

Knibb, Blummenfelt win Oceanside Ironman 70.3

Taylor Knibb shone in the women's race as Kristian Blummenfelt dominated the men's event in Oceanside. | P15

WORLD 8 Trump eyes Iran oil

THE DAILY tribune

Bahrain football returns with treble dreams alive 14 SPORTS

BUSINESS 6 Oil rises on Trump's Iran threats, stocks take cue on talks

HM King hails UK efforts in promoting stability and peace

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, highlighted the United Kingdom's role on the international stage and its contributions to supporting security, stability, and peace in the region and internationally.

This came as HM the King received John Healey, Secretary of State for Defence of the UK, during his visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

They discussed current regional developments and wider international issues, alongside matters of mutual interest.

Relations

During the meeting, HM King Hamad reviewed bilateral relations with the UK official, as well as areas of cooperation and joint work between the two countries.



HM the King with John Healey

He expressed pride in the long-standing and distinguished relations between Bahrain and the UK. His Majesty underscored a close partnership built over many years of alliance, coordination, and constructive cooperation, particularly in the military and

defence fields.

Commitment

HM the King highlighted the shared commitment to further develop and advance these ties across all levels in support of the common interests of both coun-

tries and their peoples.

The UK Defence Secretary expressed gratitude for His Majesty's role in strengthening the bilateral partnership, reinforcing longstanding ties, and advancing military and defence cooperation between the two countries.



"We have a close partnership built over many years of alliance, coordination, and constructive cooperation, particularly in the military and defence fields."

— HIS MAJESTY KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA, SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES

Strategic partnerships strengthen ties

TDT | Manama

The longstanding nature of Bahrain-UK relations is underpinned by strategic partnerships and multisectoral collaboration.

This was emphasised by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister, who met yesterday with John Healey, UK Secretary of State for Defence.

HRH Prince Salman highlighted the shared commitment to further bolstering cooperation, particularly in the military and defence sectors, in line with signed agreements, including the Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement (C-SIPA), to the benefit of both nations.

He commended the UK's significant international role and its efforts to safeguard regional and global security and stability.

The meeting also explored avenues to strengthen bilateral cooperation, particularly in the military and defence sectors.

Discussions addressed regional developments.

Unity stands

GCC and Jordan denounce Iranian aggression across region in strongest terms



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting

HM King's caring gesture for injured praised by Cabinet

TDT | Manama

The Cabinet yesterday highlighted a joint statement by the GCC and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan condemning in the strongest terms the blatant acts of aggression by Iran.

The statement by the Kingdom of Bahrain, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Kuwait denounces all forms of Iranian aggression, whether carried out directly or through proxies and armed groups operating in the region.

It specifically cited recent attacks launched by Iranian-backed groups from the Republic of Iraq targeting multiple countries.

During its weekly meeting

HM the King's visits demonstrate his commitment to following up on the condition and treatment of the injured and recognise the efforts of the Kingdom's national workforce across military, security, and civilian sectors.

— CABINET

chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the Cabinet commended His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, for personally visiting those injured in the hos-



tile Iranian attacks and currently receiving medical care.

The Cabinet said HM the King's visits demonstrate his commitment to following up on the condition and treatment of the injured and recognise the ef-

forts of the Kingdom's national workforce across military, security, and civilian sectors.

The Cabinet expressed pride and appreciation for the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), the National Guard, the Ministry

of Interior, and all military, security, and civil authorities for their readiness, efficiency, and professionalism in responding to the recent developments.

It also commended Bahraini citizens, part of Team Bahrain, for their dedication and contributions across sectors.

Plans

The Cabinet reviewed plans to mitigate the impact of the hostile Iranian aggression, ensuring the availability of goods and services and the smooth flow of supply chains.

It also noted the International Day of Conscience, reflecting Bahrain's ongoing commitment to promoting international peace and stability.

Additionally, the Cabinet extended congratulations on the successful election of the Board of Directors of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) for its thirty-first session.



Regulating ownership and trade of dangerous animals

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The Public Utilities and Environment Committee at the Shura Council, chaired by Dr. Mohammed Ali Hassan Ali, discussed a draft law on regulating the ownership and trade of dangerous animals during its meeting yesterday.

The session was attended by Eng. Asim Abdulatif Abdullah, Undersecretary for Agriculture and Animal Resources at the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, along with several ministry officials.

The committee reviewed the objectives of the draft law, which aims to establish a comprehensive legal framework to regulate the possession, handling, and care of dangerous animals.

Risks

The proposal also seeks to address the current legislative gap, particularly the absence of penalties for individuals who possess such animals without proper licensing or authorization, which may pose risks to lives and property.

The draft law includes provisions to regulate ownership through the creation of a unified database, enhancing oversight mechanisms, and clearly defining the competent authorities responsible for enforcement.

Paws journey

Pet relocation now requires strategic planning amid shifting airline and regulatory landscapes

Neethu V
TDT | Manama

For pet owners travelling to India and other destinations, relocation at this time has become a more detailed process, with airline availability, documentation requirements, and evolving travel conditions all playing a role in planning.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Venetia Dsouza, owner of Bahrain Pet Sitter and Aeropaws Consultancy, which supports pet rescue efforts and assists with pet relocations in and out of Bahrain, said that while travel to India is possible, it remains dependent on limited airline options and regulatory requirements in the current scenario.

She explained that the process begins with an Annexure form for Indian import clearance, which must be signed by a licensed veterinarian confirming vaccination, microchipping, and fitness for travel.

Permit

This is followed by obtaining a Saudi import and export permit for travellers transiting through the region, which typically takes around seven days to process, although expedited services may be available for an additional fee.



Pets in soft carriers for in-cabin air travel

The standard fee, however, is around BD50 for each permit, totalling approximately BD100.

While the permit is valid for 30 days, transit stays are generally limited to around 10 days, making careful scheduling essential.

Transport

Venetia notes, "passengers must directly confirm pet transport availability with airlines, while ensuring compliance with airline-specific requirements before booking tickets and securing visas. The last step would be getting the annexure form and Bahrain export permit signed by the Animal Health Directorate.

"Once approved, the documents are valid for a short win-



Vinita Dsouza with her pet Piggy

erally not subject to customs duties."

"For return travel from India, a rabies antibody blood test is required, with results taking around three weeks and remaining valid for up to one year. Additional forms are also required and are typically handled with guidance from an agent."

Options

While airline options for in-cabin pet relocation to India remain limited at the moment, "cargo transport remains an alternative option, though it is significantly more expensive, with costs ranging between approximately BD700 and BD1,000 per pet depending on the airline, route, and size of the animal," she further added.



"While travel to India is possible, it remains dependent on limited airline options and regulatory requirements in the current scenario."

— VENETIA DSOUZA, OWNER OF BAHRAIN PET SITTER AND AEROPAWS CONSULTANCY

dow of around 10 days, requiring precise coordination before departure. Pets permitted in the cabin must travel in approved soft carriers, with additional airline charges to be paid at the airport counter. Upon arrival in India, in-cabin pets are gen-

Municipal measures improve public services



Removing an abandoned vehicle from residential areas for public safety

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

A series of municipal measures have been introduced to improve services, following observations by the National Audit Office.

In its response, the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture said it provides BD13,000 in financial support to eligible families under the Cities and Villages Development Programme, in coordination with municipal councils.

Applications are processed through an electronic system with set guidelines aimed at ensuring transparency.

Safety

Inspection campaigns have also led to the removal of around 480 abandoned vehicles from residential areas to improve safety and public appearance.

In addition, 12 municipal sites have been allocated across the Kingdom to support mobile food businesses, with applications available through digital platforms.

To regulate the sector, coordination has been strengthened with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to track licences issued through the Sijilat system.

Environment

On the environmental side, a dedicated unit has been established to monitor the quality and sustainability of trees and green spaces.

Plans are also in place to expand production at Adhari Nursery in the coming years.

A technical study on licensing car shades outside homes has been completed, with implementation measures currently under way.

Lawmakers seek to suspend fish ban

Ongoing Iranian attacks hit supply

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Five MPs want Bahrain to suspend its ban on catching safi, shaari and andaq, saying the Iranian attacks have cut imported fish supplies and pushed market prices higher.

The urgent proposal calls for a temporary halt to Decision No. 2 of 2024, which bars the catch

of the three species.

Its sponsors say the move is needed because strain on supply lines across the region has left less imported fish on sale and made local catch more important in keeping food supplies flowing for citizens and residents.

The proposal was put forward by Khalid Buanaq, Hisham Al Awadhi, Zainab AbdulAmeer, Ahmed Al Salloom and Mohammed Al Maarefi.

Buanaq said the call was driven by economic pressure and the political climate in the region,



which had hit supply lines both directly and indirectly.

That, he said, had led to a drop in imported fish and a clear rise in prices on the local market.

"In these conditions, relying



"The call was driven by economic pressure and the political climate in the region, which had hit supply lines both directly and indirectly."

— MP KHALID BUANAQ

on local fish production has become necessary to keep the market stable and to make basic

food goods available for citizens and residents," he said.

He said the ban had been brought in to regulate fishing and protect marine stocks, but argued that keeping it in force now would add to the lack of fish in the market and drive prices higher.

"Keeping this decision in force in the current conditions could deepen the shortage in the markets and lead to further rises in prices," he said. "That would weigh on consumers, above all with few other choices and import costs already high."

Drone ban amid airspace security concerns

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Ministry of Interior has imposed a complete ban on the use of drones following ongoing airspace security concerns. Captain Abdullah Waheed Al Mannaei said the Kingdom has been facing attacks targeting its airspace since February 28, describing them as violations of international norms and humanitarian principles.

He said the ministry continues to respond through its security and community responsibilities, with a focus on protecting the country, strengthening civil protection and reinforcing public safety measures.

The ban applies to all drones regardless of purpose.



The decision follows incidents in which unauthorised drones were intercepted and brought down after being identified as potential threats.

Officials confirmed that any drone found in violation of the ban will be intercepted and destroyed, and legal action will be taken against those responsible.

The ban came into effect on



"The ministry continues to respond through its security and community responsibilities, with a focus on protecting the country, strengthening civil protection and reinforcing public safety measures."

— CAPTAIN ABDULLAH WAHEED AL MANNAEI

March 29 and will remain in place until further notice.

Residents have been urged to report any drone activity by calling the emergency number 999.

MP calls for fix to labour site fault

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

MP Mohammed Al Olaiwi has called on the Labour Ministry to fix a fault in its online system and make sure unemployment allowance and compensation payments are paid without delay, after the ministry said claimants would not lose what is due to them.

Al Olaiwi said the ministry had written on its Instagram account about five days ago that its e-services had been hit by a technical problem and that work was under way with the bodies involved to put it right.

In that post, the ministry said the problem would not affect



MP Mohammed Al Olaiwi

Any delay beyond the usual schedule would affect people's ability to make a living, since many depend on these payments to cover their daily expenses.

those due to receive unemployment support and compensation.

Compensation

He said the ministry must stick to that assurance, especially as large numbers of jobseekers are waiting for allowance payments, along with others due compensation for unemployment.

Al Olaiwi also called for the repair work to be sped up and for payments to be released to those entitled to them.

He said any hold-up beyond the usual timing would hit people's ability to secure a decent living, chiefly because many of them rely on these payments alone to run their daily lives.

Call for urgent action against park vandalism

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Children arriving at parks are now met with broken benches, damaged walkways, and neglected corners before they even find a place to sit.

Public spaces across the Northern Governorate continue to suffer from repeated acts of vandalism.

This growing reality pushed Abdulla Al Qubaisi, Northern Municipal Council member for the Ninth Constituency, to demand urgent action to stop what he described as ongoing misuse and destruction of public facilities.

He warned that the problem is no longer about maintenance, but about protecting public money and community spaces.

Raising the issue during a question presented in the council's remote session on maintenance budgets for parks and walkways, Al Qubaisi stressed that increasing spending alone will not resolve the issue, cautioning against allowing vandals to continue unchecked while public funds are repeatedly spent on repairs that do not last.

From the municipality's side, Director-General Mohammed Al Sahli acknowledged the scale of the challenge, stating that while the government remains committed to delivering quality services, weak public compliance continues to undermine these efforts.

Price transparency

MP Al Doy files instalment sales bill setting prison term and BD5,000 fine for unlicensed traders

Protecting buyers from concealed charges in payment plans

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Hidden mark-ups in instalment deals would face new checks under a bill by MP Hamad Al Doy requiring sellers to disclose the original price, the final instalment price and the yearly interest rate, with unlicensed traders facing up to one year in prison and fines of up to BD5,000.

The draft law would bring instalment sales under a dedicated legal framework in Bahrain, covering goods and services sold on deferred payment terms, even where the deal is described as a lease.

Sales of real estate by instalments would remain outside its scope.

Any company or sole trader wishing to carry out instalment sales would need a licence from the ministry concerned with trade.

Transactions

Sellers would also have to keep a special register for those transactions in a form to be set by the ministry.

The bill would require each contract to spell out the seller's



Image used for illustrative purposes only



“Bahrain still lacked a full legal framework for a type of sale that had become common.”

— MP HAMAD AL DOY

trade name, address, commercial registration number and contact details, along with the buyer's name, nationality, occupation, address and contact details.

It would also have to identify the product, state the cash price, the instalment price, the down payment, the deferred balance, the true annual interest

rate, how that rate is worked out, when interest starts, the repayment term, the number and value of instalments, payment dates, penalties for delay, and the rights and duties linked to ownership of the product during the repayment period. Contracts could also be made electronically.

Al Doy said Bahrain still



Any company or sole trader wishing to carry out instalment sales would need a licence from the ministry concerned with trade.

lacked a full legal framework for a type of sale that had become common.

He said there was “no integrated regulation” for instalment sales despite their importance and wide use among contracting parties.

The lawmaker said court cases had exposed a gap in the law, with some contracts failing to state the original price of the product or the amount added through interest, and instead showing only one total figure divided into monthly instalments.

“The practical application has revealed a legislative shortcoming in regulating this type of commercial sale,” he wrote.

That gap, he said, left courts to rule on the figure written into the contract even where it was well above the market price.

Worth

He added that this had led to products sold by instalments being priced above their real worth because of high interest charges, and argued that new rules were needed to “protect and balance the relationship between the contracting parties”.

The bill would also curb a seller's power to cancel a sale after missed payments.

A court would not be allowed to rescind the contract if the buyer had already carried out 75 per cent of their duties.

If the sale were cancelled, the seller would have to return the instalments already paid after deducting an amount for use of the item and compensation for damage caused by abnormal use.

Agreement

Any agreement placing a heavier burden on the buyer would be void.

Another clause would stop the full unpaid balance from becoming due after a single missed instalment.

That would be allowed only if the buyer had failed to pay at least two instalments in a row.

Right

Buyers would also be given the right to settle early and receive a reduction equal to the interest due for the period cut short by early payment.

Any agreement denying that right would be void.



GULF INTERNATIONAL BANK B.S.C. - RETAIL BRANCH

Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
	31.12.25 BHD	31.12.24 BHD
ASSETS		
Cash and other liquid assets	2,317,361	1,448,495
Placements	19,999,083	24,600,000
Loans and advances	2,788,343	4,149,444
Due from related parties	97,333,258	54,212,343
Equipment	45,082	77,005
Other assets	52,655	128,070
Total assets	122,535,782	84,615,357
LIABILITIES		
Deposits from banks	26,131,726	-
Deposits from customers	68,076,798	47,982,596
Due to related parties	6,673,783	14,644,080
Other liabilities	1,935,959	786,297
Total liabilities	102,818,266	63,412,973
HEAD OFFICE ACCOUNT		
Capital funds	20,000,000	20,000,000
(Accumulated losses) / Retained earnings	(282,484)	1,202,384
Total Head Office account	19,717,516	21,202,384
Total liabilities and Head Office account	122,535,782	84,615,357

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
Year ended	31.12.25 BHD	31.12.24 BHD
Interest income	3,877,086	3,000,579
Interest expense	2,203,691	1,386,351
Net interest income	1,673,395	1,614,228
Net fee and commission income	63,007	473,786
Foreign exchange income	529,362	483,169
Other income	41,170	27,678
Total income	2,306,934	2,598,861
Staff expenses	397,564	368,061
Premises expenses	38,410	37,419
Depreciation and amortisation	31,922	75,926
Other operating expenses	518,291	718,145
Head office charges	1,850,774	-
Total operating expenses	2,836,961	1,199,551
Net (loss) / income before provisions and tax	(530,027)	1,399,310
Provision release / (charge) for expected credit losses	247,543	(196,926)
Net (loss) / income for the year	(282,484)	1,202,384
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	(282,484)	1,202,384

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN HEAD OFFICE ACCOUNT			
	Capital funds BHD	Retained earnings BHD	Total BHD
At 1st January 2025	20,000,000	1,202,384	21,202,384
Transactions with Head Office:			
Transfer of profit to Head Office	-	(1,202,384)	(1,202,384)
Total transactions with Head Office	20,000,000	-	20,000,000
Comprehensive income:			
Net loss for the year	-	(282,484)	(282,484)
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	-	(282,484)	(282,484)
At 31st December 2025	20,000,000	(282,484)	19,717,516
At 1st January 2024			
Capital funds	20,000,000	972,034	20,972,034
Transactions with Head Office:			
Transfer of profit to Head Office	-	(972,034)	(972,034)
Total transactions with Head Office	20,000,000	-	20,000,000
Comprehensive income:			
Net income for the year	-	1,202,384	1,202,384
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	-	1,202,384	1,202,384
At 31st December 2024	20,000,000	1,202,384	21,202,384

The financial statements have been approved on 29th March 2026 and signed by:-

Mushari AlOtaibi
Acting Head of Retail Banking

Asif Saherwala
Chief Financial Officer - GIB B.S.C.
(Retail Branch) & Group Head of Financial Control

The statement of financial position, statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in head office account and statement of cash flows have been extracted from the financial statements of GIB's B.S.C. Retail Branch for the year ended 31st December 2025 which were audited by KPMG Fakhro who have expressed an unqualified audit opinion on 29th March 2026.

Gulf International Bank B.S.C., P.O. Box 1017, Al-Dowali Building,
3 Palace Avenue, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. Tel: +973 17534000

Gulf International Bank B.S.C. - Retail Branch is licensed by the
Central Bank of Bahrain as a conventional retail bank

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS			
	Year ended	31.12.25 BHD	31.12.24 BHD
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net (loss) / income for the year		(282,484)	1,202,384
Adjustments for:			
Provision (release) / charge for expected credit losses		(247,543)	196,926
Depreciation and amortisation		31,923	75,926
Operating income before changes in operating assets and liabilities		(498,104)	1,475,236
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Statutory deposit with the Central Bank		(319,000)	(580,000)
Loans and advances		1,608,644	7,631,042
Due from related parties		(43,120,915)	(31,547,592)
Other assets		75,415	44,248
Deposits from banks		26,131,726	-
Deposits from customers		20,094,202	18,833,296
Due to related parties		(7,970,297)	(11,458,919)
Other liabilities		1,149,662	(397,270)
Net Cash flows used in operating activities		(2,848,667)	(15,999,959)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Capitalised work in progress		-	(1,541)
Net cash flows used in investing activities		-	(1,541)
FINANCING ACTIVITY			
Transfer of profit Head Office		(1,202,384)	(972,034)
Net Cash flows used in financing activity		(1,202,384)	(972,034)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(4,051,051)	(16,973,534)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1st January		25,039,495	42,013,029
Cash and cash equivalents at 31st December		20,988,444	25,039,495

Below is a reconciliation between cash and other liquid assets as presented in the statement of financial position to the cash and cash equivalents balances:

	31.12.25 BHD	31.12.24 BHD
Cash and cash equivalents	2,317,361	1,448,495
Less: statutory deposits with central banks	(1,328,000)	(1,009,000)
Add: placements with original maturities of less than three months	19,999,083	24,600,000
Cash and cash equivalents at 31st December	20,988,444	25,039,495

Fake cop crime

Violent BD15 daylight robbery lands defendant back in court

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

In a chilling case of deception and violence, the First High Criminal Court of Appeal has ordered the formal notification of a defendant previously sentenced to three years in prison for a brazen robbery involving just BD15, committed under threat and through impersonation of a public official. Prosecutors charged the 32-year-old defendant with orchestrating the crime alongside an unidentified accomplice on September 21, 2025.

The pair allegedly robbed the victim in a public area, using intimidation and physical assault to overpower him.

Armed and posing as police officers, they restrained the victim unlawfully, using force and threats of serious harm to achieve their goal of financial gain.

Ordeal

According to the victim, a 41-year-old Asian man, the ordeal unfolded in broad daylight around 2:00 PM.

He had been sitting in a company vehicle parked in an open area in Nuwaidrat, taking a lunch break, when the defendant and his accomplice arrived in another car.

The accomplice approached the driver's side window, while



Image used for illustrative purposes only

the defendant positioned himself on the right side.

Both men falsely claimed to be police officers. The defendant swiftly seized the car keys and the victim's phone before forcibly dragging him out of the vehicle.

Grabbing him by the neck, they demanded his wallet.

Accomplice

When he refused, the accomplice struck him in the face four times and threatened to imprison him for 15 years.

Despite his resistance, the attackers forced him into their vehicle, where the demands continued — along with threats extending to his family.

As the car moved, the situation escalated further. The defendant pulled out a

it against the victim's neck if he did not hand over the wallet. Fearing for his life, the victim finally complied.

Money

The assailants took the money inside the wallet before ordering the victim out of the car and fleeing.

The victim later stated that the defendant appeared to be in an abnormal state at the time and was in possession of materials commonly associated with drug use.

During questioning, the defendant admitted that the vehicle used in the crime belonged to his mother but was under his possession at the time.

Surveillance footage confirmed that the same vehicle was used in the incident.

Victim

Police records further revealed that the victim identified the defendant three times during a lineup.

Authorities also confirmed that the defendant has a prior conviction in a drug-related case and was already wanted in connection with another drug offense at the time of his arrest.

In a striking detail, the victim claimed the defendant appeared to be under the influence of narcotics — despite having no prior acquaintance with him or knowledge of his background.



The suspects, armed and posing as police officers, restrained the victim unlawfully, using force and threats of serious harm to achieve their goal of financial gain.

small multi-purpose knife, shouting that he would place

Suspect held over online child sexual exploitation

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

A suspect has been remanded in custody pending investigation after being accused of sexually exploiting a child through social media platforms, Bahrain's Public Prosecution said.

According to the Deputy Head of the Family and Child Prosecution, the suspect allegedly sent sexually explicit images to the child and requested the victim to take and share indecent photos.

The case emerged after a report was filed by the Child Protection Unit at the General Directorate for Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security, stating that an unknown individual had approached a child online, sent inappropriate images, and urged the victim to engage in explicit acts by sharing photos.

Authorities said intensive investigations confirmed the incident and led to the identification of the suspect.

Findings also indicated that the accused had a pattern of committing similar offences and exploiting children online.

Prosecutors immediately launched an investigation, taking the child's testimony under a witness protection framework to ensure confidentiality and safeguard the victim's identity.

The suspect was questioned, and authorities ordered a forensic examination of his seized mobile phone before placing him in pretrial detention pending referral to the criminal court.

The Public Prosecution reaffirmed its commitment to taking strict legal action against anyone who exploits digital platforms to harm children or violate their rights.

It stressed that Bahrain has a comprehensive legal framework that imposes severe penalties, including imprisonment, for sexual offences against minors.

Held over terrorist cell

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Interior announced that the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science has arrested three persons for forming a terrorist cell affiliated with the Lebanese Hezbollah terrorist organisation.

The suspects coordinated with terrorist elements abroad and sought to engage in espionage with them in a manner intended to undermine the sov-

ereignty of the state, spread fear and panic among citizens and residents, and endanger the security and safety of the country.

Those arrested are Ahmed Ahmed Hussain Madan, 24; Hassan Abdulameer Ashoor, 22; and Muntadhar Abdulmohsen Ali Madan, 29. The statements of the arrestees revealed that during their travel to Lebanon, they received weapons training after meeting with members of the Lebanese Hezbollah terrorist organisation.

MASHREQ BANK PSC - BAHRAIN RETAIL BRANCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2025

	December 31, 2025 BD	December 31, 2024 BD
ASSETS		
Cash and deposits with Central Bank of Bahrain	63,269,755	176,512,117
Balances with banks and financial institutions	1,701,401	3,870,019
Balances with Head Office and other branches	59,940,216	41,072,165
Investments at amortised cost	6,899,001	8,962,170
Financial asset measured at fair value through other comprehensive income ("FVOCI")	755,923	755,923
Loans and advances	172,854,728	138,232,192
Interest receivable	1,840,287	1,839,178
Other assets	612,440	100,307
Premises and equipment	229,912	294,628
Total assets	308,103,663	371,638,699
LIABILITIES AND HEAD OFFICE FUNDS		
LIABILITIES		
Due to banks and financial institutions	14,259,801	13,336,361
Due to the Head Office	62,363,153	131,831,266
Customers' deposits	214,491,386	203,559,924
Interest payable	841,813	1,626,144
Other liabilities	1,406,691	1,278,285
Total liabilities	293,362,844	351,631,980
HEAD OFFICE FUNDS		
Head Office capital	15,000,000	15,000,000
Unremitted profits to the Head Office	2,541,587	7,807,487
Fair value reserve	(2,800,768)	(2,800,768)
Total Head Office funds	14,740,819	20,006,719
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND HEAD OFFICE FUNDS	308,103,663	371,638,699

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

	December 31, 2025 BD	December 31, 2024 BD
Interest income	20,085,072	27,922,799
Interest expense	(15,187,185)	(22,354,172)
Net interest income	4,897,887	5,568,627
Fees and commission income, net	631,507	1,427,285
Foreign exchange gain / (loss), net	100,041	(50,069)
Other income, net	157,244	165,878
Operating income	5,786,679	7,111,721
Staff expenses	(1,771,475)	(1,649,828)
Depreciation	(117,079)	(132,854)
General and administrative expenses	(1,844,506)	(1,945,508)
Operating expenses	(3,733,060)	(3,728,190)
Operating profit before expected credit losses	2,053,619	3,383,531
Net impairment reversal	776,668	4,423,956
Profit for the year before taxation	2,830,287	7,807,487
Taxation charge	(288,700)	-
Profit for the year	2,541,587	7,807,487
Other comprehensive income:		
Other comprehensive income that will be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent years:		
Change in fair value of financial asset measured at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)	-	(2,800,768)
Other comprehensive (loss) / income for the year	-	(2,800,768)
Total comprehensive income	2,541,587	5,006,719

The financial statements and the notes to the financial statements were approved and authorised for issue on March 31, 2025 and signed by: Ahmed Husny Awad Dayyat, Country Manager

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN HEAD OFFICE FUNDS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

	Head office capital BD	Unremitted profits to the Head Office BD	Fair value reserve BD	Total BD
Balance at January 1, 2025	15,000,000	7,807,487	(2,800,768)	20,006,719
Profit for the year	-	2,541,587	-	2,541,587
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-
Profit remitted to the Head Office	-	(7,807,487)	-	(7,807,487)
Balance at December 31, 2025	15,000,000	2,541,587	(2,800,768)	14,740,819
	Head office capital BD	Unremitted profits to the Head Office BD	Fair value reserve BD	Total BD
Balance at January 1, 2024	15,000,000	8,502,952	-	23,502,952
Profit for the year	-	7,807,487	-	7,807,487
Other comprehensive loss for the year	-	-	(2,800,768)	(2,800,768)
Profit remitted to the Head Office	-	(8,502,952)	-	(8,502,952)
Balance at December 31, 2024	15,000,000	7,807,487	(2,800,768)	20,006,719

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

	December 31, 2025 BD	December 31, 2024 BD
Cash flows from operating activities		
Profit for the year before taxation	2,830,287	7,807,487
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	117,079	132,854
Amortisation of investment at amortised cost	(16,735)	(16,734)
Impairment reversal	(770,368)	(3,654,641)
Recoveries	(6,300)	(769,315)
Provision for employees' end-of-service benefits	51,118	73,956
Net cash generated before changes in operating assets and liabilities	2,205,081	3,573,607
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Compulsory regulatory reserve with Central Bank of Bahrain	245,000	900,000
Deposits and balances due from banks	3,528,511	(3,142,731)
Loans and advances	(33,876,334)	(35,879,069)
Interest receivable	(1,110)	483,994
Other assets	(512,133)	(35,083)
Due to banks and financial institutions	923,440	4,683,268
Due to the Head Office	(69,468,113)	(62,285,518)
Customers' deposits	10,931,462	(13,887,324)
Interest payable	(784,331)	(914,681)
Other liabilities	6,372	(433,600)
Employees' end-of-service benefits paid	(86,803,155)	(106,937,137)
Net cash flows used in operating activities	(87,014,713)	(106,937,137)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Addition to premises and equipment	(52,645)	(283,830)
Proceeds from disposal of premises and equipment during the year	282	33
Proceeds from disposal / maturity of investments at amortised cost	2,105,786	-
Net cash flows generated from / (used in) investing activities	2,053,423	(283,797)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Profit remitted to Head Office	(7,807,487)	(8,502,951)
Net cash flows used in financing activities	(7,807,487)	(8,502,951)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	(92,768,777)	(115,723,885)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	213,135,906	328,859,791
Cash and cash equivalents at the closing of the year	120,367,129	213,135,906



Arab Bank Plc, Retail Bank (Bahrain Branch)
Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended
December 31, 2025



Statement of Financial Position
As at December 31, 2025

	December 31, 2025	December 31, 2024
	BD '000	BD '000
Assets		
Cash and deposits with Central Bank of Bahrain	320,881	479,566
Balances with banks and financial institutions	8	56
Balances with Head Office, other branches and affiliates	67,957	76,215
Investments at fair value through other comprehensive income	2,600	2,551
Investments at amortised cost	132,978	57,408
Derivative assets	2,861	11,868
Loans and advances	231,133	232,055
Interest receivable	2,834	2,395
Other assets	6,128	5,729
Premises and equipment	963	730
Total assets	768,343	868,573
Liabilities and Head Office Funds		
Liabilities		
Due to banks and financial institutions	283	17,342
Due to Head Office, other branches and affiliates	250,857	317,616
Customers' deposits	474,773	468,755
Derivative liabilities	2,093	10,541
Interest payable	3,780	5,396
Other liabilities	3,456	3,629
Provision for income tax	279	-
Employees' end-of-service benefits	267	279
Total liabilities	735,788	823,558
Head Office Funds		
Head Office capital	20,058	20,058
Fair value reserve	299	250
Unremitted profits to the Head Office	12,198	24,707
Total Head Office funds	32,555	45,015
Total liabilities and Head Office funds	768,343	868,573

The financial statements and notes to the financial statements were approved and authorised for issue on 30 March 2026 by Nadya Talhouni - Country Manager and Samer Haddad - Country Finance Head.

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
Year Ended December 31, 2025

	December 31, 2025	December 31, 2024
	BD '000	BD '000
Interest income	45,720	65,739
Interest expense	(34,829)	(55,924)
Net interest income	10,891	9,815
Fees and commission income, net	3,947	4,228
Foreign exchange gain, net	788	775
Other income, net	754	790
Operating income	16,380	15,608
Staff expenses	(3,101)	(2,961)
Depreciation	(259)	(290)
Premises and equipment expenses	(843)	(979)
General and administrative expenses	(2,448)	(2,440)
Operating expenses	(6,651)	(6,670)
Operating profit before expected credit losses	9,729	8,938
Allowance for expected credit losses, net	(1,815)	(897)
Profit before tax	7,914	8,041
Income tax	(1,187)	-
Profit after tax	6,727	8,041
Other comprehensive income:		
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
- Net change in fair value of financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	49	(4)
Other comprehensive (loss)/income for the year	49	(4)
Total comprehensive income for the year	6,776	8,037

The aforementioned information was extracted from the financial statements reviewed by Deloitte & Touche - Middle East.

Statement of Changes in Head Office Funds
Year Ended December 31, 2025

	Head Office Capital	Fair Value Reserve	Unremitted Profits to the Head Office	Total
	BD '000	BD '000	BD '000	BD '000
Balance at January 1, 2025	20,058	250	24,707	45,015
Profit after tax	-	-	6,727	6,727
Remitted profits to the Head Office	-	-	(19,236)	(19,236)
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	49	-	49
Balance at December 31, 2025	20,058	299	12,198	32,555
Balance at January 1, 2024	20,058	254	16,666	36,978
Profit after tax	-	-	8,041	8,041
Other comprehensive loss for the year	-	(4)	-	(4)
Balance at December 31, 2024	20,058	250	24,707	45,015

Statement of Cash Flows
Year Ended December 31, 2025

	December 31, 2025	December 31, 2024
	BD '000	BD '000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Profit before tax	7,914	8,041
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	259	290
Gain on write off of fixed assets	(410)	(183)
Allowance for expected credit losses, net	1,815	897
Provision for employees' end-of-service benefits	67	72
Net cash generated before changes in operating assets and liabilities	9,645	9,117
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Compulsory regulatory reserve with Central Bank of Bahrain	170	(2,288)
Balances with the Head Office, other branches and affiliates	(28)	-
Derivative assets	9,007	(762)
Loans and advances	(823)	(1,926)
Interest receivable	(439)	1,853
Other assets	(399)	452
Due to banks and financial institutions	(17,059)	17,097
Due to the Head Office, other branches and affiliates	(66,759)	(301,679)
Customers' deposits	6,018	33,323
Derivative liabilities	(8,448)	865
Interest payable	(1,616)	(1,227)
Other liabilities	(200)	1,059
	(70,931)	(244,116)
Employees' end-of-service benefits paid	(79)	(66)
Tax paid	(908)	-
Net cash used in operating activities	(71,918)	(244,182)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Addition to premises and equipment	(82)	(247)
Disposal of investments at amortised cost	(75,614)	47,433
Remitted profits to the Head Office	(19,236)	-
Purchase of investments at fair value through other comprehensive income	-	(46)
Net cash (used in) / generated from investing activities	(94,932)	47,140
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	(166,850)	(197,042)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	518,103	715,145
Cash and cash equivalents at the closing of the year	351,253	518,103

Oil rises on Trump's Iran threats, stocks take cue on talks

European and US stocks rose as markets focused on Trump's comments

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Oil prices rose as the Middle East crisis escalated Mon-

day with US President Donald Trump's threat to destroy Iran's main export terminal, and after the entry of Yemen's Houthi re-

bels into the war.

However European and US stocks rose as markets focused on Trump's comments on nego-

tiations to end the fighting.

Trump expressed confidence that a negotiated settlement would soon be reached but

warned that if it was not -- or if Iran continued to block the Strait of Hormuz to most sea traffic -- US forces would "blow up" Kharg Island and all of Iran's oil wells and electricity generation.

Brent North Sea crude, the international benchmark, jumped to almost \$117 per barrel in Asian trading.

It stood up 2.3% at \$107.71 per barrel in late morning trading in New York.

Wall Street's main equities were higher in late morning trading, with the Dow adding 0.7%.

Briefing.com analyst Patrick O'Hare compared the situation in the global economy and on markets to an intersection where the traffic light is flashing all colours at once.

Equity investors "are taking their cue this morning from the green light" of "Trump indicating serious discussions are taking place with a new and more reasonable regime to end the military operations in Iran", he said.

Oil markets, on the other hand, took their cue from the red light of Trump's threats to destroy Iran's oil fields and export terminal, as well as reports the United States is readying ground troops, plus the Houthis getting involved in the war by firing missiles at Israel, he added.

IG analyst Chris Beauchamp noted that the impact of Trump's statements is getting weaker.

"Until investors are treated to the sight of senior US officials physically getting on a plane to

Pakistan to negotiate, investors will become more sceptical," he said.

European stocks finished the day higher, with Frankfurt rising 0.5% despite data showing German inflation in March jumped to its highest level since January 2024, hitting 2.7% on the back of rocketing energy prices due to the Middle East war.

Asia's leading stock markets closed lower. The Japanese yen jumped on talk that the Bank of Japan could intervene on markets to shore up the country's currency.

The yen's gains weighed heavily on Japanese exporters, with the Tokyo stock market closing down almost 3%.

India's rupee fell to a record low of more than 95 to the dollar on Monday, before recovering, despite recent efforts by the central bank to stem its fall.

The world's most populous nation is one of the "most vulnerable economies within Asia to an energy price shock", analysts at Nomura wrote in a note.

As the war moved into its fifth week, the spectre of a widening conflict grew as Houthi rebels on Saturday said they had fired "a barrage of cruise missiles and drones" at strategic sites in Israel.

"The Houthi's ability to disrupt shipping through the Bab al-Mandeb strait, which accounts for roughly 12% of global trade, is the new key risk," said

Pepperstone analyst Chris Weston, referring to the waterway between Yemen and the Horn of Africa.



Licensed by the CBB as a Conventional Retail Bank

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 December 2025 Retail Bank, Bahrain

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2025

Bahraini Dinars 000's	2025	2024
Assets		
Cash and balances at central bank	188,719	135,184
Derivative financial instruments	4,492	6,775
Loans and advances to banks	4,996	2,453
Loans and advances to customers	279,469	286,299
Investment securities	104,894	119,247
Other assets	1,358	3,063
Due from the Head office and other branches	54,504	26,288
Prepayments and accrued income	2,032	2,416
Intangible assets	1,476	1,197
Property, plant and equipment	3,444	3,281
Total assets	645,384	586,203
Liabilities		
Deposits by banks	15,500	9,280
Customer accounts	508,213	469,304
Derivative financial instruments	4,049	6,069
Other liabilities	9,508	10,961
Due to the Head office and other branches	41,874	21,188
Accruals and deferred income	5,857	6,978
Provisions for liabilities and charges	426	487
Retirement benefit obligations	2,252	2,461
Total liabilities	587,679	526,728
Head office funds		
Head office assigned capital	10,743	10,743
Other reserves	36,899	36,097
Retained earnings	10,063	12,635
Total Head office funds	57,705	59,475
Total Head office funds and liabilities	645,384	586,203

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Bahraini Dinars 000's	2025	2024
Net cash generated from operating activities	62,086	8,038
Net cash (used in) / generated from investing activities	(18,930)	17,447
Net cash used in financing activities	(12,720)	(5,380)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	30,436	20,105
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	162,639	142,534
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	193,075	162,639

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN HEAD OFFICE FUNDS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Bahraini Dinars 000's	Head office assigned capital	General reserve	Fair value through other comprehensive income reserve - debt	Retained earnings	Total
As at 1 January 2024	10,743	34,056	212	5,917	50,928
Profit for the year	-	-	-	12,009	12,009
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	1,829	-	1,829
Amounts remitted to Head office during the year	-	-	-	(5,291)	(5,291)
As at 31 December 2024	10,743	34,056	2,041	12,635	59,475
Profit for the year	-	-	-	10,063	10,063
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	802	-	802
Amounts remitted to Head office during the year	-	-	-	(12,635)	(12,635)
As at 31 December 2025	10,743	34,056	2,843	10,063	57,705

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Bahraini Dinars 000's	2025	2024
Interest income	34,665	39,611
Interest expense	(8,322)	(9,756)
Net interest income	26,343	29,855
Fees and commission income	13,336	13,562
Fees and commission expense	(4,664)	(5,889)
Net fee and commission income	8,672	7,673
Net trading income	3,911	4,610
Other operating income	184	1,176
Operating income	39,110	43,314
Staff costs	(12,435)	(13,548)
Premises costs	(735)	(899)
General administrative expenses	(13,763)	(15,547)
Depreciation and amortisation	(678)	(634)
Operating expenses	(27,611)	(30,628)
Operating profit before impairment losses	11,499	12,686
Releases / (Credit impairment)	140	(427)
(Other impairment)	(1)	(250)
Profit before taxation	11,638	12,009
Taxation	(1,575)	-
Profit for the year	10,063	12,009

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Bahraini Dinars 000's	2025	2024
Profit for the year	10,063	12,009
Other comprehensive income		
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:		
Equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income	184	68
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Debt instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI):		
Net valuation gain taken to equity	352	1,857
Net impact of expected credit losses	266	(96)
Other comprehensive income for the year	802	1,829
Total comprehensive income for the year	10,865	13,838

Key figures at around 1530 GMT

Brent North Sea Crude:	▲ 2.3% at \$107.71 a barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ 3.0% at \$102.59 a barrel
New York - Dow:	▲ 0.7% at 45,483.05 points
New York - S&P 500:	▲ 0.3% at 6,388.16
Nasdaq Composite:	▲ less than 0.1% at 20,957.37
London - FTSE 100:	▲ 1.4% at 10,109.89 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.9% at 7,772.45 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX:	▲ 1.2% at 22,562.88 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 2.8% at 51,885.85 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▼ 0.8% at 24,750.79 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 0.2% at 3,923.29 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.1451 from \$1.1517 on Friday
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.3189 from \$1.3272
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 159.56 yen from 160.20 yen
Euro/pound:	▲ at 86.85 pence from 86.78 pence



A oil tanker is docked unloading crude oil at the port in Qingdao, in China's eastern Shandong province

What could Trump achieve by threatening Iran's Kharg Island?



KHARG ISLAND

A hub for roughly 90 percent of all crude oil exports

AFP | Paris, France

A scrubby island in the Gulf that is roughly one-third the size of Manhattan, Kharg Island is the nerve centre of the Iranian oil industry -- and at the heart of US President Donald Trump's latest efforts to pressure Tehran.

On Monday Trump vowed that a failure by Iran to agree a deal to end the war could see the United States "completely obliterating" the export hub.

A day earlier, he had said the United States could take the island, eyed by the Pentagon for ground operations, "very easily".

So what are Trump's options, and how might Iran react if he presses on this pressure point?

What is Kharg Island?

It may be a mere scrap of land, but Kharg handles around 90 percent of Iran's crude exports, according to a report by US bank JP Morgan.

Located in the north of the Gulf, around 30 kilometres (20 miles) from the Iranian coast and more than 500 kilometres from the Strait of Hormuz, it has no oil wells.

But it has Iran's largest oil terminal, oil pipelines, storage tanks and related infrastructure.

It also has military facilities, some of which have already been hit by Israeli-US strikes.

On March 13, "US forces executed a large-scale precision strike on Kharg Island", Centcom, the US military command for the region, said.

"The strike destroyed naval

mine storage facilities, missile storage bunkers and multiple other military sites. US forces successfully struck more than 90 Iranian military targets on Kharg Island, while preserving the oil infrastructure."

Sources close to US intelligence services told US broadcaster CNN Iran had deployed additional troops and defence systems to the area in recent weeks, including MANPAD-type surface-to-air missiles and mines.

Trump's options?

There appear to be three routes for US forces wishing to seize the island -- an airborne attack; an amphibious operation; or a combination of the two.

The Pentagon is currently moving US paratroopers and Marines into the area.

"(The) US combat force build-up sets the stage for (a) potential ground offensive in Iran," said US think tank Soufan.

Centcom former commander General Joseph Votel told The War Zone website this month it would not take that many soldiers to seize Kharg.

"On a small island like Kharg, I imagine you'd need a battalion of Marines. We are therefore talking about a force of 800 to 1,000 men, perhaps a little fewer, certainly not much more," he said.

But taking Kharg and holding onto it "are two different things", stressed Professor Philip O'Brien of the University of St Andrews in Scotland.

He said the US military would struggle to retain the island within range of Iranian missiles

and drones.

Just 60 kilometres away is the city of Bushehr, an important military centre "from which the Iranians defend the entire northern part of the Gulf, including Kharg", noted Pierre Razoux of French research centre FMES.

Why do it?

Trump's war goals remain hazy. It is unclear whether he primarily wants to force Iran to reopen shipping lanes in the Strait of Hormuz; force regime change in Tehran; coerce the Iranians into concessions on their nuclear or ballistic missile programmes.

In the short term, capturing Kharg could give Washington leverage to force Iran to negotiate -- presumably on Trump's terms, given the country's dependence on oil revenue, the Soufan Center said.

It might not have much effect in reopening the Gulf to shipping, however, because Iran controls a string of other islands in the Strait of Hormuz.

And if the Iranians choose not to cede to Trump's demands, "What does the US do?", O'Brien wondered.

"Does the US then, out of spite, level all the economic facilities on Kharg?"

"That could easily boomerang back in American faces. It means oil prices skyrocket even more and stay high for much longer," he said.

"It also means Iran will be incentivised to shut down the traffic in the Straits for even longer. If they cannot get their own oil out, why let anyone else's?"

US Fed chief says can look past oil shock but wary of deeper risks

AFP | Washington, United States

US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said yesterday that the central bank can look past the energy shock from war in the Middle East, but may have to act if rising costs change expectations about inflation.

"The tendency is to look through any kind of a supply shock," Powell told a Harvard University event.

This is because "energy shocks have tended to come and go pretty quickly" but monetary policy changes take time to flow through the economy, he said.

His comments come after US-Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28 triggered Tehran's retaliation that sharply restricted access to the Strait of Hormuz.

The waterway is a critical shipping route for energy resources, and the situation has caused global oil prices to rocket as the war stretches into a fifth week.

Around a fifth of global crude oil and liquefied natural gas passes through the

strait in peacetime.

US gasoline prices have surged, threatening higher inflation in the world's biggest economy.

For now, Powell said, "we feel like our policy is in a good place for us to wait and see how that turns out."

He stressed that "inflation expectations do appear to be well-anchored beyond the short term."

But he acknowledged that supply shocks can lead the public to start expecting persistently higher prices.

The Fed faces "tension" between its two objectives of stable prices and low unemployment.

ment, Powell said, and there are currently both risks of higher inflation and a weakening labor market.

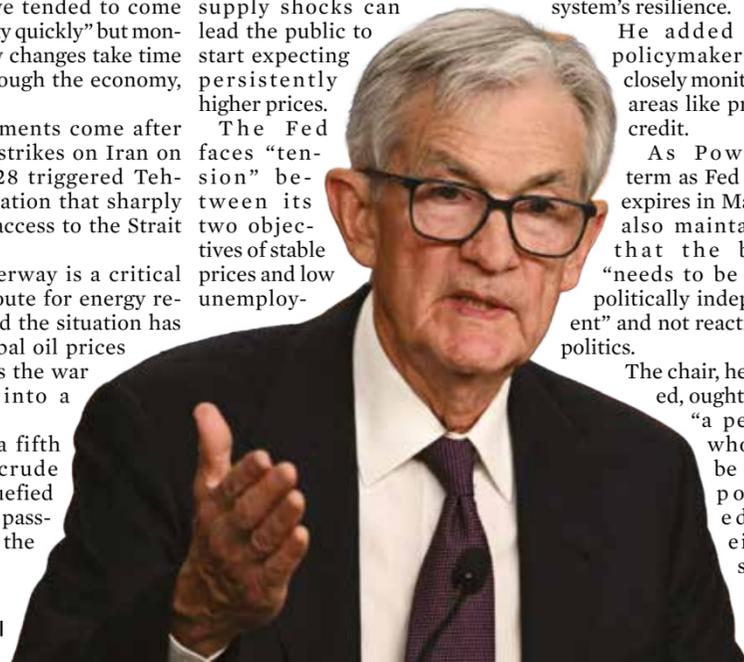
Asked about the risks of another financial crisis, Powell said the United States has "significantly hardened" its system since the 2008 global financial crisis.

While officials should not try to "regulate risk out of existence," he flagged the need for maintaining the financial system's resilience.

He added that policymakers are closely monitoring areas like private credit.

As Powell's term as Fed chair expires in May, he also maintained that the bank "needs to be fully politically independent" and not reactive to politics.

The chair, he added, ought to be "a person who can be reappointed by either side."



US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell

Ebdaa For Microfinance Bahrain		Audited Financial Statement For the year Ended 31st DEC 2025			
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As at 31 December 2025		2025 BD		2024 BD	
ASSETS					
Loans and advances to customers	1,477,700	1,703,226			
Cash and cash equivalents	1,048,494	997,986			
Bank deposits	939,228	695,292			
Equipment, furniture and leasehold improvements	114,415	110,054			
Prepayments and other receivables	67,448	82,197			
Right-of-use-assets	55,250	23,587			
	3,702,555	3,612,342			
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES					
Capital and reserves					
Share capital	2,209,720	2,209,720			
Statutory reserve	89,741	88,302			
Accumulated losses	(283,481)	(296,431)			
	2,015,980	2,001,591			
Liabilities					
Borrowings	1,400,000	1,400,000			
Accruals and other payables	153,742	72,879			
Deferred income	65,230	65,230			
Employees' terminal benefits	12,948	48,112			
Lease liabilities	54,615	24,530			
	1,686,575	1,610,751			
Total equity and liabilities	3,702,555	3,612,342			
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income For the year ended 31 December 2025					
	2025 BD	2024 BD			
Interest income	555,342	464,751			
Interest expense	(14,652)	(15,322)			
Net interest income	540,690	449,429			
Fee income	170,857	215,791			
Other income	87,955	104,102			
Total income	799,502	769,322			
Expenses					
Staff costs	(556,522)	(542,721)			
Depreciation on equipment, furniture and leasehold improvements	(29,193)	(30,240)			
Expected credit loss provision	(15,179)	4,614			
General and administrative expenses	(184,219)	(169,810)			
Total expenses	(785,113)	(738,157)			
Net profit and other comprehensive income for the year	14,389	31,165			
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY For the year ended 31 December 2025					
		Share capital BD	Statutory reserve BD	Accumulated losses BD	Total BD
At 31 December 2023		2,209,720	85,185	(324,479)	1,970,426
Total comprehensive income for the year		-	-	31,165	31,165
Transfer on statutory reserve		-	3,117	(3,117)	-
At 31 December 2024		2,209,720	88,302	(296,431)	2,001,591
Total comprehensive income for the year		-	-	14,389	14,389
Transfer on statutory reserve		-	1,439	(1,439)	-
At 31 December 2025		2,209,720	89,741	(283,481)	2,015,980
<p>Abdulhameed Mohamed Hasan Dawani Board member Mona Yousif Khalil Almoayyed Chairperson Badr Eldin Abdelrahim Ibrahim Abdelmagid Chief Executive Officer</p>					
<p>Ebdaa is licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain as Microfinance institution with CR: 72533 Tel: 17381000, Fax: 17381005 B.O. Box: 18648 Manama - Bahrain For full financial information details, please visit our website www.ebdabahrain.com</p>					

Zelensky offers Russia energy ceasefire to help ease Iran war oil crisis

Kyiv, Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday urged Russia to agree to a mutual halt on strikes against energy sites to help ease a global oil crisis triggered by the war in the Middle East.

"If Russia is ready to stop hitting Ukrainian energy facilities, we will not respond against their energy sector," Zelensky told journalists.

Israel army withdraws West Bank battalion after CNN journalist assault

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel's military said yesterday it had pulled a battalion out of the West Bank after a soldier assaulted a CNN photojournalist last week in a village in the occupied Palestinian territory.

A CNN team was reporting on the aftermath of an assault by Israeli settlers and the establishment of an illegal outpost near the Palestinian village of Tayasir on Thursday when they were detained by Israeli soldiers, the Foreign Press Association said in a statement.

On Monday, the military, in a rare move, withdrew a battalion from the West Bank following the incident.

"The operational deployment currently being carried out by the reserve battalion will be suspended," it said in a statement.

"The battalion will remain in reserve service and will undergo a process aimed at reinforcing its professional and ethical foundations."

The battalion would resume operational activity once the process is completed, the military added.

Sisi asks Trump to 'help us stop the war'

AFP | Cairo, Egypt

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi yesterday urged his US counterpart Donald Trump to help end the Middle East war, now in its second month.

"I say to President Trump: no one will be able to stop the war in our region, in the Gulf... Please, help us to stop the war, you are capable of it," Sisi said in joint remarks to the press in Cairo alongside Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides.



A first responder stands next to the wreckage of a vehicle at the site of an Israeli airstrike in the southern Lebanese village of Hanouiyeh, east of Tyre

Rubio says US hopeful in private talks after Iran 'fractures'

AFP | Washington, United States

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio yesterday voiced hope for working with elements

within Iran's government, saying the United States privately had received positive messages. Rubio said there were internal

"fractures" inside the Iran and that the United States hoped that figures with "power to deliver" take charge. "We are hopeful that

that's the case," Rubio told ABC News program "Good Morning America." "There are clearly people there talking to us in ways

that previous people in charge in Iran have not spoken to us in the past, some of the things they're willing to do," he said.

Trump eyes Iran oil

An earlier Trump comment warning of a possible assault by US ground troops to seize Iran's Kharg Island oil facilities had already sent prices higher

● Israeli army says struck Tehran university run by Iran Guards

● Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said they had discussed how to "bring an early and permanent end to the war."

● Speaker of Iran's parliament accused Washington of using diplomacy as a smoke screen

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump pushed concerns about surging world prices aside yesterday and threatened to destroy Iran's oil wells, power plants and main export terminal if Tehran does not quickly accept a peace deal.

Trump expressed confidence



that a negotiated settlement would soon be reached but warned that if it was not -- or if Iran continued to block the Strait of Hormuz to most sea traffic -- US forces would "blow up" Kharg Island and all of Iran's oil wells and electricity generation.

Market experts warned that any US ground operation or wider Iranian retaliation could send oil prices to levels not seen since the July 2008 commodity boom, when the cost of world benchmark crude Brent hit close to \$150 per barrel -- and could rise

far more.

Brent has already risen in price by nearly 60% this month, and the US benchmark WTI by more than half.

"If the US were to launch a ground invasion of Iran, possibly taking the Kharg Island, or if Tehran were to intensify retaliatory strikes on energy infrastructure or fully close the Strait, projections of \$200 (a barrel) oil will not be an otherworldly supposition anymore," analyst Tamas Varga of PVM Energy said. As Israel pressed its offensive

against Iran-backed Hezbollah in south Lebanon -- hitting, an official told AFP, an army checkpoint and killing a Lebanese soldier -- Indonesia confirmed on Monday that one of its peacekeepers was killed after the UN force said a projectile hit one of its positions.

Separately, the Israeli military said one of its soldiers was killed on Sunday in combat in southern Lebanon, bringing to six the number of troops killed since fighting with Hezbollah began this month.

Diplomatic efforts

On the ground there appeared to be no let-up in hostilities. Israel said its air defence batteries responded to "missiles launched from Iran", after earlier announcing it was striking "terror regime military infrastructure across Tehran".

Israel confirmed that in recent days it had hit the Imam Hossein University in Tehran, which it says is used by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) for advanced weapons research. Tehran has warned it could strike US universities

across the Middle East.

On the diplomatic front, Pakistan -- acting as a go-between for Washington and Tehran -- hosted foreign ministers from Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Egypt in Islamabad on Sunday for talks on the crisis.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said they had discussed how to "bring an early and permanent end to the war."

He said Iran and the United States had expressed "confidence in Pakistan to facilitate the talks" and that he had spoken to his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi as well as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and other foreign ministers who also backed the idea.

Nevertheless, the speaker of Iran's parliament accused Washington of using diplomacy as a smoke screen.

Despite making diplomatic overtures, including proposing a 15-point plan to end the war, the United States has also been sending more military assets into the region, including an amphibious assault ship carrying 3,500 Marines.

Turkey says fourth missile intercepted

Istanbul, Turkey

Turkey's Defence Ministry said yesterday that NATO forces had intercepted a new missile fired from Iran -- the fourth since the start of the Middle East war.

"A ballistic munition, which has been determined to have been fired from Iran and to have entered Turkish airspace, was neutralized by NATO air and missile defence forces deployed in the eastern Mediterranean," said a ministry statement.

Saudi Arabia says intercepted five ballistic missiles headed to Eastern Province

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's defence ministry said its forces detected and intercepted five ballistic missiles aimed at the kingdom's

Eastern Province.

The brief statement posted on X did not specify where the missiles originated.

Since the Middle East war erupted at the end of Febru-

ary, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries have been regularly targeted by Iranian missile and drone strikes in retaliation for the US-Israeli campaign, now in its second month.

1492

Queen Isabella I of Castile and King Ferdinand II of Aragon issue the Alhambra Decree expelling Jews from their kingdoms

1657

English Parliament presents the Humble Petition and Advice to Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell, offering him the crown, but he declines



Eiffel Tower officially opens for dignitaries and an award ceremony in Paris, France; designed by Gustave Eiffel and built for the Exposition Universelle, at 300 meters high, it holds the record for the tallest man-made structure for 41 years

1889

1920

British Parliament accepts the Government of Ireland Act, known as the Fourth Home Rule Bill



First responders work on the rubble of a building targeted by an Israeli airstrike in the southern Lebanese village of Hanouiyeh, east of Tyre

Kuwait says one killed in Iranian attack on desalination plant

NDTV

Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy yesterday stated that an

Indian worker was killed and a service building at a major power and water desalination plant sustained significant damage following what authorities

described as Iranian strikes on Sunday evening.

According to a statement issued by the ministry's official spokesperson, the strike target-

ed a service building at one of Kuwait's power and water desalination plants, resulting in the death of the Indian national and "significant material damage" to

the facility. "A service building at one of the power and water desalination plants was attacked as part of the Iranian aggression against the State of Kuwait.

Focus on Kharg island

Great progress has been made but, if for any reason a deal is not shortly reached, which it probably will be, and if the Hormuz Strait is not immediately 'open for business,' we will conclude our lovely 'stay' in Iran by blowing up and completely obliterating all of their electric generating plants, oil wells and Kharg Island (and possibly all desalination plants), which we have purposefully not yet 'touched'

US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

Spain shuts airspace for US planes involved in Iran war

AFP | Madrid, Spain

Spain's leftist government has closed Spanish airspace to US planes carrying out missions against Iran, in addition to denying Washington use of its bases, the latest step in the country's opposition to the conflict.

Defence Minister Margarita Robles confirmed the airspace closure to reporters on Monday after Spain's El Pais newspaper first reported on it, quoting military sources.

"This was made perfectly clear to the American military and forces from the very beginning. Therefore, neither the bases are authorised, nor, of course, is the use of Spanish airspace authorised for any actions related to the war in Iran," Robles said.

"I think everyone knows Spain's position; it's very clear," the minister added, calling the war on Iran "profoundly illegal and profoundly unjust".

Spain had already said earlier this month that the US could not use jointly operated military bases in the war, which Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has described as "unjustifiable".



The image captured by the Copernicus Sentinel-2 satellite shows a view of Iran's Kharg Island, which hosts the country's main crude export terminal and is responsible for the overwhelming majority of its oil shipments to the world, about 30 kilometres south of the mainland in the north of the Gulf, on March 2, 2026.

Iran Confirms Senior Guards Navy Commander Killed In Israeli Strike

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran confirmed yesterday that Revolutionary Guards naval commander Alireza Tangsiri has died from wounds sustained in an Israeli air strike, marking a significant escalation in the ongoing shadow war between the two rivals.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) announced the commander's death in a statement carried by its official Sepah News outlet, stating that Tangsiri "succumbed to severe injuries" following the attack.

Israel had claimed responsibility for the strike earlier this week, saying it had targeted the senior naval commander. Tangsiri, who led the IRGC's naval forces, was a prominent figure in Iran's military establishment and had overseen naval operations in the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

Iranian officials have yet to announce plans for retaliation, though tensions in the region are expected to rise sharply in the coming days.



TOP
3
TWEETS

01



Every day, we throw away enough to prepare 1 billion meals – while letting 9% of humanity go hungry. We cannot take food for granted. Together, let's build the zero-waste food systems we need to nourish both people & planet.

@antonioguterres

02



Israel's expanding military operations in southern Lebanon have resulted in the death of yet another health worker today. A paramedic was killed in a strike on an ambulance in Bint Jbeil. Additionally, a medical warehouse in the same city was destroyed in an attack.

@DrTedros

03



Pleased to speak with Prime Minister of the Netherlands Rob Jetten today. We discussed ways to further strengthen India-Netherlands ties. Highlighted the potential of our partnership in areas such as semiconductors, mega water projects, green hydrogen and talent mobility. Also exchanged views on the situation in West Asia and emphasized the need for early restoration of peace and stability in the region.

@narendramodi

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

G7 pledge 'necessary measures' to ensure stable energy market

AFP | Paris, France

G7 economy and finance ministers Monday said they stood ready to take "all necessary measures" to ensure the stability of the energy market as they tackled the economic consequences of war in the Middle East.

The United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran in late February, and Tehran has hit back by targeting crude-exporting countries in the region and halting most shipments through the Gulf.

The squeeze on supply has pushed oil and natural gas prices higher, with drastic knock-on effects for supply chains in multiple industries.

"We stand ready to take all necessary measures in close coordination with our partners, including to preserve the sta-

bility and security of the energy market," G7 energy and finance ministers, as well as central bank governors, said in a joint statement.

"We recognise the importance of coordinated international action to mitigate spillovers and safeguard macroeconomic stability."

They said they continued to monitor developments and their potential impact on global growth, and financial market conditions.

The G7 ministers also called on all countries to refrain from imposing unjustified export restrictions on hydrocarbons and related products.

"What's happening now in the Gulf is having energy consequences, economic consequences, financial market consequences and potentially in-



The G7 -- an informal grouping of the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Japan -- helps shape policy debates in the world's wealthiest nations. France currently holds the rotating presidency of the G7 advanced economies.

flation consequences," French Finance Minister Roland Lescure told reporters ahead of the meeting, which he chaired.

The United States has sought support from the group to help halt Iran's blockade of the Strait of Hormuz shipping route.

After a meeting last week, G7 foreign ministers said it was an "absolute necessity" for Iran to re-establish free passage through the strait and called for an end to attacks on civilian infrastructure.

Under increasing pressure, many governments have rolled out measures to limit the impact of supply difficulties and soaring energy prices.

On Friday, the French government announced it would spend 70 million euros (\$80 million) to help the fishing, agriculture and transport industries in April.

Russia 'glad' oil shipment reached Cuba



a tanker ship at the Supertanker Base in the Industrial Zone of the port of Matanzas, Cuba

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russia is pleased that a shipment of its oil reached Cuba, the Kremlin said yesterday, after U.S. President Donald Trump said he was not bothered by the delivery despite Washington's de facto blockade of the island.

Russia sent the Anatoly Kolodkin, a sanctioned oil tanker carrying 7,300,000 barrels of crude, to Cuba earlier this month as the Communist-run island grappled with fuel shortages.

Shipping data showed it sailing off Cuba's northeast coast on Monday (March 30, 2026) but it was not immediately clear whether it had docked at a port.

Russia is a close ally of Havana and has criticised Washington for blocking fuel deliveries to the island.

"We are pleased that this shipment of petroleum products will arrive on the island, or rather, it has already arrived," he added.

The shipment of oil would be the first to Havana since January, when U.S. forces abducted Venezuelan President and Cuban ally Nicolas Maduro in a raid.

Mr. Maduro's removal deprived Cuba of its main oil supplier and triggered an energy crisis on the island, sending fuel prices soaring and triggering daily blackouts.

Mr. Trump said on Sunday (March 29, 2026) he had "no problem" with Russia sending oil to the island.

"Cuba's finished. They have a bad regime. They have very bad and corrupt leadership and whether or not they get a boat of oil is not going to matter," he said.

The Kremlin's Peskov said Moscow and Washington had been in touch over the shipment.

"This issue was indeed raised in advance during our contacts with our American counterparts," he told reporters, without providing more details.

Renault says developing ground-based military drone

AFP | Paris, France

French carmaker Renault said yesterday it was developing a ground-based drone for military and civilian use as Europe scrambles to boost weapons production in the face of Russian aggression.

French industry magazine L'Usine Nouvelle said that the carmaker is working in partnership with the Belgian group John Cockerill, which owns the main French supplier of mili-



tary vehicles Arquus.

"Our R&D teams are testing and exploring various options, such as ground robots, which also have potential for civilian applications," Renault said in a statement to AFP.

"This is an exploratory study project," the company said without confirming the name of the partner company.

The car manufacturer said that it had been contacted by the defence ministry earlier this year.

"Our R&D teams are working on various projects in the defence sector, while also seeking civilian applications in each case," added Renault.

According to L'Usine Nouvelle, the land drone prototype

that Renault is developing is said to be the size of a small car and is expected to be unveiled at the Eurosatory international defence and security exhibition in June.

Designed for battlefield reconnaissance, it resembles a lunar rover equipped with several suspended cameras, according to the specialist publication.

In January, Renault said it was teaming up with Turgis Gailard, a French defence group, to produce aerial drones in France.

حبيب بنك لمتد
HABIB BANK LIMITED

Retail Branch - Kingdom of Bahrain

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As at 31 December 2025 (In thousands of Bahraini Dinars)

	2025	2024
Assets		
Cash and balances with the Central Bank of Bahrain	18,551	17,794
Placements and balances with banks	6,449	3,700
Investments	34,250	26,341
Loans and advances	65,997	62,458
Equipment	565	352
Other assets	1,717	1,905
Total assets	127,529	112,550
Liabilities and head office funds		
Liabilities		
Deposit from other offices of the Bank	314	27
Deposits from customers	109,274	95,417
Other liabilities	3,168	3,359
Total liabilities	112,756	98,803
Head office funds		
Capital contribution	2,754	2,754
Reserve	1,500	1,500
Unremitted profit	8,504	7,628
Fair value reserve	2,015	1,865
Total head office funds	14,773	13,747
Total liabilities and head office funds	127,529	112,550

Note: The above figures have been extracted from the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 which were approved for issue by the management on 30th March 2026 and which were audited by KPMG Fakhro, who expressed an unqualified opinion.

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME For the year ended 31 December 2025 (In thousands of Bahraini Dinars)

	2025	2024
Interest income	7,083	7,383
Interest expense	(4,320)	(4,259)
Net interest income	2,763	3,124
Other income	365	407
Total operating income	3,128	3,531
Staff expenses	(946)	(940)
Depreciation and amortization	(135)	(107)
Other operating expenses	(700)	(729)
Total operating expenses	(1,781)	(1,776)
Profit before impairment provision	1,347	1,755
Reversal / (Charge) for impairment provision, net	1,277	(409)
Profit before tax	2,624	1,346
Tax expense	(402)	-
Profit for the year	2,222	1,346
Other comprehensive income		
Items that are or may be reclassified in subsequent periods to profit or loss:		
Net change in fair value of debt investments at fair value through other comprehensive income	150	3,392
Total comprehensive income for the year	2,372	4,738

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN HEAD OFFICE FUNDS For the year ended 31 December 2025 (In thousands of Bahraini Dinars)

	Capital contribution	Reserve	Unremitted profits	Fair value reserve	Total
2025					
As at 1 January 2025	2,754	1,500	7,628	1,865	13,747
Comprehensive income					
Profit for the year	-	-	2,222	-	2,222
Profit remitted to Head office	-	-	(1,346)	-	(1,346)
Other comprehensive income					
Items that are or may be reclassified in subsequent periods to profit or loss:					
Net change in fair value of debt investments at fair value through other comprehensive income	-	-	-	150	150
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	876	150	1,026
At 31 December 2025	2,754	1,500	8,504	2,015	14,773
2024					
As at 1 January 2024	2,754	1,500	6,282	(1,527)	9,009
Comprehensive income					
Profit for the year	-	-	1,346	-	1,346
Other comprehensive income					
Items that are or may be reclassified in subsequent periods to profit or loss:					
Net change in fair value of debt investments at fair value through other comprehensive income	-	-	-	3,392	3,392
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	1,346	3,392	4,738
At 31 December 2024	2,754	1,500	7,628	1,865	13,747

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For the year ended 31 December 2025 (In thousands of Bahraini Dinars)

	2025	2024
Cash flow from operating activities		
Profit for the year	2,222	1,346
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation and amortisation	135	107
Tax expense	402	-
Unrealised gain on FVPL investments	(26)	-
Charge / (reversal) for impairment provision	(1,277)	409
Profit before changes in operating assets and liabilities	1,456	1,862
Working capital adjustments:		
Mandatory reserve with the CBB	50	135
Loans and advances	(3,809)	(16,453)
Other assets	81	(513)
Deposits from customers	13,857	6,315
Deposit from other offices of the Bank	287	(426)
Other liabilities	(83)	(886)
Domestic minimum top up tax paid	(167)	-
Placements with original maturity of more than 90 days	1,284	6,256
Net cash generated from / (used in) operating activity	12,956	(3,710)
Cash flow from investing activities		
Purchase of investments	(28,615)	(8,310)
Proceeds from sale / maturity of investments	22,218	3,500
Purchase of equipment	(289)	(5)
Net cash used in investing activities	(6,686)	(4,815)
Cash flow from financing activities		
Payment of lease liability	(84)	(80)
Profit remitted to head office	(1,346)	-
Net cash used in financing activities	(1,430)	(80)
Increase / (Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents during the year	4,840	(8,605)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	17,690	26,295
Cash and cash equivalent at the end of the year	22,531	17,690

Gold mine attack in South Sudan kills at least 73 people

AFP | Juba, South Sudan

An attack on a gold mine in South Sudan, one of the world's poorest and most volatile countries, killed at least 73 people and wounded 25, the vice president said.

The assault at the weekend targeted the mining area of Khor Kaltan, around 70 kilometres (45 miles) by road southwest of the capital Juba.

"At least 73 local miners have been tragically killed and 25 others seriously injured," Vice President James Wani Igga said in a statement. "We must provide urgent medical care and evacuation for the 25 injured."

"We must establish formal inquiry to determine the identity and motive of these 'unidentified assailants,'" Igga added.

A security source requesting anonymity confirmed the toll to AFP, while a diplomatic source put the figure at between 75 and 86 deaths.



Since gaining independence from Sudan in 2011, the world's youngest country has suffered a series of deadly conflicts

linked to First Vice President Riek Machar, mostly in the central-eastern Jonglei State.

The security source told AFP that "it's believed the attack was carried out" by Machar's opposition forces but conceded that

reports were "mixed".

A spokesman for Machar, who has been confined to house arrest for a year, denied that his forces were behind the attack and pointed the finger at the South Sudanese army.

WIDE ANGLE

Where is 'United Nations' in today's conflicts?



JOEL INDRUPATI

"It's high time to end this war." The UN Secretary-General António Guterres said this on 19 March 2026, during a European Council meeting in Brussels.

He said the conflict started by the United States and Israel was risking getting "completely out of control," while "causing immense suffering to civilians." He also warned Iran: "Stop attacking your neighbours; they were never parties to the conflict. The Security Council has condemned these attacks."

But is anyone listening? Is the UN really trying to make the warring nations stop? Was it not established "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war," as its charter says?

And what are the 193 member states of the UN, who have accepted the obligations of its Charter, doing about it?

Before examining its constraints, maybe, we should first look at the history of its formation.

Following the First World War, the UN's precursor, the League of Nations, was formed as the first intergovernmental organization aimed at maintaining world peace. Though born out of the 1919 Treaty of Versailles, which ended the war between the Allied Powers and Germany, the League failed to prevent another global conflict soon after.

The Second World War (1939-1945) then engulfed around 30 countries and devastated many more. Estimates suggest 40-60 million deaths, with millions more wounded or permanently disabled. The economic cost was staggering; the financial burden of the First World War alone included nearly \$4 trillion spent by the United States (adjusted to today's value), amounting to about 40% of its GDP at the time.

Out of this devastation, the United Nations was founded in 1945, primarily to prevent another world war. Its core mandate has been to maintain international peace and security through diplomacy, cooperation, and collective action.

While its six principal organs work collectively toward peace, security, and development, its specialized agencies operate independently to address global challenges such as health and finance.

Despite its role as a vital forum for diplomacy, peacekeeping, and humanitarian aid, the UN faces serious limitations today.

At the forefront is the Security Council's veto power. Its five permanent members—the US, Russia, the UK, France, and China—can block any substantive resolution. What was once designed as a safeguard of balance has increasingly become an instrument of paralysis, preventing decisive action when it is needed most.

Equally troubling is the organization's financial fragility. The UN depends on contributions from member states, yet it faces a funding crisis of nearly \$1.6 billion in unpaid dues, now. When major contributors delay or withhold payments, the institution's ability to act decisively is weakened, turning moral authority into little more than symbolic rhetoric.

More fundamentally, the UN suffers from a credibility gap. It can pass resolutions, issue warnings, and convene debates—but it cannot compel powerful nations to comply. In a world where geopolitical interests override collective responsibility, enforcement becomes selective, and justice appears inconsistent.

The tragedy is not merely institutional—it is moral. The lessons of two world wars were meant to anchor humanity to diplomacy over destruction. Yet today, those lessons seem dimmed by political expediency and national self-interest.

The very nations that empowered the UN are undermining it when its decisions conflict with their ambitions.

This raises an uncomfortable question: is the UN failing, or are its members failing it? Without genuine commitment from its members—not just in words, but in action—the UN becomes a stage for speeches and not a force for peace.

Unless there is urgent reform—structural, financial, and political—the United Nations risks drifting into irrelevance. Not because its ideals are flawed, but because they are no longer upheld with conviction.

"It's time for diplomacy to prevail over war," the UN chief had declared. Yet in today's world, that call is very feeble and is almost lost in the loud and increasing sounds of war.

Unless there is urgent reform—structural, financial, and political—the United Nations risks drifting into irrelevance.

US military building 'massive complex' beneath White House

Information about the plan had come out recently "because of a stupid lawsuit"

AFP | Washington, United States

President Donald Trump said Sunday the US military was planning to construct a large complex beneath the new ballroom he is building at the White House.

"The military is building a massive complex under the ballroom, and that's under construction, and we're doing very well, so we're ahead of schedule," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One.

"It's part of it, the ballroom essentially becomes a shed for what's being built under," Trump said, without elaborating on the unprecedented arrangement.

He said information about the plan had come out recently "because of a stupid lawsuit."

Last October, the former real estate developer had an entire wing of the White House bulldozed, in order to build a vast ballroom to host receptions and state dinners.

Trump speaks frequently and in great detail about the construction work, which has thus



US President Donald Trump delivers remarks to farmers from the Truman balcony of the White House in Washington, DC.

far been undertaken without the usual byzantine vetting procedures for changes to Washington's built landscape.

"We are using onyx and stones that are incredible," he recently told a press conference dedicated in part to the war in the

Middle East.

The ballroom project - one of the most ambitious undertakings at the White House in over a century - has continued to grow in scope, with its privately-funded budget doubling from \$200 to \$400 million.

ager to leave his mark on the US capital, Trump has also renamed an iconic performance venue as the "Trump-Kennedy Center," and plans to build a grand arch in Washington inspired by the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

Israel approves 2026 budget with increased defence spending

Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel's parliament approved the country's 2026 state budget early Monday, including a record allocation for defence spending, as the opposition denounced the plan as "the greatest theft" in the country's history.

The budget passed its final reading in the Knesset by 62

votes to 55, according to The Times of Israel

The 850.6 billion-shekel (\$271 billion) budget includes 143 billion shekels (\$45.8 billion) for the Defense Ministry, the largest defense allocation in Israel's history, according to Hebrew media.

The vote came ahead of a legal deadline on Tuesday, after

which failure to pass the budget would have automatically triggered early elections.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid expressed his displeasure over the budget.

"The greatest theft in the history of the state has been completed," he wrote on the US social media company X's platform.

"They took the money from reservists and gave it to draft dodgers. They robbed working people and gave it to the corrupt," he added.

The budget was approved amid the ongoing US-Israeli war on Iran, which has heightened tensions across the region and fueled a surge in Israeli military spending.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

Classifieds

VACANCIES
AVAILABLE

DAY TO DAY DISCOUNT CENTER has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66634444 or JISHNA@DAYTODAYBH.COM

DAY TO DAY DISCOUNT CENTER has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17441000 or SA1985@LIVE.COM

T T'S GENERAL CLEANING OF BUILDINGS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33715201 or MOHAMMEDRASEB@HOTMAIL.COM

B S T RENTING AND LEASING OF OFHER PERS AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33715201 or MOHAMMEDRASEB@HOTMAIL.COM

BURGER EXPRESS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35414424 or saga-burger@gmail.com

Indian Delights Restaurant Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17250300 or deepa161@yahoo.com

smart boy men salon has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33433533 or AHMEDRMK@LIVE.COM

AL ZAFAR TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33103425 or SHUKURCA@GMAIL.COM

ONE CHOICE MAINTENANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66955715 or SAHARKHAWAR2808@GMAIL.COM

ORANGE TOWER CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33875634 or ORANGETOWRBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

CIEANNA FASHION HOUSE has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33677322 or FLYCITYDOCUMENT@GMAIL.COM

AL RIFFA FOR RECRUITING MANPOWER has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33330488 or YASER.ALQASHAR@GMAIL.COM

MOHAMMAD BILLAL SUPERMARKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35987391 or BAHARFARIDMIA83@GMAIL.COM

King Kimi, Max misery, Bearman smash: Japan GP talking points

AFP | Suzuka

Kimi Antonelli won the Japanese Grand Prix from pole ahead of McLaren's Oscar Piastri as Max Verstappen endured another miserable outing in his Red Bull.

Here are three talking points from the third race weekend on the 2026 Formula One calendar:

Mercedes protect teen hero

Antonelli is in only his second season, but already Mercedes are playing down expectations of the 19-year-old -- now the youngest title race leader in Formula One history.

"We need to protect him now from people talking about world championships," said Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff after the race.

Antonelli admitted he had a stroke of fortune with a safety car that enabled him to dive in for fresh tyres and emerge in the lead after his rivals had already pitted.

It was the second race in a row where



Mercedes' Italian driver Kimi Antonelli celebrates with his team

a slow getaway saw him relegated from pole position and having to play catch-up.

"I had a terrible start. I need to check what happened. Then I was lucky with the safety car to be in the lead but then the pace was incredible," said Antonelli

"Luckily, I've got three weeks, so now I can practise some clutch drops just to

get a better feel with it.

"It's been a weak point and I need to improve because you can easily win or lose races."

Verstappen quit threat

Red Bull's four-time world champion Verstappen openly questioned his future in Formula One after finishing eighth and lashing out again about the new cars and regulations.

"It's really anti-driving," he told the BBC.

"Then at one point, yeah, it's just not what I want to do."

Verstappen had won at Suzuka in each of the previous four years but was way off the pace and even waved goodbye to one car that overtook him, knowing that he did not have any capability to strike back.

The Dutchman said Formula One bosses "know what to do" to address his concerns and added: "You don't need to feel sorry for me, I'll be fine."

Bearman sparks safety call

Oliver Bearman escaped serious injury

in a horror crash which prompted drivers to call for changes in the regulations.

The 20-year-old's Haas was closing rapidly at high speed on Franco Colapinto and smashed into the barriers after swerving to avoid the Argentine's Alpine.

Drivers and teams complained it had been an accident waiting to happen because of Formula One's new regulations that mean cars can be travelling at drastically different speeds on the track at the same time.

"These kind of closing speeds and these kind of accidents were always going to happen, and I'm not very happy with what we've had up until now," Grand Prix Drivers' Association chief Carlos Sainz told Sky Sports F1.

"Hopefully we come up with a better solution that doesn't create these massive closing speeds and a safer way of going racing," added the Williams driver.

Bearman said: "I think we've, as a group, warned the FIA what can happen, and this has been a really unfortunate result."

Italy's Bezzecchi wins fifth MotoGP in a row by taking US Grand Prix



Marco Bezzecchi in action

AFP | Austin

Marco Bezzecchi captured his fifth consecutive MotoGP victory on Sunday by winning the United States Grand Prix, reclaiming the season points lead in the process.

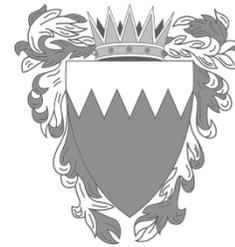
The 27-year-old Italian rider for Aprilia also set a MotoGP record for consecutive laps led with 121 in taking the 20-lap showdown at Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas.

Bezzecchi started second behind Italian pole-sitter Fabio Di Giannantonio, who rides for Valentino Rossi's VR46 team, but the Ducati rider faded quickly to fifth as Bezzecchi seized the lead and kept it to the finish.

In leading the first three laps he broke the previous record for most led in a row of 103 set by Spaniard Jorge Lorenzo of Yamaha in 2015.

His winning time of 40mins 50.653secs was 2.036 seconds ahead of runner up Aprilia teammate Jorge Martin of Spain, who won Saturday's sprint race to take the riders lead by a point. Spain's Pedro Acosta of KTM was third.

Bezzecchi is the first rider since Spain's Marc Marquez in 2014 to win the first three races of a season, Marquez having taking 10 in a row in his run.



وزارة العدل والشؤون الإسلامية والأوقاف

Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs
and Waqf

The Settlement Committee for Stalled Real Estate Development Projects announces to the rights holders, unit and apartment reserve's or buyers, contractors, companies, and anyone who has claims on any project under

(BIN FAQEEH Co. AND FAISAL ABDALWAHED FAQEEH)

To Submit to the committee their claims accompanied by supporting documents within a maximum period of two weeks from the date of publication of this announcement. Through the claim submission form available on the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs and Endowments website.

Implacable Sinner overpowers Lehecka to win Miami Open

World number two beats Lehecka 6-4, 6-4 to become first man since Federer to sweep Sunshine Double

● Sinner completes Indian Wells-Miami double

● Wins title without dropping a set

● Wins title without dropping a set

AFP | Miami

World number two Jannik Sinner powered past Jiri Lehecka 6-4, 6-4 to win the ATP Miami Masters 1000 for a second time on Sunday, adding the title to his Indian Wells crown.

Sinner had to wait out rain delays before and during the match to complete his "Sunshine Double," becoming the first man to sweep the elite hard court tournaments in California and Florida since Roger Federer in 2017 and the first to do so without dropping a set.

In fact, Sinner -- who won Miami in 2024 but missed last year as he served a three-month doping ban -- has now won three straight Masters 1000 events, starting with a victory in Paris last year.

"It's a very, very special moment," Sinner said. "Coming here, performing again in a very good way after Indian Wells means a lot to me."

"It's something I never would've thought (I'd win) because it's difficult to achieve."

Sinner's victory, coupled with Aryna Sabalenka's triumph over Coco Gauff on Saturday, mark the first time the Indian Wells-Miami sweep was achieved on both the men's



Jannik Sinner of Italy celebrates match point against Jiri Lehecka of Czechia

and women's sides since Novak Djokovic and Victoria Azarenka both did it in 2016.

It also saw the Italian gain a bit on Spain's Carlos Alcaraz -- who was upset in the third round -- in the race for world number one as the clay court season beckons.

Early showers saw the match delayed for more than an hour. Sinner had just pocketed the first set when the showers hit again, halting the match for 90 minutes.

It wasn't enough to unsettle Sinner, who fired 10 aces and won 33 of 36 points when he put his first serve in play.

3

consecutive ATP Masters 1000 titles have now been claimed by Jannik Sinner, a dominant streak that began with his victory in Paris late last year

His return game was also spot on as he handed 22nd-ranked Czech Lehecka his first service break of the tournament for a 2-1 lead in the opening frame.

”

It's a very, very special moment. Coming here, performing again in a very good way after Indian Wells means a lot to me. It's something I never would've thought (I'd win) because it's difficult to achieve

JANNIK SINNER

Sinner trailed 0-40 in the following game but fired three service winners and a pair of aces

to hold.

"I tried to be focused," Sinner said. "I tried to understand why I missed the first serves before. In the beginning, the conditions were very different ... very, very heavy balls. I missed a couple of first serves in the net because they were quite heavy."

'Very precise'

He said Lehecka's aggressive return game also gave him pause. "You have to hit very precise. If not, he has it on the racquet," Sinner said.

But he made the advantage stand up and gave himself a first



set point in the ninth game with a blistering cross-court forehand service return winner.

Lehecka saved that one with a service winner and saved another set point with a volley, going on to seal the hold on his sixth game point before Sinner pocketed the set with a love game.

Lehecka fought off five more break points before Sinner pounced for the lone break of the second set and a 5-4 lead, the Czech gifting Sinner a break chance with a loose forehand.

Sinner didn't face a break point in the second set and gave himself a match point with a forehand volley winner, thought he had it on a serve that was called a let, and polished it off with another winner at the net.

While Lehecka, playing in his first Masters 1000 final, couldn't follow compatriot Jakub Mensik into the Miami winner's circle, he reached a career-high 14th in the world rankings yesterday.

"I came here with not good form and I was able to come back to the tennis that I want to play," Lehecka said at the trophy ceremony.

Tottenham close in on De Zerbi as next boss - reports

AFP | London

Tottenham have targeted Roberto De Zerbi as their preferred candidate to lead the troubled Premier League club's fight to avoid relegation, according to reports yesterday.

De Zerbi is available after leaving Marseille by mutual consent in February.

Tottenham parted ways with interim boss Igor Tudor on Sunday after just seven games and 44 days in charge.

The north Londoners sit just one point above the relegation zone with seven matches left, having failed to win a league game in 2026.

De Zerbi established a positive reputation for himself in England during a two-year spell as Brighton boss between 2022 and 2024.

The Italian had reportedly

been reticent to take the Tottenham job before knowing which division they will be playing in next season.

However, The Athletic and Talksport reported that progress has been made in talks, with Tottenham offering a lucrative long-term deal to convince the 46-year-old to take charge now.

Tottenham have not tasted life outside the top flight of English football since 1977-78.

Despite boasting a new 63,000-capacity stadium, state-of-the-art training ground and revenues that make them among the top 10 richest clubs in world football, they are at severe risk of a humiliating relegation to the Championship.

Just a few years ago they were Champions League regulars under former manager Mauricio Pochettino, reaching the final in 2019.

NBA-best Thunder beat Knicks as Boston seal playoff spot

AFP | New York

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 30 points and the NBA-best Oklahoma City Thunder beat the New York Knicks 111-100 on Sunday while the Boston Celtics clinched a playoff berth.

Jalen Williams added 22 points while Isaiah Hartenstein grabbed 13 rebounds as the reigning NBA champion Thunder improved to 59-16, 2.5 games ahead of San Antonio atop the Western Conference.

Reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Gilgeous-Alexander extended his NBA record run of games with 20 or more points to 135 in a row.

"He's MVP for a reason," Thunder guard Luguentz Dort said of "SGA". "He knows the type of shot he's going to get and he's never going to lay down and we know he's always going to be aggressive for us, which he did throughout the whole game."

The visiting Knicks, led by 32



Shai Gilgeous-Alexander of the Oklahoma City Thunder shoots around New York's O.G. Anunoby

points from Jalen Brunson, fell to 48-27 and missed a chance to clinch a playoff berth.

Josh Hart's three-pointer at the buzzer lifted New York within 53-52 at half-time, but the Thunder stretched the advantage to 84-78 after three quarters.

A 10-0 run pulled New York within 92-91 but Gilgeous-Alexander made back-to-back three-pointers and a jumper in an 10-0 run soon after that gave the Thunder a 106-95 edge on the way to a 14th victory in 15 games.

"They're a good team. We

knew it was going to be a tough one," said Dort, who scored 12 points. "We just had to stay in there throughout the whole game and we did."

"Every time we play together like that we're hard to beat."

Jayson Tatum delivered 32 points, eight assists and five rebounds as the Boston Celtics sealed a playoff berth with a 114-99 victory at Charlotte.

Payton Pritchard added 28 points for Boston (50-24), which pulled within four games of Eastern Conference leader Detroit.

The Los Angeles Clippers (39-36) stretched their win streak to five games as reserve Benedict Mathurin scored 28 points and Kawhi Leonard added 20 in a 127-113 victory at Milwaukee, which got 36 points from Gary Trent in a losing cause.

Houston's Alperen Sengun had 36 points and 14 rebounds while Kevin Durant added 20 points to spark the Rockets in a 134-102 victory at New Orleans.

Bahrain football returns with treble dreams alive

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain football returns this week with the title race finely poised and silverware still up for grabs across multiple competitions. April promises to be decisive, with the league, cup, and treble ambitions all hanging in the balance.

Title race

The Nasser bin Hamad Premier League resumes on April 2 with Matchweek 17, ushering in the final seven rounds of a season full of surprises.

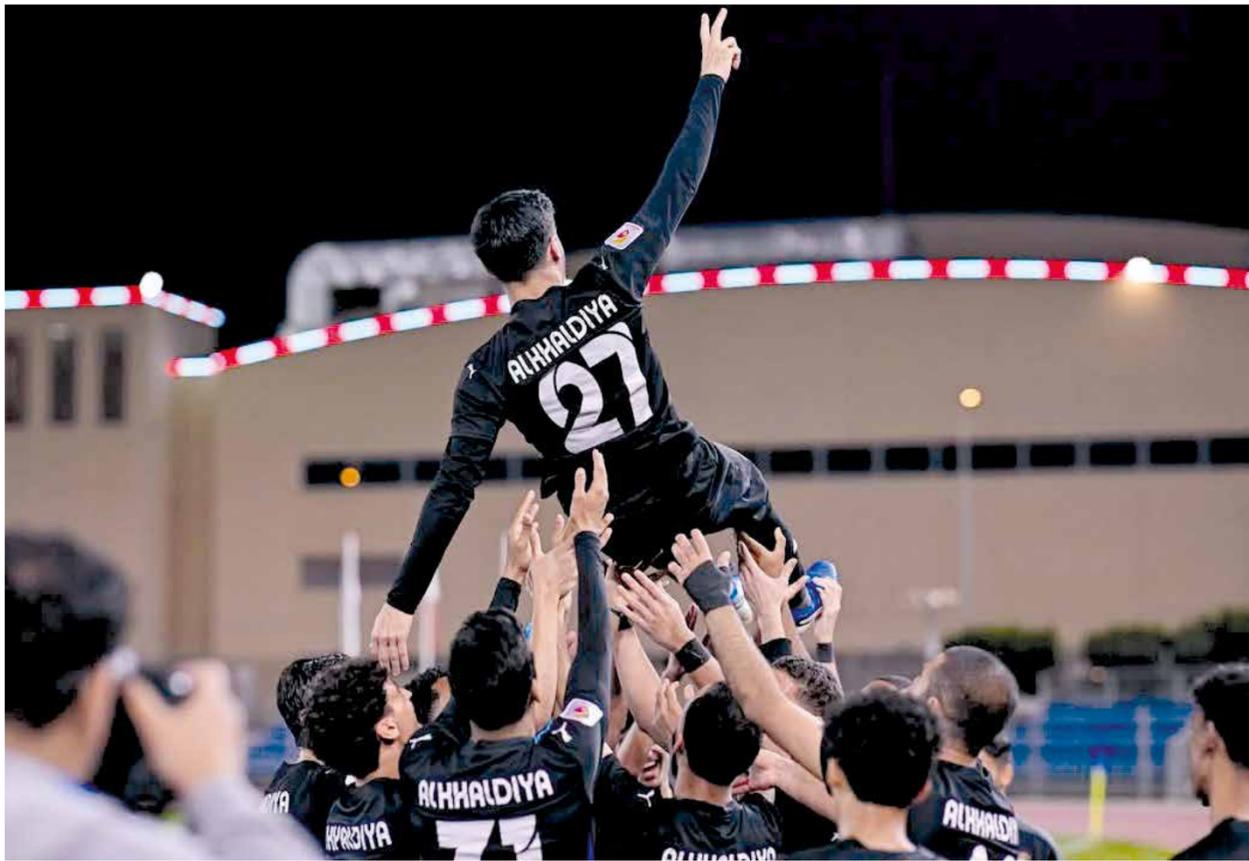
Al Khaldiya, founded only in 2020, sit top of the table on 39 points. Since Tunisian coach Lassaad Al Chaabi arrived in November, the club has been nearly unstoppable.

Their rapid rise and early consistency put them in prime position to chase what would be just the third league title in their short history.

Their confidence was boosted earlier this month when they beat Muharraq to lift the Super Cup, a match effectively played by U21 squads as both teams rested senior players. With the league lead and a place in the King's Cup semi-finals, Al Khaldiya are firmly in contention for a domestic treble.

Reigning champions Muharraq are just two points behind on 37.

The league's most decorated side, holders of 35 Premier League titles, remain a formidable presence under Portuguese coach Fernando Manuel de Jesus Santos.



Al Khaldiya celebrate winning the Super Cup in mid-March

Their attack is led by Edimar Ribeiro da Costa, the league's top scorer with 12 goals, and they will look to prove why they remain Bahrain's benchmark club.

Riffa are in third on 34 points. Under Kuwaiti coach Mohammed Mashaan, they have combined league consistency with cup success, including their

Khalid bin Hamad Cup win over Muharraq in February. With the league challenge and King's Cup semi-final ahead, Riffa also have a clear path to a treble.

The top three are separated by just five points, and every match from now on could reshape the title race. Behind them, Al Malkiya sit fourth on 23 points,

largely safe but capable of influencing the top three, while Aali Club, Al Hidd, Al Ahli, and Al Najma occupy the mid-table positions with mixed form.

Relegation battle

At the bottom, Sitra (18 points), Al Budaiya (18), Al Shabab (10), and Bahrain Club (7) are fighting

to avoid the drop. Bahrain Club's miserable season leaves them in the most perilous position, while Al Shabab must quickly find form to survive. Every point gained in the next seven fixtures is crucial.

League fixtures

The league restarts on April

2, with fifth-place Aali Club facing Bahrain Club at 7 PM, while eighth-place Al Najma take on Al Shabab at the same time.

On April 3, Muharraq face Sitra at 5:15 PM, followed by Al Budaiya against Al Hidd at 7:30 PM. The spotlight then shifts to April 4, when league leaders Al Khaldiya clash with Riffa at 5:15 PM in a match that could prove pivotal for the title.

Later that evening, seventh-place Al Ahli will play against fourth-place Al Malkiya at 7:30 PM.

Cup semi-finals

Just days later, attention turns to the Bahrain King's Cup, with semi-finals scheduled for April 10 and 11.

On April 10, holders Al Khaldiya meet Riffa, a fixture that pits two sides still chasing silverware on multiple fronts. Both clubs have treble ambitions heading into the decisive stages of the season.

The following day, Muharraq face Al Ahli, aiming to assert their pedigree and keep their season alive.

April stakes

April could define the domestic season. Al Khaldiya have momentum and trophies already in the bag. Riffa have shown they can deliver in crucial moments. Muharraq, with their history and firepower, remain ever-threatening.

With seven league games remaining and a place in the cup final at stake, the margin for error is quickly vanishing.

Bahrain boxers bring their fight to Saudi rings



Bahrain's Ali Alaradi fires a shot during sparring

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Under new coach Irish John Conlon, the Bahrain National Boxing Team recently took part in joint sparring sessions with several clubs in

the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, hosted by Samurai Club in Al Khobar.

Over multiple rounds, the team faced Saudi opponents in a competitive environment that tested their skills, boosted confidence, and offered experi-

ence against different fighting styles.

The sessions included experienced national boxers Ali Alaradi, Rasheed Mehrinfar, and Mohammed Atiya, along with other rising athletes, giving the team a chance to refine techniques



Bahrain Boxing Federation officials and fighters with Samurai Club members in Al Khobar

and prepare for upcoming competitions.

The exchange reflected the team's dedication, as athletes continued rigorous training despite regional challenges and difficult circumstances.

It also strengthened sporting ties between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia and fostered camaraderie among the fighters.

The Bahrain Boxing Federation expressed gratitude to their Saudi hosts for the warm welcome and excellent organ-

ization.

Samurai Club described the visit as "a remarkable step for technical development and competitive exposure" and welcomed the Bahrain team as "always at home among their brothers."

IPL captain takes pop at Cricket Australia over record-buy Green



Cameron Green warms-up before the match

AFP | Mumbai

Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Ajinkya Rahane aimed a dig at Cricket Australia after \$2.7 million all-rounder Cameron Green was unable to bowl as they opened their IPL season with defeat.

Green was snapped up by three-time champions Kolkata in the December auction for 252 million rupees to become the most expensive overseas buy in Indian Premier League history.

Kolkata posted 220 against Mumbai Indians at Wankhede Stadium on Sunday, with Green hitting a four and a six while batting at number three before he departed for 18 off 10 balls.

The Kolkata bowlers -- minus Australian international Green -- then took a beating as the hosts chased down their target with five balls to spare.

Quizzed afterwards about not using Green as a bowling

option, Rahane replied bluntly: "The question you need to ask Cricket Australia."

Cricket Australia yesterday said Green has a lower back injury that "requires him to abstain from bowling for a short period".

"Cameron is currently rebuilding his bowling loads in India with a view to return in around 10-12 days' time," a spokesperson said.

"KKR has been communicated with and is fully aware of this information."

The 26-year-old Green has been carefully managed since having back surgery in 2024.

He bowled just seven balls at the T20 World Cup in February and featured in the Sheffield Shield's ninth round only as a batter.

Speaking later in a post-match press conference, Rahane said: "It is challenging because our bowlers are injured, but it is an opportunity for other players to show up and make a name for themselves."

Knibb, Blummenfelt win Oceanside Ironman 70.3

TDT | Manama

Sun-drenched Oceanside, California, USA, hosted a memorable Sunday for Bahrain Victorious 13. Taylor Knibb delivered a standout performance in the women's race, while former Bahrain Victorious star Kristian Blummenfelt dominated the men's event.

Knibb extended her 2026 winning streak representing the Kingdom. She finished the 1.9 km swim just behind Brazil's Vittoria Lopes in 23:29 but quickly hit her stride on the 90 km bike leg, completing it in 2:15:27 -- smashing her previous record of 2:18:00 and building a strong lead for the 21.1 km run. She crossed the line in 4:01:39, nearly five minutes faster than her prior best, finishing almost two minutes ahead of Norway's Solveig Lovseth, with France's Audrey Merle in third. The victory earned her 2,500 Pro Series points and \$7,500, jumping 18 places to 11th on the leaderboard.

"Every race is fun when you win," Knibb said. "The first 16 kilometers went well, but the last part tested me. Sometimes you just have to go for it."

Blummenfelt, Olympic champion and former Bahrain Victorious 13 member, started outside the top 15 after the swim but steadily gained ground on the bike. In the half marathon, he launched a decisive surge in the final 2.5 kilometers, overtaking Sam Long and Jonas Schomburg to finish in 3:40:08 -- his second straight 70.3 win following Geelong six days earlier.

"I really had to work today,"



Taylor Knibb of Bahrain Victorious crosses the finish line to win the women's race



Kristian Blummenfelt crosses the finish line to win the men's race in Oceanside

Blummenfelt said. "I felt strong on the run, but I still had two minutes to Jonas and Sam. I passed them with 2.5 kilometers to go and barely made it."

With victories in Oceanside, both athletes now turn their focus to Ironman Texas on April 18, aiming to continue their early-season dominance.

Their performances highlight the depth and competitive spirit of Bahrain Victorious 13 and its alumni, signaling a strong season ahead.

Tuchel defends Rice and Saka after England withdrawals

AFP | London

Thomas Tuchel insisted Declan Rice and Bukayo Saka were desperate to play for England against Japan after the Arsenal stars pulled out of the squad ahead of Tuesday's friendly.

Rice and Saka watched from the stands when England drew 1-1 against Uruguay on Friday, having been allowed to join up with Tuchel's group later than most of their team-mates to give them time to rest.

The pair were among five injury withdrawals on Saturday, along with Arsenal team-mate Noni Madueke.

Rice, Saka and Madueke are among 10 Arsenal players to have withdrawn from their respective national teams in recent days.

The mass exodus has raised questions about Arsenal potentially suggesting to their stars that they prioritise the club's treble bid over their countries' friendlies.

Arsenal are nine points clear at the top of the Premier League



England boss Thomas Tuchel during a press conference

as they chase a first English title since 2004, and are still in contention in the Champions League and FA Cup.

But Tuchel was adamant Rice and Saka were hoping to feature for England in their final friendlies on home soil before the World Cup in June and July.

"They joined, had a medical assessment, wanted desperately to play, to just get the narrative straight. Wanted desperately to be involved," Tuchel told report-

ers yesterday. "The risk for making it worse was just way too big. They were both clearly in discomfort when we did the medical assessment, so it made absolutely no sense that they stayed."

'I'm not upset'

Crystal Palace midfielder Adam Wharton pulled out with an issue that was "more discomfort than a big injury".

Manchester City defend-

er John Stones left before the friendly against Japan due to a calf issue.

The centre-back has only made five appearances for City since last playing for England in November.

"It's not ideal for John and not for us, of course, and John was gutted that he had this minor incident again, which was not a big injury but given the history we had to be careful," Tuchel said.

"He has a lot of credit with me in the bank still. He is a key player for us, as a starter or as a substitute."

Tuchel admitted the withdrawals were frustrating, but the German was not surprised given the toll on players towards the end of a gruelling season.

"It's disappointing, but I'm not upset with the players. I'm not angry with the players," he said.

"I got the feeling that everyone was desperate to come. Some of the injured players even stayed to do their treatment here, start their treatment here.

Test star Carey the hero as South Australia win Sheffield Shield final

AFP | Sydney

A gritty century from Test wicketkeeper Alex Carey helped South Australia clinch back-to-back Sheffield Shield titles yesterday with a stunning 56-run comeback win over Victoria.

Facing defeat at 79-5 in the second innings, Carey stepped up to crunch 103 in a crucial late stand with number nine Nathan McAndrew (60).



Alex Carey

Their bowlers then finished the job at Melbourne's Junction Oval to deny Victoria a first domestic red-ball crown since 2018-19.

AQUA COOL
Ultra Pure Bottled Drinking Water

35 YEARS

Easy & Secure Online Ordering of your favourite Aqua Cool Products

Download the AQUA COOL App Now

Available on Google Play and App Store

Free Home Delivery
Call Us Now-1787 5098
www.aquacool.bh

Jalal Ionics Co. W.L.L. is ISO 22000 - 2005 certified

Jalal Ionics Co. W.L.L.
P.O. Box 1770, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
C.R. No. 14986, Public Health Registration No. 18/006

Thara'a
Prize Account

NBB 

\$6,000,000

Total Prizes

**6 Seafront
Villas**



Deposit now

Closer to you

Terms & Conditions Apply.
Licensed by CBB as a Conventional Retail Bank.



MOIC 32654 - 32656 - 32657