

Rescuers in Nepal and China are battling mud, rising rivers and debris as the number of missing from the devastating floods and landslides surpasses 3,000. | P8-9

Coast Guard Handles Sea Robbery

The Interior Ministry announced that the Coast Guard had handled a case involving a Bahraini fishing boat carrying three people that was robbed in the northern waters of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

According to initial statements, the boat was approached by another vessel carrying several armed individuals, who fired warning shots without causing any injuries. The crew had no opportunity to send a distress call before the boat and its contents were seized, leaving them stranded at sea.

A boat that happened to be nearby transported the three individuals to a Coast Guard point, where their safety was confirmed.

Halal Mark Rules Tightened

Businesses in Bahrain must obtain a licence before using the national halal mark on products; violations may result in warnings, licence cancellation, or legal action. The rules were set under Resolution 125 of 2026 issued by Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Minister Wael Al Mubarak.

Applicants must meet several conditions, including holding a halal certificate from an approved auditing body. Licences will be valid for three years, and the ministry will regulate the products covered and how the mark is displayed.

Bahrain Hosts Global Dispute Panel



The Council for International Dispute Resolution of Bahrain hosted a discussion on "International Commercial Courts and the Future of Cross-Border Dispute Resolution" during Singapore Convention Week 2026.

The discussion explored how commercial courts and arbitration can complement each other in resolving cross-border disputes, while examining emerging trends including procedural innovation, efficiency and challenges related to enforcement, jurisdiction and coordination.

A Global Call for Tolerance: HM King Hamad Approves Award Jury



TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the King Hamad Global Centre for

Coexistence and Tolerance.

During the meeting, Dr. Shaikh Abdulla presented His Majesty with the names of the judging committee members for the King Hamad Award for Coexistence and Tolerance.

The committee comprises prominent intellectual and academic figures from Bahrain and abroad who will assess sub-



missions and select the winner of the inaugural international award.

His Majesty praised the committee members' expertise and international standing, wishing them success in advancing the award's humanitarian mission. His Majesty reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to dialogue among civilisations and cul-

tures, promoting global harmony, peaceful coexistence and lasting peace.

He also praised the achievements and international reputation of the King Hamad Global Centre for Coexistence and Tolerance, reaffirming his continued support for its initiatives promoting tolerance, coexistence and religious freedom.

Moves on Legal Reforms

HM King Hamad Ratifies New Legal Frameworks for Customs, Passports and Local Governance

● Bahrain, UK Open New Chapter in Customs Cooperation

● New Passport Rules Cover Senior Officials

● Community Governance Gets a Legal Boost

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued Decree-Law No. 40 of 2026 ratifying a customs co-operation agreement with the United Kingdom. The de-

cree-law ratifies the Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters between Bahrain and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Mukhtars Return to Governorates

Decree-Law No. 38 of 2026 amends the System of Governorates to restore the position of Mukhtar (community representative). Each governorate will have one or more Mukhtars, appointed by the Minister of Interior from candidates nominated by the governor concerned.

Mukhtars will serve four-year terms, which may be renewed for one or more further terms. Candidates must be Bahraini citizens, enjoy full civil and political rights, be at least 40 years

old, be able to read and write, and be of good character and reputation.

They must not have been convicted of a felony or an offence involving dishonesty or breach of trust unless legally rehabilitated, and must not previously have been dismissed from a public post on disciplinary or other grounds.

The Minister of Interior may remove a Mukhtar from office before the end of the term on the recommendation of the governor concerned. The minister may also temporarily assign a Mukhtar's duties to another Mukhtar in the same governorate for public interest reasons or when a temporary impediment prevents the Mukhtar from carrying out the role.

The Minister of Interior will

issue a separate decision defining the Mukhtars' functions and duties, and regulating their work. Mukhtars will receive monthly remuneration to be determined by a Cabinet decision.

Municipal Council Terms

Decree-Law No. 39 of 2026 amends Article 9 of the Municipalities Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. 35 of 2001. If a royal order extends the legislative term of the Council of Representatives, the Prime Minister may issue a decision extending the terms of existing municipal councils until the parliamentary extension ends, unless their original terms already extend beyond that date.

Read more on page 03

Tightens Wildlife Protection



His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Personal Representative of His Majesty the King and Chairman of the Supreme Council for the Environment, issued three regulatory decisions aimed at strengthening wildlife protection and biodiversity conservation in Bahrain.

The decisions introduce rules for issuing falcon passports in line with CITES requirements, update the list of protected wildlife to 381 species, and prohibit the import, possession, trade and propagation of myna and crow birds due to their impact on local ecosystems.

Minister Praises RHF Efforts



Information Minister Dr Ramzan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi received Acting Secretary-General of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) Engineer Ibrahim Dalhan Al Dosari. Discussions focused on strengthening coordination between the Ministry of Information and the Foundation, along with several issues of mutual interest.

Dr Al Nuaimi praised the RHF's humanitarian and relief programmes inside and outside Bahrain, highlighting its contribution to strengthening the Kingdom's humanitarian role.

Bahrain, UK Discuss Stronger Cooperation



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received Simon Martin, Chargé d'Affaires of the United Kingdom's Embassy in Bahrain. His Majesty welcomed the UK diplomat and wished him success in his duties. They discussed the longstanding Bahrain-UK ties and ways to further strengthen cooperation across various fields. His Majesty affirmed Bahrain's keenness to develop the strategic partnership and expand cooperation in areas of mutual interest, while commending the UK's regional and international role in promoting security, stability and peace. For his part, Simon Martin expressed appreciation to His Majesty for his efforts to strengthen the close cooperation between Bahrain and the United Kingdom.

Faster Golden Residency Renewals

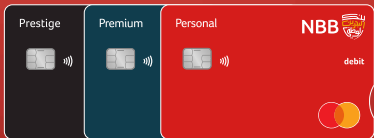


The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) has upgraded its work permit renewal service for Golden Residency holders, allowing employers to renew permits before expiry through a fully digital process. Permits can be renewed for six months, one year or two years.

Processing time has been reduced from 10 working days to an instant automated procedure, while required documents have been cut by 50%.



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Expands Access to Special Passports

New Bahrain Passport Rules Cover Senior Officials, Retirees and Families

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has amended the rules governing eligibility for special passports under Decree-Law No. 37 of 2026, which replaces Article 9 of Law No. 11 of 1975 regarding Passports. The amended article lists 12 categories entitled to special passports. They include members of the Shura Council and Council of Representatives; serving government employees at Undersecretary level or above, and those of equivalent status; members of the Constitutional Court; and judges of the Court of Cassation, and those of equivalent status.

Former Chairmen of the Shura Council and former Speakers of the Council of Representatives are also eligible. Former ministers, former undersecretaries and those of equivalent status, as well as former ambassadors and Ministers Plenipotentiary, may receive special passports with the Prime Minister's approval.

Serving members of military and security bodies holding the rank of Major General (Liwa) or above are eligible if they are not entitled to diplomatic passports.

Retired members of military and security bodies who hold, or previously held, the rank of Major General (Liwa) or above, and who had previously been issued special passports, may also qualify. Their service must not have ended for disciplinary reasons or following a final court judgment, and approval must be obtained from the senior command of the military body to which they belonged.



Spouses, children under the age of 21, and unmarried daughters of people falling within four specified categories may also receive special passports. These categories cover serving members of the Shura Council and Council of Representatives; serving government employees at Undersecretary level or above, and their equivalents; members of the Constitutional Court and judges of the Court of Cassation, and their equivalents; and eligible serving military and security personnel.

Administrative and clerical employees attached to Bahrain's diplomatic and consular missions, and its missions to international organisations, may receive special passports with the approval of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Employees sent by Cabinet decision to represent Bahrain at international conferences, meetings, and bodies are also covered, while His Majesty may grant a special passport to anyone outside the listed categories.

Decree-Laws Nos. 37, 38, 39, and 40 of 2026 take effect on the day after their publication in the Official Gazette.

Global Quest to Unlock the Universe's Mysteries

Bahrain Strengthens Space Ties with NASA at Landmark Telescope Launch

TDT | Manama

Dr Mohammed Ibrahim Al Aseeri, CEO of the Bahrain Space Agency (BSA), attended the launch ceremony of NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.

The participation reflects Bahrain's commitment to strengthening cooperation with leading international space agencies and enhancing its presence in international scientific forums and projects.

It also supports the Kingdom's efforts to develop its space sector and build national capabilities in the field, in line with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's vision of strengthening Bahrain's regional and international position in the space sector.

Dr Al Aseeri expressed pride in Bahrain's participation in the event, describing it as a reflection of the strong ties between the Bahrain Space Agency and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

He noted that Bahrain's accession to the Artemis Accords has opened broad prospects for cooperation in space science



The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope during its launch ceremony by NASA.



and its applications.

Dr Al Aseeri said Bahrain's participation in the historic scientific event was not merely symbolic, but reaffirmed the Kingdom's commitment to supporting scientific and knowledge advancement and translating His Majesty the King's vision into efforts to establish Bahrain as a regional centre of excellence in space science and technology.

He added that accepting NASA's invitation to attend the telescope's launch builds on the strong relations between Bahrain and the United States across various fields, particularly the rapidly developing



“Roman will open a new window on the universe, enabling scientists to map galaxies and dark matter on an unprecedented scale.”

– DR MOHAMMED IBRAHIM AL ASEERI

space sector, which is creating new opportunities for scientific and technical cooperation.

The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, named in honour of Nancy Grace Roman, NASA's first chief astronomer, is a next-generation space observatory designed to explore some of the universe's greatest mysteries.

The telescope is scheduled to conduct a five-year scientific mission, with the possibility of extending it to 10 years.

Falcon Travel Gets Formalised

New passport system allows registered falcons to travel with owners or authorised persons to accepting countries.

TDT | Manama

Mohammed Darwish

Falcon owners in Bahrain will be able to take their birds abroad using three-year passports under new regulations covering 38 falcon species.

Decision No. 6 of 2026, issued by Supreme Council for Environment President Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, establishes a passport system for falcons travelling with their owners or authorised representatives to countries that recognise the document.

To qualify, owners must be Bahraini citizens or residents, while the birds must be legally acquired and registered with the council. Each falcon must have an identification ring, electronic microchip, or both.

Owners must provide a health certificate from an approved veterinary hospital confirming that the bird is free of epidemic diseases. The certificate must be issued no more than 15 days before the application. The falcon must also be presented to the council for verification of its identification details.



Key Rules

Penalties:
Violations are subject to Article 26 of Law No. 5 of 2021.

Appeal:
Rejected applications can be appealed within 30 days.

Further challenge:

Court appeal can be filed within

The council will have 30 days to decide on a complete application. A passport will be valid for three years and may be renewed for additional three-year periods.

The list includes peregrine, Barbary, gyrfalcon, saker, lanner, sooty and prairie falcons, as well as several kestrel and hobby species. Six species are classified under CITES Appendix I, while most of the others fall under Appendix II.

Passports can be cancelled if a bird dies, is lost, escapes, is permanently moved abroad, or if false information or documents are provided. Tampering with identification rings, microchips or passport details can also result in cancellation.

Owners must return cancelled passports and identification rings where applicable and notify the council if a falcon dies, is lost or permanently leaves Bahrain.

Applicants whose requests are rejected may appeal to the council president within 30 days.

The decision takes effect the day after publication in the Official Gazette.



Manama Souq Bids Farewell to Silver Master

The old Manama Souq on Sunday mourned the passing of Abdulrazzaq Khalid Roomi Al Roomi, one of Bahrain's best-known and longest-serving silver craftsmen, who died at the age of 96 after a career spanning nearly 75 years.

Al Roomi remained devoted to the traditional craft throughout his long life, learning its techniques as a child and spending decades working with fire, hammer and intricate engraving.

His death marks the departure of a familiar face from the old market, where his name had been closely associated with silver craftsmanship and a small shop near Bab Al Bahrain. Until his later years, the shop retained elements of the trade's history, including photographs and stories stretching from the



1940s to the present day.

Born in Al Amarah, southern Iraq, in 1932, Al Roomi came to Bahrain in 1948 and joined his father, Khalid, who worked as a silver craftsman at a shop in Souq Al Tawaweesh, now known as the Bab Al Bahrain market.

In 1964, Al Roomi opened his own shop near Bab Al Bahrain. The rent at the time was around 20 rupees. Following his father's death in the late 1970s, he continued the business on his own.

3-Year-Old Boy Drowns in Bathtub

TDT | Manama

Pradeep Puravankara

In a heartbreaking incident, a three-year-old Indian boy lost his life after accidentally falling into a water-filled bathtub at his family's residence in Bahrain.

The deceased child has been identified as Dhyana Surya, the only son of Megha (also known as Alphonsa Jose), a native of Palai in Kerala's Kottayam district.

According to family sources, Megha, a long-time expatriate and businesswoman based in Bahrain, had previously sent her son to stay with relatives in Kerala due to her busy work schedule. Dhyana had arrived in Bahrain just four days prior to celebrate the Onam festival with his mother.

The tragic accident occurred



while Megha was preparing food in the kitchen. The young child wandered into the bathroom and accidentally fell into the filled bathtub. Although he was rushed to Salmaniya Medical Complex immediately upon being discovered, doctors were unable to save him.

Megha is an active member of the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS). The untimely demise of the toddler has sent shockwaves through the local expatriate community.

‘Our Bahrain’ Names National Values Logo Winner



Major General Mohammed bin Daina, General Supervisor of the Executive Office of the National Plan to Promote National Belonging and Strengthen Citizenship Values, honoured Eman Hussein Ali, winner of the Best Design award in the “Our National Values Logos” competition.

The winning design was selected from 64 submissions and recognised for its innovative and contemporary visual representation of Bahrain's national values.

Major General Mohammed bin Daina praised the support of His Excellency Lieutenant General Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior and Chairman of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee for the National Plan, highlighting the importance of engaging young people and creative talents in initiatives that strengthen national belonging and citizenship values.

A specialised judging panel evaluated the entries based on creativity, originality, visual consistency, clarity of concept, symbolism, connection to national values and artistic quality.

The Executive Office of the National Plan thanked all participating designers, creatives and university students, reaffirming its commitment to initiatives that provide young people with opportunities to express Bahrain's national identity and values through creative work.

commitment to investing in education and developing students' capabilities, reaffirming its continued dedication to supporting charitable and social initiatives and organizations, while contributing to sustainable community development in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

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BENEFIT Expands GCC Credit Information Network Through Integration with Oman Credit and Financial Information Centre “Mala’a”

TDT | Manama

BENEFIT, the Kingdom’s innovator and leading company in Fintech and electronic financial transactions service, announced the successful completion of the integration between Bahrain Credit Reference Bureau (BCRB) and the Oman Credit and Financial Information Centre “Mala’a”, marking a significant milestone in the expansion of the GCC Credit Bureau Service and strengthening access to cross boarder corporate credit information across the GCC.

This milestone reflects BENEFIT continued commitment to enhancing the regional credit information ecosystem and fostering greater collaboration and connectivity among GCC



Ms. Hessa Husain, Deputy Chief Executive for Bahrain Credit Reference Bureau and Data Services

credit Bureaus. Furthermore, it enables financial institutions to access more comprehensive credit data on companies and businesses with regional activities, while further expanding the

cross-border credit information exchange network, which currently includes integration with the Saudi Credit Bureau “SIMAH” and Kuwait Credit Information Network Company “Ci-Net”, in addition to the latest integration with “Mala’a” in the Sultanate of Oman. The integration further supports regional economic growth by enabling financial institutions to make more informed credit decisions based on reliable credit information.

Through this integration, BCRB members can seamlessly access credit reports of companies operating in the Sultanate of Oman through the Bahrain Credit Reference Bureau portal or via an Application Programming Interface (API) providing greater efficiency and flexibility in the credit assessment process.

This capability will help financial institutions accelerate customer onboarding, enhance risk assessment process, support prudent lending decisions and better evaluate credit exposures of businesses operating across the GCC market.

Ms. Hessa Husain, Deputy Chief Executive for Bahrain Credit Reference Bureau and Data Services, stated: “The integration between the Bahrain Credit Reference Bureau and the Oman Credit and Financial Information Centre “Mala’a” represents a significant step in advancing the region’s credit information infrastructure, and also highlights the role of reliable data in supporting financing decisions and improving risk management. As credit information becomes more connected

and comprehensive, financial institutions are better positioned to understand customer needs, deliver faster and more flexible credit services, and make decisions based on a clearer view of companies’ credit profiles.”

She added: “At BENEFIT, we view this step as part of a broader direction to strengthen GCC collaboration in the financial sector and support the transition towards a more advanced credit information ecosystem that can keep pace with business and investment activity across regional markets. We believe that connecting credit bureaus across the GCC contributes to a more transparent financial environment and



provides institutions with practical tools that support confident growth, while maintaining the highest levels of efficiency and reliability in the management of data.”

CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
	(Reviewed) 30 June 2026 BD	(Audited) 31 December 2025 BD
As at 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)		
ASSETS		
Cash and balances with the Central Bank of Bahrain	7,536,690	10,095,766
Investments	25,531,852	21,638,515
Amounts due from banks and financial institutions	1,921,062	2,732,099
Loans and advances	23,474	29,741
Amounts due from the Head Office and other branches	1,225,471	1,225,471
Other assets	648,027	645,630
Total assets	36,886,576	36,367,222
Liabilities and Head Office funds		
Liabilities		
Amounts due to banks and financial institutions	50,626	64,532
Customers' deposits	3,549,026	3,597,249
Amounts due to the Head Office and other branches	5,551,369	5,503,048
Other liabilities	1,312,507	1,328,138
Total liabilities	10,463,528	10,492,967
Head Office funds		
Head Office account	17,500,000	17,500,000
General reserve	243,043	243,043
Unremitted profit due to Head Office	8,680,005	8,131,212
Total Head Office funds	26,423,048	25,874,255
Total Liabilities and Head Office funds	36,886,576	36,367,222
CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
	(Reviewed) 30 June 2026 BD	(Reviewed) 30 June 2025 BD
Six-months period ended 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)		
Interest and similar income	928,651	900,078
Interest and similar expense	(17,283)	(17,284)
Net interest income	911,368	882,794
Net gain/(loss) on foreign currencies	756	(632)
Other income	779	1,486
Total income	912,903	883,648
Staff expenses	(92,621)	(121,730)
Other operating expenses	(168,337)	(149,046)
Total operating expenses	(260,958)	(270,776)
Operating profit before expected credit losses	651,945	612,872
Allowance for expected credit losses - net	(10,490)	(14,364)
Income before tax	641,455	598,508
Tax expense	(92,662)	(89,776)
Net profit and total comprehensive income for the period	548,793	508,732
CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS		
	(Reviewed) 30 June 2026 BD	(Reviewed) 30 June 2025 BD
Six-months period ended 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)		
Cash flows from operating activities		
Profit before tax	641,455	598,508
Adjustments for non-cash items:		
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	10,931	10,823
Depreciation on equipment	20,718	16,516
Interest on lease liabilities	368	756
Gain on termination of lease	—	—
Provision for expected credit losses - net	10,490	14,364
Net cash generated before changes in operating assets and liabilities	683,962	640,967
Mandatory reserve with the Central Bank of Bahrain	2,000	—
Security deposit with the Central Bank of Bahrain	200,000	—
Investments	(3,894,424)	(8,022,653)
Amounts due from banks and financial institutions	794,170	(300,000)
Loans and advances	7,530	(14,104)
Other assets	574	9,974
Amounts due to banks and financial institutions	(13,906)	(18,586)
Amounts due to the Head Office and other branches	48,321	(3,568)
Customers' deposits	(48,223)	(400,154)
Other liabilities	(55,983)	9,551
Tax paid	(50,674)	—
Net cash flow (used in) / generated from operating activities	(2,326,653)	7,946,733
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of equipment	(22,224)	(14,473)
Net cash flows used in investing activities	(22,224)	(14,473)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Amount remitted to the Head Office	—	—
Cash flow used in financing activities	—	—
Cash flows from financing activities		
Payment of lease liabilities	(14,400)	(11,700)
Net cash flows used in financing activities	(14,400)	(11,700)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	(2,363,277)	7,920,560
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	9,959,963	5,773,693
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	7,596,686	13,694,253
Additional cash flow information:		
Interest received	935,678	907,300
Interest paid	17,219	17,219
Non-cash transaction:		
DMTT expense accrued but not paid	41,988	89,776
Rafidain Bank - Bahrain Branch (The Branch) is licensed and regulated by the CBB as a retail conventional bank		
Jasim Mohamed Abdulla Acting Country Manager	Deloitte & Touche - Middle East Auditors	

In collaboration with the Future Society for Youth’s “Smile” initiative: KFH-Bahrain Sponsors the 13th Edition of “Our Kids Are Gold” Childhood Cancer Awareness Campaign

● Campaign to be held in Conjunction with the Global Childhood Cancer Awareness Movement and continues throughout September

TDT | Manama

Kuwait Finance House – Bahrain (KFH-Bahrain) announced its sponsorship of the 13th edition of the childhood cancer awareness campaign “Our Kids Are Gold”, organised by the Smile Initiative, an initiative of the Future Society for Youth dedicated to providing psychological and social support to kids with cancer and their parents in Bahrain.

The partnership reflects KFH-Bahrain’s continued approach to supporting initiatives that serve the community and raise awareness of important humanitarian causes. The “Our Kids Are Gold” campaign aims to increase awareness of childhood cancer and highlight the importance of early detection, while strengthening community support for affected kids and their families. A range of awareness and interactive ac-

tivities will take place throughout September at a number of shopping malls, health centres, hospitals, and public and private institutions.

Since its establishment in 2012, the Smile Initiative has continued its efforts to support

of their treatment journey.

Commenting on this occasion, Mr Mohammed Abusaqer, Group Head of Corporate Communications at KFH-Bahrain, said: “At KFH-Bahrain, we believe that our social responsibility requires us to support in-

to a wider segment of society and contribute to raising awareness of the importance of early detection, while supporting kids and their families throughout the treatment journey.”

For his part, Mr Soubah Abdulrahman Al Zayani, Chairman of the Future Youth Society, said: “We are proud of the continuation of the ‘Our Kids Are Gold’ campaign for its 13th year, as it represents an important platform for raising awareness of childhood cancer and strengthening community support for affected kids and their parents.”

He continued: “We value our partnership with KFH-Bahrain, which reflects our shared belief in the importance of uniting efforts to support this group, broaden the campaign’s awareness message and reach different segments of society.”

Through its sponsorship of the “Our Kids Are Gold” campaign, KFH-Bahrain reaffirms its continued commitment to supporting humanitarian and awareness initiatives and strengthening partnerships with national institutions, contributing to the creation of a positive and sustainable impact and reflecting the Bank’s active role in serving Bahraini society.



Mr Soubah Abdulrahman Al Zayani, Chairman of the Future Youth Society



Mr Mohammed Abusaqer, Group Head of Corporate Communications at KFH-Bahrain

BCFC Announces the Resignation of its Chief Consumer Finance Officer

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company (BCFC) announced the resignation of Mr. Mazen Salman Sater from his position as Chief Consumer Finance Officer, for personal reasons, effective August 31, 2026 .

Mr. Sater joined the Company in 2023 and oversaw the Consumer Finance division as part of the management team, during a period in which the Company continued to develop its financing solutions



Mr. Mazen Salman Sater

and expand its customer service channels, in line with its strategic direction to consolidate its leadership in the fi-



Mr. Abdulla Bukhowa, Group Chief Executive Officer

nancing services sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain and to advance financial inclusion.

On this occasion, Mr. Ab-

dulla Bukhowa, Group Chief Executive Officer, said: “We thank Mr. Mazen Sater for his contributions during his time with us and wish him every success in his future professional endeavours. The Company continues to execute its strategy of developing its financing solutions and enhancing its customer experience in the Kingdom of Bahrain.”

BCFC thanks Mr. Mazen Sater for his period of service with the Company and wishes him well in his future professional endeavours.

BCFC Enhances the AI Assistants “Suhail” and “Suhaila” in the Sahel App

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company (BCFC) announced the release of a new set of enhancements to the AI assistants “Suhail” and “Suhaila” in the Sahel app, a step that reinforces the Company’s approach to building a digital experience that is smarter and closer to the customer, and reflects its continued commitment to accelerating digital transformation and advancing digital financial inclusion in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The new enhancements center on two main areas: giving the assistants a greater capacity to interact dynamically with the customer’s moment and embedding artificial intelligence across the financing application journey from beginning to end, so that the assistant becomes a companion at every step rather than a separate service.

On this occasion, Mr. Ali Al Marzooq, Chief Technology



Mr. Ali Al Marzooq, Chief Technology Officer of Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company

Officer of Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company, said: “What we are building in the Sahel app is based on putting artificial intelligence to work for the customer at the very moment they need it. The enhancements we are releasing today make Suhail and Suhaila better able to understand the customer’s context and needs, as they simplify their journey from the first question through to completing the application, while preserving



the option of speaking directly with our team. We believe the best technology is the kind that brings the customer closer to the service. This direction sits

at the heart of the Company’s mission of purposeful innovation and of delivering services that make a tangible difference in our customers’ lives.”

The Sahel app is a comprehensive digital platform for all the financing and insurance services offered by Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company and its subsidiaries to its customers, allowing them to apply for financing in a few simple steps without visiting a branch, to manage their credit cards, personal finance, vehicle finance and insurance services,

and to obtain instant access to a virtual credit card. The app has won the Bahrain Digital Content Award for the second consecutive year, in 2024 and 2025, in addition to the IBS Intelligence Digital Banking Award 2024.

Customers can enjoy the new enhancements by downloading the Sahel app or updating it to the latest version.

GCC markets close lower as rate-hike concerns weigh on investors



TDT | Manama

Gulf stock markets ended Sunday’s session on a mixed note as investors assessed the prospect of higher US interest rates and continued geopolitical uncertainty in the region.

Saudi Arabia’s Tadawul All Share Index fell 0.71% to 11,158.54, marking its second consecutive decline. Mining and banking stocks were among the notable decliners. The market came under pressure as investors reacted to comments from US Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh, which increased expectations of a possible rate hike at the Fed’s September meeting.

Qatar’s QE Index also edged lower, losing 0.13% to 9,863.10, while the broader QE All Share Index slipped marginally. Banking and communications stocks weighed on the market, although some energy-related companies recorded gains.

Bahrain’s All Share Index declined 0.08% to 1,939.86, while Kuwait and Oman moved in the opposite direction. Kuwait’s All Share Index gained 0.20% to 8,912, while Oman’s MSX 30 rose 0.60% to 7,577.85.

The UAE markets did not trade on Sunday, with Abu Dhabi and Dubai remaining closed ahead of their next session on

Monday. Their latest closes on Thursday were 10,044.52 for Abu Dhabi’s general index and 5,882.63 for Dubai’s DFM General Index.

The broader regional market mood remains influenced by expectations for US monetary policy. Because most GCC currencies are pegged to the US dollar, changes in Federal Reserve interest-rate expectations can have a direct impact on Gulf financial conditions and investor sentiment.

Geopolitical developments are another key factor. Investors continue to monitor developments involving Iran, the United States and the Strait of Hormuz, particularly because the waterway is critical to regional energy exports and shipping. Recent GCC market sessions have shown that diplomatic developments around the strait can quickly influence investor confidence and energy-related shares.

Overall, Sunday’s trading highlighted a cautious mood across Gulf equities. Five of seven regional benchmark indices tracked by The Edge fell, although the declines were generally limited. Analysts expect GCC markets to remain sensitive to interest-rate expectations, oil prices, shipping developments and progress in regional diplomacy in the coming sessions.



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INTERIM CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the half-year ended 30 June 2026 Retail Bank, Bahrain

INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 June 2026

Bahraini Dinars 000's	30 June 2026 (reviewed)	31 December 2025 (audited)
Assets		
Cash and balances at central bank	194,907	188,719
Derivative financial instruments	4,657	4,492
Loans and advances to banks	2,555	4,996
Loans and advances to customers	288,082	279,469
Investment securities	107,550	104,894
Other assets	2,901	1,358
Due from the Head office and other branches	96,080	54,504
Prepayments and accrued income	1,960	2,032
Intangible assets	1,879	1,476
Property, plant and equipment	3,291	3,444
Total assets	703,862	645,384
Liabilities		
Deposits by banks	10,691	15,500
Customer accounts	592,639	508,213
Derivative financial instruments	4,395	4,049
Other liabilities	11,422	9,508
Due to the Head office and other branches	18,603	41,874
Accruals and deferred income	5,428	5,857
Provisions for liabilities and charges	693	426
Retirement benefit obligations	2,062	2,252
Total liabilities	645,933	587,679

Head office funds

Head office assigned capital	10,743	10,743
Other reserves	37,785	36,899
Retained earnings	9,401	10,063
Total Head office funds	57,929	57,705
Total Head office funds and liabilities	703,862	645,384

INTERIM CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the half-year ended 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)

Bahraini Dinars 000's	2026	2025
Net cash generated from operating activities	66,135	32,995
Net cash generated from investing activities	36,671	2,058
Net cash used in financing activities	(26)	(38)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	102,780	35,015
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	193,075	162,639
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June	295,855	197,654

INTERIM STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN HEAD OFFICE FUNDS

For the half-year ended 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)

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 2025 (Audited)	10,743	34,056	2,041	12,635	59,475
Profit for the period	-	-	-	5,402	5,402
Other comprehensive income for the period	-	-	106	-	106
As at 30 June 2025 (Reviewed)	10,743	34,056	2,147	18,037	64,983
As at 1 January 2026 (Audited)	10,743	34,056	2,843	10,063	57,705
Loss for the period	-	-	-	(662)	(662)
Other comprehensive income for the period	-	-	886	-	886
As at 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)	10,743	34,056	3,729	9,401	57,929

Shaikha Tareef
Acting CEO, Bahrain and CFO, Bahrain & Cluster Qatar, Egypt and Iraq

Reviewed by: Ernst & Young
Public Accountants

sc.com/bh

Ecuador arrests woman over alleged iguana trafficking

AFP | Quito, Ecuador

Ecuadoran police arrested a Russian woman accused of attempting to smuggle 32 rare iguanas from the Galapagos archipelago, authorities said on Saturday.

Marine Galapagos iguanas are native to Ecuador's cherished archipelago, a UNESCO World Heritage Site famous for its unique flora and fauna located about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) off the coast in the Pacific.

Police said the woman, who was traveling to Iceland, was arrested at Quito airport on Friday, after officers discovered the iguanas hidden in eight plastic boxes in a suitcase.

The iguanas were "in a weakened and dehydrated condition," the environment ministry said.

A judge ordered pretrial detention for the woman over the alleged "crime against flora and wild fauna" on Saturday, the prosecutor's office said.

The case will be decided on September 18, it said in a post on X.

She could face up to three years in prison if found guilty.



Representative image

N. Korea defence minister dismissed: state media

AFP | Seoul, South Korea

North Korea's defence minister has been dismissed as part of a reshuffle of the country's military leadership, state media reported Sunday.

The "structural reorganization plans" were decided during a meeting on Saturday led by Kim Jong Un, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

No Kwang Chol was not only dismissed as defence minister but also demoted in the ruling party leadership to "first vice-director of the Munitions Industry Department," KCNA said.

Kim Song Gi, director of the General Political Bureau of the Korean People's Army, was named as the new defence minister.

Another senior official, defence advisor Pak Jong Chon, was given the position of vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission and named to the ruling party's Political Bureau.

Several other promotions were also announced.

Rescuers dig into tunnel as missing toll from flood tops 3,000

● Nepal said it had begun the grim task of burying some of the hundreds of bodies

● Nepali army troops and engineers also drilled through debris yesterday towards hydropower workers believed trapped in a tunnel

AFP | Bidur, Nepal

Rescuers in Nepal and China battled through leg-sucking mud, as well as the threat of rising rivers and a newly formed lake, yesterday to search for thousands missing after a deadly wall of water and debris swept through the Himalayas, engulfing entire villages.

Latest figures from both countries put the number of missing at 3,048, including hundreds of foreigners. There were 797 confirmed deaths, with reports of some bodies possibly swept downstream as far away as India.

Nepal said it had begun the grim task of burying some of the hundreds of bodies yesterday, after first taking DNA samples so that families could later reclaim them and perform traditional funeral rites once they had been identified.

The disaster, which struck the China-Nepal border Wednesday morning, was caused by a glacial collapse, sending a wall of water and debris downstream, the US Geological Survey said.

Nepali army troops and engineers also drilled through debris yesterday towards hydropower workers believed trapped in a tunnel at the Trishuli 3A hydroelectric site in the Himalayan river valley after they successfully inserted a pipe into the passage.

They have "started sending air through the small opening", Nepali Home Minister Sudan Gurung said in a statement.

Overnight rain and rising river waters hampered efforts earlier on Sunday, filling the excavation area with water before conditions eased, the Nepal army said.

Nepal's disaster authority listed 933 hydropower workers among the missing in an area home to vast energy infrastructure projects.

Chinese rescuers near the Tibet border port that was hit by a deadly mudslide were "moved to a safe location" on Sunday after a new lake was formed by a landslide, state media reported.

China's state news agen-

3048

Latest figures from both countries put the number of missing at 3,048, including hundreds of foreigners.



An overflowing Trishuli River (L) and houses covered in mud (R) in the aftermath of flash floods at Baireni in Nepal's Dhading district



A torrent of muddy water surging past houses and through the Trishuli river in the aftermath of flash floods, at Betrawati in Nepal's Nuwakot district



The damaged Ghatbesi Bridge over the Trishuli River in the aftermath of flash floods in Nepal's Dhading district

cy Xinhua reported on Sunday that experts had said "a glacier on the southern slope of Lirung Peak in Nepal" fractured, triggering an ice-rock avalanche.

The torrent plummeted rapidly, forming a massive debris flow that travelled more than

20 kilometres (12 miles) before crashing into Gyirong Port.

"The sudden glacial collapse and flash flood is a devastating reminder of how fragile these mountain environments can be," UN climate chief Simon Stiell said in a statement.

'Nothing left'

Survivors face an agonising wait to learn the fate of missing relatives and the prospect of rebuilding their lives from nothing.

"All the settlements near the river were swept away," resident

Buddhi Ram Dangol told AFP in Nepal's Nuwakot district.

"There is nothing left."

Worried relatives crowded around lists of rescued people pasted on a wall at an army base serving as a rescue hub in the district capital Bidur.

Nepal's disaster authority said on Sunday 592 foreigners, including trekkers and Hindu pilgrims to Tibet's sacred Mount Kailash, were among the missing. The Isha Foundation, led by Indian guru Sadhguru, said in an Instagram post on Saturday that 80 members had been on a group trip in the area.

"At this time, there seems to be no encouraging indications of survivors at the immigration office area," it said.

The United States and Canada said they would provide \$3.6 million each in humanitarian aid to Nepal.

The UK has offered \$6.8 million, while the UN released \$2.5 million in emergency funding, and aid pledges were made by the European Union, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and others. Nepal's economy is already under pressure, with limited resources to respond to a disaster of this scale. Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal said the reconstruction bill could run into "billions of dollars".

He appealed for specialised assistance, including heavy-lift drones and technology to help locate people who are trapped.

Malaysia said it would send search-and-rescue specialists to assist.

Khanal also called for forensic testing kits to identify corpses and freezer units to store them, saying bodies that have been in water could decompose at a faster rate.

The deluge of ice and mud caused huge lakes, and one of those formations has become a risk for further floods.

The Chinese and Nepali foreign ministers spoke on Saturday and discussed sharing satellite and hydrological data, both sides said.

In Tibet, where Chinese authorities are the only source of information, rescue operations were paused at the hardest-hit area of Gyirong because of the risk of more flooding from a newly formed lake.

However, state broadcaster CCTV said late on Saturday that the lake was "discharging naturally" and had been "essentially drained", citing China's ministry of water resources.

A total of 2,141 rescuers were near the Gyirong site, the Xinhua state news agency said.

Pilgrimage route

Nepal reported a death toll of 781 people yesterday, with 2,502 people unaccounted for.

Across the border in Tibet, 16 people died and 546 remain missing, CCTV reported.

Authorities also said they had evacuated 555 stranded tourists and 499 Chinese residents from Tibet.

Possible date for establishment of the Iroquois (Haudenosaunee) League [disputed date - other research places date between 1450 and 1660]

The body of Jack the Ripper's first victim, Mary Ann Nichols, is found in Whitechapel in London's East End

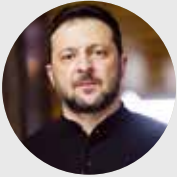


Sun Yat-sen and his supporters' rump parliament establish a military government in Guangzhou, China, and elect him generalissimo

The Liberal Party of Australia is founded by Robert Menzies

TOP
4
TWEETS

01



We are preparing for new communication with envoys of the U.S. President. More details will follow tomorrow. We are doing everything to ensure that war doesn't remain the only option for what comes next.

@ZelenskyyUa

02



My heart goes out to all those affected by the devastating flash floods. Europe is allocating 2 million in immediate humanitarian aid for Nepal. To deliver life-saving assistance to families and communities hit hardest. Europe stands with you.

@vonderleyen

03



What happens when AI reaches the whole school system? In Peru, AI is helping students strengthen math skills, explore career pathways, and giving teachers and principals tools to focus on what matters most: learning.

@WorldBankGroup

04



Welcome the designation of the Global Harmonization Centre in the Republic of Korea as a new @WHO Collaborating Centre for health products regulatory system strengthening and training.

@DrTedros

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

Manhunt in Switzerland after fatal rave shooting

AFP | Aarau, Switzerland

Swiss police were yesterday hunting at least one gunman who opened fire at a rave, killing one person and wounding five others, some of them seriously.

The shooting, which happened in the early hours in Aarau, near Zurich, and sent partygoers running for cover, is a rare event in the Alpine nation, despite its long tradition of gun ownership.

The last major shooting occurred in 2001, when 14 members of the parliament and local government of the canton of Zug, near Lucerne, were killed by a gunman who then took his own life.

According to local media, shots were fired before 3:00 am (0100 GMT) near the Aarauer Rave, an annual techno party attended by some 3,500 people at the Aarau racetrack from Saturday afternoon to Sunday morning.

"A 22-year-old woman died of her injuries at the scene. Four men and one woman, aged between 24 and 27, were taken to hospital. They are suffering from injuries ranging from minor to serious," local police announced on X.

Investigators are still in the dark about the attacker or attackers, police spokesman Bernhard Graser told reporters. "For the moment, we have no reliable information regarding the perpetrators. We do not know whether it is a single person or several, nor whether they fled in a vehicle or on foot," he said.

"Certain elements suggest they may no longer be in the area, but we have still deployed a significant police presence in the region ... so that we can arrest them if they are still there."

The area of the shooting remains sealed off, Graser said, as officers search for clues and interview eyewitnesses.

An AFP journalist saw armed officers deployed at the scene,



Police officers secure the area near the site of a shooting in Aarau, northern Switzerland

the railway station and on the highway up to 30 kilometres (18 miles) away.

With the German border just a few dozen kilometres away, the investigation is being carried out in cooperation with Freiburg police, the DPA agency reported.

Several shots'

Media reports said an army helicopter was deployed in the cantonal capital, Aargau, as well as numerous police officers, rescue workers and medical teams.

Swiss news agency ATS-Keystone reported that police were alerted about gunshots during the night while police spokesperson Vanessa Rumpold told the Blick newspaper that "several shots" were fired at a large group of people.

Witnesses told Blick that shots were fired at about 2:30 am while the rave was still taking place. Initially, they were believed to be fireworks but one witness reported "shots fired in bursts".

Many people sheltered in a nearby gymnasium for safety.

Swiss DJ Tekibo, who performed at the rave, wrote on Instagram that he was physically unharmed but deeply affected by the tragedy, in which he said

he had lost a friend.

"Techno and raves are supposed to be spaces of freedom and safety, never places where something like this happens," he said, calling the events "absolutely heartbreaking".

"I'm still trying to process what happened because I lost an important friend and I don't have the right words for it."

A local resident in Aarau posted a video on social media showing deserted streets and what sounded like several gunshots in the background.



According to the Geneva-based research centre Small Arms Survey, civilians had more than 2.3 million firearms in 2017 -- nearly three for every 10 inhabitants. That made Switzerland the 16th country in the world in terms of weapons per capita.

Turkish, Saudi, Pakistani ministers to hold first defence pact meeting

● The agreement unites NATO's second-largest army, Turkey, with the Islamic world's only nuclear-armed state, Pakistan, and the leading Gulf power in Saudi Arabia.

AFP | Istanbul, Turkey

Turkey will host Saudi Arabia and Pakistan for the first ministerial meeting of their new regional defence grouping today, Turkish sources said yesterday.

The Mecca Joint Defence



Agreement signed earlier this month commits the three countries to mutual defence in the event of any of them being attacked.

The pact came against a backdrop of war between the United States and Iran and attacks in the region from Tehran-backed Houthi rebels.

The meeting in Istanbul will set up a "political and defence strategic committee" involving foreign and defence ministers and military chiefs, Turkish for-

eign ministry sources said.

The agreement unites NATO's second-largest army, Turkey, with the Islamic world's only nuclear-armed state, Pakistan, and the leading Gulf power in Saudi Arabia.

Today's meeting will be chaired by the Turkish foreign and defence ministers as well as the chief of the general staff.

Pakistan is sending Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, along with the defence minister and the commander of the defence forces.

Saudi Arabia will be represented by its foreign minister, the defence minister and the chief of the general staff, Turkish sources said.

Russia says preparing 'massive strikes' on Ukraine's energy sector



A burned car and a damaged residential building following a Russian air attack in the Kyiv region

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russia's defence ministry yesterday said it was gearing up for large-scale attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure in a tit-for-tat response to strikes by Kyiv.

"Russian forces have begun preparations for massive strikes against facilities in Ukraine's energy sector in response to the ongoing attacks by the Kyiv regime on civilian infrastructure and on Russia's oil and energy complex," it said on Telegram.

Last winter, Moscow repeatedly hit Ukrainian power plants, devastating the country's energy sector and plunging millions of people into cold and darkness in sub-zero temperatures.

Both sides have for several months escalated long-range strikes, targeting infrastructure such as warehouses, businesses, oil and port facilities, as well as ships, increasing civilian casualties.

On Sunday, the Russian army claimed to have struck a plant in Kyiv producing asbestos and cement whose warehouses, it said, were used to store explosives, as well as a manufacturer of drones and munitions.

On Saturday, a Russian strike on an ammunition depot in the suburbs of the Ukrainian capital triggered a huge explosion and killed at least 37 people.

Ukraine for its part attacked an oil refinery with drones in northwestern Russia, causing a fire, according to the local authorities.

Ecuador declares emergency over El Nino

AFP | Quito, Ecuador

Ecuador became the latest Latin American country to declare an emergency over the El Nino climate phenomenon on Saturday, which could be strongest on record, officials said.

This year's El Nino is already wreaking havoc in Central America, which is in the throes of a severe drought, and in Indonesia, where it is exacerbating wildfires.

Scientists predict the current occurrence will reach its peak by the end of the year and cause record global heat in 2027. Ecuador's Ministry of Risk Management "declared a



red alert throughout the country in response to the El Nino episode." The alert activates emergency committees tasked with coordinating preventive evacuations and other measures.

El Nino causes surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean to rise, altering wind patterns, pressure, and precipitation, and disrupting fishing and bird migrations.

Niger junta says it is back in control after soldiers' mutiny

AFP | Abidjan, Ivory Coast

Niger's ruling junta said it was back in control after mutinous soldiers set off armed clashes in Niger's capital Saturday, moving on the presidential palace and disrupting the state broadcaster.

Niger has been ruled for three years by a military junta led by General Abdourahmane Tiani that has struggled to contain jihadist violence flaring in the west African country for around a decade.

After hours of heavy exchanges around some of Niamey's most sensitive sites, the junta declared in a statement read on state television that



it was gradually taking back control after hours of clashes.

When fighting broke out shortly after midnight, soldiers blocked access to the presidential palace and the national television station, Tele Sahel, which went off the air for just over an hour, before being restored around 10:00 am (0900 GMT).

Iceland votes 'No' to resuming EU talks

AFP | Reykjavik, Iceland

Iceland voted 'No' to resuming membership negotiations with the European Union, referendum results showed yesterday, dealing a blow to Brussels which had been keen to welcome a new wealthy member.

Almost 53 percent of Icelanders rejected the resumption of EU entry talks suspended 13 years ago, while some 47 percent voted in favour in Saturday's referendum.

Almost 53 percent of Icelanders rejected the resumption of EU entry talks suspended 13 years ago, while some 47 percent voted in favour in Saturday's referendum.

Prime Minister Kristrunn Frostadottir, who favoured a

'Yes,' stressed she didn't "see this as a setback".

"I see this as a victory for democracy," she told reporters, pointing to voter turnout of over 80 percent.

"I want to make it absolutely clear, this government is not going forward with the accession talks this term."

This means any discussions of Icelandic accession are frozen at least until 2028 -- an apparent disappointment to Brussels, which had appeared willing to compromise on thorny issues

to facilitate Iceland's accession.

EU chief Antonio Costa nonetheless told Frostadottir the bloc "fully respects the democratic choice" made by voters, a spokesperson said.

"Iceland remains one of the EU's closest and most trusted partners," said the spokesperson.

Far-right, eurosceptic leaders in Britain and France hailed the result.

"At a time when some are pushing for greater federalism and the transfer of sovereignty

to the European Commission, this vote reminds us that another Europe is possible, a Europe of free, sovereign nations cooperating voluntarily on matters of common interest," France's Marine Le Pen wrote on X.

"Congratulations to Iceland on voting to keep their independence," Reform UK leader Nigel Farage, who was one of the faces of Britain's Brexit, wrote on the same platform.

Iceland, a country of just under 400,000 people applied to join the EU in the wake of the

2009 financial crisis that devastated its economy.

Membership talks were then suspended in 2013 when a eurosceptic government came to power.

The island is, however, already closely linked to the EU as a member of the European Economic Area and the free-movement Schengen zone, ties which will remain unchanged.

The referendum result was non-binding but the government had vowed to respect it.

Venezuela says retains 'sovereignty' in US oil deal

AFP | Caracas, Venezuela

Interim leader Delcy Rodríguez assured the public Saturday that Venezuela retains control of its oil under a new agreement that allows the United States significant access to it.

The United States will have majority control of 65 billion barrels of Venezuela's proven reserves in what President Donald Trump described Friday as "the biggest oil deal in world history."

"One thing must be absolutely clear: Venezuela retains ownership and sovereignty over its resources," Rodríguez said in a speech on state television.

The agreement with the United States aims to turn "cold, inert" resources underground to "a source of social and economic well-being for the people of Venezuela," she said.

Caracas says the deal involves \$100 billion in private investment aimed at revitalizing the industry in a country with the world's largest proven oil reserves.

But a lack of transparency is raising concerns among Venezuelans, including supporters of the government. A flood of social media comments decried loss of sovereignty, meager benefits and



A cargo ship docks at La Guaira Port, Venezuela

political costs.

"We don't know who this will benefit -- whether it's Venezuela or (the United States)," said Jesus Salazar, a 68-year-old security guard.

"I have my doubts, but we'll have to wait and see what happens."

Venezuela's government has operated under intense pressure from the Trump administration since American forces ousted and captured long-time ruler Nicolas Maduro in January.

Venezuela's ruling party said

Saturday it supports economic measures that "prioritize national interests and make it possible to overcome the impact of more than a decade of economic sanctions, unilateral coercive measures, and unjust blockades."

The party consistently blames US sanctions for the collapse of Venezuela's economy.

Petrol and poverty

Rodríguez has pushed through reforms in Venezuela's mining and petroleum industries, opening once tightly controlled

sectors to private capital and foreign investment.

Washington, for its part, has eased sanctions imposed on Venezuela's oil sector under the Maduro government.

Oil production rose by 29.8 percent between January and July, reaching 1.2 million barrels per day -- still well below the three million barrels per day produced a quarter of a century ago.

The US deal aims to restore production to those levels, but analysts agree it would take time.

"The increase in production won't be seen for at least three or four years," said engineer Oswaldo Felizzola, a professor at the Institute of Higher Studies in Administration (IESA) in Caracas.

He welcomed the United States acting as a "guarantor" for investments in Venezuela, which has failed to attract significant capital for more than a decade.

"Without this, these fields would not be developed over the next 10 or 15 years," because state-owned Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) "does not have the financial resources to do so."

An initiative of this magnitude could accelerate long-awaited economic recovery in Venezuela, a country still reeling from the brutal 80 percent contraction between 2014 and 2021 that plunged millions of Venezuelans into poverty.

Many survive on a monthly minimum wage equivalent to \$0.16, plus government subsidies that can reach \$240 per month -- still far short of the estimated \$730 needed to buy basic food necessities for a family of five.

Carlos Baco, a 74-year-old government employee, hopes

oil revenues will start flowing under the new deal, but said he hasn't felt the effects of the increase in oil production over the past few months.

"Consumer goods and food are more expensive... the dollar is rising and prices are going up," he said. "It's impossible here."



Venezuela has the world's largest proven crude-oil reserves -- about 303 billion barrels, roughly 17% of the global total. Yet its oil production has been far below its potential, largely because most of its reserves are extra-heavy crude and the sector has suffered from underinvestment, sanctions and deteriorating infrastructure.

Funeral of Norway's late King Harald set for September 9: palace



Mourners gather at a makeshift memorial to pay tribute to King Harald V of Norway who passed away, at the Royal Palace square in Oslo

AFP | Oslo, Norway

The funeral for Norway's late King Harald, will be held on September 9, the royal palace announced yesterday.

Presiding Bishop of the Church of Norway Olav Fykse Tveit will lead next Wednesday's funeral ceremony in Oslo Cathedral from 1:00 pm, the palace added.

King Harald V of Norway, who died Friday morning aged 89, enjoyed massive support despite the slew of scandals that dogged his family in the final stretch of his 35-year reign.

Just before the funeral announcement, the palace said the king's casket, which was moved from the hospital to the Royal Palace's Red Salon Friday evening, would be moved to the palace's chapel on Monday afternoon.

Then from 2:00 pm (1200 GMT) on Tuesday, members of the public "who wish may walk slowly past the casket to say farewell to King Harald" until the day before his funeral.

Norway's new king, Haakon VIII, will also swear an oath of allegiance in parliament on Tuesday.

Trump calls for 'punishment' of NBC reporter

AFP | Washington, United States

President Donald Trump yesterday threatened a prominent NBC broadcast journalist with possible punishment by US media regulators as the Republican expressed disappointment with coverage of his candidate endorsements ahead of November's midterm elections.

Trump took to his Truth Social platform to attack Kristen Welker as the "unpopular 'hostess' of the once great Meet the Press" talk show for stating that the president had "mixed results" on his endorsement of political candidates in party primaries, insisting the results went his way 98 percent to 100 percent of the time.

"Because of this purposeful inaccuracy, she will be reported to the FCC for rebuke or punishment," he said, referring to the Federal Communications Commission, which assigns and oversees licenses for radio and television broadcast frequencies.

"Unfortunately, she is not the only one. The Radical Left News is going out of their way to harass, demean, and libel anything

"TRUMP."

The Republican billionaire used American media to his advantage over the years as a provocative real estate developer in New York. But as president he dramatically turned against the press and what he called "fake news."

He has sued several newspapers including the Wall Street Journal and The New York Times, and ordered federal funding slashed for public media.

His administration, from the Pentagon to the FBI, has ramped up restrictions and attempts to intimidate journalists, and the FCC -- headed by a close Trump associate -- has pressured broadcasters to toe the line.

"I hope that Chairman Brendan Carr, and the fine people of his Commission, will take this Threat to our Country very seriously," Trump said.

The latest attack is part of the Trump administration's months-long offensive against media outlets it deems overly critical.

Such efforts are facing growing resistance from

news organizations and major broadcast networks. Several of them have filed lawsuits against the FCC, arguing such pressure constitutes political retaliation that violates the First Amendment of the US Constitution, which protects freedom of speech.

Relations between Trump and Welker have been under pressure for months. In June the president abruptly cut short an interview with her following a tense exchange.

change, during which he grew irritated by Welker's questioning, particularly on the war against Iran.

NBC News did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Experts argue the FCC lacks the legal authority to punish broadcasters or reporters for their viewpoints.

According to a 2025 paper by the Yale Journal on Regulation, the US Supreme Court has confirmed that US law "does not grant the FCC the power to ban controversial speech."



Google Maps renames Lake Ontario 'Lake America' in US -- but not Canada

AFP | Washington, United States

Google redesignated Lake Ontario as "Lake America" on maps seen by US users Sunday after President Donald Trump announced he was renaming the body of water, with a Canadian official slamming the cross-border tensions as "absolutely backwards."

People in Canada will still see Lake Ontario, the Indigenous-rooted name used for the lake since the 17th century, on their devices and computers, the US-based tech giant said.

The shock nomenclatural spat erupted as the latest element of Trump's "America First" narrative, with longtime allies the United States and Canada ramping up a trade war that has seen Washington and Ottawa slap tit-for-tat tariffs on each other.

Apple's Maps app that comes installed on all iPhones makes no mention of "Lake America" on its maps as of Sunday morning.

Google said it made its change in line with the US Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), the official federal database for geographic names.



US President Donald Trump, alongside Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum, displays an executive order he signed that aims to rename Lake Ontario to Lake America in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC

"Since we update Google Maps to reflect name changes in official government sources, which is GNIS for the US, people using Maps in the US will see 'Lake America,' those in Can-

ada will continue to see 'Lake Ontario,' and those outside of the US and Canada will see both names," Google said on its blog.

The change mirrors Trump's unilateral altering of the name

of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America in January 2025 -- a move Mexico has also rejected.

Ontario is the smallest by surface area of the five Great Lakes, which straddle the Canada-US

border between Ontario province and the US state of New York.

The province's premier, Doug Ford, offered fresh criticism Sunday of the trade dispute and

Trump's lake name change.

"It's absolutely backwards. It was like something out of (US comedy TV show) 'Saturday Night Live' when he signed a document saying -- changed to 'Lake America.' No one's going to call it Lake of America," Ford told ABC talk show "This Week."

"It's just so disappointing."

Ford also warned that while a trade war would harm both countries, "it'd be definitely devastating on the US" given that Canada has been by far the largest purchaser of US vehicles. Should those buys dry up, US auto factories would be hit hard.

"A tariff on Canada is nothing more than a tax on American people," he said. "It's probably the worst move you could ever do."

Canada and the US have a deeply interconnected auto manufacturing sector, and a sizeable portion of parts for US vehicles are made in Canada.

Trump himself waded in Sunday to say Americans "want to make our own cars."

"Canada has been ripping us off for years -- NO LONGER!" Trump posted on his Truth Social platform.

At least seven die in ferry capsizes off Northern Cyprus; 23 missing

● The ferry had been carrying a total of 267 people, at least seven of whom died

● 23 people were missing, and 172 had been rescued.

AFP | Girne Kepuveia, Cyprus

A passenger ferry capsized and sank off Northern Cyprus yesterday, killing at least seven people and leaving 23 missing, officials said, as a rescue operation was under way.

The cause was not yet established. But one rescued passenger told local media a blast went off at the bow of the ferry before it rolled over.

The vessel capsized 6.5 kilometres (four miles) off the coast of Cyprus, shortly after it had left a Northern Cyprus port heading to Turkey's mainland.

Images broadcast by Turkish television showed the upside-down ferry in the water, with people wearing life vests atop its orange hull.

The ferry had been carrying a total of 267 people, at least seven of whom died, Unal Ustel, prime minister of the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), told Turkish media.

He added that 23 people were missing, and 172 had been rescued.

Shortly afterwards, the TRNC's transport minister said the ferry "has" completely sunk



Turkish vessels, aircraft, and rescue rafts are pictured off the port of Kyrenia in the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), recognis

to a depth of 514 metres (1,686 feet)".

The minister, Erhan Arikli, told Turkish television network TRT that 161 people had been taken to hospital and 76 were back with their families.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said during a public ceremony that "efforts to find the missing are continuing tirelessly. We hope to receive positive news from these efforts".

The TRNC, which is recognised only by Turkey, controls the northern third of the island of Cyprus, which has been divided since 1974.

Ankara occupied that part of the island that year in response to an Athens-engineered Greek Cypriot coup seeking union

with Greece. The TRNC today is served with regular air and sea links to Turkey.

The rescued passenger who spoke of a blast on board told local TRNC television after he was taken back ashore: "The front part exploded, they tried to turn around. And the side windows blew out. The boat starting taking on water."

Many inside

The man, aged in his 50s and not named, said he spent an hour and a half in the water before being rescued. He said many people had been inside the ferry at the moment started taking on water.

"Those who could, got out," he said, adding that he saw the captain among the first to aban-

don ship "without organising anything".

Many boats, including private ones, were involved in the rescue operation. Turkey's interior ministry said on X that six Turkish navy ships were also despatched.

"All necessary preparations are being made for a swift response from rescue and health services," the TRNC's health ministry said in a statement.

It added that hospitals in the territory had been alerted, to provide any needed medical attention.

The ferry had departed from the Northern Cyprus port of Kyrenia -- called Girne Kepuveia in Turkish -- on a run meant to take it to the Turkish port of Tasucu.

Pakistan suspends eight officials after deadly infant ward fire



A man carries the body of a newborn child who died following a fire at the Mother and Child Health (MCH) ward of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Hospital, during a funeral in Rawalpindi

AFP | Islamabad, Pakistan

Pakistan's prime minister said eight officials were suspended and called for criminal proceedings against them, after 14 infants were killed in a fire in the maternity ward of a hospital in the country's capital.

A preliminary report conducted by a four-person committee formed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif found the deadly blaze had engulfed the unit "within approximately two minutes" just after 6:30am (0130 GMT) on Wednesday, with a nurse only able to save one of the 15 infants in the hospital's care.

Among those suspended were hospital staff including its executive director and the head of the neonatal department, as well as the director-general of Islamabad's emergency services.

Sharif said late Saturday "those responsible for criminal negligence do not deserve any concession" and that they will be "brought to justice".

He also approved taking action against the company responsible for the hospital's security, without naming them.

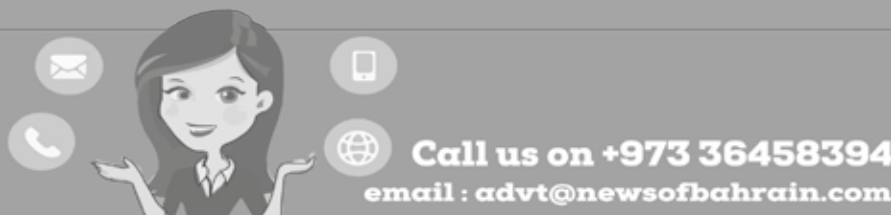
Emergency services were called within six minutes of the fire breaking out, with the first rescue services arriving at the scene 15 minutes later, the report said.

Parents and other witnesses told AFP the response had been slow and guards had reportedly prevented people from leaving the building.

The hospital did not have detailed operating procedures or fire and emergency training, according to the preliminary report.

Two nurses, a woman security guard and another officer were in the ward when the fire started, but there were no supervising staff, the report stated. Earlier Health Minister Mustafa Kamal said that a spark from an air conditioner is believed to have caused the fire. The report clarified an ignition source is yet to be determined as the investigation continues.

Classifieds



VACANCIES AVAILABLE

Texas Chicken has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33629074 or human.resources@binrajab.co

HOMES FIXERON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77900474 or SAMEERMESSEAGE4U@YAHOO.COM

ELITE FACILITY MANAGEMENT CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17382228 or MUSTAFA@ELITEFMC.COM

I WOOD WORKS has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33300023 or ALWASEEMGROUP@GMAIL.COM

COOL AIR SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36233880 or COOLAIR480@GMAIL.COM

SUN SKY CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17336855 or sunskyc.bh@gmail.com

ELITE FACILITY MANAGEMENT CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17382228 or MUSTAFA@ELITEFMC.COM

ELITE FACILITY MANAGEMENT CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17382228 or MUSTAFA@ELITEFMC.COM

ALADDIN POWER INTERNATIONAL TRADING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36749423 or BADERALMERESE@GMAIL.COM

JASIM ABDULLA TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39660663 or RIVAGAS@GMAIL.COM

ALBARAKA LOGISTIC has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17740444 or info@albarakabh.com

ALWARDI CLEANING & MAINTENANCE CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17230522 or ALWARDICLEANING@GMAIL.COM

THE KHURAM SS COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34649636 or CHB17902@GMAIL.COM

FAYEJ CAR SERVICES CO WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of CAR WASHER (GARAGE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33273399 or fayej539@gmail.com

ALMARZOOK BAKERY COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(-GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39805905 or ANIL.R.NATH@GMAIL.COM

Al Rayah For Safety Items WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17822228 or RASHEED@SECURICORE.BH

AMAL & MARWA GENERAL TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34209488 or SAADSHAMS44@GMAIL.COM

804 INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37944221 or ADIBUTT472@GMAIL.COM

eastern sea abayat and accessories has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33254945 or EKTHISAS2020@GMAIL.COM

KARACHI STAR RESTAURANT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33949195 or ubmalik93@gmail.com

BEIRUT CORNER has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36311096 or MRA.NAJJAR@GMAIL.COM

CAPITAL school wll has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17008880 or pro@ALSAFARGROUP.COM

Secure Me W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably

qualified applicants can contact 17749697 or secure.me@live.com

GULF CITY CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39641612 or yousif@aanass.net

Jehlum Contracting W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38398065 or SHABANGUJJAR3002@GMAIL.COM

BAROLA INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39187678 or KHAN19.MUJAHID@GMAIL.COM

SOFRAT AL DAAR RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33653331 or abbasabudrees98@gmail.com

GLOBAL SOURCES FOR GENERAL CONTRACTING CO. BRANCH OF A FOREIGN COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38888682 or ASHIQUE@ARABINGLOBALSOURCES.COM

AL FURQAN HERBS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33879006 or CREDIBLEDOCUMENTS2@GMAIL.COM

SHANI BIKE CENTRE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC(MOTORCYCLE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33477665 or IBRAHIMKHALIL3645@GMAIL.COM

PULSEPOINT ADVERTISING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35529646 or BERNOUSSI.ALI2023@GMAIL.COM

SWAY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of AIR-CONDITIONING TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39983143 or MUTAIRI2@GMAIL.COM

ABU AZAAN AC REPAIR WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC (AIR-CONDITIONING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35105488 or FAIZAL.BH2016@GMAIL.COM

ALI ADEL ALATAWI CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3327625 or ALIALATAWIZO@GMAIL.COM

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

DSV SOLUTIONS B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of STOREKEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17461000 or bincy.varghese@dsv.com

ALADLIYA CONTRACTING ESTABLISHMENT has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39602882 or alsediqi12@outlook.com

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

ALZEERA INTERNATIONAL POOLS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17697000 or ALZEERAINTERNATIONALPOOLS@GMAIL.COM

MORNING TEA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JUICE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33567813 or al.hashir.construction@gmail.com

AL AREEN PALACE AND SPA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER/ BARTENDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17845000 or ADNAN.ASLAM@LPDOWATERPARK.COM

AHMED QASSIMABDULLA MALIK has a vacancy for the occupation of CONCIERGE IN APPARTMENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39634498 or AHMEDQMALIK@GMAIL.COM

JAGTAR MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66918055 or HOPECITYDC@GMAIL.COM

NU ASIA RESTAURANT BSC has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38700027 or salwa@al-abraaj.com

DANA MARINE SUPPLY has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (ACCOUNTS

AND FINANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39666684 or INFO@TRANSCO-BAHRAIN.COM

noon cafe has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39681440 or AL_AMEERA25@HOTMAIL.COM

R.K.T PLASTICS CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OPERATOR(PLASTIC BAGS MACHINE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34379181 or ATEEQ@MRBME.COM

NFAR. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSULTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33860711 or YAYA_GHULAM@YAHOO.COM

UM MARYAM BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39181176 or ABALMAS189@GMAIL.COM

AL SAFWA ONE FURNISHED FLATS has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33338077 or CORNERELITE@YAHOO.COM

JADS RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36663334 or MAADHSALEH87@GMAIL.COM

MAKKAH ALUMINIUM W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ALUMINIUM TECHNICIAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39750011 or MAKAH.ALUMINIUM@GMAIL.COM

TRIPLE STAR CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3548563 or CChangazibashir@gmail.com

TOP GEAR CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17414600 or hanihilal@yahoo.com

BAHRAIN SERVICES & MAINTENANCE COMPANY B.S.C. (CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727676 or aqeel@basma.com.bh

BAHRAIN SERVICES & MAINTENANCE COMPANY B.S.C. (CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727676 or aqeel@basma.com.bh

ABDULAZIZ ALSAYED TRADING & CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33747598 or AHMEDALSAYED88@HOTMAIL.COM

FUSION TECH METAL WELDING WORKSHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL FABRICATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33646979 or METALSTEELFABRICATION@GMAIL.COM

SAFEYA HAIRSTYLIST has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39734455 or SADIQALMAJED@GMAIL.COM

AL KOOHEJI ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS & CONSTRUCTION WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17701711 or lmra@kecc.me

DYAR SAIF CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17179784 or SAIF.0073@YAHOO.COM

AL KOOHEJI ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS & CONSTRUCTION WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17701711 or lmra@kecc.me

AMBALI CLEANING AND CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39165508 or AMBALICLEANING@GMAIL.COM

RICH RACK W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17100032 or Rackrich11@gmail.com

KENZ FOR KURTAINS ANDUPHOLSTERY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of UPHOLSTERER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17678286 or sameer@kenzfurnishing.com

BABY STEPS CHILDREN EQUIPMENTS has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877669 or alZinj04@yahoo.com

AL NAHHAM FOR LABOR SUPPLY has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER,

suitably qualified applicants can contact 36644889 or alnaham.labor.supply@gmail.com

VICTORY ALUMINIUM has a vacancy for the occupation of ALUMINIUM TECHNICIAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39696047 or VICTORYALUMINIUM@GMAIL.COM

BROTHERS CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33155639 or shakbutt007@gmail.com

SIGNATURE HOTEL (FOUR SEASONS BAHRAIN BAY) COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (HOTEL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17546000 or ali.baqer@fourseasons.com

ABU BAKAR MANAGEMENT CONSULTAN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35625015 or BAS-RAABUBAKAR28@GMAIL.COM

EXCELLENCE ENGINEERING ENTERPRIZES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17532010 or m.vishal@exibah.com

al enma house for security services W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36633319 or admin@enmahb.com

JIHAN JEWELLERS has a vacancy for the occupation of RETAIL TRADE SALESMAN (JEWELLERY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17562920 or jihangoldsmith@gmail.com

SUNDARBAN SALES AND TRADING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66366340 or ARAH18577@GMAIL.COM

HMK USA LLC BRANCH OF A FOREIGN COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35615033 or ACCOUNTS@VISITARABIASERVICES.COM

OCEAN SPA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33305676 or ANDY-HOPPE080@GMAIL.COM

EFFCON JEWELLERY DESIGN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(-SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39492852 or KHANINT.PVT.LTD@GMAIL.COM

RAAZIQ JANN VISITOR ASSISTANCE CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33942875 or AARIF-BH101@GMAIL.COM

ALJALBOOT FISH RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36363936 or daytona@daytonabh.com

ONE POINT ELECTRONICS REPAIRING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of REPAIRMAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34177805 or SULEMAN-DANISH2188@GMAIL.COM

adar alamearat beauty saloon has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36333557 or AHLAM030@YAHOO.COM

804 GENTS SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35177644 or AHMEDCHAND775@GMAIL.COM

ABN AL NAFIS PALACE TAILORING - BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66664123 or DEEPUMILAN4123@GMAIL.COM

MAGIC BUBBLES MOTION PICTURES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR & GENERAL FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17470509 or PRAVEEN@BUBBLESADS.COM

RAMASERE SWEETS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17213898 or LULIAMURTAZA@GMAIL.COM

SAROJINI DESIGNS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33689001 or SAROJINIDESIGNS@GMAIL.COM

Jannaty Bahrain Food Industries Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66716677 or jamil.h@jannaty.co

SAUDI GEOPHYSICAL CONSULTING OFFICE COMPANY BRANCH OF A FOREIGN COM-

PANY has a vacancy for the occupation of TRADE / VOCATIONAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33326575 or PUBLICRELATION@SAUDIGEOPHYSICAL.COM

First Choice Cleaning Services Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36491411 or choicefirst82@gmail.com

FOOD WORLD LOGISTICS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66677333 or FOODWORLD.WLL@GMAIL.COM

SIYONA SUPERMARKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17736030 or GRANDMART.T@GMAIL.COM

NATIONAL TRADING CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39290440 or HUSAIN.AMRALLA@GMAIL.COM

FORCE POINT SECURITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66767587 or Forceps17@gmail.com

SEATS MASTER UPHOLSTERY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33474057 or ACC.SAWARI@GMAIL.COM

S M S DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of VEHICLE SHEET METAL WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17125171 or SALAHSAHAHUDDIN747@YAHOO.COM

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

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

PAK ARAB RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39942324 or ALHARAMPPM@GMAIL.COM

M & Q CARGO SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34227519 or QASOORAHMAD@GMAIL.COM

ASAD AND NADEEM INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34318615 or NADEEMBAMZMI85@GMAIL.COM

DAY TO DAY DISCOUNT CENTER has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(-SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66622168 or REZA@DAYTODAYBH.COM

GUDAIBIYA BUILDING CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17535434 or GBCONSTN@BATELCO.COM.BH

GLOBAL BAHRAIN GARAGE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN(-VEHICLES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39196274 or HASANAIN85@HOTMAIL.COM

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

BAHRAIN SERVICES & MAINTENANCE COMPANY B.S.C. (CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727676 or aqeel@basma.com.bh

Times N Chimes has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77815001 or BAHRAIN@MASHREQWORLD.COM

HAFEDH ALI MOHD BUCHEERI BUREA OF ATTORNEYS has a vacancy for the occupation of SECRETARY, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17532225 or info@hafudhali.com

URBASER BAHRAIN CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17534342 or sajlalnath@urbaser.com

PICO INTERNATIONAL BAHRAIN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRAFTSMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17879990 or Khalid@picobahrain.com

BAHPAK W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34560116 or WAJA-

HAT.AMJAD91@GMAIL.COM

ZUHU RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37354578 or SURFRAZMB@YAHOO.CO.IN

OMNI PRESENT SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(-MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34501443 or MOHAMMEDSADIQ6239@GMAIL.COM

IMLAQ ALSHAWRMA has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36699365 or BADERB77@HOTMAIL.COM

AHMED MOHAMMED HASAN ALKOOHEJI has a vacancy for the occupation of GARDENER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17620190 or AHMED@HAWACENTER.COM

FALCON ISLAND CLEANING EST has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33454414 or falcon-i@hotmail.com

IMPACT ESTATE WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSULTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17535111 or oksana@impact-estate.com

MEELCOM W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MAKER(FISHING NETS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39663200 or MEELCOM.BH@gmail.com

LAL INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33229998 or LALLAL-BAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

PURE GLOW SPA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36020164 or PURESKIN.INFO@GMAIL.COM

KARLOS HAIR STYLE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33891181 or SALES@LUCKY4GROUP.COM

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

ABU SHIHAB FISH 2026 has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35607663 or TOPTI-MEBHO@GMAIL.COM

LINUX FOR IMPORTING AND EXPORTING MARBLE AND THE KITCHEN INDUSTRY has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39660032 or info@linuxbh.com

TEEMAZ COLDSTORE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN (GROCERY OR COLDSTORE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37773177 or MDINAR2023@HOTMAIL.COM

KOKKARAKOO CHICKEN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36564263 or MEENUHASSANI23@GMAIL.COM

MASAFI SUPER MARKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34566115 or MUHAMEDAL1916.BH@GMAIL.COM

RAAZIQ KHAAN COMPUTER CONSULTANCY CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33942875 or AARIF-BH101@GMAIL.COM

JAY WAY DESIGN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 65001999 or MASMGNGMT@GMAIL.COM

ALSHUAA CONSULTANCY AND MARKETING MANAGMENT has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38003790 or ALFAHAD@BATELCO.COM.BH

RAMSIS ENGINEERING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830801 or Abbas@ramsis.com.bh

RAMSIS ENGINEERING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830801 or Abbas@ramsis.com.bh

KINGDOM ASPHALT COMPANY W L L has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSISTANT TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17466776 or ABDULLA@KINGDOM.BH

Classifieds

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

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

BEN EID TOWERS CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17250078 or KEHF-2011@HOTMAIL.COM

RAHEEB GARAGE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33966709 or SHAKEELABBAS2027BH@GMAIL.COM

NASSER SAEED AL-HAJRI CORPORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STRUCTURAL METAL PREP&ERECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17310555 or nshbahrain@alhajricorporation.com

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

SNAM HOLDING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17210333 or BHARATHI_R_IN@YAHOO.COM

VIBRANT SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY MAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17008217 or JALALEBRAHIM@GMAIL.COM

ALMOAYYED CLEANING & MAINTENANCE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or proffice@almoayyed-cg.com

VIBRANT SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY MAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17008217 or JALALEBRAHIM@GMAIL.COM

INTERIOR SOLUTIONS COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832022 or hamida.alhubail@havelock-one.com

BAHRAIN SERVICES & MAINTENANCE COMPANY B.S.C. (CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727676 or aqeel@qbasma.com.bh

JUST MOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34002808 or SIDCO-SERVICES@GMAIL.COM

ALFATEH TRANSPORT has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(HEAVY TRUCK), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17242589 or alfateh_transport@hotmail.com

DYAR SAIF CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17179784 or SAIF.0073@YAHOO.COM

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region

Bahrain chairs GCC youth and sports planning committee

Bahrain chaired the seventh remote meeting of the Planning, Coordination and Follow-up Committee of the GCC Committee of Ministers of Youth and Sports, as part of the Kingdom's presidency of the 46th GCC session.

Faisal Al Khayyat, Director of Policies and Strategic Planning at the Ministry of Youth Affairs, chaired the meeting, which discussed the future work plan of the GCC Committee of Ministers of Youth and Sports for 2025–2030.

The committee also reviewed approved Gulf activities and programmes, including Gulf Sports for All Day on December 12 and Gulf Youth



Day on June 6, along with recommendations from technical committees for 2027.

Discussions also focused on developing the youth sector through private-sector partnerships, empowering creative

and innovative young people across the GCC, and the Youth Creativity Award in the World of Data.

The meeting also addressed international cooperation in joint youth affairs.

The committee concluded with recommendations on the topics discussed, which will be submitted to the GCC Committee of Ministers of Youth and Sports for consideration and necessary decisions.

Saudi, Syrian state broadcasters sign cooperation agreement

Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic have signed an agreement aimed at expanding cooperation between their state broadcasting organisations, covering areas ranging from news and education to culture, science, entertainment and sport.

The memorandum of understanding was signed by Ali bin Abdullah Al-Zaid, chief executive of Saudi Arabia's Broadcasting and Television Authority, and Alaa Mustafa Bursailo, director-general of Syria's General Organization of Radio and Television. Saudi Media Minister Salman bin Yousef Al-Dossary and Syrian Information Minister Khaled Fawaz Zaarour attended the signing ceremony.

Under the agreement, the two broadcasters will exchange radio and television



programmes and other content in areas of mutual interest. The arrangement also provides for the sharing of information and professional expertise, along with greater exchanges and visits involving media specialists from both sides.

The agreement further includes plans to organise conferences, seminars and work-

shops, creating opportunities for professionals to exchange experience and develop closer working relationships.

The new partnership comes as Saudi Arabia continues to strengthen its institutional relationship with Syria following the fall of longtime Syrian President Bashar Assad in December 2024. Riyadh has since

moved to develop political, economic and institutional ties with Syria's new authorities.

Saudi support has also become increasingly important as Syria's interim government, headed by President Ahmad Al-Sharaa, seeks investment, technical expertise and financial support to repair infrastructure and revive the country's economy.

The World Bank has estimated that Syria could require at least \$216 billion for reconstruction, underlining the scale of the challenges facing the country.

The media agreement signals another area of cooperation between the two countries, with both broadcasting organisations agreeing to explore further opportunities to strengthen institutional links and collaboration.

Riyadh Air graduates first cohort of Saudi women aircraft engineers

Riyadh Air has celebrated the graduation of its first cohort of Saudi women aircraft maintenance engineers, marking a significant step in the development of national expertise in one of the aviation sector's key technical fields.

A total of 26 Saudi women completed the Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Diploma programme, which was launched by Riyadh Air in partnership with Colleges of Excellence and the International Technical College.

The graduation ceremony was held at Riyadh Air's headquarters in the presence of the graduates' families and senior company executives.

The programme was designed to provide participants with specialised technical skills required for aircraft maintenance while adhering to international standards. It also forms part of



broader efforts to develop an advanced aircraft maintenance ecosystem in Saudi Arabia and strengthen the competitiveness of the Kingdom's aviation industry.

Nahar Al-Juhani, senior vice president of talent acquisition and business partners at Riyadh Air, said the graduates had successfully completed an advanced technical programme

based on international standards.

He added that investing in Saudi talent remains a key part of Riyadh Air's development strategy and supports the objectives of Saudi Vision 2030, which seeks to establish the

Kingdom as a leading global aviation hub.

The aircraft maintenance diploma is one of several initiatives introduced by Riyadh Air to develop Saudi talent. These include the Nawa graduate development programme, the Nawa cabin crew programme, and scholarship opportunities in co-pilot training and aircraft maintenance.

Riyadh Air also graduated its first cabin crew cohort in 2024, with 32 Saudi men and women completing the training programme.

The latest graduation further expands opportunities for Saudi women in aviation and reflects the growing focus on developing local expertise across different areas of the Kingdom's rapidly expanding aviation sector.

Gaza Hosts “Palestine Loves UAE”



Gaza hosts “Palestine Loves the UAE” – a cultural event celebrating Palestinian-Emirati ties, featuring traditional heritage, music, dabke performances and activities, while expressing gratitude for the UAE’s humanitarian support for Gaza.



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Sports professionals face licence ban for betting

Coaches, referees, doctors and agents must meet new licensing rules or risk suspension or cancellation

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's sports professionals are operating under a new reality: bet on a match, fail a drug test, or submit false paperwork — and your right to work in sport is gone.

The General Sports Authority (GSA) introduced a sweeping licensing regime under Decision No. 8 of 2026, issued by His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the GSA. The system makes a GSA licence

compulsory for a vast range of roles — from head coaches and VAR referees to physiotherapists, talent scouts, sports psychologists, player agents, and media workers.

One Year to Comply – No Exceptions

Those already working in the sector have 12 months to meet the new requirements. Licences run for two years, with renewal applications due at least 30 days before expiry. Applicants must hold the relevant academic qualifications, pass fitness and compe-

tency assessments, and declare commitment to professional and ethical standards.

The Red Lines

The authority holds the power to warn, suspend for up to six months, or permanently cancel a licence. Betting on sport — directly or indirectly — is among the clearest grounds for cancellation. So is using or supplying banned substances, submitting false information, working for an unlicensed body, or participating in unauthorised



His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the General Sports Authority

sporting events.

Anyone convicted of dishonesty cannot obtain a licence until their legal status is restored. Those whose licences were previously cancelled must wait at least five years before reapplying.

The rules extend across clubs, federations, academies, and sports centres — covering virtually every professional who touches elite sport in Bahrain. The GSA also reserves the right to expand the list further.

Young Bahrainis eye Asian return

Kingdom's U20s face Tajikistan as road to China begins

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain begin their quest to return to the AFC U20 Asian Cup after a decade when they take on Tajikistan in their opening qualifier tonight at Khalifa Sports City Stadium in Isa Town.

The kingdom's junior men's football team are hosting Group D of the AFC U20 Asian Cup 2027 qualifiers, with Jordan and Afghanistan completing the four-team pool.

Tonight's clash kicks off at 8.30pm and will follow the group's opening fixture between Jordan and Afghanistan at 5pm at the same venue.

Head coach Ali Aamer will hope his side can make the most of home advantage and get their three-match campaign off to a winning start.

The former Bahrain and Muharraq midfielder has selected a 23-player squad for the campaign; the youngsters completed their preparations at the



Bader Hussain in action during final preparations



Bahrain representative at yesterday's Group D coordination meeting

Bahrain Football Association pitches at Isa Sports City in Riffa.

The qualifiers feature 32 teams divided into eight groups of four, with matches in each pool played at a centralised venue.

Each group will be contested in a single round-robin format, with the eight group winners and seven best runners-up advancing to next year's AFC U20 Asian Cup in China.

That leaves little room for error during the three-match campaign as the youngsters look to secure the kingdom's 10th appearance at the continental showpiece.

A coordination meeting for the participating Group D teams was also held ahead of the qualifiers, with Bahrain team manager Turki Abdulla in attendance as administrative arrangements for the matches were finalised.

Aamer's squad features Hussain Zuhair, Sayed Ahmed Alwadaie, Amjad Jaafar, Khaled Ahmed, Bader Hus-

sain, Khaled Alkhalaf, Mubarak Fawaz, Mohammed Salah, Khaled Alkhalidi, Adam Fareed, Jassim Qasem, Abdulrahman Bassam, Ali Mehran, Karrar Huwaida, Ahmed Nasser, Ahmed Almuraisi, Komail Alsitrawi, Abdulla Osama, Ali Hussain and Mohammed Aljazzaf.

Goalkeepers Abdulla Ahmed, Hassan Albastaki and Hussain Ebrahim complete the roster.

Bahrain first competed in the Asian U20 championship in 1973 and are now looking to end a run of three successive missed editions.

The 2027 finals, which will be the 43rd edition of the tournament, are scheduled to take place in China from March 24 to April 10.

Group D action continues on Thursday, when Afghanistan face Tajikistan at 5pm before Bahrain meet Jordan at 8.30pm.

The final round of matches will be played yesterday, with Jordan taking on Tajikistan at 5pm and Bahrain facing Afghanistan at 8.30pm.

Bahrain eye third Asian youth crown

Warriors face fellow two-time champions Qatar in gold medal showdown

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain will bid to capture their third Asian youth title when they face Gulf rivals Qatar in the final of the 11th Asian Men's Youth Handball Championship today in Amman, Jordan.

The gold medal showdown is scheduled for a 6pm start at Princess Sumaya Hall, where the kingdom's under-19 side will look to complete an impressive campaign by adding to the continental crowns they won in 2016 and 2018.

Standing in their way are fellow two-time champions Qatar, setting up a final between two sides seeking a third Asian crown.

Bahrain booked their place in the championship-decider with a hard-fought 26-23 semi-final victory over Iran on Saturday, while the Qataris advanced after defeating South Korea 32-28.

Under Egyptian coach Mohamed Soliman, the youngsters have yet to taste defeat in the tournament, progressing through the preliminary round with a perfect record before



Coach Soliman directs his players during Bahrain's previous match

overcoming Saudi Arabia 30-28 in the quarter-finals.

That result also secured the Young Warriors a seventh appearance at the IHF Men's Youth Handball World Championship, including a fifth in succession.

Saturday's semi-final provided another stern test, with Bahrain holding a slender 14-13 advantage at half-time before their opponents fought back to level the contest at 18-18 midway through the second

period.

The nationals then regained control during the closing stages, with Mahmood Ahmed and Mahdi Ali helping spark a crucial surge before Ahmed Abdulla struck from long range into an empty net to put Bahrain four goals clear at 24-20.

Goalkeeper Ali Almahroos was instrumental in the win, producing a number of important saves as Iran threatened to turn the contest around. He

finished with 12 stops and was named Man of the Match.

Ahmed, Ali, Sayed Omran Almahafdhah and Sayed Majeed Almuhafda shared the scoring honours with four goals apiece, while Hasan Saif added three.

Bahrain are appearing in the Asian youth final for only the third time, having won on both previous occasions. They also claimed bronze in 2010.

Success today would preserve their perfect record in the title game and bring a third continental crown on their 10th appearance in the competition.

Before the main event, hosts Jordan will face Uzbekistan in the seventh-place play-off at noon, followed by Kuwait against Saudi Arabia for fifth place at 2pm.

Iran and South Korea will then battle for bronze at 4pm before Bahrain and Qatar take centre stage two hours later.

All four semi-finalists have already secured qualification for next year's IHF Men's Youth Handball World Championship, scheduled to take place from July 29 to August 9, 2027.

Bellingham, Mbappe fire as Real Madrid ease to Malaga win



Real Madrid's English midfielder #05 Jude Bellingham (2-L) celebrates with his teammates

AFP | Madrid

Jude Bellingham and Kylian Mbappe both struck as Real Madrid's perfect start to La Liga under Jose Mourinho continued in a 4-0 cruise against Malaga yesterday.

Los Blancos scored three times in just over 10 minutes in the first half to open up a comfortable lead over the Andalusian visitors to the Santiago Bernabeu.

Sandwiched between Bellingham and Mbappe's strikes was an own goal by Malaga

goalkeeper Alfonso Herrero, while Arda Guler tapped in a fourth late on.

After two victories in their opening two games and with superstar trio Mbappe, Bellingham and Vinicius Junior starting the season well, Madrid's confidence was high.

Mourinho rotated, making five changes to the team that started their opening matches, giving Trent Alexander-Arnold and Marc Cucurella among others their first starts this season.

Robinson strikes again as England wrap up Pakistan series win



England's Ollie Robinson appeals successfully for lbw against Pakistan's Azan Awaiz

AFP | London

Ollie Robinson led the way once more as England clinched a series win over Pakistan with a thumping 194-run win in the second Test at Lord's yesterday despite Saud Shakeel's fine 97. Pakistan were dismissed for 194, having been set an improbable victory target of 389, to give England an unbeatable 2-0 lead in a three-match series.

This was England's first multi-match Test series win since a 2-1 success in New Zealand more than a year ago.

Robinson finished with figures of 4-24 in 14 overs following his sensational 4-11 in 13 during Pakistan's meagre first-innings 110 all out.

The Sussex seamer produced a pair of double strikes yesterday either side of Shakeel and Shan Masood checking England's progress with a fourth-wicket partnership of 97.

Robinson took two wickets in four balls to leave the tourists 7-2, before express quick Jofra Archer dismissed Pakistan captain Babar Azam.

But from the dire position of 14-3 before lunch, Shakeel and fellow left-hander Masood kept England at bay.

Robinson, however, had Masood lbw from around the wicket for a gritty 26 off 72 balls, although it needed a review to reverse umpire Allahuddin Paleker's original not out decision.

And 111-4 became 115-5 when Mohammad Rizwan was lbw to Robinson carelessly slogging across the line.

Shakeel, 78 not out at tea, went to 86 by hooking Tongue for six and, two balls later, another superb hook off another the fast bowler saw him into the 90s.

Shakeel pulled the fifth ball of the over to go to 96 only to hole out soon afterwards when he swung Tongue straight to Harry Brook at deep square leg.

Naser edged in photo finish

Hussain Almaskati

Bahrain's former world champion and Paris 2024 Olympics silver-medallist Salwa Eid Naser continued her impressive return to form yesterday, missing out on victory by the narrowest of margins in the women's 400 metres at the Grand Prix Brescia in Italy.

The 28-year-old produced her fastest run of the season at the World Athletics Continental Tour Silver meeting, clocking 49.27 seconds at the Gabre Gabric Stadium to finish second behind Jamaica's Nickisha Pryce.

There was virtually nothing separating the pair as they crossed the line, with both credited with 49.27s before a photo finish handed Pryce the victory.

Jamaica's Stacey Ann Williams completed the podium in 49.92s, while Poland's Natalia Bukowiecka was fourth in 50.13s. Chile's Martina Weil followed in fifth with 50.39s, ahead of American Alexis

Holmes in 50.95s.

Paris Peoples of the US was seventh in 51.77s, while Italy's Sophia Favalli completed the eight-runner field in 54.71s.

Naser's performance marked another significant step forward just a week after she finished third at the Kamila Skolimowska Memorial in Silesia, Poland, where her 49.57s had stood as her season's best.

Pryce had also finished ahead of the Bahraini on that occasion, taking second in 49.49s behind reigning Olympic champion Marileidy Paulino of the Dominican Republic, who won in 48.87s.

Naser began her season at the Diamond League meeting in Shaoxing/Keqiao, China, in May, finishing seventh in 51.56s before a three-month absence from international competition.

Her personal best remains the 48.14s she clocked when winning the world title in Doha in 2019, which also stands as the Asian and Bahraini record.

Century show as Bahrain sweep Nepal aside

Onoduenyi stars as nationals maintain perfect record ahead of Kuwait finale

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain powered to their third successive victory in the first round of pre-qualifying for the FIBA Asia Cup 2029 after brushing aside Nepal 105-71 yesterday at Sheikh Saeed bin Maktoum Sports Hall in Dubai.

The kingdom's senior men's basketball team were in control virtually from start to finish, building a 29-point advantage by half-time before comfortably seeing out the contest.

The result followed Bahrain's 106-62 opening victory over Oman and their thrilling 83-80 comeback win against hosts UAE.

Slobodan Subotic's men now turn their attention to their final Group A encounter against Kuwait tonight at 7pm, where they will look to complete the first round with a perfect record.

Somto Patrick Onoduenyi produced a dominant all-round display against Nepal, leading Bahrain with 22 points and 16 rebounds, including 11 on the offensive glass. He also added two blocks and two steals to finish with a game-high efficiency rating of 37.

The 16-year-old is making his first appearance with the senior team in this tournament following a string of impressive performances for the kingdom's youth sides.

Ahmed Bindayneh contributed 20 points, including five three-pointers, while Ali Rashed posted a double-double of 15 points and 10 rebounds along with six assists.



Somto Patrick Onoduenyi, 16, throws down a two-handed dunk

Bahrain asserted themselves from the opening tip, racing into a 6-0 lead before stretching the gap to 13-2.

JaKarr Sampson was heavily involved in the early scoring as the nationals continued to pull clear, moving 25-9 ahead before Nepal closed the opening period with five unanswered points to make it 25-14.

Any hopes of a Nepal fight-back were quickly extinguished in the second quarter.

After the deficit was briefly cut to nine at 25-16, Bahrain

responded emphatically, with Mahmood Khalifa and Bindayneh connecting from beyond the arc.

Bindayneh caught fire during the period, pouring in 14 points and knocking down four three-pointers as Bahrain tightened their grip on proceedings.

The nationals also stepped up defensively, restricting their opponents to just eight points in the quarter as they surged into the interval with a 51-22 advantage.

Nepal opened the second half

with a Sadhish Pradhan triple, but Bahrain soon resumed control.

Onoduenyi took centre stage in the third, scoring 10 points while making his presence felt around the basket as the lead climbed beyond 30.

Bahrain were 64-30 ahead midway through the period and carried a 74-40 advantage into the final quarter after outscoring Nepal 23-18.

Onoduenyi then scored the first four points of the fourth, including a dunk following his own steal, to push the gap to a game-high 38 at 78-40.

Nepal enjoyed their best offensive spell from there, led by Nischal Maharjan, who repeatedly connected from long range as both teams scored freely over the closing minutes.

Ali Rashed answered with four three-pointers of his own during the period, while Onoduenyi continued to cause problems inside as Bahrain broke through the 100-point barrier.

The fourth quarter eventually finished level at 31-31, but the damage had long been done as Bahrain wrapped up a convincing 34-point triumph.

Maharjan led all scorers with 29 points for Nepal, including seven three-pointers, while Saurav Shrestha added 12 and Ajay Kushwaha finished with 10. The defeat left Sushil Gurung's side winless after three games, having also lost to the UAE and Kuwait.

The top three teams in Group A advance to the second round of pre-qualifying, which will be played in November and December.

Fernandes treble inspires Man Utd rout, Chelsea beat Brighton in thriller

AFP | London

Bruno Fernandes starred with a hat-trick in Manchester United's 5-2 rout of Ipswich, while Chelsea extended Xabi Alonso's perfect start with a thrilling 4-3 win against Brighton yesterday.

Fernandes's dynamic display ensured United bounced back from their humiliating 2-0 defeat at Hull on the opening weekend of the Premier League season.

Michael Carrick's side were in danger of another embarrassing loss to a promoted club when Leif Davis put Ipswich ahead at Old Trafford with a 29th minute strike that cannoned in off the crossbar.

But the Fernandes show started in the 40th minute after Marcelino Nunez's slip allowed Mathews Cunha to pick out the United captain for a sumptuous finish.

United went in front in the



Manchester United captain Bruno Fernandes takes home the match ball after completing his hat-trick

56th minute through Jacob Greaves' own goal.

Greaves deflected Harry Maguire's shot into his own net, with Ipswich's appeals for handball against the United defender snubbed by VAR.

Completing a miserable

five minutes for Greaves, the Ipswich defender conceded a penalty with his foul on Cunha and United captain Fernandes stepped up to slot home from the spot.

Fernandes sealed his treble in the 68th minute, sweeping in

from close-range after Kobbie Mainoo and Bryan Mbeumo had shots blocked.

It was Fernandes's second league hat-trick for United following his treble against Leeds five years ago.

Fernandes was not finished and Bryan Mbeumo scored from his pass with a lob that clipped the bar and dropped over the line in the 82nd minute.

Chuba Akpom's stoppage-time tap-in was little consolation for out-classed Ipswich, who were beaten for the first time since returning to the top-flight.

Joao Pedro, Morgan Rogers and Cole Palmer all scored when Alonso's reign as Chelsea boss kicked off with a 3-2 win at Fulham on Monday.

And Pedro and Palmer were back on target, while Rogers teed up Chelsea's second goal, scored by Pedro Neto, as the Blues held off a rally from Brighton at Stamford Bridge.



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