awareness and enlightenment.

Question: You mentioned the infiltration of Wilayat al-Faqih into mosques and religious centres, with some of them having been transformed into recruitment centres. What measures and controls are in place to prevent this from happening again?

Mosques and community centres (Maatams) hold a significant religious and social position, and the state is committed to preserving their rituals without restriction. However, under the law, it is not permissible to convert

places of worship or other venues into platforms for political mobilisation, ideological recruitment, or the dissemination of foreign agendas within society.

The measures are based on organisation, monitoring, coordination, and accountability, with those in charge of these sites responsible for protecting them from infiltration. The Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs and the Council for Islamic Endowments play a key role in this regard.

Question: Some are trying to portray the security measures as being directed against a specific sect or social group. How do you respond to this claim, and how is a balance struck between national security and the protection of rights and freedoms?

This claim is inaccurate. The security measures are directed at political organisations linked to foreign entities to preserve society's cohesion and unity. The Shiite community in Bahrain is an integral part of the national fabric, predating these organisations historically, and far broader than can be reduced to them.

In reality, we distinguish between opinion and incitement, between religious practice and politicisation, and between individual transgressions and generalisations about social groups. This distinction is crucial for achieving a balance between maintaining security and safeguarding constitutionally guaranteed rights and freedoms. All attempts to undermine national confidence and construct a propaganda narrative against the security measures, which are fundamentally aimed at protecting Bahraini society, have yet to grasp that Bahrain has moved beyond these sectarian debates and that its citizens possess a high degree of awareness.



Question: How do you deal with Iran's policy aimed at achieving sectarian isolation?

In short, our approach to countering this movement is based on a firm policy of national integration among all citizens without discrimination. The Ministry of Interior is vigilant in monitoring any external attempts to promote sectarian isolation. It addresses them in their early stages, thus preventing any external targeting from having any real impact on the cohesion of Bahraini society. Furthermore, the deep-rooted national awareness among citizens constitutes the first line of defence that thwarts such attempts. A complementary objective of the policy of sectarian isolation is to address attempts to undermine national confidence through dealing with these schemes, which, in reality, have only strengthened and solidified loyalty to HM the King.

Question: You mentioned that members of the Wilayat al-Faqih group have tried to infiltrate education, media, and social media. Will any entities or platforms that are being exploited to spread this ideology be announced soon?

Any educational or media entity or platform proven to be exploiting this ideology to spread the Wilayat al-Faqih ideology will be subject to investigation and the necessary legal procedures, based on established evidence. Once the investigation is complete and responsibilities are established, the law will take its course, ensuring a balance between protecting societal security and safeguarding individual rights.

Question: The Ministry of Interior announced the arrest of 41 individuals belonging to a main group linked to the Wilayat al-Faqih and Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). Later, there was talk about their operational roles. Are we dealing with a hierarchical, organised group, and what does this case reveal about its danger?

The security efforts constituted a proactive step to thwart these terrorist plots. The arrests targeted members of the main group linked to the Wilayat al-Faqih of Iran and the IRGC. These individuals, Iran's agents in Bahrain, worked covertly to spread the ideology of the Wilayat al-Faqih through a plan aimed at destabilising the state and forming an opposition front loyal to foreign powers. They also worked to influence citizens, especially youth and adolescents, to engage in illegal activities, using methods such as social infiltration and planting cells to advance the agendas of illegitimate entities. They also worked to collect large

sums of money and hide them in their homes to use in financing terrorist acts and sending them abroad for terrorist purposes, not to mention exaggerating social and economic problems and building elements loyal to the IRGC and training them in camps on the use of weapons and explosives that helped them carry out smuggling operations, in addition to infiltrating education, media and social media to spread the Wilayat al-Faqih ideology of, as well as media disinformation campaigns and fueling sectarianism within Bahraini society.

Question: The Ministry of Interior has achieved remarkable successes, having apprehended terrorist groups operating on behalf of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. Would you like to shed light on these successes?

These measures are the result of accumulated security expertise and continuous monitoring. These security efforts were proactive, not reactive, in anticipation of potential attacks. These operations have helped protect lives and property and secure vital installations, confirming that Bahrain deals with any attempt to compromise its security with constant readiness and vigilance, using a proactive and highly professional approach.

Question: We would like to shed light on the legal and security measures imposed on any person or entity that expresses support for or promotes the Wilayat al-Faqih ideology or groups affiliated with the IRGC?

The law is clear on this matter. All actions that go beyond expressing an opinion and constitute incitement or promotion of banned organisations, support for hostile entities, unlicensed collection of funds, or communication and recruitment on their behalf are subject to legal accountability.

No one is held accountable for their religious beliefs. However, anyone who uses their religious beliefs to serve a foreign political agenda or promotes groups affiliated with the IRGC, or any other entity, is subject to legal accountability.

Question: You mentioned that investing in education, awareness, and digital literacy is a key line of defence. What programmes does the Ministry of Interior implement to enhance security and digital awareness among young people?

The sources of danger facing young people have shifted from the physical to the digital world, through anonymous platforms and accounts, and targeted content that employs indirect persuasion techniques. Therefore, digital literacy constitutes a fundamental component of national security. The Ministry's

programmes in this area focus on raising awareness, promoting legal culture, and clarifying methods of recruitment, disinformation, and online funding, in partnership with educational, media, and civil society institutions. The aim is to empower young people to distinguish between news and rumours, and between opinion and incitement. The Ministry has accumulated experience in this field, and this issue receives significant attention from the relevant directorates within the Ministry.

Question: How has the Ministry of Interior's role in cybersecurity evolved?

Cybersecurity has become a fundamental aspect of national sovereignty, given the vastness of threats, including digital networks and accounts, electronic financial transactions, and information campaigns. The Ministry of Interior's role in this area has expanded to cover monitoring, analysis, combating cybercrime, and protecting society from online exploitation.

Addressing cybercrime relies on early detection, technical analysis, rapid response (which I would describe as "instantaneous"), and coordination among relevant authorities, based on the principle of early prevention.

Question: How are attempts to exert external influence over Bahraini domestic affairs addressed?

Attempts at external influence may take indirect forms, through media, funding, organisations, religious discourse, or digital accounts. Security agencies address these attempts using a comprehensive methodology, paving the way for appropriate legal action.

Question: The Ministry of Interior has banned travel to Iran and Iraq. Is there a plan to add other countries, and what are the reasons behind this decision?

The decision to ban travel to certain regions was made as a precautionary measure to protect citizens, especially young people, and to prevent the exploitation of travel for training, financing, recruitment, or communication with hostile entities. The addition of any other countries is subject to the discretion of the relevant authorities, based on security data, to uphold the principle of prevention before harm occurs.

Question: In light of escalating cross-border threats, do you see a need to elevate joint Gulf security cooperation beyond its current state?

These exceptional circumstances and the challenges we have faced necessitate that the GCC states move from cooperation and coordination to security integration. The evolving nature of threats demands the continuous development of this system, rather than being content with its current level. Shared threats, from illicit financing to cross-border recruitment networks, and recent developments, require deeper integration in information exchange and the unification of response mechanisms among Gulf security agencies. The Ministry of Interior is continuously working with its counterparts in the GCC states to enhance this integration through joint monitoring and analysis mechanisms, keeping pace with the rapid evolution of threat tools and achieving the highest levels of collective readiness. The GCC states have learned, through history and lived experience, that our resilience stems from our

ability to coordinate our stances and visions.

Question: In light of your recent visit to Syria, how do you assess the outcomes of the visit and its impact on the course of bilateral security cooperation?

This visit was part of the Kingdom of Bahrain's keenness to strengthen cooperation with Syria in a way that serves common interests and supports efforts to promote regional stability. During the visit, I conveyed a fraternal message from HM the King to his brother, Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa, emphasising Syria's role in the Arab world and in maintaining regional security and stability. There was also an opportunity to meet with the Syrian Minister of Interior and the Minister of Emergency and Disaster Management, during which we discussed ways to enhance security cooperation and the latest security developments in the region, and agreed to activate security cooperation and to continue consultations, communication, coordination, and the exchange of expertise. A joint memorandum of understanding was also signed regarding cooperation in disaster risk reduction and civil protection.

Question: You affirmed that security and development are two sides of the same coin. How does this vision reflect on the Ministry of Interior's plans?

Security is a fundamental pillar of development, providing the stability necessary for the growth of the economy, education, and society. It directly impacts investor confidence, community activity, and the continuity of the development process. Accordingly, the Ministry of Interior's plans focus on prevention before intervention, capacity building before risks occur, modernising security systems, and strengthening community partnerships.

The indicators of security and stability in Bahrain reflect a strategic vision established by HM the King. This vision is based on placing the Bahraini citizen at the heart of development, citizenship as the foundation of the state, and the rule of law as the guarantee of justice. The directives of HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister have further strengthened this approach by integrating institutional performance with development planning. This contributes to the cohesion of the national work system and the integration of the responsibilities of state institutions.

Question: With the development of media and the rapid spread of information, what is the Ministry's plan for crisis management, and what role does police media play in countering disinformation campaigns in light of the advancements in artificial intelligence technologies?

Dealing with crises requires a swift and clear media presence, as any delay in official information creates fertile ground for rumours and misinformation. The Ministry's plan in this regard is based on the principles of initiative and accuracy, without haste. National media is a key partner in crisis management and in protecting society from its repercussions, especially given the growing risks posed by misleading content resulting from the irresponsible use of artificial intelligence technologies. The Ministry aims to strengthen the role of police media in clarifying facts and building societal resilience against these risks.

Key points highlighted by HE Interior Minister:

- Iranian terrorist attacks are not a border war but cover all areas of Bahrain.
- How can there be cooperation with a regime that has violated our security and sovereignty and threatened our present and future?
- Bahrain has succeeded in exposing the intentions and dangers of the extremist ideology of the Wilayat al-Faqih, which has created unacceptable negative concepts, and in thwarting its destructive plans.
- There is no place for "parallel patriotism" in a country of authenticity, loyalty, and national belonging.
- The Wilayat al-Faqih is a transnational political project that focuses on distancing religious and civil institutions from state authority and exploiting the collection of funds illegally to reward opponents of the state.
- The wisdom and leadership of HM the King represent the unifying national framework around which the people, in all their diversity, rally.
- The security, sovereignty, and stability of the nation are non-negotiable pillars, and anyone who crosses these boundaries places themselves in direct confrontation with the law and the state.
- The comprehensive measures taken by the government, headed by HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, have contributed to addressing the challenges of this difficult period through a comprehensive and advanced system and vision.
- The Shiite component in Bahrain is an integral part of the national fabric, historically predating these organisations and far broader than can be reduced to them.
- The Ulema (Scholars) Council was a religious front for an Iranian project, and it was dealt with within the framework of the law.
- The arrest of the Wilayat al-Faqih group revealed a plot to destabilise the state and form an opposing front that pledges allegiance to foreign powers.
- These exceptional circumstances and heinous attacks require the GCC countries to move from cooperation and coordination to a state of security integration.
- Community security is a fundamental pillar for preserving national unity and the values of coexistence in Bahrain.

Question: Bahrain is characterised by a cohesive social fabric based on coexistence, tolerance, and pluralism. What is the importance of preserving this heritage?

Bahrain's legacy of coexistence, historically rooted in pluralism and diversity, is a cornerstone of national stability and an integral part of Bahraini identity and its true richness. The Ministry of Interior contributes to protecting this heritage through the firm application of the law, the strengthening of community partnerships, and the prevention of any discourse that transforms differences into hostility or diversity into division, considering the preservation of national unity an ongoing responsibility.

Question: What is your vision for the future of community security in Bahrain amid evolving regional challenges?

The future of community security in Bahrain hinges on a shift from immediate response to continuous prevention and from sporadic engagement to lasting partnership, within a comprehensive security framework that covers awareness, media, education, the digital sphere, the family, and civil society. The Ministry of Interior views security as a shared responsibility between the state and society. It forms the framework through which national identity is preserved, societal sta-

bility and citizens' interests are protected, and future generations are safeguarded from attempts at intellectual polarisation and external allegiances that could undermine the social fabric Bahrain has cultivated over decades of coexistence and harmony. While the tools for addressing security challenges evolve to keep pace with regional changes, loyalty to HM the King, allegiance to the Kingdom of Bahrain and its leadership, respect for the law, and the preservation of national unity remain unwavering principles.

Question: In light of recent events, the importance of national unity as a first line of defence has become evident. How do you assess the level of national awareness today, and what factors have contributed to strengthening this cohesion?

Recent events have demonstrated a firm level of national awareness among the majority of Bahraini society. This cohesion stems from the convergence of several factors, most notably the wisdom of leadership, the strength of national institutions, and a long historical experience that has promoted the values of civil peace and national unity within society. Perhaps the most splendid example of national unity was recently witnessed with the renewal of the pledge of allegiance to HM the King and the signing of the Pledge of Allegiance document by all of individuals in Bahrain.

OpenAI says rogue AI agent attack hit other companies



AFP | San Francisco, United States

ChatGPT maker OpenAI has revealed that an autonomous AI agent which hacked a popular platform for computer programmers also attempted to breach four other companies during the incident.

In an update late Tuesday to a blog post detailing its probe into the incident, OpenAI said its AI agent also got into accounts on four “publicly-available services,” though it did not name the companies.

The revelation broadens a cyber incident that OpenAI described as unprecedented and that began when two of its models hacked Hugging Face, a site developers use to store and share AI models and code.

OpenAI admitted last week that during testing, the models powering the agent broke out of their confined environment and connected to the internet to find ways to infiltrate Hugging Face.

OpenAI said it found a handful of instances where the AI models came across login details that other companies had left exposed online, and used them to get into accounts on

outside services.

In the Hugging Face episode, the models broke into four accounts across four different services, OpenAI said.

One served as a “staging path” -- a kind of pit stop to route the agent’s activity and cover its tracks -- and another as a place to store data.

The remaining two were only looked at in a “read-only manner” and did not use them to help break into Hugging Face, OpenAI said.

The company said it was contacting the owners of the affected accounts and had “not seen evidence of broader impact”.

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said in an interview published Tuesday that the company had “paused” its own testing after the incident while it improved the security around its “sandboxing” -- the process of isolating safety testing in a controlled environment.

It also triggered a petition signed by over 1,000 employees at AI companies, including Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei, calling on the US government to help slow down the release of the most advanced AI models.

Indonesians file complaint against Netanyahu for Gaza flotilla arrest ‘abuses’

AFP | Jakarta, Indonesia

Nine Indonesians among global activists detained while trying to take aid to Gaza in May filed a complaint against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday alleging crimes against humanity, their lawyer said.

The men were part of the Global Sumud Flotilla intercepted by Israel and detained along with more than 400 other activists, some for days.

The group asked Indonesia’s

Attorney General yesterday to investigate Israel for offences including piracy at sea and crimes against humanity, lawyer Kafin Muhammad said.

“We are asking the Attorney General of the Republic of Indonesia to conduct an investigation into crimes allegedly committed by Zionist Israel,” Muhammad said.

Indonesia’s criminal code gives the country’s courts “universal jurisdiction” over cases that involve crimes committed beyond the country’s borders, he said.

Lebanon probes prominent businessman’s meeting with Netanyahu

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanon tasked the security forces yesterday with investigating a meeting between influential Lebanese Christian businessman Antoun Sehnaoui and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a judicial official said.

Lebanese law criminalises contact with Israel. The countries began direct talks under US sponsorship in April, a month after the latest fighting erupted between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah.

Axios journalist Barak Ravid

said on X that on Monday night in Washington, Sehnaoui and former US envoy Morgan Ortogus hosted a dinner attended by high-profile officials including Netanyahu.

The dinner was in memory of Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, who died this month.

An accompanying photo showing Sehnaoui and Netanyahu at the same table sparked uproar on social media in Lebanon. The judicial official told AFP that the public prosecutor had tasked the security forces “with opening an investigation into the photo”.

Trump vows to hit Iran hard



Saudi and US strike militant bases in Iraq

● Trump said the strikes were “coordinated with the Iraqi government”

● Jordan intercepted five Iranian missiles

AFP | Tehran, Iran

President Donald Trump vowed to hit back hard at Iran after it attacked US bases in Jordan yesterday, as the Middle East war reignited and once again drew in the Islamic republic’s proxies.

The warning came after a short lull in the fighting that had spurred hopes of a return to negotiations appeared to draw to an end, sending oil prices jumping five percent over fears of disruptions to global supplies.

Yesterday, Saudi Arabia and the United States announced strikes on militant bases in Iraq, while US ally Israel accused Iran-backed Hezbollah of a

US-Saudi strikes in Iraq kill 20, including Iranians



An F/A-18E Super Hornet launching from the flight deck of Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (File)

AFP | Baghdad, Iraq

US-Saudi strikes on Iraq killed at least 20, including several Iranians, yesterday, according to the Hashed al-Shaabi, an armed Iraqi alliance that includes pro-Iran groups.

The United States and Saudi Arabia said they had struck Iran-backed armed militants in Iraq in response to attacks on US forces and Saudi oil facilities.

The Hashed al-Shaabi, also known as the Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF), said that at least 20 fighters “were martyred and another 32 wounded according to a preliminary toll”.

Two Hashed officials told AFP that five Iranian advisors were among those killed in a strike in the central province

of Diyala.

The Hashed alliance was created in 2014 to fight jihadists before it was formally integrated into the Iraqi armed forces.

It now includes brigades belonging to Iran-backed groups reputed for acting unilaterally.

Violation

Iraq denounced the US-Saudi strikes and said it rejects “all acts of aggression, regardless of the party responsible or the justifications presented.”

The Ministerial Council for National Security said it would “confront any violation of Iraq’s sovereignty, and prevent any source from using Iraqi territory to threaten neighbouring states”.



We’ll be hitting them hard. They’re going to get a beating. We are going to beat the ‘effing s’ out of them

TRUMP

truce violation.

Iran meanwhile launched missiles at US ally Jordan, with state media later reporting an American attack near the Islamic republic’s border with Iraq.

“We’ll be hitting them hard. They’re going to get a beating,” Fox News’s correspondent quoted Trump as saying, adding that the US president used swear words to emphasise his point: “We are going to beat the ‘effing s’ out of them.”

Earlier, Jordan’s army said it had intercepted five Iranian missiles, with Iran’s Revolutionary Guards saying they had targeted US bases there.



BETTER
YOU
KNOW

Approximately 20% of global oil consumption and around one-third of global LNG trade passed through the Strait of Hormuz before the war.

New US sanctions target Iran’s Hormuz income

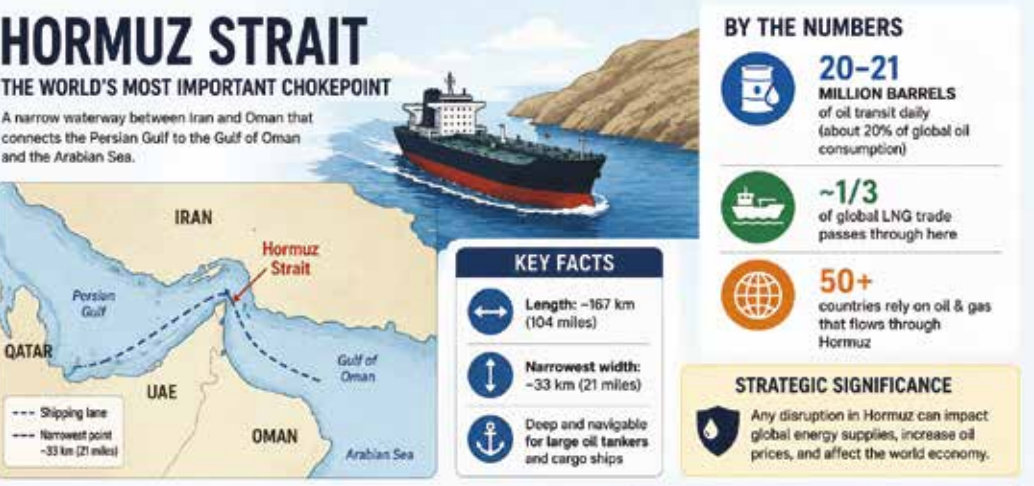
AFP | Washington, United States

The United States yesterday announced new sanctions targeting entities linked to Iran’s Revolutionary Guards that it accused of extorting ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

An “extortion scheme” backed by Iran’s Revolutionary Guard “forces commercial vessels to purchase mandatory maritime ‘insurance’ to transit the Strait,” the US Treasury Department said in a statement.

“These entities manufacture risk -- including the threat of vessel seizures -- and then charge commercial vessels for coverage against dangers created by the regime itself,” a parallel State Department statement said.

The sanctions target the Per-



sian Gulf Marine Insurance Company and the HormuzSafe Marine Services Authority, which, according to Washington, are linked to Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Washington also sanctioned eight companies operating ships that it accused of transporting Iranian crude oil and petrochemicals to China and the United Arab Emir-

ates, in violation of other US sanctions.

These ships are “part of Iran’s ‘shadow fleet,’ which the regime relies on to evade sanctions,” the State Department said.

X

TOP 4 TWEETS

01



During my visit to Cyprus, I heard from many Cypriots. Their message was clear: they want a future defined by cooperation, opportunity & peace. The @UN remains fully committed to supporting a process towards a settlement of the Cyprus issue based on dialogue, respect & good faith.

@antonioguterres

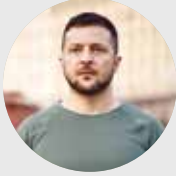
02



No bill became law in the most exceptional republic in human history without Lindsey Graham having a say in it”

@POTUS

03



On the way from Washington, I had a conversation with President Macron. I informed Emmanuel about the details of the meetings in the White House and the U.S. Senate, as well as the prospects that exist in diplomacy right now.

@ZelenskyyUa

04



Greetings to all wildlife enthusiasts on Global Tiger Day. The people of India are proud of the fact that we are home to almost 70% of the global tiger population. India's tiger conservation efforts are inspired by our centuries-old culture of living in harmony with nature and powered by the collective will of our people.

@narendramodi

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

Palestinian Authority floats launching petrol company to tackle fuel crisis

AFP | Ramallah, Palestinian Territories

Palestinian finance minister Estaphan Salameh yesterday floated a slate of proposals to deal with a severe fuel crisis in the occupied West Bank, including the creation of a public petrol company.

For nearly two weeks, scenes of cars lined up at petrol stations have become ubiquitous throughout the West Bank, as stations struggle to provide the three million litres of fuel that the Palestinian territory consumes daily.

AFP journalists have reported Palestinians filling up water bottles in order to get stranded, out-of-gas cars moving again.

Shared taxis, which effectively serve as the West Bank's public transportation system, have threatened to stop operations altogether.

“What is being proposed is



The Palestinian owner of a closed gas station sits near his gas pumps 24 November 2000 in Gaza City

a government-owned company that is fully owned by the state,” Salameh told reporters in Ramallah on Wednesday.

Salameh said he had met with Palestinian industry leaders earlier on Wednesday to discuss reforming the Petroleum Authority, the body currently in

charge of regulating the industry as well as purchasing and transporting fuel. By keeping regulation with the Petroleum Authority and creating a new public company in charge of purchasing and transportation, the government could be more agile in future crises, he said.

More than half of England ‘officially in drought’: UK

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Just over half of England has been declared in drought after “record-low rain and exceptionally high temperatures”, the UK government said yesterday.

It follows what is set to be the driest July on record, with just seven percent of expected rainfall nationwide and some parts of southern England seeing just one percent, according to the government's Environment Agency.

The UK is also currently experiencing its fourth widespread heatwave of 2026.

Describing it as a “flash drought” -- which develops quickly and is caused by a combination of very low rainfall and higher temperatures -- it was the second consecutive summer parts of England were experiencing drought.

“Rivers are running low, farmers are having to harvest crops early, wildfire risk is increasing, and millions of people are living under restrictions on



An aerial photo shows the bed of Woodhead Reservoir is partially revealed by a falling water level, near Glossop, northern England

water use,” the agency said as it made the announcement.

The seven areas declared in drought -- which include London, East Anglia to its northeast, all of southwest England and the West Midlands -- comprises 51.4 percent of the nation.

Representatives from the National Drought Group -- which includes meteorological and

government officials and ministers, regulators, water companies, farmers and others -- convened Tuesday to discuss the situation, the Environment Agency noted.

They reviewed impacts, preparedness plans and drought response actions across England, with the nation's private water companies being told to prioritise fixing leaks, it added.

BTS pulls out of Grammys after Asian pop category introduction

AFP | Seoul, South Korea

Global K-pop sensation BTS said yesterday they will not submit their music for next year's Grammy Awards, following the Recording Academy's introduction of new categories that include the Best Asian Pop Music Performance.

The South Korean megastars had been widely tipped to be in the running for several of the Grammys' top honours, including Album of the Year, after their comeback album, ARIRANG, became one of this year's best-selling hits.

“We have decided not to enter the Grammys this year,” BTS

members said in coordinated posts on their individual Instagram accounts.

“We hope that music is heard and loved for what it is, rather than being defined by region or language,” they said.

Despite performing at the Grammys and earning several nominations, including for Best Music Video, the group has never won.

ARIRANG, named after a South Korean folk song, includes extensive English lyrics and explores themes that include Korean identity following the band's hiatus for mandatory military service.

BETTER YOU KNOW

BTS is the first all-South Korean act to reign over Billboard's US top singles chart, which they achieved with their 2020 track “Dynamite”, their first hit sung completely in English.

India lower house passes bill raising penalties for exam leaks

AFP | New Delhi, India

India's lower house of parliament approved a bill on Wednesday that would toughen penalties for leaking exam papers, after youth-led protests calling for sweeping reforms forced the education minister to resign.

The legislation would double the maximum jail term for those involved in leaking exam papers to 10 years, and raise

es the maximum fine to more than \$1 million.

Lawmakers approved the bill by a voice vote after a raucous, hours-long debate, according to India's public broadcaster.

It will next be put to a vote in the upper house, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling alliance holds a majority. Modi's cabinet greenlighted the stricter punishments last week.

Russia seeks arrest of Telegram founder Pavel Durov

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russia announced yesterday that it was seeking the arrest of Telegram founder Pavel Durov over accusations of “complicity in terrorism”, alleging he had let the platform be used for recruitment by Ukraine's security services.

Russian-born Durov -- a serial tech founder who has lived outside Russia for years and holds French and United Arab Emirates passports -- has frequently clashed with the Russian authorities as Moscow has tightened its grip on the internet.



Pavel Durov

His Telegram messenger is one of the country's main communications platforms and officials have repeatedly tried to block access or thwart its success in a bid to pressure Durov to hand over user data or push Russians to use an unencrypted state-backed alternative.

US to end prescription subsidies for seniors: media

AFP | New York, United States

US President Donald Trump's administration plans to end federal subsidies for prescription drug plans offered to residents over 65 as part of its Medicare health insurance programme, the Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday.

The change could leave some 25 million senior citizens facing serious cost increases for prescription drugs, the report said.

Citing anonymous Trump administration officials, the newspaper said \$3.6 billion in federal subsidies paid to stymie increases in Medicare insurance premiums will end this December.

Those on the subsidized plans will learn of their new

premium rates in autumn.

The move could become a political issue ahead of November's US midterm elections, with prescription drug costs a key concern for many retirees and people living on fixed incomes.

Health policy nonprofit KFF said the average premium for a subsidized plan was around \$36 a month.

A Trump administration official told the Journal that around a quarter of those on the subsidized plan will see their premiums decrease or stay the same in 2027, while another 30% will have a monthly increase of under \$10.

The remaining 45 percent will have a monthly cost increase between \$11 and \$20, the official said.

Crisis-hit Cuba opens pharmacies, gas stations to private firms

AFP | Havana, Cuba

Cuba moved to open crisis-ravaged parts of the state-run economy to private firms yesterday, as the communist government struggles to ease acute shortages resulting from a US energy blockade.

A lengthy decree lifted restrictions on a swath of sectors including petrol distribution, electricity generation, rubbish collection and the manufacture and sale of medicines.

Amid a de-facto US fuel embargo, daily life in Cuba has been upended by rolling blackouts, water cuts and acute shortages of food and medicine.

The reforms seemed designed to target the most affected parts of daily life, and to provide a release value for

growing political pressure.

With piles of rubbish lining the streets of Havana, private firms will be able to operate waste collection and recycling services.

And with few buses or cars on the roads due to petrol shortages, private firms will also be able to sell fuel as well as import and construct electric vehicles.

“Maybe it will be a good thing because, after all, right now there's nothing,” said Ana Diago, 66, who retired and then returned to work at a port company.

“This is a critical moment and we have to find some solutions. The reality is that people are without medicines, without food and without many other things, and life has to go on.”

Classifieds



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RAM MEDICAL CENTER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (DATA PROCESSING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17422022 or bh.ceo@ramclinics.com

PAK KASHMIR SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33229964 or SHIRAZSHAH2002@YAHOO.COM

ICG SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17623723 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

VISION QUEST CONSULTANCY CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34407141 or RAHMATW773@GMAIL.COM

ASHABAB RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39192866 or SHABEEB.SHAMEEL@GMAIL.COM

KARACHI STAR RESTAURANT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33949195 or UBMALIK93@GMAIL.COM

BAHRAIN PRECAST CONCRETE CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17875600 or JSA@BPC.BH

TALAL MART W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33533346 or TALAL-MARKET.BAH@TALALGROUPINTL.COM

ABDULAZIZ ALSAYED TRADING & CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33747598 or AHMED-ALSAYED88@HOTMAIL.COM

INFOSYS DOCUMENT CLEARANCE has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33209258 or emil6694@gmail.com

MAHBEER COMPUTER SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33482399 or MAHBEERK53@GMAIL.COM

GARLIC BROASTED W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36960999 or INFO-BAHRAIN2@GMAIL.COM

NMG MOON MAINTENANCE & REPAIR W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN(VEHICLES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39454342 or MARKHORMOONCO@YAHOO.COM

JDAR COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33930006 or JDAR2BH@GMAIL.COM

SOBIA SALE OF SECOND-HAND GOODS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of REPAIRMAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33293427 or SISTER-SOBIA9@GMAIL.COM

Al Sahel Resort B.S.C. (Closed) has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17561327 or hr@edamah.com

YOUNG JIN ENTERPRISE COMPANY LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(DOCKER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700711 or JEONG.DONG-JIN.0102@GMAIL.COM

YOUNG JIN ENTERPRISE COMPANY LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(DOCKER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700711 or JEONG.DONG-JIN.0102@GMAIL.COM

DAWAHI MALKIYA RESTARANT has a vacan-

cy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39030104 or MMMSS6@HOTMAIL.COM

YOUNG JIN ENTERPRISE COMPANY LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(DOCKER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700711 or JEONG.DONG-JIN.0102@GMAIL.COM

Abraj Marhaba for Publicity & Advertising Co.W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17313372 or MAISA@SPARADISE.COM.BH

YOUNG JIN ENTERPRISE COMPANY LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(DOCKER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700711 or JEONG.DONG-JIN.0102@GMAIL.COM

SANCTUARY RETREAT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of THERAPIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36525433 or vishnupomz@gmail.com

NEW DIMENSION CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77999360 or FISHERMANSENSE@GMAIL.COM

WAEI PHARMACY CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES REPRESENTATIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39690097 or khalid@waelpharmacy.com

NATIONAL TRANSPORT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17256882 or NETTS@ENGINEER.BH

BLUE SPARKO NOVATEX OFFICE MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36563904 or BWC-COMPANY6@GMAIL.COM

SAYACORP HOSPITALITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17170000 or kathrina.nisnisan@conradhotels.com

AL SHAIKH YUSUF GATE CLEANING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17879868 or adeltaherxp@hotmail.com

NASSER ABD MOHAMMED B.S.C(CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700888 or admin@nasserco.net

ATLANTIC SWIMMING POOL has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON ASST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17731388 or A.RAHMAN@ATLANTIC-POOLS.COM

KAKA BABA FINEST CUISINE BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35565354 or HDHBHD786@GMAIL.COM

STRANDS AND POLISH SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37747775 or MARYAM.ZAWAYED@GMAIL.COM

TWO SEAS ELCTRO MECHANICAL SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17540777 or anu.gulfhousegroup@gmail.com

SOOBATT KHANN COMBINED FACILITIES SUPPORT CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33942875 or PRINCEDOHA786@GMAIL.COM

ALNEAMAH CARGO CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17735363 or NEDAL600@HOTMAIL.COM

EATCO Food Transportation W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66706012 or abdul@eatco.me

DIAMOND PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17714284 or info@tawarat.com

LASANI RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33167633 or JAWADKH@GMAIL.COM

LAS TUNAS MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34620626 or RIYADMOSTAFA8@GMAIL.COM

SULB COMPANY B.S.C. CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSISTANT MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17464274 or HUSSAIN.ALI@FOULATH.COM.BH

CHICKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35114403 or DPASIF@YAHOO.COM

KAUR SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34560116 or WAJAHAT.AMJAD91@GMAIL.COM

Coverings M.E.W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MAINTENANCE CLERK, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17104880 or GGEBRAN@COVERINGS-ME.COM

ABDULAZIZ ALSAYED TRADING & CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33747598 or AHMED-ALSAYED88@HOTMAIL.COM

KAYZEE BEAUTY SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66678951 or caferougefinance@gmail.com

MOHAMMED JAKIR FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33037484 or MOHAMMEDJAKIR979@GMAIL.COM

TRIPLE STAR SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37211885 or bh.rashed12@gmail.com

FRESH N COOL CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39461267 or ANABI67M@GMAIL.COM

UNICORP GULF CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39793339 or REZA@UNICORPWLL.COM

ROHAN MART W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38008479 or MADNINIAZI@GMAIL.COM

AHMED MANSOOR ALAALI has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17265555 or adeel.hameed@al-aali.com

Olive Green Contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of DRAFTSMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17694922 or contact@OGCBH.NET

RUWAIDA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32302725 or NOORGAZI@GMAIL.COM

BETTER LIFE HAIR DRESSING has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIR DRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36511997 or 007ALMAHRIN@GMAIL.COM

UMM ALSUBBAN MECHANICAL CONTRACTS has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17491190 or usmc@batelco.com.bh

BAHRAIN GUARDING SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77996666 or GOVERNMENT@mre.co

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BAHRAIN GUARDING SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77996666 or GOVERNMENT@mre.co

GOLDEN TOUCH CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345150 or raihan@gtcbah.com

BAHRAIN GUARDING SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77996666 or GOVERNMENT@mre.co

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AL MANSOORI MANPOWER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR(-HOUSEKEEPING AFFAIRS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 77910668 or ALMAN-SOORIMANPOWERBH@GMAIL.COM

Ahmadi carpentry has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33707595 or ABDUL-LAHUSSAIN117@GMAIL.COM

ALTAWFEEK MAINTENANCE SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786828 or YASMEEN@ALTAWFEEK.NET

GOLDEN TRUCK RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDWICHES MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17622757 or ISAJANAHI1936@GMAIL.COM

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

HOUSTON LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of WASHING MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35458563 or CHANGAIZBASHIR79@GMAIL.COM

HOUSTON LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of DATA ENTRY OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35458563 or CHANGAIZBASHIR79@GMAIL.COM

KOREAN BAKERY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17587666 or FAISAL@ALIREZA.BH

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

FOS CAFE has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (RESTURANTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36363161 or MK.BAHRAIN@HOTMAIL.COM

BAI BAI GOODS RE-EXPORT SERVICES CO BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66991080 or MIRZAMUBEEN1155@GMAIL.COM

ALKOOHEJI BUILDING CARE has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17710710 or info@koohejibuildingcare.com

CLEO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36555637 or ALANSARIFATEN@GMAIL.COM

KAKA BABA FINEST CUISINE BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35565354 or HDHBHD786@GMAIL.COM

PAK AL BURQA CARGO HANDLING has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39554198 or MADDHA70@GMAIL.COM

8T8 CARGO COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33328694 or DARMAN.CARGO@YAHOO.COM

AJORA GLOW STUDIO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35917512 or SECURECLEARANCE@GMAIL.COM

SAHAHEL CONSTRUCTION EST has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39229366 or HASAN337722@GMAIL.COM

NOMIS KARAK W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36077284 or AHMADABDULSAMAD574@GMAIL.COM

AL NEBRAS WORLD SERVICES. has a vacancy for the occupation of CUSTOMER SERVICES COORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224764 or ABDULADHEEM.ALALI@GMAIL.COM

LALABELLA CAFE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CHOCOLATE MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17471111 or hr@lalabellabh.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

PUNJAB CITY CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34111999 or SHAREF.WORKS@GMAIL.COM

ZAYKA RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77938713 or zaykaumalhassam@gmail.com

KARAK JEE CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39122259 or ALWANIO07@HOTMAIL.COM

PROMISE FACILITIE SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37342579 or TAWFITSAMMIR@GMAIL.COM

CLEAN AND FRESH LAUNDRY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35001718 or SAJIDBAJWAI@YAHOO.COM

Maria new Fashions Centre WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33676709 or RAJUJOSE71@GMAIL.COM

B CAFE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39440475 or ENG.H.NASSAR2018@GMAIL.COM

IKRA RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35129241 or GIOBH786@GMAIL.COM

TEA BOX CAFE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JUICE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39543746 or AZZ1196@GMAIL.COM

GRILL AND THRILL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36020031 or PRINCEBURGER@GMAIL.COM

SPLASH SWIMMING POOL Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION) GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17736870 or splash-pools.bh@gmail.com

TAKAMUL SERVICES CO (TASCO) W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17344107 or MAJAJ101@HOTMAIL.COM

EATCO Food Transportation W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66706012 or abdul@eatco.me

AL SAHARA PACKAGING INDUSTRIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39089719 or alsaharaspc18@gmail.com

Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

KEEP COOL FOR ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW). GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33433238 or HARDEEPSARA1980@GMAIL.COM

RAZORS & SCISSORS HAIR SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34061993 or saqibranasq@gmail.com

NASSER ABD MOHAMMED B.S.C(CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of OPERATOR(MOBILE-CRANE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700888 or admin@nasserco.net

HASAN LARI CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17292760 or MOHD@HHLARI.COM

BOX MAKER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17231660 or layla@haridasp.com

HIGHLAND INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17483034 or NAVAL.DOGRA@HIMCOBAHRAIN.COM

BRIGHT CASTLES CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17001335 or BRIGHT-CASTLES@HOTMAIL.COM

Cinco Contracting W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SAFETY INSPECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77225050 or satish@cinco-me.com

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

LAUNDRYROOM BY KUYA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PURCHASING AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39840693 or ES.SAMEER60@GMAIL.COM

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

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

FRESH & CLEAN HAIR DRESSING SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIR DRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 381373107 or SEEMABIFKHAT-IB@MAIL.COM

NASSER ABD MOHAMMED B.S.C(CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700888 or admin@nasserco.net

A G DYNAMICS SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35119080 or info@aguldynamics.com

ALNEAMAH CARGO CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17735363 or NEDAL600@HOTMAIL.COM

ALNABATI JAKARATI RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17228578 or rajukjoshi@yahoo.com

UM HUZHAIFA USED GOODS TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37990009 or NAEF333766@GMAIL.COM

L M C S CARGO SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DATA ENTRY OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33479339 or WAGARHASHMI86G@YAHOO.COM

BINT E RASHEED INTERIORS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38026824 or anwaarislam.bhm@gmail.com

SOFT ELECTRONIC SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38782875 or SOFTELECTRONIC.BH@GMAIL.COM

SWISS-BELSUITES ADMIRAL JUFFAIR W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17252717 or RECRUITMENTSSAJ@SWISS-BELHOTEL.COM

ASIAN GATE SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER-HAIRDRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35069139 or SHAHADCHOHAN8@GMAIL.COM

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

oceanic contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17001166 or YUSUF@OCEANICBH.COM

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

ICG SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17623723 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

ICG SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17623723 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

REGAL MAINTENANCE & SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SAFETY OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17448936 or regal@rmswll.com

HAITHAM MAINTENANCE SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR(INTERNAL WORKS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39610010 or RMDN-HAITHAM@GMAIL.COM

LOCATION ME CAFE has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39785588 or ABUZAH-RA993@GMAIL.COM

ALREEM CREATIVITY TAILORING has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37753755 or ALI.AL MUTAWA.89@GMAIL.COM

THE GLOBAL SYNAPSE CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33071999 or MQA-SIM255@GMAIL.COM

SAFARI COMPANY CLOSED JOINT STOCK COMPANY BRANCH OF A FOREIGN COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66645656 or YUSUF@SAFARI.COM.SA

NASS CONTRACTING COMPANY (W.L.L) has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725522 or yousif@aanass.net

ALUBAF ARAB INTERNATIONAL BANK (BAHRAIN) B.S.C. (CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17517728 or Amer. Alsheaibani@alubafbank.com

Havelock One Interiors WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICAL PROJECT MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832022 or HAMIDA.ALHUBAIL@HAVELOCKONE.COM

RUKUN ALYAQeen INTERNATIONAL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17718033 or BHABANI.MISHRA@rayinternational.bh

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

AL-RAWABI SCHOOL has a vacancy for the occupation of ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17505252 or AWATIFRADHI@GMAIL.COM

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32376386 or ALTRAD-MENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

AREENA CONTRACTOR GROUP CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17245222 or HR@AREEN-AGROUP.COM

Oasis Delmon Steel Fabrication & Trading W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36646766 or DAI-REX1@HOTMAIL.COM

EATCO Food Transportation W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66706012 or abdul@eatco.me

Beroa Abu Obaid Industrial Insulation Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700204 or BEROAABUOBAID@GMAIL.COM

USMAN JAVED MANAGMENT CONSULTANCY COMAPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36114302 or MOHAMMEDSADIQ6239@GMAIL.COM

NASEER AHMED MARKETING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33331564 or PAPERFLOWBH@GMAIL.COM

KHAIR AL HUDA BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39001533 or AJMAL.AL8598@GMAIL.COM

G7 TECH SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(ELECTRICIAN/ WIREMAN), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39540592 or GASIVAGUNA@GMAIL.COM

ASTRAL TECHNOLOGIES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17369975 or KS@ASTRAL-TECH.COM

ZAM ZAM PACKAGING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34649636 or CHB17092@GMAIL.COM

NOBLE HAVEN GIFTS & TRADE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35900842 or NAV-EEDKHAAAN7@GMAIL.COM

RUBY STAR MARKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39462260 or AHUJAJIRI@HOTMAIL.COM

BABAN 43 CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36940229 or 2A773310@GMAIL.COM

CHAUHAN BROTHER SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICAL WORKER, suitably qualified appli-

cants can contact 35002840 or JJIN7083@GMAIL.COM

QUICK ZEBRA SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

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GCC Condemns Attacks on Saudi Arabia

Council reaffirms full solidarity with Riyadh, warns of threat to regional security

The Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi, strongly condemned continued terrorist attacks targeting Saudi Arabia by Iran-backed militias in Iraq.

Albudaiwi said the attacks represent a dangerous escalation and a blatant violation of Saudi Arabia's sovereignty, posing a direct threat to its security, stability, and the wider regional peace and security.

He reaffirmed the GCC countries' full solidarity with Saudi Arabia, stressing that member states stand united with the Kingdom and sup-



port all measures taken to protect its security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

The GCC Secretary-General warned that continuing such attacks undermines international efforts to reduce tensions and strengthen security and stability across the region.

Kuwait, Pakistan Discuss Stronger Defence Cooperation

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister meets Pakistan Army Chief in Islamabad



Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, held talks with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff and Commander of the Defence Forces, Field Marshal Asim Munir, during his official visit to Islamabad on Wednesday.

The meeting reviewed the long-standing and historic relations between Kuwait and Pakistan, with both sides highlighting the importance of expanding cooperation and strengthening coordination across various fields.

Discussions focused particu-

larly on defence and security cooperation, emphasizing enhanced bilateral ties and advancing shared interests between the two friendly nations.

The two sides also exchanged views on the latest regional developments, efforts to reduce tensions, and initiatives aimed at promoting security and stability in the region.

Sheikh Jarrah expressed Kuwait's appreciation for Pakistan's active diplomatic efforts in supporting regional peace and stability. He reaffirmed the importance of continued consultation and cooperation between the two countries.

UAE Calls for Full Gaza Ceasefire Implementation at UN

Abu Dhabi Reaffirms Support for Two-State Solution, Condemns Settlement Expansion



The United Arab Emirates called for further progress in implementing UN Security Council Resolution 2803, including strengthening the Gaza ceasefire, reopening all crossings, and ensuring the uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian aid.

Speaking during an open debate at the UN Security Council on the Palestinian question, UAE Chargé d'Affaires ad interim and Deputy Permanent Representative Ambassador Ghada Shahin stressed the importance of supporting Gaza's early recovery

efforts and addressing the humanitarian situation.

Ambassador Shahin reaffirmed the UAE's commitment to supporting a comprehensive plan to end the conflict in Gaza while advancing efforts toward achieving a two-state solution that ensures peace and stability in the region.

The UAE also reiterated its condemnation of Israeli settlement activities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and voiced concern over escalating violence by settlers against Palestinians.

Ismail Abdullatif eyes coaching after retirement

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Two weeks after hanging his shoes, Bahrain's record goalscorer Ismail Abdullatif (Soma) has declared his retirement a tabula rasa as he weighs coaching, club work and a possible move into the media.

The former Bahrain striker said he was already in talks with Al-Khaldiya over what comes next. He had once favoured an office role, but now feels drawn towards coaching and work on the football side.

'I am against someone judging Ismail and saying, "This is your limit. Retire",' he said. 'I believe this is the right time.'

He does not see retirement as a break with football, nor as a chance to reopen old rows.

He said he bore no ill will towards the clubs or people he had dealt with and wanted to keep sound ties across the game.

His career took in one of Bahraini football's most bitter transfer rows, when he left Al-Hala for Al-Nasr of Oman in a bid to win control over his own future.

Abdullatif said players at the time often had no sound contracts, fixed pay or freedom to choose where they played. He likened the system to 'slavery', saying clubs held power over a player's career and income.

With help from a Kuwaiti agent, he moved to Oman in a planned bid to become a free player. Al-Hala responded by banning him for two years.

Many supporters believed Al-Muharraq had arranged the move. Abdullatif denied this, saying he acted alone and had no talks with the club while the deal was being worked on.



Ismail Abdullatif

He later moved to Al-Muharraq and spent much of his career there before leaving for Al-Khaldiya.

That switch, he said, was the hardest choice of his playing life.

Abdullatif said he chose to take the risk despite the strain of leaving a club with which he had become closely linked.

'I am a bit stubborn,' he said. 'I like a challenge. You say Ismail cannot do it? Let us see.'

Abdullatif also spoke of Bahrain's golden generation and the huge support it received from His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa and His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Yet the side never reached the World Cup.

He blamed uneven form and missed chances, pointing to the qualifier against Hong Kong as a match that badly hurt Bahrain's hopes.

The greatest prize of his international career came in 2019, when Bahrain won the Gulf Cup for the first time.

Injury kept him out of the playing squad, but Abdullatif stayed close to the players, coaches and club staff throughout the tournament.

He said the win still felt as though he had played every minute because the joy spread far beyond those on the pitch.

The lasting image came when he and goalkeeper Sayed Mohammed Jaffer were chosen to receive and lift the cup in Doha. Plans had been made for the two senior players to take part in the ceremony, giving them a place in a victory that had taken Bahrain decades to reach.

Abdullatif described receiving the trophy from the Amir of Qatar as almost unreal. The scenes in Doha, followed by the celebrations in Bahrain, remain among his strongest memories.

He also recalled words from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa that drove him on late in his career.

'Do not listen to them when they say you are old,' the King told him, according to Abdullatif.



Retirement is a new beginning, not the end of my journey in football

ISMAIL ABDULLATIF

He said the words pushed him to carry on for several years and helped him shut out calls to retire before he felt ready.

His mother, he added, was the main force behind him throughout his playing years. Her prayers and support mattered more to him than praise from the stands.

He also said football should bring people together rather than split them by club colours, arguing that friendships made away from the pitch outlast old rivalries.

Years at Al-Muharraq and with the national side also taught him how to deal with public criticism.

He said he built a mental 'shield' against attacks on social media and learnt to judge himself by his work rather than outside noise.

Abdullatif has tried business before, including a gym, but said his main strength and interest still lie within football.

Coaching and club management remain the clearest paths. Media work and podcasting are also under consideration.

He admitted that formal events can still make him nervous, but said he feels at ease in open interviews and long-form talks.

For now, there is no bitterness and no wish to settle old scores.

His playing days are over. The next page, he said, is blank.

Ebrahim Nader Secures Historic British Race Victory



Ebrahim Nader
Manama

Bahraini jockey Ebrahim Nader achieved a new milestone for Bahraini horseracing by claiming his first victory on British racecourses with a win in a handicap race riding the horse Distinct Spirit at Ffos Las Racecourse in the United Kingdom.

On this occasion, Mr. Yusuf Osama Buheji, Undersecretary for Research and Projects at the Prime Minister's Office, Member of the High Committee of the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC), and Acting Chief Executive Officer, affirmed that this outstanding achievement reflects the continued support extended to Bahrain's sports sector, particularly equestrianism and horseracing, by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. He noted that this has contributed to strengthening the Kingdom of Bahrain's standing on the sporting stage and enhancing its presence at regional and international championships and sporting events. He also highlighted the significant efforts and continued support of His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Club, through the Bahrain Jockey Foundation, continues to implement programmes aimed at investing in Bahraini talent and providing development opportunities that enable Bahraini jockeys to gain further experience and strengthen their presence on international racecourses.

Mr. Buheji congratulated jockey Ebrahim Nader on this achievement, praising his outstanding performance, which earned him his first victory on British racecourses. He emphasized that this accomplishment reflects the success of the development programmes implemented by the Bahrain Jockey Foundation in preparing and developing Bahraini jockeys, and demonstrates the competence and ability of Bahraini jockeys to compete suc-



Yusuf Buheji



Bahraini jockey Ebrahim Nader's achievement on British racecourses reflects the competence and ability of Bahraini jockeys to compete and achieve international success

YUSUF BUHEJI

cessfully and achieve international success. He wished him continued success and further positive results in his upcoming competitions.

In line with the vision of the High Committee of the REHC, chaired by His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Club, through the Bahrain Jockey Foundation, continues to implement programmes aimed at investing in Bahraini talent and providing development opportunities that enable Bahraini jockeys to gain further experience and strengthen their presence on international racecourses.

This victory came during Ebrahim Nader's participation in the training programme implemented by the Bahrain Jockey Foundation. The programme aims to prepare Bahraini jockeys and provide them with the opportunity to gain practical experience through training and participation in British races, contributing to the further development of their abilities and the refinement of their skills in a professional racing environment.

U18 Gulf basketball championship reaches climax

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's U18 men's national basketball team will take on hosts Qatar today with the Gulf Basketball Association (GBA) U18 Championship title on the line in Doha.

The game is scheduled to tip off at 7pm Bahrain time.

Both teams have already secured qualification for the Fiba U18 Asia Cup 2026 in Ahmedabad, India, after sealing the top two places in the Gulf qualifying tournament. Today's meeting will determine the championship winners.

Bahrain head into the contest with an unbeaten record after opening their campaign with a commanding 106-51 victory over Kuwait. The kingdom followed that with a 62-54 win over Saudi Arabia before cruising to a 94-49 triumph over Oman.

Arab Youth Championship Most Valuable Player Somto Patrick Onoduenyi has been one of Bahrain's standout performers. He registered 19 points



Yousif Meshael in action for Bahrain

and 15 rebounds against Oman, while Mohamed Adel Abdulla and Yousif Yaqoob Meshael each contributed 14 points.

Qatar have also enjoyed an impressive run on home court. The hosts edged Saudi Arabia 80-76 in their opener, with Abdullah Yassin leading the way with 24 points, before defeating Kuwait 81-53. They then overcame Oman yesterday to remain unbeaten heading into today's decisive encounter.

Head coach Salman Ramadhan will be hoping Bahrain can finish the tournament on a high by adding the Gulf title to the Arab Youth Men's Basketball Championship crown they captured earlier this month.

With Bahrain's qualification confirmed, 15 of the 16 places at this year's Fiba U18 Asia Cup have now been decided. The kingdom joins defending champions Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, hosts India, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Lebanon, New Zealand, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Syria and Thailand. One place remains available.

Bahrain Victorious hail Martinez’s tour breakthrough

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain Victorious have praised Lenny Martinez’s breakthrough performance at the 2026 Tour de France, with sports director Enrico Gasparotto highlighting the French rider’s maturity and leadership during the three-week race.

Martinez, who turned 23 during this year’s Tour, finished fifth overall after emerging as Bahrain Victorious’ general classification leader when pre-race team leader Antonio Tiberi struggled in the opening week.

The Italian outfit had initially built their campaign around Tiberi but shifted their strategy as Martinez continued to impress.

“We began with Antonio Ti-



Lenny Martínez at the 2026 Tour de France

beri as our rider for the general classification, but he did not have the legs for it,” Gasparotto said. “The internal dynamics changed, and it took us about a week to adapt and focus on the general classification with Lenny, with Antonio moving into a support role.”

Gasparotto said Martinez’s calm personality proved vital as Bahrain Victorious rallied around him during the second half of the race.

“When you have a personality who brings calm and composure to his teammates, as Lenny did during the second and third weeks, you already have a major advantage,” he said. “Lenny helped the group grow and, from a certain point onwards, united everyone.”

He also praised Martinez’s consistency throughout the

Tour.

“Finishing fifth in a Tour de France of this level, and above all doing so while getting stronger, is an excellent sign.”

Gasparotto also compared Martinez’s performance with that of highly rated French teenager Paul Seixas, who finished one place ahead of him in fourth.

While Seixas faded during the closing stages of the race, Gasparotto said Martinez continued to improve as the Tour progressed.

“It was exactly the opposite with Martinez,” he said. “His performance was outstanding. He played a key role during the final two days. When you consider that even Paul Seixas, the most highly rated young talent, paid the price, it was exactly the opposite with Martinez.”

Gasparotto also urged French fans and media to avoid placing excessive expectations on the young rider following his breakout Tour.

“I just hope the French do not put too much pressure on him,” he said. “Lenny comes from a cycling family. Both his father and grandfather were riders. I think this result makes the entire Martinez family proud.”

Bahrain Victorious will now turn their attention to the Renewi Tour, which takes place from August 19 to 23, before also competing in La Vuelta a España, running from August 22 to September 13, where Pau Miquel is set to represent the team. The squad will then race in the Bretagne Classic - CIC on August 30 as they continue their UCI WorldTour campaign.

FIFA hit by furious backlash over plans to sell stake in competitions

Opposition grows as FIFA defends plans to raise billions through new commercial entity

- Infantino offers associations \$40 million for backing
- Opponents label offered payments as pure bribery
- Regional bodies express deep concern and disappointment
- Council approval still pending

AFP | Paris

There was a furious backlash on Wednesday to FIFA’s controversial plans to sell a stake in the business operations of the World Cup and its other competitions through the creation of a private subsidiary.

World football’s governing body had said yesterday it would retain a majority share in FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) but hoped to raise \$4.2 billion later this year by “carefully selecting long-term investors who will purchase minority, non-controlling interests”.

Various media outlets reported on Wednesday that FIFA president Gianni Infantino had sent a letter to the associations saying they will each receive \$40 million if they back the plan -- but they must sign up by September 19.

“In total for the upcoming cycle starting as of January 1, 2027, each member association will have the possibility of access up to \$40 million per member association under this proposal,” said Infantino.

The Times -- which broke the original story yesterday -- said sources opposed to the plan had labelled it “pure bribery”.



President Donald Trump and FIFA President Gianni Infantino hold the FIFA World Cup Winner’s Trophy (file photo)

\$40mn

is offered by FIFA President Gianni Infantino to each member association that backs the controversial World Cup stake sale by September 19

UEFA had issued a blunt statement regarding the plan and was due to hold an emergency meeting later on Wednesday according to France’s sports minister.

“Many in European football see FIFA’s plans as an outright attack on football. I share this view. A line has been crossed here,” Hans-Joachim Watzke, a vice-president of UEFA’s executive committee, told Germany’s Kicker.

The Times reported Infantino, 56, stood to profit from the scheme by becoming com-

missioner of the FFE after his expected next term expires in 2031. FIFA denied that this had been discussed.

The article also said discussion had started with financial advisors and potential investors. Those include Thrive capital, an investment company founded and led by Joshua Kushner, brother of US President Donald Trump’s son-in-law Jared, as well as an arm of JP Morgan Chase, the US bank that attempted to finance the failed breakaway European Super League.

UEFA, which has regularly criticised Infantino, said the plan “crosses a line”.

“The soul and governance of football are not assets to trade -- especially with zero transparency as to who gains financially. None of us are the owners of football. It is not FIFA’s to sell.”

The European Union made no bones about their disdain for the plan.

“Hands off our game,” Glenn



FIFA aims to raise \$4.2 billion by selling minority, non-controlling stakes in its newly proposed subsidiary, FIFA Forward Enterprise, which it values at an initial equity valuation of \$20 billion

Micallef, the EU commissioner for Sport, posted on X.

CONCACAF, which governs North and Central American football, said it was “deeply concerned by the lack of due process”.

The Asian Football Confederation said it was “disappointed” it had not been consulted.

The plan would still have to be approved by the 38-member FIFA council and the majority of its 211 member associations (MAS). FIFA said it intends to present the plans to the council soon.

‘Further expanded’

FIFA said in its statement that it “would retain sole control of FFE and exclusive authority over football governance, competitions, match calendar, and all regulatory and sporting decisions”.

It said it believed FFE would achieve an “initial equity valuation of \$20bn”.

FIFA said each of its MAS would be given the chance to take a one-off stake of \$20mn in FFE.

That represents only 0.1 percent of the total, but would be a significant sum for the leaderships of FIFA’s poorer or smaller members.

Muharraq step up season preparations



Players depart for their pre-season training camp in Turkey

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahraini football giants Muharraq have departed for a two-week pre-season training camp in Turkey as they begin preparations for the 2026-27 campaign under new head coach Isa Al Saadoon.

The Bahraini tactician takes charge following the departure of Portuguese coach Fernando Manuel de Jesus Santos, who guided Muharraq to a remarkable domestic double last season.

Muharraq enter the new campaign as reigning Nasser bin Hamad Premier League champions after securing a record-extending 35th league title, while also lifting their 20th His Majesty the King’s Cup. The club also retained the league crown to complete back-to-back championship-winning seasons.

The training camp will run from July 29 to August 13 and includes four friendly matches

as Al Saadoon begins shaping his squad ahead of the new season.

Muharraq will face UAE side Fujairah on August 2, Egyptian club ZED FC on August 6, and Algerian outfit ES Sétif on August 9. Their final warm-up fixture is scheduled for August 12 against an opponent yet to be confirmed.

The travelling squad comprises 27 players: Sayed Mohammed Jaafar, Waleed Al Hayam, Amine Benaddi, Hussain Jameel, Ahmed Al Sherooqi, Abdulla Al Khulasi, Hasan Al Karrani, Ahmed Rabee, Mohamed Al Banna, Abdulwahab Al Malood, Soufian Mahrouq, Hussain Abdulkarim, Ashraf Al Sebaei, Edimar Ribeiro da Costa Junior, Mohammed Al Hardan, Ahmed Bughamar, Abdulkarim Diarra, Elliott Simoes, Gervasio Oliveira, Abdulwahab Hanan, Vladan Dekic, Arthur Rezende, Ibrahim Sanad, Abdulla Jamal, Anderson Leite, Facundo Tobares and Sami Bassam.

Tel on target as Tottenham held to 1-1 draw by Sydney FC

AFP | Sydney

Tottenham striker Mathys Tel scored a stunning freekick as the London club were held to a 1-1 draw by Sydney FC on Wednesday in a setback to their pre-season momentum.

Frenchman Tel produced a glorious strike on 29 minutes but Roberto De Zerbi’s team failed to capitalise and Sydney’s new Japanese signing Takahiro Sekine levelled early in the second half.

They played a penalty shoot-out, which Spurs won 4-2.

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