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Power victory



Interior Ministry's powerlifting team member Major Abdullah Abdulwahab Salmeen won first place in the 140 kg Asian category, in addition to Asian 240 Bench Press in the Overall Champion Trophy at the World Powerlifting Championship for Professionals held in Thailand. The President of the Public Security Sports Association, Brigadier Khalid Al Khayyat, noted that the continuous support provided by His Excellency Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa is a key behind the Ministry's sporting achievements.

Ukraine 'behind' attacks on Black Sea oil tankers

AFP | Kyiv

Ukraine was responsible for attacks on two oil tankers in the Black Sea that it believed were covertly transporting sanctioned Russian oil, a Ukrainian security source said.

The two tankers, the Virat and the Kairos, were rocked by explosions in Turkey's coast late Friday, according to the Turkish transport ministry. One of the two was struck again early yesterday, the ministry said.

"Modernised Sea Baby naval drones successfully targeted the vessels," a source in Ukraine's SBU security service told AFP.

It shared a video that purported to show sea drones gliding towards the two ships, before sparking explosions.

Simplified criteria

MPs seek housing eligibility based on income at application only

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Parliament will on Tuesday vote on a proposal to base eligibility for public housing on an applicant's monthly income at the time the application is filed, without a second check when the nomination card is issued.

The motion comes from MPs Bader Al Tamimi, Dr Ali Al Nuaimi, Hamad Al Doy, Abdulla Al Dhaen and Abdulwahid Qarata.

They say housing applicants often wait for many years before a unit is allocated, during which ordinary pay rises can push them over the upper income limit and lead to their files being rejected.

Current rules, laid down in Ministerial Decision No. 909 of 2015 and amended by Decision No. 900 of 2024, require that an applicant's monthly income does not exceed BD900 at the time of applying and does not exceed BD1,200 when the nomination certificate is issued.

Wait

In practice, according to the proposers, the wait between the first application and receipt of a nomination certificate can

The wait between the first application and receipt of a nomination certificate can stretch to five years or longer. In some cases, the wait for a suitable unit can reach 15 years.

stretch to five years or longer, and in some cases the wait for a suitable unit can reach 15 years.

They argue that, over such a long period, it is normal for a person's income to rise above BD1,200, even by a small margin, and that this rise then becomes a reason to refuse the application at the nomination stage.



MP Bader Al Tamimi

In their view, this leaves low-income applicants who have already spent years in the queue at risk of losing access to housing because of delays on the administrative side rather than any fault of their own.

The MPs base their case on Article 9, paragraph (w), of the Constitution, which states that the state works to provide housing for citizens with limited incomes.

Hurdles

They say housing services are meant for Bahrainis with modest means, and that extra hurdles at the nomination stage

sit uneasily with that aim.

Linking eligibility to income at the time of the original application, they contend, would better match the long waiting times built into the system.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, in its written reply, said ministerial decisions govern the conditions attached to each housing service, including income thresholds, and that these thresholds are set at BD900 at the time of application and BD 1,200 when the nomination certificate is issued.

Status

It said clause 4 of Article 5 of

Decision No. 909 of 2015 was amended to ensure that the income test applies from the date of application through to the nomination stage, so that the applicant's status is clear over the whole period.

According to the ministry, freezing the income check at the date of application would extend public housing to people who are no longer counted as low income and would therefore disrupt the constitutional concept of 'limited income'.

It drew a line between long-term housing services and financing services, which it described as immediate; for the latter, applicants must meet the income and other conditions at the time of the request, with no need to join waiting lists.

Support

Despite the ministry's stance, Parliament's Public Utilities and Environment Committee, with all attending members in agreement, has recommended backing the proposal.

The committee pointed to the public-interest grounds cited in the explanatory memorandum and urged MPs to approve the motion when it comes before the chamber on Tuesday.

Farmers' Market 2025-2026 season opens



The Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, in partnership with the National Initiative for Agricultural Development (NIAD) and with support from stc Bahrain and Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC), opened the 2025-2026 season of the Farmers' Market during an official ceremony held at the Budaiya Botanical Garden in the presence of officials and a large number of visitors. Attendees toured the market in its new season, which runs until February 14, 2026, and continues to serve as a national model for supporting Bahraini farmers while offering an engaging community experience for visitors. Shaikha Maram bint Isa Al Khalifa, Secretary General of NIAD, said the new season reflects the importance attached to the agricultural sector and food security by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, supported by the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. (Detailed report on Page 2)

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Day of fresh festivities

Farmers' Market opens new season with vibrant local harvest

● **Community spirit shines at Budaiya Botanical Garden**

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

The Farmers' Market returned to the Budaiya Botanical Garden with a bustling opening day that brought together farmers, families and visitors of all ages.

The atmosphere was rich with colour and energy as Bahraini farmers showcased freshly harvested produce, from crisp lettuce and bright tomatoes to fragrant locally grown lemons.

The market's setting, surrounded by greenery and morning breezes, offered an inviting start to the new season.

Rows of stalls were filled with homegrown fruits and vegetables cultivated by Bahraini farmers who take pride in producing crops that reflect the country's agricultural heritage.

Many spoke about the importance of supporting local farms and preserving Bahrain's tra-



Bahraini farmers welcome families and visitors with newly harvested produce and lively displays

ditional cultivation practices, especially as demand for fresh, chemical-free produce continues to rise among residents.

Adding to the market's traditional charm were local beekeepers presenting honey produced in private apiaries across the kingdom.

Their presence offered visitors a glimpse into Bahrain's longstanding relationship with beekeeping, while jars of golden honey illustrated the dedication and craftsmanship behind each harvest.

Younger visitors enjoyed a dedicated corner where they learned to plant seeds in cups

under the supervision of teacher Jihad Jaafar.

The activity became a highlight of the day, giving children a hands-on introduction to planting and encouraging them to appreciate the value of nature from an early age.

Insights

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Tribune, the founder of Early Riser shared insights into the project's second consecutive year participating in the market.

The stall features two main product lines: granolas and nut butters.

The granola collection includes super-seed blends and oat-free varieties alongside a standout product, the Ageli granola, which is available exclusively at Early Riser.

The nut butter range offers unique flavours, including a distinctive Karak tea butter that comes highly recommended.

The founder invited visitors to explore the stall and sample the products, emphasising the brand's commitment to quality and creative flavour pairings.

Another exclusive interview captured the perspective of a visitor attending the market for the second year.

The visitor expressed strong enthusiasm for the overall experience, praising the freshness of the produce and the friendliness of the farmers.

They also highlighted their enjoyment of the market's food offerings, particularly the unique juices and freshly brewed coffee available at various stalls.

Meeting friends at the market has become a pleasant routine, contributing to a sense of community that encourages them to return regularly and visit again next week.

The Daily Tribune also spoke to two visitors who have been attending the Farmers' Market

for years. One has been a regular for nearly a decade, while the other has attended for at least five years.

Both praised the improvements made over time, noting enhancements in stall arrangements, renovations around the garden and a noticeable increase in the number of farmers and the variety of fresh produce, especially after the summer season.

They described the market as a family-friendly space where children can enjoy greenery and learn about the value of quality food.

Breakfast at the market has become a cherished routine, complemented by the consistently fresh taste of the local harvest.

The event continues to stand as one of Bahrain's warmest community gatherings, uniting local agriculture, family friendly activities and cultural performances in a single vibrant setting.

With expanded participation, richer produce and growing visitor enthusiasm, this season strengthens the market's role as a cornerstone of cultural and agricultural identity.

Bahrain welcomes Japan Anime Fest 2025



H.E. Japanese Ambassador Okai Asako with cosplayers at the opening ceremony

Neethu Vayalakkara
TDT | Manama

The Japan Anime Fest 2025 at Epix Cinemas in Dana Mall has drawn a strong turnout of anime fans, students, and cultural enthusiasts.

Organized by the Embassy of Japan in Bahrain, The Japan Foundation, Epix Cinemas, and Bahrain Polytechnic, the festival continues with a weekend programme of screenings and cultural activities.

Thursday's inauguration featured a cosplayer gathering, an opening ceremony, and screenings of Children of the Sea and the sci-fi drama Time of Eve.

Attendees also viewed a display of rare anime figures and collectibles, adding a notable visual highlight to the launch.

The festival builds on the momentum of the special November 6 screening of Children of the Sea, held under the "One Ocean, Our Future" initiative, with audience feedback now featured in a video presentation.

A key feature of this year's

edition is its expanded presence through a special collaboration with Bahrain Polytechnic.

For those who missed the screenings at Epix Cinemas, Dana Mall, the same lineup is being shown at Bahrain Polytechnic - Hall 12, which is hosting a three-day programme from December 2 to 4.

Free screenings include Almost a Miracle, The House of the Lost on the Cape, and Lu Over the Wall, with multiple daily showings.

Guide

A venue map highlighting the main entrance, guest parking, and Hall 12 is available to guide visitors.

Organizers emphasized that the Polytechnic partnership aims to strengthen engagement with younger audiences.

This collaboration is especially important because of the focus on young people and to encourage them to understand more about Japanese culture.

The university setting is expected to create the optimum vibe.

During the opening ceremony at Epix Cinema, Dana Mall on Thursday, the Japanese Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.E. Okai Asako, underscored the cultural importance of the festival, noting that the screened films present diverse themes and creative expression and how these stories act as bridges between Japanese and Bahraini cultures, helping build understanding and appreciation.

The Ambassador added that the festival is not just about cinema, but also inspiring and encouraging students, young artists, and newcomers to explore Japanese storytelling.

"Animation is a powerful artistic medium," she added.

With activities at both Epix Cinemas and Bahrain Polytechnic, the event highlights Japanese animation and foster cultural exchange in Bahrain.

Screenings are free and open to the public, with the programme running until December 4 and additional events continuing through the week.




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Justice gateway

MPs back host country deal for Hague Arbitration Court office in Bahrain

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Parliament's Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee has backed a draft law to ratify a host country agreement with the Permanent Court of Arbitration, clearing the way for the Hague-based body to establish a seat in Bahrain.

The proposed law, attached to Royal Decree 39 of 2025, has two articles.

The first approves the Host Country Agreement between the Government of Bahrain and the Permanent Court of Arbitration, signed in Manama on 17 June 2025.

The second is an enforcement clause bringing the law into force the day after it is published in the Official Gazette.

Agreement

The agreement itself runs to 16 articles and gives the Court the legal standing it needs to operate in Bahrain.

It confirms the kingdom as host state and commits the government to helping the Court handle international disputes through arbitration, mediation, conciliation and commissions of inquiry.

Bahrain is to provide office space, meeting rooms and secretariat services, with named



contact points on each side to handle day-to-day coordination.

Waiver

The text grants the Court and its property immunity from legal proceedings, except where the Court makes an express waiver.

Even in such cases, the waiver does not extend to enforcement measures.

Official communications are protected, and the Court may use codes, couriers and sealed pouches which enjoy the same protections as diplomatic mail.

Court staff and arbitrators are, in general, to enjoy the same privileges and immunities Bah-

rain grants to experts working for the United Nations under the 1946 UN convention.

Immunity

These include immunity from legal action for spoken or written words and acts carried out in the course of their duties, the inviolability of papers and documents, and freedom from national service duties and certain immigration rules for them and their families.

Bahraini nationals working in this capacity receive a narrower range of protections, limited to functional immunity and related guarantees linked directly to

their work on the Court's cases. Government employees assigned by Bahrain to help run hearings or meetings in the kingdom are given immunity from legal proceedings in relation to words spoken or written and acts carried out in their official role, with this protection continuing after their tasks for the Court come to an end.

Position

A separate article deals with the position of participants in proceedings, including parties, witnesses, experts and agents, and sets out the protections they need to carry out their role.

The agreement stresses that these protections are granted to keep the Court's work running properly rather than to offer personal advantage.

Immunities start from the moment of appointment, whether or not the person is in Bahrain.

The competent authority is required to waive immunity if it concludes that keeping it in place would obstruct justice, provided the Court's interests and procedures are not harmed.

Interference

Individuals covered by the agreement must abide by Bahraini laws and regulations and

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The Permanent Court of Arbitration, founded in The Hague in 1899 under the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, hears cases involving states, public bodies, intergovernmental organisations and private parties.

avoid interference in internal affairs.

The Secretary-General of the Court is responsible for preventing misuse of privileges and immunities.

If there is misuse, the government is to consult the Secretary-General and may, where needed, ask those involved to leave Bahrain.

Driver remanded for leaving child in vehicle

TDT | Manama

The Family and Child Prosecution ordered the pre-trial detention of a private driver after he left a young girl in his unlicensed transport vehicle.

The case was reported by the child's father to Budaiya Police Station after the girl was found in the vehicle following her return from school.

The driver admitted failing to check the vehicle after dropping off students.

When the car broke down, he placed it on a recovery truck without ensuring it was empty, leaving the child inside asleep.



He discovered her only after being contacted by the family.

The Prosecution said it continues to address violations involving student transport and urged parents to use licensed drivers who are required to follow safety procedures, including ensuring that vehicles are empty before being secured and left.

Prison term suspended after BD36,400 cheque debt repaid

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Appeal judges have upheld the conviction of an investment company boss over two bounced cheques totalling BD36,400, but suspended his six-month jail term for three years after he paid the money into court.

According to the victim's lawyer, Dr Mohammed Al Kawheji, the defendant issued two cheques worth BD18,200 each to his client as part of commercial dealings.

When the cheques fell due and were presented for payment, the bank returned them because there were not enough funds in the account.

The court of first instance had earlier sentenced the man to six months in jail on the charge and fixed bail at BD100 to stop the sentence being carried out.

He then challenged the ruling. In its reasons, the Court of Appeal said the appellant had appeared before it but had brought no new evidence.

Draft laws on secured lending and advertising

● Shura Council session set for today

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Two draft laws on secured lending and advertising rules will go before the Shura Council today, with the two specialist committees urging approval.

The Financial and Economic Affairs Committee has recommended backing the draft Secured Transactions Law, attached to Decree No. 11 of 2025.

In its report, the committee said the bill is intended to improve Bahrain's performance in financial services, one of ten fields covered by the World Bank Group's new "Business Ready" (B-READY) report on business and investment conditions around the world.

The draft is also framed to



help private-sector companies draw more value from their assets by using them as security for lower-cost finance while continuing to run them day to day.

According to the committee, the proposal introduces a single system for security rights over movable assets, except for categories that are expressly excluded in the law itself.

Clashes

The aim is to close legal gaps

and avoid clashes between different legal regimes that might otherwise apply to such rights.

The report adds that the bill is designed to bring more order to economic transactions, encourage investment and protect investors' rights, in a way that should strengthen Bahrain's standing in international indices as an appealing place for capital.

The committee expects the law, if passed, to lift Bahrain's place in global reports on financial services, improve the

Focus on proposal for autism teacher training degree

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A proposal to introduce an autism spectrum disorders specialisation at Bahrain Teachers College will go before Parliament on Tuesday, aiming to train Bahraini teachers to support more than 2,400 autistic people and ease care costs that

can exceed BD900 a month.

The motion would require the government, through the Ministry of Education, to launch a dedicated academic programme in autism spectrum disorders at Bahrain Teachers College.

The idea is to build a group of Bahraini teachers with focused skills in education and care, lessen the strain on families and

open extra jobs for graduates.

The proposal has been submitted by MPs Hisham Al Awadhi, Jaleela Alawi, Second Deputy Speaker Ahmed Qarata, Jameel Mulla Hassan and Mohammed Mousa.

MP Al Awadhi, the main sponsor, said the rise in autism cases in Bahrain and the high fees charged by specialist centres

show the need for local staff able to provide long-term, comprehensive support. According to the explanatory memorandum, autism cases in Bahrain have risen to more than 2,400, while many families face monthly bills of over BD900 for specialist care.

An autism specialisation at Bahrain Teachers College would train national staff.

Split verdict

High Criminal Court acquits one and jails another over BD74,000 card fraud

● Second defendant faces deportation

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Twenty-seven bank cards and BD74,885 in alleged sham payments ended with a split verdict at the High Criminal Court, which acquitted one defendant.

A second defendant was jailed for five years and ordered deported in a fraud case tied to tax and bill payments.

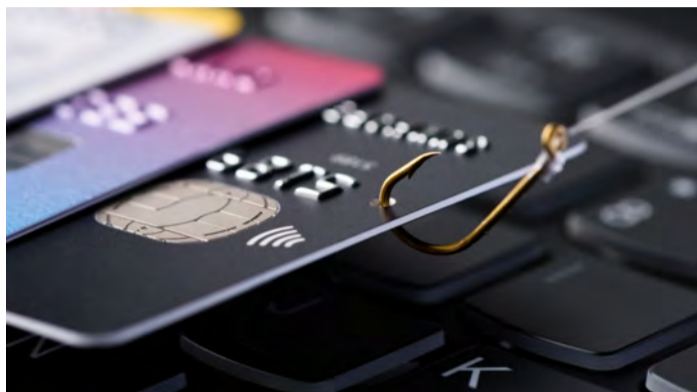
The court also fined the second man BD3,000 and ordered that he be removed from Bahrain after serving his sentence.

According to the case file, prosecutors said the scheme covered 32 confirmed and 12 unconfirmed transactions made with 27 different bank cards to pay taxes and government charges on behalf of several companies, with the total amount reaching BD74,885.040.

The payments were processed through an establishment the court found was under the sole control of the second defendant.

Acquittal

At an earlier hearing, defence lawyer Islam Ghonaim pressed for the first defendant's acquit-



tal, arguing that his client had denied the charges from the start of the investigation and that nothing in the file tied him firmly to the disputed payments.

He said there was no technical or physical proof linking him to the transactions under scrutiny.

Ghoneim told the court that what had been gathered in the case boiled down to untested inquiries and unsupported statements.

Link

He pointed out that the cyber-crime report ruled out any link between the first defendant and the disputed operations; that the seized phones contained no data or messages that incriminated him; and that the establishment used to process the transactions was run solely by

the second defendant.

Witnesses, including partners in the companies involved, said the first defendant neither took part in nor knew about the payments, he added.

In its reasons for clearing the first defendant, the court said the file was empty of any firm proof that he had committed the crimes ascribed to him or knew about them, and that what was raised against him amounted to assumptions.

Transactions

It noted that he had told investigators he did not deal with any financial transactions and that his work was limited to general supervision and administrative and marketing follow-up, with no part in handling payments or using bank cards.

According to his account, the



The scheme covered 32 confirmed and 12 unconfirmed transactions made with 27 different bank cards to pay taxes and government charges on behalf of several companies, with the total amount reaching BD74,885.040.

second defendant alone was responsible for making payments with foreign cards.

The court also referred to the report of the Anti-Economic and Electronic Crimes Directorate, which stated that the first defendant's phone did not contain any data, conversations or applications that tied him to the second defendant or to the companies concerned, a finding that supported the decision to acquit him of all charges.

Upgrading education for early childhood



MP Dr Mahdi Al Showaikh

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

MPs have put forward a plan for the University of Bahrain to launch a kindergarten diploma aimed at lifting standards in early childhood classrooms and creating a clear training route for staff.

Five MPs have submitted a proposal calling on the university to introduce a Kindergarten Diploma programme as a qualifying course for national staff working in early childhood.

The course would cover child care, psychology, developmental psychology, activity design and classroom management, along with practical training in approved kindergartens.

The motion is signed by Dr Mahdi Al Showaikh, First Deputy Speaker Abdulnabi Salman, Mamdouh Al Saleh, Eman Shuaiber and Hassan Ibrahim.

In the statement of reasons attached to the proposal, main proposer Dr Al Showaikh writes that the programme is intended to improve early education through a specialist course that matches national and international standards.

The paper adds that it is also meant to back state plans to develop the education sector, widen options for young people and give training and career paths to women working in kindergartens, as well as those seeking to build their skills.

The document states that stronger preparation for staff at this stage is expected to raise the quality of services in early childhood, with a positive effect on children's cognitive and social development, especially in light of Parliament's approval of the draft law on private educational institutions.

Performance

According to the explanatory memorandum, once the programme is in place it would help produce qualified national staff with the teaching skills needed to work in kindergartens and raise performance levels in these institutions by ensuring teachers and administrators hold a specialist qualification.

It adds that the move is expected to improve the learning setting for children, which in turn would support their attainment and their social and behavioural growth.

Fun, music and prizes

PolyWonderland 2025 delights atudents and visitors at Bahrain Polytechnic campus

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Bahrain Polytechnic's campus was alive with excitement as PolyWonderland 2025 welcomed students, families, and visitors for a day packed with entertainment and enjoyment.

The festival returned this year with improved organisation, expanded locations across the campus, and a lively atmosphere that appealed to all ages.

Attendees engaged in a wide variety of games and competitions, ranging from interactive challenges to skill-based activities.



A night of music and activities

Prizes

Winners walked away with exciting prizes, adding an extra layer of anticipation and thrill to the event.

The organisers aimed to create a festive environment that encouraged participation, fun, and friendly rivalry among students and visitors alike.

Food lovers were not left behind, as a selection of food trucks offered an impressive array of options.

Tastes

From specialty coffee to refreshing mojitos as well as food. The variety catered to diverse tastes.

Visitors could explore different flavours while strolling through the campus, creating a great experience where culinary enjoyment complemented the playful activities.

A major highlight of the festival was a student band performance, showcasing a mix of Arabic and English songs.

Joy

Their lively and engaging set drew crowds who danced, sang along, and celebrated the day with joy.

The new stage and lighting near Building 9 provided an excellent viewing experience, giving attendees a dedicated space to enjoy the music comfortably.

Exclusive interviews students highlighted how this year's event significantly improved over previous editions.

Fun

"Last year was fun, but having everything in one location made it feel crowded and hectic," students said.

Organisers addressed this by spreading the event across multiple areas, making the festival more accessible, cohesive, and enjoyable.

The upgraded lighting set-up added a visual appeal, particularly during musical performances, creating a vibrant and festive ambiance across the



campus.

Students praised the thoughtful improvements, noting that the festival now felt well-planned and inclusive.

Changes

Many highlighted that the changes encouraged more engagement and allowed attendees to move freely between activities, food stalls, and performance areas without feeling overwhelmed.

With its perfect mix of fun, food, music, and friendly competitions, PolyWonderland 2025 successfully reinforced Bahrain Polytechnic's sense of community.

The festival not only provided entertainment but also offered students a chance to socialise, showcase talents, and celebrate their campus life in a lively and safe environment.

Muharraq Nights Festival to launch fourth edition

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) is preparing to launch the fourth edition of the Muharraq Nights Festival tomorrow evening.

The festival will run from tomorrow to December 30, 2025, bringing a wide range of cultural and artistic activities to the Pearling Path in historic Muharraq.

The programme brings together cultural practitioners and creatives and offers audiences diverse artistic and educational experiences that reflect the city's identity and heritage.

The festival is expected to attract visitors from across Bahrain and abroad, coinciding with the Kingdom's National Days.

Participants

The festival is held with the participation of the Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Center for Culture and Research, Al Riwaq Art Space,

and a number of cultural institutions, artistic entities and entrepreneurs from the public and private sectors.

Muharraq Nights offers a varied programme featuring art, design, crafts, children's activities, food experiences, music, performances and guided tours.

Locations

Events take place across multiple locations in the heart of Muharraq, forming a series of live experiences that blend heritage and modernity and offer visitors exploratory routes aligned with the character and spirit of the city.

Updates, daily schedules and registration details are available on the Pearling Path website at www.pearlingpath.bh, as well as on BACA's accounts @CultureBah and the Pearling Path account @pearlingpath.

The festival will be open to visitors from Sunday to Wednesday from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm, and from Thursday to Saturday from 5:00 pm to midnight.



PolyWonderland 2025 successfully reinforced Bahrain Polytechnic's sense of community with its perfect mix of fun, food, music, and friendly competitions.

NBB and Batelco by Beyon Sign Agreement to Expand Integrated Retail Services

Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) and Batelco by Beyon, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore strategic areas of collaboration within their retail and loyalty ecosystems. The strategic agreement aims to enhance customer engagement and broaden the range of value-added services accessible through both institutions.

As part of the agreement, the two institutions will assess opportunities to align their loyalty programmes and introduce bundled services to enhance value and convenience for their



customers. The partnership will further develop an integrated proposition, connecting Batelco's and NBB's digital platforms, while introducing tailored offers for users of both institutions.

Commenting on the occasion, Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani, Chief Executive – Retail Banking at NBB, stated, "We are excited to partner with Batelco in a shared mission to redefine customer experiences through innovation. Together, we will explore introducing smarter, more accessible solutions that simplify everyday interactions and support the Kingdom's journey toward a fully connected digital future."

From her end, Aseel Mattar, GM Consumer at Batelco said, "We are pleased to embark on this initiative with NBB, a partner that shares our vision of enhanced customer experiences through innovation. Together, we are paving the way for integrated retail offerings that are easier to access, simpler to use, and tailored to the evolving lifestyles of consumers in today's digital age."

The newly announced collaboration marks another step towards a long-term partnership aligned with Bahrain's national ambitions for digital service innovation and sectoral alignment.

BCFC Partners with Durrat Al Bahrain to Enhance Real Estate Financing Solutions

Manama

As part of its ongoing commitment to supporting the real estate sector and providing innovative financing solutions, Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company (BCFC) announced the signing of a strategic partnership with Durrat Al Bahrain, coinciding with the latter's participation as a Gold Sponsor at Cityscape Bahrain 2025 in its fourth edition.

This collaboration reinforces BCFC's strategy to expand real estate financing solutions for Durrat Al Bahrain's customers, enabling them to benefit from the company's services



and distinguished projects. It reflects BCFC's dedication to supporting national initiatives that stimulate the real estate market and contribute to infrastructure development in the

Kingdom.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Abdulla Abdulrazaq Bukhawa, Chief Executive Officer of BCFC, said: "We are proud to partner with Durrat Al Bahrain,

one of the Kingdom's leading real estate developers. This collaboration aligns with our vision to provide innovative and flexible financing solutions that meet customer aspirations and

keep pace with the rapid growth of Bahrain's real estate sector. We reaffirm our commitment to contributing to national economic development goals and strengthening Bahrain's position as a regional hub for real estate investment."

For his part, Mr. Yasser Mohammed Al Hammadi, Chief Executive Officer of Durrat Al Bahrain, stated: "This partnership with Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company represents a strategic step to support our customers and facilitate access to flexible financing options tailored to their needs. We believe that collaboration between real

estate developers and financial institutions enhances confidence in the property market and supports our joint efforts to achieve Bahrain's economic vision and reinforce its status as a leading destination for real estate investment in the region."

This partnership underscores both companies' efforts to deliver an integrated experience for customers, combining convenient financing with exceptional real estate projects, contributing to Bahrain's economic vision and its position as a regional leader in property investment.

Al Baraka Islamic Bank Partners with Orchid Development to Offer Home Financing Solutions



Manama

Al Baraka Islamic Bank, one of the leading Islamic banks in the Kingdom of Bahrain, has announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Orchid Development, developer of the new residential project, Orchid Beach Residence, located in Water Garden City, Seef District. This partnership reflects the bank's commitment to supporting Bahrain's expanding real estate sector by providing seamless, Sharia-compliant financing solutions for customers aspiring to own residences within this distinguished project, which blends modern architecture, integrated lifestyle, and luxury waterfront amenities.

The signing ceremony was held on the sidelines of Cityscape Bahrain 2025, attended by senior managers and officials from both parties.

Under the MoU, Al Baraka Islamic Bank will offer a variety of tailored, Sharia-compliant real estate financing options designed for prospective unit buyers at Orchid Beach Residence. Eligible customers will benefit from competitive profit rates, flexible repayment periods, streamlined approval processes, and dedicated



Mazin Ahmed Dhaif, Chief Retail Officer at Al Baraka Islamic Bank

advisory services throughout their ownership process. This collaboration aims to facilitate investment in one of Bahrain's most prominent waterfront developments.

The agreement marks a significant addition to the bank's network of partnerships with leading real estate developers within the Kingdom, especially as Water Garden City continues to establish itself as a premier residential destination featuring world-class retail and leisure facilities. The partnership reflects both parties' dedication to supporting sustainable urban development and delivering innovative financial solutions that enhance market attractiveness and improve the homeownership experience for customers.

On this occasion, Mr Mazin Dhaif, Chief Retail Officer at Al Baraka Islamic Bank, stated, "We are pleased to sign this

MoU with Orchid Development, supporting customers' aspirations to own residences in the Orchid Beach Residence project, which comprises a qualitative addition to Bahrain's portfolio of luxury housing options. Through this collaboration, we reaffirm our commitment to providing competitive, flexible, and Sharia-compliant financing solutions that align with our customers' vision of a modern, integrated lifestyle."

He added, "The bank continues to strengthen its role in empowering customers by collaborating with trusted developers who share our vision of building sustainable urban communities. We look forward to exploring new opportunities that enable clients to invest in one of the most prominent new real estate destinations."

For his part, Dr Bashar Ahmadi, CEO of Orchid Development, commented, "Partnering with Al Baraka Islamic Bank is a strategic step to enhance the appeal of Orchid Beach Residence, offering buyers flexible and accessible financing options to support confident ownership decisions. The project enjoys a prime location within Water Garden City, featuring contemporary design and comprehensive amenities that cater to upscale living."

Al Baraka Islamic Bank Signs MoU with Edamah



Manama

Edamah (Bahrain Real Estate Investment Company), the real estate arm of Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat) and Al Baraka Islamic Bank, one of the leading Islamic banks in the Kingdom of Bahrain, has announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the activities of Cityscape Bahrain 2025.

This partnership enables Al Baraka Islamic Bank's customers to benefit from Sharia-compliant real estate financing options to own residential units within the "Tivoli Residences" development at Bilaj Al Jazayer, one of Bahrain's most prominent new waterfront destinations. The agreement offers prospective homeowners competitive financing packages and flexible repayment options, in line with the Bank's approved real estate financing standards.

The signing of this MoU comes as part of Al Baraka Islamic Bank's ongoing commitment to developing innovative financial solutions that meet customer needs and provide an integrated banking experience. It also aims to strengthen institutional partnerships that support the real estate sec-

tor and contribute to offering high-quality housing solutions that align with Bahrain's urban development and future growth plans.

Mr Khalid Abdulrahman Al Majed, Chief Executive Officer of Edamah, stated: "We are pleased to announce our strategic partnerships with Al Baraka Bank, through which we will facilitate homeownership by offering flexible real estate financing solutions tailored to meet the needs of a broad range of clients. Tivoli Residences at Bilaj Al Jazayer represents modern living, offering a fully integrated urban community and generating long-term value for owners and investors."

He added: "This collaboration reflects our continued commitment to enhancing the competitiveness of Bahrain's real estate sector and creating attractive opportunities for investors."

Commenting on the occasion, Dr Adel Abdullah Salem, Chief Executive Officer of Al Baraka Islamic Bank, said: "Our collaboration with Edamah marks an important step in enhancing the Bank's presence within the real estate financing sector. We remain committed to delivering Sharia-compliant solutions that

allow our customers to own homes distinguished by exceptional locations and refined architectural designs. Tivoli Residences stands out as one of the most promising projects on the Bilaj Al Jazayer waterfront, offering superior quality and world-class standards in planning and execution."

He added: "We continue to advance our banking services in line with our commitment to meeting customer expectations and providing them with added value, while ensuring the highest levels of quality and flexibility throughout all stages of the real estate financing process."

For his part, Mr Mazin Ahmed Dhaif, Chief Retail Officer at Al Baraka Islamic Bank, said: "The signing of this MoU with Edamah reaffirms the Bank's dedication to offering innovative financing solutions that enable customers to benefit from exceptional opportunities within one of Bahrain's most significant new developments. Through this partnership, the Bank will provide a range of flexible financing benefits designed to meet diverse needs, including simplified financing conditions, suitable repayment periods and an efficient approval process that facilitates faster property ownership."

News in brief

Pope visits Istanbul's Blue Mosque



◆ Pope Leo XIV visited Istanbul's famed Blue Mosque early yesterday on the third day of his trip to Turkey.

It was the first time the American pope, elected in May as leader of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics, visited a Muslim place of worship since taking over from his late predecessor Francis. The Blue Mosque is one of Istanbul's main tourist attractions, with six minarets and a roof of cascading domes, its interior lined with vibrant blue Iznik tiles.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese married his girlfriend Jodie Haydon yesterday, becoming the country's first leader to tie the knot while in office.

A beaming Albanese, 62, wed the financial services worker at a private ceremony in the garden of his official residence in Canberra, The Lodge. "Married", the prime minister said in a one-word post on social media with video of him in a bow-tie holding the hand of his smiling bride, who wore a long, white dress, as confetti showered down.

'Married': Australian PM ties the knot in private ceremony



Death toll from Gaza war surpasses 70,000: health ministry



◆ The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza yesterday said more than 70,000 people have been killed since the war between Israel and Hamas erupted more than two years ago.

The milestone comes as a fragile US-brokered ceasefire largely holds, but with both sides accusing the other of violating the terms of the deal. In a statement, Gaza's health ministry said the death toll from the war had risen to 70,100.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Trump says pardoning Honduras ex-president days before vote



US President Donald Trump speaks to the press
AFP | Washington

US President Donald Trump made a major intervention into Honduran politics days before the country's presidential election, pardoning a convicted ex-leader and threatening to cut US support if his preferred candidate loses.

Trump said he will pardon ex-president Juan Orlando Hernandez, who was convicted last year in a US court of drug trafficking charges and sentenced to 45 years in prison.

Hernandez, who led the Central American nation from 2014 to 2022, was accused by US prosecutors of facilitating the import of some 400 tons of cocaine into the United States. He was extradited to the United States just weeks after leaving office, when the current president, leftist Xiomara Castro, came to power.

Trump's stunning announcement came in a social media post proclaiming support for Nasry Asfura, the candidate of Hernandez's right-wing party in Honduras's presidential election today.

The US president had earlier endorsed Asfura, but his latest comments went further, apparently conditioning future aid to Honduras on his victory.

"If he doesn't win, the United States will not be throwing good money after bad, because a wrong Leader can only bring catastrophic results to a country, no matter which country it is," Trump said on his Truth Social platform.

Trump had made a similar threat before Argentina's election last month.

Asfura, when reached by AFP on the phone, denied any links to Hernandez but celebrated Trump's re-upped endorsement.

Hernandez "was president of the Republic, the party is not responsible for his personal actions," Asfura said.

Three-way race

Asfura, a 67-year-old construction magnate and former mayor of the Honduran capital, is running in a tight three-way race against leftist lawyer Rixi Moncada and fellow right-wing TV host Salvador Nasralla.

Trump on Friday accused Nasralla, 72, of running as a spoiler candidate to draw votes away from Asfura.

Noting that Nasralla served as Castro's vice president before resigning, Trump said he "is now pretending to be an anti-Communist only for the purposes of splitting Asfura's vote."

Trump says Venezuela airspace should be considered 'closed'

Airlines halt routes after US alert, fuelling anger and retaliation from Caracas

● US expands Caribbean military deployment

● Strikes on 20 alleged smuggler vessels

● Caracas bans seven major carriers

AFP | Washington

US President Donald Trump warned yesterday that the airspace above and near Venezuela should be considered closed, the latest escalation in a standoff with leftist leader Nicolas Maduro.

"To all Airlines, Pilots, Drug Dealers, and Human Traffickers," Trump wrote on his Truth Social network, "please consider THE AIRSPACE ABOVE AND SURROUNDING VENEZUELA TO BE CLOSED IN ITS ENTIRETY."

The US president did not elaborate.

Trump's administration is piling pressure on Venezuela, with a major military deployment in the Caribbean that includes the world's largest aircraft carrier.

Washington says the aim is to curb drug trafficking, but Caracas insists regime change is the ultimate goal.

US forces have carried out strikes against more than 20 alleged Venezuelan drug-smug-



President Donald Trump participates in a call with U.S. service members from his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida

gling vessels in the Caribbean Sea and eastern Pacific Ocean since early September, killing more than 80 people.

Washington has yet to release evidence that the vessels it targeted were used to smuggle drugs or posed a threat to the United States.

Regional tensions have flared as a result of the campaign and the accompanying military buildup.

US aviation authorities last week urged civilian aircraft op-

erating in Venezuelan airspace to "exercise caution" due to the "worsening security situation and heightened military activity in or around Venezuela."

That warning prompted six airlines that account for much of the travel in South America to suspend flights to Venezuela.

The move infuriated Caracas and led it to ban the companies -- Spain's Iberia, Portugal's TAP, Colombia's Avianca, Chile and Brazil's LATAM, Brazil's GOL and Turkish Airlines -- for "joining

the actions of state terrorism promoted by the United States government."

The New York Times reported on Friday that Trump and Maduro had spoken by phone last week and discussed a possible meeting in the United States.

The report about the Trump-Maduro call came a day after the US president said efforts to halt Venezuelan drug trafficking by land were imminent, further ratcheting up tensions with Caracas.

Thailand, Indonesia begin clean-up after massive floods kill hundreds

● Indonesia hardest hit with over 300 deaths

AFP | Indonesia

The death toll from devastating floods and landslides in Southeast Asia climbed past 400 yesterday as clean-up and search-and-rescue operations got underway in Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia.

Heavy monsoon rain overwhelmed swaths of the three countries this week and left thousands stranded, many on rooftops awaiting rescue.

Rescuers in Indonesia were struggling to reach the worst-affected areas of Sumatra island, where more than 270 people were still missing.

Flooding and landslides in Indonesia have killed more than 300 people, according to the latest figures from the disaster authority yesterday.

Of those, 166 were in North Sumatra province, 90 were in West Sumatra, and 47 were in Aceh.

Tens of thousands of people have been evacuated, although access to many parts of those three provinces remains cut off, National Disaster agency head



An aerial picture shows children playing near a car trapped in muds by flash floods in Meureudu, Pidie Jaya district Indonesia's Aceh province

Suharyanto said.

He told a news conference that a cloud seeding operation had begun in West Sumatra to reduce the rainfall, most of which had already subsided by yesterday.

Novia, a resident of Pidie in Aceh, said the water in his house had receded "but the entire place is covered in mud".

"Some of the items in the house are damaged or have fallen, and we haven't been able to clean them yet.

"We, the community, are working together to clean up the mud," the 30-year-old told AFP.

Firda Yusra said he left his home with his wife and child to take shelter in a nearby mosque with around a thousand others.

"Here, we eat whatever is available," he said.

Thailand clean-up

Water levels reached three metres (nearly 10 feet) in Songkhla province in southern Thailand and killed 162 people in one of the worst floods in a decade.

Workers at one hospital in hard-hit Hat Yai moved bodies into refrigerated trucks after the morgue exceeded capacity.



In an effort to reduce the heavy rainfall, authorities in West Sumatra, Indonesia, initiated a cloud seeding operation as part of the disaster response efforts

Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul apologised for the destruction caused by the floods.

"Whenever there are losses, deaths, or injuries, it's always the prime minister's fault," he said yesterday.

"I will use all my expertise and dedication to improve the situation," he said, announcing a two-week timeframe for the district's cleanup.

The Thai government rolled out relief measures for those affected by the flooding, including compensation of up to two million baht (\$62,000) for households that lost family members.

King of Denmark Cnut the Great [Canute] claims the English throne after the death of Edmund Ironside

The first German Beer Purity Law (Reinheitsgebot) is promulgated in Munich by Albert IV, Duke of Bavaria, stating beer should be brewed from only three ingredients: water, malt, and hops

Grand Duke of Tuscany Leopold II promulgates a penal reform, making Tuscany the first state to abolish the death penalty; November 30 is now commemorated as Cities for Life Day

Archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann discovers the gold Mask of Agamemnon at Mycenae in modern Greece, known as "the Mona Lisa of prehistory"



Sri Lanka floods kill 153

Emergency laws invoked as floods and mudslides devastate island nation

● 191 people reported missing

● 15,000 homes destroyed

● India sends initial plane loads of aid.

AFP | Colombo

Sri Lanka declared a state of emergency yesterday and appealed for international assistance as the death toll from floods and mudslides triggered by Cyclone Ditwah rose to 153, with another 191 people missing.

The extreme weather system has destroyed more than 20,000 homes, sending 108,000 people to state-run temporary shelters, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) reported.

A further 798,000 people required assistance after being temporarily displaced by the floods, DMC spokesman Pradeep Kodippili said.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake invoked emergency powers, granting him sweeping authority to manage the aftermath of the devastation caused by a week of torrential rain across the island.

Kodippili confirmed that 153 people had been killed.

Among them were 11 residents of an elder care home that was flooded in the north-central district of Kurunegala yesterday afternoon, police said.

Troops from the army, navy, and air force have been deployed alongside civilian workers and volunteers to assist with the relief effort.

The military rescued 69 bus passengers yesterday, including a German tourist, who had been



People ride a boat across a flooded street in Ambatale on the outskirts of Colombo

stranded in the Anuradhapura district after a 24-hour operation.

One of the passengers, speaking from the hospital, described how navy sailors helped them climb onto the roof of a nearby house after using ropes to guide them safely through the floodwaters.

"We were very lucky... while we were on the roof, part of it collapsed... three women fell into the water, but they were helped back onto the roof," said W. M. Shantha.

A helicopter had to abort an initial rescue attempt because the downdraft from its rotors threatened to blow away the roof they were perched on. They were later rescued by naval boats.

Roads in the central district of Badulla remained inaccessible, leaving many villages cut off and relief supplies unable to get through.

"We lost two people in our vil-



A helicopter rescue of 69 stranded bus passengers had to be aborted because the rotor downdraft threatened to blow away the roof they were sheltering on; they were later saved by naval boats

lage... others are sheltering in a temple and a house that is still standing," said Saman Kumara from the Badulla village of Maspenna, one of the worst-hit

districts.

"We can't leave the village, and no one can come in because all roads are blocked by landslides. There is no food, and we are running out of clean water," he told News Center website by telephone.

No clean water

Officials said about a third of the country was without electricity or running water because power lines had collapsed and water purification facilities were inundated. Internet connections were also disrupted.

Cyclone Ditwah moved away from the island yesterday and was heading towards neighbouring India.

India's Chennai Airport cancelled 54 flights due to the cyclone's approach, with the weather department forecasting extremely heavy rainfall and strong winds over the next 48 hours.

Travel chaos fears ease after Airbus intervenes on software fix



Avianca planes sit on the tarmac at El Dorado airport in Bogota
AFP | Washington

Fears of days of travel chaos across Europe and the world eased yesterday after plane manufacturer Airbus intervened rapidly to implement a software upgrade it had said was immediately needed on some 6,000 of its stalwart A320 planes.

The announcement by Europe's top plane manufacturer late Friday that the planes could not fly again until the switch was made followed an incident in the United States and raised concerns that hundreds of planes would need to be grounded for long periods.

But several leading European airlines said there had been minimal or no cancellations as a result, although there were indications the situation was more problematic in Latin America and Asia.

Airbus instructed its clients Friday to take "immediate precautionary action" after evaluating a technical malfunction on board a Jet-Blue flight in October.

"Intense solar radiation may corrupt data critical to the functioning of flight controls," it said, adding that "a significant number of A320 Family aircraft currently in-service" may be affected.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



My thoughts are with families in Hong Kong affected in this terrible fire.

@DrTedros

02



Too many children in Gaza are still facing hunger, illness and exposure to cold temperatures, conditions that are putting their lives at risk. Every minute counts to protect these children

@unicefchief

03



SpaceX is accelerating rapidly. When Starship is launching several times a day in a few years, SpaceX will be -99% of all Earth payload mass to orbit, even if the others triple their current launch rate.

@elonmusk

04



Indonesia's electricity demand will grow 5X by 2050. @WorldBank's new \$1.1B Step-Up Loans are helping PLN @pln_123 build a bigger, stronger, smarter grids.

@Axel_vanT

Sea drones halt operations at major Russian oil terminal

AFP | Moscow

One of Russia's largest oil terminals halted operations yesterday following an attack by sea drones, hours before Ukrainian negotiators were headed to the United States for talks on ending the war.

The Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC), a group that includes US oil majors Chevron and ExxonMobil and which owns the terminal, called the strike a "terrorist attack".

Ukraine, which did not comment on the incident, has sought to punch back against its neighbour as the war grinds through its fourth year.

The attack came as Moscow's forces fired a deadly storm of drones and missiles at Ukraine, killing three people and damaging buildings across Kyiv, ac-

cording to Ukrainian officials.

"As a result of a targeted terrorist attack by unmanned boats at 4:06 am Moscow time (0106 GMT) single Mooring Point 2 (SMP-2) sustained significant damage," the CPC said in a statement on Telegram.

"Further operation of SMP-2 is not possible. Loadings at the terminal will be carried out in accordance with established rules once the drone threats are lifted," it added.

The CPC pipeline, which begins in Kazakhstan and ends at the terminal, is a major conduit for Kazakh oil and one of the world's largest by volume, handling around one percent of global supplies.

The United States has put forward a plan to end the conflict that it is seeking to finalise with Moscow and Kyiv's approval.

Black Sea tanker that sustained blast hit again: Turkey

AFP | Istanbul

Turkey's transport ministry said one of two empty oil tankers hit by blasts in the Black Sea late Friday had been struck again early yesterday, blaming an unmanned sea vehicle.

"The Virat, which was previously said to have been attacked by unmanned maritime vehicles approximately 35 nautical miles off the Black Sea coastline, was attacked again by unmanned maritime vehicles early this morning," the ministry said on X.

It said the tanker sustained only "minor damage" on the starboard side and that none of the 20-strong crew were hurt.

On Friday evening, Turkey's transport ministry said two empty oil tankers, the Virat and the Kairos, had reported explosions but sustained no casualties, saying they had been struck in Turkish waters but without saying what had



Video grab taken from images released by the Security service of Ukraine (SBU) shows smoke rising from a cargo ship on fire in the Black Sea off the Turkish coast

caused the blasts.

The ministry's post was the first official confirmation that the Virat was attacked by drones.

Turkey said the Kairos was en route to the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk where a major Russian oil terminal halted operations early yesterday after being hit by a naval drone at-

tack, the consortium that owns the terminal said.

The blast struck the Kairos around 1500 GMT on Friday, with rescuers evacuating its 25 crew members after a fire broke out. At the time, it was about 100 kilometres (60 miles) east of the point where the Bosphorus Strait enters the Black Sea, officials said.

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

Bangladesh Embassy Re-launches Open House for Expatriate Engagement in Bahrain



The Embassy of Bangladesh in Bahrain hosted the third session of its recently re-introduced Open House to provide a platform for Bangladeshi expatriates to voice their concerns and receive direct feedback. A good number of Bangladeshi nationals from diverse backgrounds spontaneously attended the Open House program. The session was chaired by the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Bahrain, His Excellency Mr. Md. Rais Hasan Sarower, ndc, and witnessed the participation of all the officials of the Embassy. It was an interactive session as attendees were encouraged to raise their concerns and issues in this public forum to not only have their voices be heard but also receive immediate advice, guidance, and resolution from His Excellency the Ambassador and relevant officials of the Embassy. The Ambassador urged everyone's adherence to the rules and regulations of Bahrain to maintain a positive image of Bangladesh, and requested the continued use of legal remittance channels.

Kerala Minister G.R. Anil Unveils Welfare Schemes at Navakerala Family Meet



Kerala State Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, G. R. Anil, inaugurated the family gathering organized by Bahrain Navakerala, utilizing the occasion to detail various state projects aimed at expatriate welfare. The event saw significant participation from individuals active in Bahrain's social and cultural spheres. During the program, the Minister presented Navakerala's honors. The meeting was presided over by Navakerala President Mr. N. K. Jayan. Secretary Mr. A. K. Suhail welcomed the attendees, while Loka Kerala Sabha members Mr. Jacob Mathew and Mr. Shaji Moothala offered felicitations.

Salmabad Gurudwara Marks 350th Anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's Martyrdom



The Sikh community center, Salmabad Gurudwara, observed the solemn 350th Shaheedi Guru Parv of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji with profound devotion and reverence. The significant occasion was marked by a three-day Akhand Path (non-stop recitation of the Guru Granth Sahib), a traditional practice of deep spiritual significance. The celebrations saw the participation of hundreds of devotees, who gathered at the Gurudwara to pay their deep respects and participate in the holy program.

Star-Studded Cultural Night 'Vibes of Bahrain' Set for Indian Club Ground



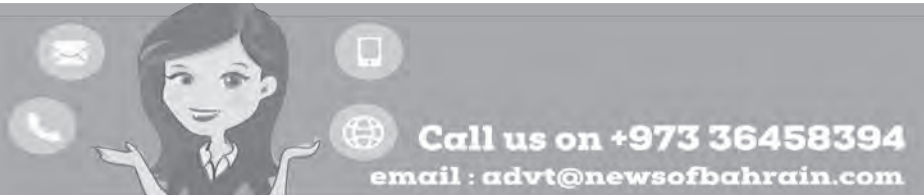
The officials announced that 'Vibes of Bahrain,' a cultural program presented by Bahrain Prathibha in association with Subi Homes, will be staged at the Indian Club Ground on December 5. The main attraction of the program is a musical night featuring the famous singers Ranjini Jose and Rafeeq Rahman and their troupe. Furthermore, a musical dance feature titled 'Rithu,' presented by the women's wing of Bahrain Prathibha under the leadership of prominent Bahrain-based dance teacher Vidyashree, will also be a highlight. Various other cultural performances, including Arabic dance, will also be staged that day. The organizing committee officials announced in a press conference that all art lovers are invited to the event. The press conference, held at the Prathibha Centre, was attended by Organizing Committee Chairman Binu Mannil, General Convener N. V. Livin Kumar, General Secretary Mijosh Morazha, and Vice President Nisha Satheesh.

Pravasi Legal Cell Bahrain Bids Farewell to Indian Embassy's Mr. Vikas Nagia



The Pravasi Legal Cell (PLC) Bahrain Chapter recently organized a heartfelt farewell ceremony to honor Mr. Vikas Nagia, Administrative Assistant at the Embassy of India. Mr. Nagia was celebrated for his dedicated service and strong support to both the wider Indian community and the PLC organization in Bahrain. PLC Global PRO and Bahrain Chapter President, Mr. Sudheer Thirunilath, led the tribute, presenting Mr. Vikas Nagia with a traditional shawl and a memento. The event saw the attendance of the Governing Committee and Working Committee members, who conveyed their heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Nagia. Adding to the appreciation, Advocate Tariq Alown, a panel lawyer for PLC, also attended the ceremony.

Classifieds



VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

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Amorim says Man United must be club of 'no excuses'

AFP | London

Ruben Amorim insisted Manchester United must be a club of "no excuses" given the enduring demands for success at Old Trafford.

The English giants suffered a poor first season under the Portuguese manager and made a faltering start to the current campaign before winning three games in a row.

United then salvaged late points in a pair of 2-2 draws with Nottingham Forest and Tottenham after blowing leads in both games, with a failure to close out those games compounded by Monday's 1-0 loss at home to 10-man Everton.

That defeat has added to the pressure on United ahead of Sunday's Premier League match away to a Crystal Palace side who started the weekend sixth in the table -- four places above Amorim's men.



Manchester United players react to conceding a goal (file photo)

"I think if I look at the games we should have more points because we had control of some games, we had the advantage in some games, and we lost that control. So, if I look at our games we should have more points and that is really disappointing, and really frustrating, especially the last game"

RUBEN AMORIM

"In our club it's the same thing because last year we had to win every game all the time," Amorim said when it was put to him this was the kind of match United should be winning.

"We took a lot of things, a lot of criticism because we were not winning, so in our club there is no excuses.

"I said the same thing last year when we were in Europe and I said the same thing this year, the advantage and the disadvantage of not being in Europe, so there is no excuses. Last year or this year we have always to win games."

Amorim, asked if he was

disappointed by United's 10th place in the table, replied: "I think if I look at the games we should have more points because we had control of some games, we had the advantage in some games, and we lost that control.

"So, if I look at our games we should have more points and that is really disappointing and really frustrating, especially the last game."

Matheus Cunha, Benjamin Sesko and Harry Maguire remain absent for Sunday's match in London.

Palace have made huge strides under Oliver Glasner, who led

the club to a historic FA Cup triumph in May and has previously faced Amorim with Eintracht Frankfurt in the Champions League.

"I played against him in Frankfurt with Sporting, so I know the (style of) play," said Amorim.

"I take inspiration from everyone. When I have two weeks for (an international break), I watch all the managers and try to take all the inspiration that I can take.

"I have six years as a professional manager, so I'm always trying to learn to improve my team."

Spain's Rames, Russia's Lomakina claim ITF junior tennis titles in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

Spaniard Sergi Rames Coll and Russian Sofia Lomakina claimed the boys' and girls' singles titles as the first week of the ITF Junior Tennis Tournament concluded yesterday at the Bahrain Tennis Federation. Rames defeated Japan's Daisuke Hashimoto 6-2, 6-3, while Lomakina dominated compatriot Vera Iamina 6-2, 6-0.

In doubles, Saudi Arabia's Issa Ali and his Russian partner triumphed in the boys' final over a



Turkish pair, while Egypt's Sara Dessouky and Russia's Lomakina secured the girls' doubles title in a match decided by a super tiebreak. The tournament, a Grade 30 event, is the first of three consecutive weeks of ITF junior competition hosted by Bahrain.

The series aims to provide emerging international players with competitive experience and ranking points. The federation will host two additional tournaments through mid-December.

Ogier wins record-equalling ninth world rally title

AFP | Jeddah

Sebastien Ogier won an "incredible" ninth world rally title yesterday to draw level with the record haul of his French compatriot Sebastien Loeb.

Ogier, 41, finished third in the season-closing Rally Saudi Arabia to pip Toyota teammate Elfyn Evans to the crown, finishing just four points ahead of the Welshman who came in sixth.

Ogier's exploit was all the more remarkable as he was competing as a 'part-time' driver this year, skipping three of the 14 rallies.



Action from the event

"What an incredible season," said the Frenchman who won

six rallies this season and appeared on the podium in 10 of the 11 in which he competed.

"The battle with Elfyn has been really superb. There are no great champions without great rivals."

"He pushed us to the limits until the very last stage of the season," added Ogier before climbing onto the roof of his car to celebrate with his co-driver Vincent Landais.

Ogier's titles have come at the wheel of three different teams - claiming the first of four with Volkswagen in 2013, then two with Ford (2017-2018) and now adding a third to his 2020-2021 wins with Toyota.

Bahrain sweep Palestine in Confident Cup opener

Nationals make dominant start in Arab Challenge Cup in Jordan

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's volleyball team began their Arab Challenge Cup campaign yesterday with a clean 3-0 win over Palestine at Princess Saeeda Hall in Amman, delivering a disciplined and technically consistent performance that set the tone for the tournament ahead.

Head coach Arnaud Josserand fielded the core group that earned bronze at the Islamic Solidarity Games earlier this month, and the stability within the squad was evident from the opening points. Bahrain controlled the first set through organized side-out play and steady distribution from setter Hani Alawi, closing the frame 25-22 after holding off a late Palestinian surge.

The second set showed Bahrain's increasing command of the match. Stronger service pressure from Hassan Al Warqaa and Ayman Harwana limited Palestine's attacking rhythm and allowed the Bahraini block, led by Mahmoud Abdulwahed and Abbas Al Khabbaz, to read the play with growing ease. Bahrain took the set 25-16.

The third set was Bahrain's



Bahrain players huddle after taking a set

most complete performance of the evening. With reception anchored by Mahmood Alafyah and Hussain Mansoor, the team maintained a high tempo in transition and tightened their defensive structure. Captain Naser Anan provided leadership and consistency in attack, while Ali Ebrahim and Sayed Hashim Issa added reliable scoring from the wings. Bahrain closed the match with a dominant 25-9 finish.

The win followed Palestine's 3-0 loss to Egypt in their opener, and Bahrain took full advantage by playing with clarity and minimizing errors throughout the match.

With opening-day nerves now settled, Bahrain shift their focus to a far sterner test when they play Egypt tomorrow at 7pm. A positive result there would place Josserand's side among the early pacesetters in Amman and significantly reinforce their bid to contend for the first Arab Challenge Cup crown.

Their campaign has started with confidence, and on yesterday's evidence, the national team appear ready to chase another chapter in one of the most successful periods in their recent history.

Stokes says England moved on from demoralising Perth defeat



Ben Stokes

AFP | London

England captain Ben Stokes said yesterday that lessons had been learned from their crushing first Test loss to Australia but that the team had moved on, as he defended a decision for players to skip a pink-ball tour game.

Australia took a 1-0 lead in the five-match Ashes series with a stunning eight-wicket win in a frenetic two-day clash in Perth characterised by batting collapses and Travis Head's match-winning 123.

In the aftermath, England was slammed as "brainless" and even "arrogant" by former greats for their meek performance after putting themselves in a strong position to win.

"We've talked about it and we've moved on," Stokes said in Brisbane ahead of the second day-night Test starting on Thursday, adding: "We had some good conversations around the group."

Rahul says India confident after return of Kohli, Rohit



K.L. Rahul in action (file photo)

AFP | New Delhi

India's stand-in skipper K.L. Rahul said yesterday his team was feeling confident with the return of stalwarts Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma as they try to move on from the South Africa Test debacle.

South Africa inflicted a record 408-run defeat on India in the second Test in Guwahati on Wednesday to clinch the series 2-0.

It was India's fifth defeat in their past seven home Tests dating back just over a year to New Zealand's 3-0 sweep.

India now head into a three-

match one-day series with South Africa, starting on Sunday.

Star batsmen Kohli and Rohit, who have retired from Test and Twenty20 cricket, have returned for the 50-over matches.

"Their importance at any time is huge," Rahul told a news conference in Ranchi in eastern India.

"To have senior players in the team makes the dressing room feel a lot more confident and their presence (and) experience helps a lot of players in the dressing room. I am really happy they are here," he said.

Piastrì keeps title hopes alive with cool victory in Qatar sprint

AFP | Doha

Oscar Piastrì boosted his bid for a maiden drivers' world championship yesterday when he reduced McLaren team-mate Lando Norris's lead to 22 points by winning the sprint race at the Qatar Grand Prix.

Driving with assurance after a fine start from pole position, the 24-year-old Australian delivered a cool drive reminiscent of his early-season domination to finish 4.951 seconds clear of Mercedes' George Russell with Norris 1.3 seconds adrift in third.

Four-time champion Max Verstappen came home fourth for Red Bull ahead of team-mate Yuki Tsunoda and teenage rookie Kimi Antonelli in the second Mercedes.

The latter two were both handed five-second penalties for exceeding track limits.

Piastrì's third consecutive sprint race win at the Lusail International Circuit trimmed Norris's lead while Verstappen dropped further behind, by a point, to 25 points behind the Briton.

It was Piastrì's first success since he won the Dutch Grand Prix on August 31 when he led the title race.

"It's been good so far and everything went smoothly," said Piastrì.

"I'm happy so far and now just



McLaren's Australian driver Oscar Piastrì and McLaren's British driver Lando Norris drive during the sprint race

have to keep it rolling."

Norris, who can win the title on Sunday if results go his way, said he had ignored the threat from the defending champion who finished fourth behind him.

"I never saw him," he said. "Just George ahead.... I wasn't looking behind. It felt like a lot of pushing and it will be a tough race tomorrow."

Piastrì explained his return to form as a recovery of pace and performance on the high-speed

high-grip circuit that suited his style.

The dash began with only 16 cars on the grid and four in the pitlane – both Alpines, Aston Martin's Lance Stroll and Lewis Hamilton (Ferrari) – as Piastrì led away from a near-perfect start on pole to lead Russell and Norris.

Verstappen jumped Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin) and team-mate Tsunoda for third.

After noisy grumbles about his car on Friday, Verstap-

pen appeared reborn and razor-sharp under the floodlights as he fought for a chance to attack Norris, but the Briton resisted and stayed out of reach.

The whole field was running on medium compound tyres for the 19 laps, rendering pit-stops out of use, and there was little close racing.

After nine laps Piastrì led by 1.7 seconds ahead of Russell with Norris adrift by two seconds, but ahead of Verstappen by a similar margin.