

Bahrain vows to enhance Mongolia ties



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, met yesterday with the Prime Minister of Mongolia, Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai, at Gudaibiya Palace. HRH Prince Salman emphasised the importance of strengthening Bahrain-Mongolia relations, reaffirming the Kingdom's commitment to advancing bilateral ties to achieve shared aspirations. His Royal Highness highlighted the mutual commitment to enhancing cooperation between Bahrain and Mongolia across various sectors, aiming to benefit both nations and their peoples. During the meeting, discussions focused on enhancing multisectoral collaboration, addressing the latest regional and international developments, and exploring issues of common interest. Luvsannamsrai expressed gratitude for HRH Prince Salman's dedication to strengthening Bahrain-Mongolia relations and extended his best wishes for Bahrain's continued progress and prosperity. The Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and several senior officials, also attended the meeting.

Teacher sacked for 'physically abusing' student

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A primary school teacher has been sacked after the Ministry of Education discovered an incident of severe physical abuse against a young student during a routine inspection, the ministry said in a statement yesterday.

The ministry's internal investigation confirmed the allegations, leading to the immediate dismissal of the teacher this month.

Officials reiterated that physical and verbal punishment of any kind is strictly banned in all educational settings, regardless of the circumstances.

They stressed that protecting the safety, well-being, and mental and physical health of students remains their foremost priority.

"Schools, whether public or private, are expected to provide a safe and supportive environment for all pupils," the ministry stated. "There is no place for any form of violence in education, and we will continue to keep a close watch on all institutions to ensure these standards are upheld."

The Expert Revolution

Bahrain Launches Innovative Experts Platform to Showcase National Talent

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain has taken a pioneering step towards highlighting its wealth of professional expertise through the launch of the National Platform for Bahrain Experts, known as Khobraa.

This ground-breaking initiative, developed under the Bahrainouna plan, is designed to recognise and promote Bahraini specialists across diverse fields, solidifying the Kingdom's reputation as a hub for exceptional talent.

The platform stands out as a unique venture, not only documenting professional achievements but also serving as a gateway to connect experts with opportunities both locally and internationally.

By offering a comprehensive database of skilled professionals, Khobraa reflects Bahrain's forward-looking approach to fostering academic and professional excellence while enhancing its competitive edge on the global stage.

What sets Khobraa apart is its focus on celebrating Bahraini expertise in key sectors critical to national development.

Initially, the platform is prioritising six strategic fields - financial services, insurance and banking, healthcare, manufacturing industries, information and communications, engineer-



The Bahrain Experts National Platform Committee holds its first meeting at the Ministry of Labour

ing, and real estate.

These areas have been carefully selected to align with the Kingdom's developmental goals and to address growing demands for specialised skills in an increasingly competitive global economy.

First Steps in Motion

The journey to bring this ambitious platform to life took a significant step forward yesterday with the first meeting of the Bahrain Experts National Platform Committee, held at the Ministry of Labour.

Overseen by Dr Essam Ismail Al Alawi, Director of the Training and Manpower Development Directorate, the session focused on charting a roadmap

for the initiative's success.

Central to the discussions was the process of accrediting Bahraini experts and compiling a comprehensive list of professional fields to be included in the platform.

Dr Al Alawi praised the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Labour, the Information and eGovernment Authority, and the Executive Office of Bahrainouna, emphasising their shared dedication to making Khobraa a reality.

The committee also outlined plans to broaden the platform's scope in the future by incorporating additional sectors and introducing interactive features to enhance engagement.

This forward-thinking approach aims to ensure that Khobraa evolves as a dynamic and inclusive space for Bahraini professionals.

Dr Al Alawi highlighted the platform's potential to not only showcase Bahraini talent but also to inspire excellence across a wide range of disciplines.

By spotlighting the capabilities of its people, Bahrain is positioning itself as a leader in

Khobraa is Bahrain's expert platform, connecting national talent with global opportunities in six strategic fields.

professional expertise and innovation.

Eligible experts meeting the platform's criteria are encouraged to register through the official website (<https://experts.bh>), contributing to a national initiative that celebrates their achievements while connecting them to new opportunities.

As Khobraa moves from vision to reality, it underscores Bahrain's unwavering commitment to investing in its people and driving sustainable growth through innovation and expertise.

The platform's launch marks a defining moment in the Kingdom's efforts to elevate its professional community to new heights.

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Growing green together

HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa inaugurates Bahrain Mangroves initiative

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The Kingdom of Bahrain is committed to tackling climate change and its target to quadruple mangroves coverage by 2035.

This was emphasised by His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa as he inaugurated the Bahrain Mangroves initiative by planting several mangroves yesterday at the Royal Bahraini Air Force.

HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman underscored that community partnership is essential to the success of the Kingdom's afforestation plan and its environmental goals and broader aspirations.

This partnership also supports the National Action Plan's initiatives to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, in line with the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Better future

HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman affirmed the Kingdom's commitment to implementing initiatives and plans that preserve the environment, ensure resource sustainability, and cre-



ate a better future for all.

He noted the tireless efforts of the Supreme Council for the Environment, led by the Personal Representative of His Majesty the King, His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, and all concerned authorities in combating climate challenges, preserving the environment, and enhancing biodiversity.

HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman commended the Bahrain Defence Force's support to all initiatives that aim to achieve security and biodiversity.

Awareness

His Highness stressed the importance of raising awareness about environmental preservation, particularly through expanding Bahrain's green spaces



His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa plants mangroves

and increasing mangrove plantations.

He noted that mangroves are crucial in mitigating climate



Bahrain has committed to reducing carbon emissions by 30% by 2035 and reach net zero in 2060.

change and maintaining ecological balance.

The Kingdom has committed to reducing carbon emissions by 30% by 2035 and reach net zero in 2060.

Key national initiatives

This aligns with several key national initiatives, including the National Action Plan's "Blueprint Bahrain" to achieve carbon neutrality, the Kingdom's afforestation plan, which aims to

increase the number of trees to 3.6 million by 2035, and National Tree Week, held annually on the third week of October.

To amplify awareness, the social media account @BahrainMangroves was launched to provide insights into the importance of mangroves, planting techniques, and general updates on the Kingdom's environmental efforts.

Several senior officials attended the event.

Efforts underway to enhance pool and beach safety

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Her Excellency Fatima bint Jaffar Al Sairafi, Minister of Tourism, held a meeting with Her Highness Shaikha Nayla bint Hamad bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Chairperson of the Royal Life Saving Bahrain (RLSB), to discuss collaborative efforts aimed at ensuring the safety of swimming pools and beaches across Bahrain's tourism establishments.

The discussion centered on strengthening the partnership between the RLSB and the Tourism Authority to implement comprehensive audits and inspections at tourism facilities, ensuring strict adherence to



H.E. Fatima bint Jaffar Al Sairafi and Her Highness Shaikha Nayla bint Hamad bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa during the meeting

operational safety guidelines for swimming pools.

Her Excellency emphasised

that the safety and well-being of visitors and guests remain a top priority, underscoring the

importance of robust safety protocols in enhancing Bahrain's reputation as a safe and appealing destination for tourists.

The minister emphasised that visitor and guest safety at tourism establishments is a top priority, expressing her hope that this collaboration will further position Bahrain as a safe and attractive tourist destination.

On her part, HH Shaikha Nayla commended the Ministry of Tourism's efforts, highlighting the importance of joint cooperation to achieve shared goals of promoting water safety awareness across various sectors and enhancing understanding of safety measures for beachgoers and pool users.

Sigh of relief as MPs approve new dialysis clinic in Isa Town

Mohammed Darwish
TDI | Manama

A new dialysis clinic is on the cards for Isa Town, after MPs approved a proposal aimed at easing the load on overstretched services and helping patients who face mounting costs and long journeys for treatment.

MP Dr Maryam Al Dhaen, who put forward the idea, described the toll that travel and expense take on those needing dialysis several times a week.

"For many, it's hours on the road, three times a week, just to get care that keeps them alive. This hospital will be a lifeline for those who need it most," said MP Al Dhaen.

Home

Isa Town, with its 50,000 residents, sits in the heart of the Southern Governorate, which is home to nearly 400,000 people across 66 blocks.

Dr Al Dhaen explained, "The number of people needing dialysis rises by seven per cent every year. There are 4,000 patients with kidney issues being treated in public hospitals, and 660 of them rely on dialysis. Shockingly, even children as young as eight are affected."

Location

The new clinic will be built at the Yousef Engineer Health Centre, chosen for its central location, existing facilities, and ample space for development, including parking for visitors. It will operate around the

clock and provide haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis.

Dr Al Dhaen said, "For patients, having care closer to home will make all the difference. It will reduce travel time, ease their stress, and ensure consistency in their treatment."

Concern

A key concern raised by Dr Al Dhaen was the financial burden patients endure.

"A single dialysis session can cost over BD100, not to mention the expense of getting to and from the hospital," she said. "This new centre will help to reduce these costs and improve patients' well-being — because we all know that peace of mind plays a huge role in recovery."

Dr Al Dhaen framed the proposal as part of Bahrain's push to improve healthcare services across all regions.

Care

"This is not just about Isa Town," she said. "It's about creating something that benefits patients while also training and employing local doctors, nurses, and technicians. It's about raising the bar for care across the board."

She also called for collaboration between the government and private donors.

"We've seen these partnerships work well in other areas, like cardiology and ENT units," she said. "This can be a model for other centres, making healthcare better for everyone."

MPs call on Tamkeen to end wage delays in sports

Mohammed Darwish
TDI | Manama

A proposal urging the Labour Fund, Tamkeen, to introduce a programme supporting the salaries of athletes, coaches, and support staff in Bahrain's sports club aims to tackle persistent issues of unpaid wages.

Proponents argue that the scheme would ease financial pressures on clubs and ensure workers receive steady payments throughout their contracts.

The proposal, submitted by five MPs — Mohammed Al Olaiwi, Abdulhakim Al Sheno, Eman Shuwaiter, Hesham Al Awadhi, and Hesham Al Ashiri — calls for measures to stabilise sports clubs and federations, many of



MP Mohammed Al Olaiwi



MP Eman Shuwaiter

which have struggled with late wages and uncertain finances.

It also seeks to provide job security and encourage Bahraini youth to pursue careers in sports.

Legitimate career

"This proposal paves the way for the proper implementation of the Sports Professionalism Law, which recognises sports as a legitimate career, and the

Law on converting clubs into investment companies," the explanatory memorandum states. "Both laws aim to ease the financial strain on clubs and ensure employees receive their pay on time." Supporters believe the scheme could create a better working environment for athletes and staff by ensuring wages are paid on time.

The MPs argue that such a programme would boost pro-

ductivity, attract young talent, and contribute to sustainable growth in the sports sector.

Confidence

"This initiative would give young athletes confidence to build careers in their areas of expertise, providing much-needed stability," the memorandum adds. "It is a forward-thinking step to strengthen Bahrain's sporting future and ensure steady progress in this important sector."

The MPs have called on the government to adopt the proposal, urging Tamkeen to act on it immediately. They highlight its potential to address unemployment, reduce financial burdens on clubs, and support Bahrain's youth and sports sectors.

MP proposes committee to verify expats' qualifications

H Naser
TDT | Manama



This proactive measure aims to ensure the quality and efficiency of services across various sectors

MP JALAL KAZIM

MP Jalal Kazim has submitted a proposal calling for the establishment of an administrative committee within the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) to verify the academic qualifications of foreign workers before issuing work permits.

The committee would oversee both the public and private sectors.

MP Kazim stated to The Daily Tribune that this proactive measure aims to ensure the quality and efficiency of services across various sectors.

"The committee would verify the authenticity of academic credentials presented by foreign workers, preventing individuals with forged qualifications from entering the workforce," he said.

Risks

This, he argued, would mitigate risks to public safety and maintain professional standards.

The MP stressed that this step protects both citizens and employers by safeguarding the Bahraini labour market from the dangers of credential fraud and enhancing the quality of services for all residents.

He highlighted the increasing number of reported cases of foreign workers using forged qualifications, as frequently documented in the press.

Oversight

He urged the LMRA, as the body responsible for issuing work permits, to strengthen its oversight of academic qualifications.

The proposal, he added, reflects the legislative authority's commitment to ensuring safe and high-quality services,

particularly in sensitive sectors directly impacting citizens' lives.

He warned that unqualified individuals or those with forged credentials could cause significant harm, in addition to unfairly denying qualified Bahraini citizens employment opportunities.

Authenticity

"The proposed committee would thoroughly examine all documents submitted by foreign workers to verify their authenticity, producing detailed reports to minimize professional risks associated with document forgery.

This, in turn, would contribute to providing safe and high-quality professional services to citizens," he explained.

The proposal's main objectives include ensuring safe services for all residents, providing jobs only to academically qualified individuals to raise professional standards, reducing professional risks associated with academic fraud, and guaranteeing a safe and efficient work environment.

Exploited and enslaved

Four women escape hotel after being forced to entertain guests

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Lured to Bahrain with promises of waitress jobs, four Arab women instead found themselves trapped in a grim web of exploitation.

Forced to entertain nightclub customers, their passports seized and wages withheld, the women eventually fled and exposed what authorities are now calling a case of human trafficking. One of the victims recounted that she and her companions had arrived in Bahrain expecting to work as waitresses in a hotel.

Restrictions

Instead, they were met at the airport by the second defendant, who confiscated their passports and restricted their movements under instructions from the first defendant — a hotel investor.

Once inside the hotel, the women were forced into the nightclub to entertain customers, earning money they would never see.

When the first victim protested and said she wanted to leave,



she was threatened with deportation and the loss of her pay.

Ordeal

Fearing further retribution, she escaped the hotel with another victim and reported the ordeal to the authorities.

Investigations revealed that the first defendant, a businessman with a prior conviction for similar crimes, had orchestrated the scheme with the help of the second defendant.

Together, they allegedly confined the women, denied them their pay, and used intimidation

to keep them compliant.

Admission

The second defendant reportedly admitted during questioning that he brought the women to Bahrain at the request of the first defendant, seized their passports, and forced them to work outside their agreed roles.

He also disclosed that the first defendant had not paid the women for their work.

Prosecutors have charged both men with trafficking the women, accusing them of exploiting their vulnerability, con-

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The women were allegedly confined, deprived of their pay, and subjected to intimidation to ensure compliance.

fiscating their passports, and forcing them into labour against their will.

Captivity

The women's lack of freedom, constant surveillance, and inability to escape painted a ghastly picture of their captivity.

The High Criminal Court has scheduled a hearing for 10 December to address the allegations.

Meanwhile, authorities are examining the first defendant's criminal history, which includes convictions for related offences.

10-year jail term appealed in human trafficking case

TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court has begun hearing the case of an Asian man sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for human trafficking and sexual assault.

The defendant, who pleaded guilty, forced two Asian women into prostitution and sexually assaulted one without her consent.

Evidence presented included a ledger detailing his earnings from the women's forced prostitution, with each victim's name and client records meticulously documented.



Prostitution

The case came to light following a report from a foreign embassy in Bahrain, alleging that a woman was being held against her will in a furnished apartment and forced into prostitution.

Police subsequently apprehended the defendant and rescued the victim, along with a

second woman.

Both victims reportedly came to Bahrain under the false pretense of employment opportunities.

The defendant, upon meeting the women, confined them to an apartment in the Juffair area and compelled them into prostitution, using both physical and psychological coercion to extract financial gain.

Asian man on trial for BD8.5 robbery

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A 57-year-old Asian man faces charges of robbery after allegedly stealing BD8.5 and a wallet from another Asian man.

The incident, which led to the defendant's arrest, involved a daring escape attempt.

According to the victim's statement, the defendant approached him in his car, requesting change for a BD10 note.

The victim handed over BD8.5, but the defendant then grabbed the mon-

ey and wallet, speeding away.

The victim attempted to stop the car by clinging to the door, but fell to the ground as the vehicle drove off.

Footage

Police responded to the victim's report and reviewed security camera footage from a nearby residence.

The footage revealed the license plate of the defendant's vehicle, which was subsequently identified as stolen.

Further investigation led police to identify the driver,

whose photograph was then shown to the victim for identification.

Custody

The defendant was subsequently apprehended and taken into custody.

The public prosecution charged the defendant with robbery by force, alleging that he forcibly took the money and wallet and fled the scene.

The prosecution further stated that the defendant's actions, including continuing to drive despite the victim clinging to the car, constituted force.

History, heritage and tourism



The Police Directorate has held an event at Bab Al Bahrain to inform visitors of this landmark in the history of Bahraini police and the forces' role in protecting security and general order. The event was held in cooperation with the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) and some directorates of the Interior Ministry. The event included a parade of mounted police and a display of the old uniforms of Bahraini police personnel. The event aimed to highlight Bahraini heritage, and enhance the tourism experience.

Festive Cheer Illuminates La Rosa Hotel in Juffair



La Rosa Hotel in Juffair marked the festive season with a dazzling Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration yesterday. The event featured live performances, vibrant decorations, and a visit from Santa Claus, bringing joy to attendees. Staff members, dressed in festive attire, joined in the celebrations, spreading holiday cheer and camaraderie.

Financial relief, revenue woes

MPs support traffic fee exemptions for citizens despite treasury concerns

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Traffic fee exemptions for citizens approved by MPs have drawn a stark warning from the General Directorate of Traffic, which fears the move could rattle Bahrain's finances and undermine non-oil revenue streams.

The proposal, spearheaded by MP Dr Ali Al Nuaimi, calls for scrapping fees for services provided by the General Directorate of Traffic, aiming to ease financial pressures on households.

Dr Al Nuaimi argued that the measure would allow citizens to access essential licensing and traffic services without the extra burden of fees.

He said this would not only lighten the load on family budgets but also encourage better compliance with road laws, benefiting the public at large.

Caution

Yet, the General Directorate of Traffic has urged caution.

In a letter to Parliament, it warned that the fee waivers could destabilise the budget and hinder the Fiscal Balance



This would not only lighten the load on family budgets but also encourage better compliance with road laws, benefiting the public at large

MP DR ALI AL NUAIMI

Programme, a cornerstone of Bahrain's economic framework.

It stressed that the fees are not a profit-making venture but are used to cover the costs of providing traffic-related services.

Expenses

"The current fees ensure

we can meet the expenses of delivering these services," the directorate said. "Eliminating them would place undue strain on the treasury and disrupt the steady flow of non-oil income."

The Ministry of Interior also weighed in, arguing in a memo to Parliament that the fees represent payment for specific services, such as inspections and licensing, rather than broad societal benefits.

It explained that these fees are essential to maintaining service quality and covering operational expenses.

Proposal

Despite the warnings, Dr Al Nuaimi remained steadfast in his defence of the proposal, describing it as a necessary step to support citizens and ensure they can access vital public services without worrying about additional costs.

The debate reflects a broader tug-of-war between easing public expenses and ensuring fiscal stability.

While the measure is likely to be welcomed by many, its long-term effects on Bahrain's budget remain uncertain.

Boost for SMEs in government tenders

TDT | Manama

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are making inroads into Bahrain's government tenders, as the Tender Board rolls out measures to give them a better shot at success.

These include a 10% advantage in financial evaluations and tenders restricted solely to smaller businesses, aiming

to create fairer competition.

The Tender Board, in response to a question by Shura Council member Lina Habib Qasim, detailed its actions to bring SMEs into the fold.

A key step was issuing Circular No. 3 of 2019, which requires public bodies to post internal tenders on the board's e-Tendering system.

This ensures all government

opportunities are visible on the board's website, making it easier for SMEs to find work that matches their expertise.

Suppliers and contractors can now view every tender and auction announcement in one place. For SMEs, this means a clearer view of the playing field and the ability to decide on bids that suit their capabilities.

Filipino campaign to end violence against women

TDT | Manama

The Philippine Embassy has organised activities held at its premises in observance of the 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW).

The activities began with a flag-raising ceremony followed by the recitation of the VAW prayer. In her remarks on the occasion, Her Excellency Anne

Jalando-on Louis, the Philippines' Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, noted that the annual Philippine Anti-VAW Campaign is in support of the Nations' initiative "UNITE by 2030 to End VAW", which was launched by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2008 to promote a world free from all forms of violence against women and girls.

The program also included a Zumba exercise led by the Filipino community group, Filipino Club Dance Crew, and a walk within the Embassy's premises.

The program was attended by the Embassy's personnel and their dependents and around 50 members of the Filipino community, including Filipino women who are being assisted by the Embassy.

Global partnerships



Transportation and Telecommunications Minister and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (DERASAT), H.E. Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, affirmed that the centre will continue its scientific programmes and international partnerships to enhance scientific research and innovation in line with the comprehensive development process led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and in support of the government's directives headed by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. This came during his chairmanship of the fourth meeting of the Board of Trustees of DERASAT this year, in the presence of board members Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Asiri, Shaikh Fahad bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, Dr. Khalifa bin Ali Al-Fadhel, Dr. Shaikha Munira bint Khalifa Al Khalifa, Dr. Ahmed Hashem Al-Yousha, and Ms. Maha Abdulhameed Mufiz, in addition to the centre's Executive Director Dr. Hamad Ibrahim Al-Abdullah.

Art exhibition



In the presence of Her Highness Shaikha Hessa bint Khalifa Al Khalifa, Member of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) and Chairperson of INJAZ Bahrain, Bahrain Trust Foundation (BTF) inaugurated the group art exhibition "Portrait of Bahraini Women" at the Safia Ali Kanoo Art Centre on Wednesday morning, on the occasion of Bahraini Women's Day. HH Shaikha Hessa viewed the artworks of the exhibition, which included more than 42 artworks with the participation of more than 33 Bahraini male and female artists, who displayed works that celebrate the role of Bahraini women and reflect a great diversity in techniques, while highlighting works that express the identity and history of women in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The exhibition also represented an incubator for displaying creative talents in the field of arts and crafts that contribute to enriching and supporting the artistic and cultural movement in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Best Government CEO award



Mohammed Ali Al Qaed Chief Executive, Information & eGovernment Authority, received the award for the "Best Government CEO" from the Bahrain Society for Human Resources Management. The iGA's Technical Development Programme also won the "Innovation in HR" award for its outstanding contribution to the public sector. Al Qaed highlighted iGA's role in advancing digital transformation and developing national talent, in line with Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030 and government priorities.

Bidding Advertisement

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BAHRAIN CHAMBER

Sale of Scrap of Old HVAC System (Main Water Chillers and Accessories) at Bahrain Chamber Building

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry announces its intention to sell the scrap of the old HVAC system (main water chillers and accessories) at the Bahrain Chamber building located in Sanabis. The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry invites companies and institutions specialized in the sale and purchase of scrap or companies interested in this type of sale to participate in the tender and submit their offers in accordance with the terms and conditions stated below:

Terms of Participation in the Tender:

1. The company wishing to participate must visit the Bahrain Chamber building to inspect the items for sale and then obtain an application form from the Facilities Management Department on the second floor.
2. Complete the application form with the details of the participating company and attach the submitted financial offer.
3. Provide an initial bond equal of BD 1,000 in the form of a bank manager's cheque or pay in cash, the guarantee will be refunded after selection of the winning company and completion of the sale process and the transfer of the items.
4. The winning company must pay the tender amount in the form of a bank manager's cheque or by bank transfer no later than 10th December 2024.
5. The scrap will be handed over on 12th December 2024.

Required Documents for Submission:

- A copy of the commercial register.
- Financial offer.
- Initial bond equal of BD 1,000 in the form of a bank manager's cheque or pay in cash.

Submission Date:

- The submission of applications starts from Thursday, 5th December 2024, until Monday, 9th December 2024.

Submission Method:

- Offers must be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to the Chief Executive Officer of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Offers must be submitted to the Purchasing Department on the 18th floor of the Bahrain Chamber building, during official working hours.

For inquiries:

Osama@bahrainchamber.bh - alialhawaj@bahrainchamber.bh
contact
35666606

India strategic partner for Bahrain: Al Kooheji

Bahrain Chamber boosts Economic Ties with India at 29th Partnership Summit

TDI | Manama

The Second Vice-Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, Mohammed Al Kooheji, emphasized the strategic importance of economic relations between Bahrain and India, describing them as a model of commercial cooperation. This came during leading the Bahrain Chamber delegation at the 29th Partnership Summit of the Institute of Investment 2024 in New Delhi.

Al Kooheji noted that India is a key strategic partner for Bahrain, with trade exceeding \$1 billion by the end of 2023. He highlighted that cooperation is focused on various sectors such as industrial, technology and food security.

He highlighted that India presents valuable opportunities for



Officials at the summit during a photocall

Bahrain to advance its economic diversification efforts. The investment potential in both countries opens promising avenues for collaboration, particularly in the fields of technology, food production, and healthcare. He reaffirmed the Chamber's commitment to strengthening cooperation with India to achieve mutual interests and enhance economic development. The Partnership Summit ad-

ressed key topics, including investment in a growth-supportive reformative environment, building resilient global supply chains, promoting climate solutions by linking clean technology with finance, and the role of technological leadership in building an interconnected future.

On the sidelines of the summit, Al Kooheji, part of the Bahraini delegation led by the Min-

ister of Industry and Commerce Abdullah Fakhro, met with India's Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal. They reaffirmed the strong historical ties between Bahrain and India and stressed the importance of resolving pending issues with the Indian Chambers Federation to strengthen economic relations and promote mutual investments.

Al Kooheji met with Director of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Gautam Ghosh, to discuss strengthening ties in sectors like IT, AI, healthcare, food security, and education. Ghosh proposed creating a joint business council to facilitate delegation exchanges and pledged to raise the discussed challenges with the Indian government to enhance trade cooperation.

Tamkeen backs wage increments at Amakin for over 40 employees



Tariq Ali Aljowder

TDI | Manama

The Labour Fund (Tamkeen) announced its support for the wage increment for more than 40 Bahraini employees at the Bahrain Car Parks Company (Amakin) through the "Wage Increment" programme, which aims to promote the career development of Bahraini professionals working in the private sector. Additionally, several employees have benefited from other support initiatives, such as the National Employment Programme, the Leadership Employment Programme, and the Training Support Programme. Khalid Al-Bayat, Chief Growth Officer at Tamkeen commented: "Amakin is a leading company in providing parking



Khalid Al-Bayat

services, contributing to the services and tourism sectors in the Kingdom. By working together, we look forward to the company achieving its growth plans and employee development plans in the future."

Mr. Tariq Ali Aljowder, CEO of Bahrain Car Parks Company (Amakin), expressed his appreciation for Tamkeen's support, stating: "We are dedicated to developing our employees' skills by offering them the necessary training, which will help foster leadership qualities capable of enhancing the company's services in line with our expansion plans for the upcoming period."

Bahrain Car Parks Company (Amakin) was established in 1981 as a Bahraini public joint-stock company specializing in parking management.

BENEFIT CE Abdulwahed AlJanahi wins top CEO Award

TDI | Manama

BENEFIT, the Kingdom's innovator and leading company in Fintech and electronic financial transactions service, announced that its Chief Executive, Mr. Abdulwahed AlJanahi, has been honoured with the CEO Award at the Bahrain Society for Human Capital Management (BSCM) Excellence Awards 2024.

Held under the esteemed patronage of Mr. Ali Bin Saleh Al Saleh, Chairman of the Shura Council, the awards ceremony celebrated exceptional leaders and organizations advancing human resource management and development in Bahrain.

Mr. AlJanahi also participat-



The award ceremony

ed as a speaker in the event's prominent panel discussion, "CEOs' Expectations of HR," where he shared valuable insights on aligning HR strategies with organizational objectives, inspiring industry leaders to adopt innovative and strategic

approaches.

The BSCM Excellence Awards recognize outstanding contributions to advancing HR practices, fostering a culture of innovation, and inspiring excellence within the industry. The CEO Award specifically acknowl-

edges individuals who exhibit a visionary HR strategy, actively support employee engagement, implement innovative HR initiatives, and demonstrate measurable business success through human capital management.

Commenting on the recognition, Mr. Abdulwahed AlJanahi said: "This award reflects the collective effort and passion of the entire team at BENEFIT. It is a profound honor to be recognized for a commitment to fostering a workplace where people feel empowered to innovate, excel, and grow. At BENEFIT, we believe that investing in our people and creating a culture of trust and engagement are the cornerstones of our sustained success."

Seef Entertainment celebrates National Day with amazing offers

TDI | Manama

Seef Entertainment, a leading company in family entertainment in the Kingdom of Bahrain, announced the launch of special offers to celebrate the Kingdom's National Days. This includes double credit when purchasing a top-up card worth BD20 at Yabeela and Magic Island.

The company will also offer a free ticket with the purchase of any entry ticket at Hawa Centre and Jumpoline. This promotion is only available on December 16-17, 2024, marking the Kingdom's celebrations of the National Day and the anniversary of His Majesty the King's accession to the throne.

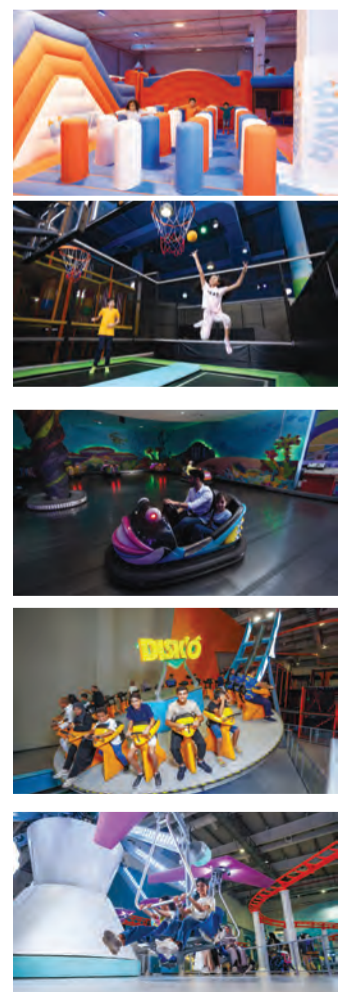
Yabeela Centre, located in Al Liwan, offers a unique entertainment experience in the Kingdom of Bahrain, featuring a distinctive and unparalleled range of games. It is the largest indoor entertainment centre in Bahrain, spanning 6000 square metres and reaching a height of 12 metres, offering more than 150 interactive games. This also applies to Magic Island centres located in Seef Mall - Seef District, and Seef Mall - Muharra, both offering a wide range of games exceeding 120, suitable for all family members.

As for Hawa, it features many innovative games that guarantee visitors unlimited fun and excitement, including jumping, climbing, dodging and sliding activities. Currently, Hawa is offering a "Buy 1 Get 1 Free" promotion on all entry tickets, providing even more value for families looking to enjoy a day of fun together. This allows them to spend an unforgettable time filled with joy and happiness while ensuring that all necessary safety measures are implemented to create a secure environment for visitors according to the highest international standards.

Since its opening, Hawa has

contributed to revolutionising the world of inflatable games and bounce houses, which are usually limited to specific seasons and locations, now offering families a spacious area of 1,000 square meters to enjoy jumping and fun at any time of the year. This space includes exciting obstacle courses, climbing walls, air cushions, and more, catering to the diverse interests of visitors.

Meanwhile, Jumpoline; a trampoline centre located in Seef Mall - Isa Town is also offering an exciting "Buy 1 Get 1 Free" promotion on all entry tickets. This centre features the latest games and enjoyable physical activities, attracting individuals and families seeking fun experiences and the chance to create unforgettable memories.



Trafco Group honours and celebrates empowerment of Bahraini women

TDI | Manama

On the occasion of Bahraini Women's Day, Trafco Group organized a special event to honour women and their prominent role, where gifts were given in recognition of the contributions of the women working in the group.

Trafco Group extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to Her Royal Highness Shaikha Sabika bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, President of the Supreme Council for Women, for her continuous efforts in supporting and empowering Bahraini women and her continuous keenness on the development of the Bahraini society.

Ms. Layla Darwish, Group Human Resources Manager, said: "We at the Group believe that women are an essential partner for success in many fields, and we always work to support them, create opportunities and encourage them to



Women's day celebration

achieve more excellence. We are proud of the participation of women in the Group and in the Bahraini society, and today we celebrate those continuous efforts and sacrifices".

This initiative was gladly re-

ceived by the Group's female employees, who stressed on the importance of supporting women in all aspects of working life and enhancing their contributions to work environments and society.

Trafco Group seeks to introduce more initiatives that contribute to the empowerment of Bahraini women and is committed to providing a work environment that encourages creativity and equality.



News in brief

◆ **Iranian authorities** yesterday freed Nobel peace prize winner Narges Mohammadi from prison for three weeks on medical grounds, a move supporters decried as "too little too late" with the Nobel committee urging a permanent release. Addressing reporters in Paris, Mohammadi's 18-year-old son, Ali Rahmani, said he had been able to speak by phone to his mother for the first time in two years. Her lawyer Mostafa Nili earlier announced on X that her jail sentence had been "suspended" for three weeks and she had been released. Her supporters said: "A 21-day suspension of Narges Mohammadi's sentence is inadequate." "We demand Narges Mohammadi's immediate and unconditional release or at least an extension of her leave to three months," they said in a statement, describing the measure as "too little, too late".



Iran frees Nobel winner for three weeks, sparking calls for 'permanent' release

◆ **The chief executive** of one of the United States's largest health insurance companies, UnitedHealthcare, was shot and killed outside a New York Hilton hotel in an apparently targeted hit yesterday, US media reported. The New York Times reported that Brian Thompson, 50, was shot just before 7 a.m. at the hotel in the Midtown district of Manhattan, with the CNBC broadcaster suggesting a silencer had been used in the attack. The gunman, described as wearing a black face mask, then fled following the incident, which is expected to spark a manhunt. Police confirmed a shooting at the location with officers swarming around the area around the hotel, a usually busy corner of Manhattan that would have been filled with commuters at the time of the shooting. UnitedHealth Group, the parent company of UHC, had revenues of \$100.8 billion in the third quarter of the year. UnitedHealthcare's Employer and Individual products are used by almost 30 million people in the United States according to an investor presentation.

◆ **US President-elect** Donald Trump's controversial nomination of TV host Pete Hegseth to run the Defense Department was teetering yesterday as Republican senators raised questions over his fitness for the powerful role. Hegseth, a former Army National Guard officer and Fox News weekend presenter, is under intense pressure over a series of misconduct allegations, including accusations of alcohol abuse and a sexual assault claim from 2017, over which no charges were filed. Hegseth denies all wrongdoing but the controversy has left Trump's transition officials scrambling to avoid the embarrassment of a second Cabinet nomination collapsing amid dwindling support from Republicans in Congress. Running the Pentagon is one of the biggest roles in public office. The Defense Department employs almost three million military and civilian staff, and defense spending -- including veterans' care -- topped \$1 trillion in the 2023 fiscal year. Up to six Senate Republicans -- including South Carolina's Lindsey Graham, one of Trump's staunchest allies on Capitol Hill -- have voiced doubts over Hegseth's ability to walk the tightrope to confirmation, according to NBC News.

SPOTLIGHT

Brazil's Minas cheese gets added to UNESCO list



Representative picture

AFP | Rio De Janeiro, Brazil
and has a mild, slightly salty flavour. It comes in different varieties: fresh, which is somewhat reminiscent of ricotta cheese though of a different texture; half-aged; and aged. The cheese comes from Brazil's southeastern Minas Gerais state, a region -- population 20 million -- known for its mines and its agriculture. The state is the biggest production hub in South America for milk and cheese. Minas cheese is still largely produced by family-run farms on small farms nestled in green hills -- around 9,000 of them in different parts of the state. They mix raw milk with "pingo" (drop), a natural yeast composed of typical bacteria of each region," according to UNESCO. That, combined with "the maturation period and the climate of each location, contributes to the specific flavor, color and aroma of the cheeses."

S. Korea opposition begins push to impeach president



People gather outside the National Assembly in Seoul, after South Korea President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law. South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol on December 3, declared martial law, accusing the opposition of being "anti-state forces"

AFP | Seoul, South Korea
After jumping fences and tussling with security forces to get into parliament and vote down the martial law overnight, South Korea's opposition lawmakers have filed a motion to impeach Yoon. The motion says Yoon "gravely and extensively violated the constitution and the law" and accuses him of imposing martial law "with the unconstitutional and illegal intent to evade imminent investigations... into alleged illegal acts involving himself and his family". Lawmakers could vote on the motion as soon as the early hours of Friday morning and Yoon's prospects look bleak. The opposition holds a large majority in the 300-member parliament and needs only a handful of defections from the president's party to secure the two-thirds majority needed to pass the motion. The main opposition Democratic Party has also filed a complaint of "insurrection" against the president, some of his ministers and top military and police officials -- which can carry a penalty of life imprisonment or even death. In a show of public anger with the president, thousands of protesters converged around his office in central Seoul on Wednesday evening after staging a rally in Gwanghwamun Square, demanding Yoon quit.

Emmanuel Macron wraps up Saudi visit as government faces no-confidence vote

AFP | Al-Ula, Saudi Arabia



French President Emmanuel Macron (C) poses for a picture with members of his delegation and Saudi officials during a visit to the archaeological site of al-Hijr (Hegra), near the northwestern Saudi city of AlUla

President Emmanuel Macron completed his state visit to Saudi Arabia yesterday as France's government faced being ousted in a no-confidence vote. Macron flew out after viewing the ancient AlUla heritage site, a cornerstone of the conservative country's nascent tourism industry, at the end of his three-day tour. The first French state visit to Saudi Arabia since 2006 came against the backdrop of a major political crisis that threatens to force out the minority government of Prime Minister Michel Barnier. An evening no-confidence vote, after Barnier forced through a social security financing bill using executive powers, could topple a French government for the first time in more than 60 years. The turmoil follows a snap parliamentary election called by Macron in the summer that left the far-right National Rally as the largest single party in the National Assembly but with no faction holding a majority. Speaking to travelling reporters on Tuesday, Macron rejected

Saudi Crown Prince Opens One Water Summit

TDT | Riyadh

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, inaugurated the One Water Summit. The summit was held under the joint chairmanship of HRH the Crown Prince, President Emmanuel Macron of France, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan, and World Bank President Ajay Banga. It brought together international leaders to address global water challenges, according to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA). During his opening remarks, HRH the Crown Prince reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's commitment to advancing global solutions to water scarcity and environmental challenges. He welcomed attendees to Saudi Arabia and conveyed the greetings of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. He underscored the significance of the One Water Summit as a platform to address pressing



environmental issues, particularly water scarcity and drought, which pose serious threats to societies worldwide. He emphasized that the summit coincides with Saudi Arabia's hosting of the 16th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP16), highlighting the critical link between combating land degradation and securing sustainable water resources. He noted that the global water sector is facing unprecedented challenges, including prolonged droughts, increasing desertification, and declining availability of fresh water. These challenges necessitate collective international efforts to develop sustainable solutions and secure water resources for future generations. HRH the Crown Prince highlighted Saudi Arabia's leadership in addressing these issues, citing the Kingdom's introduction of water issues to the G20 agenda during its presidency in 2020. He also outlined the Kingdom's commitment of over \$6 billion to more than 200 water development projects across 60 developing countries. Looking to the future, he announced the Kingdom's preparations to host the 11th World Water Forum in 2027 in collaboration with the World Water Council. He also introduced a groundbreaking initiative: the establishment of a global water organization headquartered in Riyadh. This organization aims to unite international efforts, foster innovative solutions, and promote collaboration to address global water challenges comprehensively. He concluded by inviting United Nations member states, international organizations, and private sector stakeholders to join the newly announced organization. He expressed hope that the collective efforts of the international community would lead to meaningful progress in addressing water challenges worldwide. The One Water Summit gathers governments, international organizations, financial institutions, and private sector representatives to explore actionable solutions to the global water crisis. With climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution exacerbating water-related challenges, the summit also serves as a preparatory platform for the United Nations Water Conference in 2026.

UNESCO grants heritage status to Aleppo soap as Syria war flares

AFP | Paris, France

The UN's cultural organisation added Aleppo's famous soap to its intangible cultural heritage list Tuesday with Syria's second city again wracked by war. Artisans have brewed olive and laurel oil in large pots for some 3,000 years in the city -- which fell to Islamist-led rebels last week -- allowing the mixture to cool before cutting it into blocks, and stamping them by hand. Aleppo soap joins the city's traditional music, Al-Qudoud al-Halabiya, on UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage, while the city itself -- declared a world heritage site in 1986 -- was added to the organisation's endangered list in 2013 amid the country's civil war. Makers craft the product using "traditional knowledge and skills", said UNESCO, adding they rely on a mix of natural, locally produced ingredients and a drying process that can take up to nine months. Aleppo had been slowly recovering from the wounds inflicted by more than a decade of civil war when Islamist-led rebels captured the city last week in a shock offensive that put forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad to flight. Of the 100 soap factories in the city only about 10 remain, with many having relocated to Damascus or neighbouring Turkey. But the soap remains essential to the families and communities involved in the trade. "The collaborative production process promotes community and family unity," said UNESCO.



A Syrian worker stacks laurel soap at the Jbaili soap factory, an 800 year old artisanal soap manufacturer, in the old city of Syria's northern city of Aleppo



Aleppo soap is considered the world's oldest soap, with its production dating back over 4,000 years in Aleppo, Syria. What makes it unique is its all-natural composition, traditionally made from olive oil, laurel oil, water, and lye. The soap is aged for up to a year, during which it develops its characteristic hard texture and a golden-brown outer layer while retaining a green core inside. This aging process enhances its quality and longevity.

India's Steadfast Commitment to Combat Land Degradation at UNCCD CoP16



Bhupender Yadav TDT | agencies

Union Minister for Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, articulated India's extensive efforts in tackling land degradation during the Ministerial Dialogue on Drought Resilience at CoP16 of the UNCCD held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He detailed India's evolving journey in addressing environmental challenges, which aligns with the core objectives of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. Yadav stressed the pivotal connections between desertification and socio-economic issues such as poverty. Underlining India's recognition of land degradation during previous COP meetings, he noted that during India's presidency at CoP 14, the country committed to restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. This was seen as part of India's broader commitment to sustainable development and climate change adaptation. The minister applauded India's achievements, including the establishment of a Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management. He also highlighted the support for the G-20's ambitious goal of planting 1 trillion trees by 2030, thereby strengthening carbon sinks. Yadav stressed the importance of proactive strategies to prevent and prepare for droughts while highlighting institutions like ISRO and National Remote Sensing Centre for their roles in offering invaluable drought management assessments and warnings.

Putin relative reveals secret figure on missing soldiers

AFP | Warsaw, Poland

A relative of Russian President Vladimir Putin accidentally revealed a confidential figure that gives a possible official insight into the extent of Russia's war dead in Ukraine. Video published by the independent Astra Telegram channel on Tuesday showed Anna Tsvilyova, the reported daughter of Putin's cousin and a deputy defence minister, saying that the government had received tens of thousands of appeals from relatives related to the tracking and identification of missing soldiers through DNA samples. "The Ministry of Internal Affairs takes (DNA) absolutely free of charge at their own expense, and enters into its database all the relatives who have applied to us. I've already said 48,000," Tsvilyova said at a meeting with lawmakers in the video. Moments later, defence committee chief Andrei Kartapolov asked her not to disclose this number. "Anna Yevgenyevna (Tsvilyova) has mentioned figures here, including missing persons. I earnestly ask you not to use these figures anywhere. This is such sensitive, closed information. And when we draw up the final documents, we should not include these figures anywhere," he said. Tsvilyova responded: "I didn't mention the numbers of the missing, but of the appeals to us (by relatives)." It is not clear whether the number she provided -- 48,000 -- refers to the number of cases of individual missing soldiers or the number of individual appeals to the ministry by relatives. Astra said the exchange took place at a parliamentary hearing in late November. Russia's Defence Ministry posted images and video from what appeared to be the same meeting in the lower house State Duma on November 26, but the clip was not available on government sites. Astra said the hearing had been recorded as it was live streamed on the parliament's website. Moscow keeps the number of soldiers killed and wounded fighting in Ukraine top secret and rarely discloses information about casualties. The BBC and independent Russian news site Mediazona said last month they had documented the deaths of around 80,000 Russian soldiers since the beginning of the Ukraine offensive in February 2022, using open source data. But they say the actual number is likely considerably higher. Ukraine also reveals little information about military losses, but independent estimates put the number of its dead and wounded in the tens of thousands.



Russia's President Vladimir Putin visits a prosthetic and rehabilitation centre for service members who were wounded while participating in the Russian military action in Ukraine, in Moscow



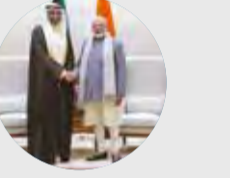
TOP 4 TWEETS 01



Amid the gigantic humanitarian needs in Gaza, aid is outrageously being blocked. The nightmare is not a crisis of logistics. It's a crisis of political will and of respect for fundamental principles of international humanitarian law.

@antoniogetterres

02



Glad to receive Foreign Minister of Kuwait H.E. Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya. I thank the Kuwaiti leadership for the welfare of the Indian nationals. India is committed to advance our deep-rooted and historical ties for the benefit of our people and the region.

@narendramodi

03



During my meeting with German Foreign Minister @Abaerbock today, we discussed the importance of continued support for Ukraine and underscored the need for an end to the war in Gaza and release of all hostages.

@SecBlinken

04



Sterilizing minor children before the age of consent is deeply wrong and many who had surgery now greatly regret it.

@elonmusk

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

CAMPUS

NBB partners with Applied Science University to streamline education financing for students



NBB and ASU officials sign the agreement

TDT | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Applied Science University (ASU) to provide tailored financing solutions for students seeking higher education programmes at the institution.

Under the agreement, NBB will extend exclusive benefits to ASU students, including competitive interest rates and a waiver on administrative and insurance charges. The financing programme also features flexible payment terms and a grace period of up to six

months, allowing aspiring graduates to concentrate fully on their studies without worrying about financial burdens.

Commenting on the occasion, Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani, Chief Executive – Retail Banking at NBB said, “We believe that education is a cornerstone of sustainable economic development and societal prosperity. NBB is committed to continually strengthening this vital sector through partnerships that unlock accessibility to knowledge for students.”

Professor Hatem Masri, President of Applied Science University added, “At ASU, we are resolute in our mission to break

down barriers to education and creating a supportive ecosystem where our students can excel in their educational endeavours. This partnership with NBB enables us to inspire young learners to pursue their academic and career aspirations with confidence and focus.

The MoU with ASU signifies NBB's steadfast efforts towards empowering students by nurturing their talents and driving forward the Kingdom's progress. By collaborating with prominent institutions, the Bank remains focused on supporting Bahrain's growth as a leader in high-quality education opportunities in the region.

New Millennium School achieves academic excellence at World Scholar's Cup Yale round



TDT | Manama

Scholars from New Millennium School (NMS) have once again demonstrated their academic prowess and commitment to excellence at the prestigious Tournament of Champions 2024, hosted by the World Scholar's Cup (WSC) at Yale University from November 12th to 18th.

Competing against over 2,700 scholars from 50 countries, NMS students showcased their knowledge, critical thinking, and teamwork, earning 16 Gold Medals and 18 Silver Medals. The NMS team achieved a Top 50 Team Ranking in the Scholar's Bowl and Gold Medal in the debate an outstanding feat in this global academic arena.

As part of the academic ex-



change and experiential learning emphasized by NMS, students had the unique opportunity to visit Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Participating Scholars in TOC included Paolo Thomas, Kavin Krishnan, Priyanshu Nayak, Sajani Mani Prabu Kumar, Trishaa Jagasia, Samiksha Raghuram, Shawn Felix, Devansh Jana and Atharv Swarnakar

Principal Dr Arun Kumar

Sharma commended the students and their mentors for their relentless dedication and remarkable achievements, stating, “The accomplishments of our scholars reflect their hard work, the unwavering support of their families, and the guidance of their mentors.”

Chairman Dr Ravi Pillai and the Managing Director Geetha Pillai extended their congratulations to all the participating students.

AUBH marks CERN's 70th anniversary



TDT | Manama

The American University of Bahrain (AUBH), in collaboration with “Search” -Shaikh Ebrahim Bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Center for Culture and Research, recently hosted an event to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN).

The highlight of the event was a keynote address by Professor John Ellis, CBE FRS, Clerk Maxwell Professor of Theoretical Physics at King's College London and one of the leading figures in elementary particle physics at CERN.

A panel discussion included CERN partners in Bahrain, focused on the role of science and innovation in economic growth. Local and international experts from, AUBH, “Search” Center, University of Bahrain and Tamkeen deliberated on how Bahrain could benefit from

The collaboration between AUBH, Search Center, and CERN signifies Bahrain's growing commitment to scientific research and innovation, positioning the country as a hub for knowledge and technological advancement

CERN's research to support its development goals. The session underscored the importance of science and technology in strengthening the national economy and explored future joint projects.

Shaikha Mai Bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Shaikh Ebrahim Bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Center for Culture and Research, said: “We take great pride in this

initiative with AUBH, which highlights the transformative power of science in fostering cultural dialogue and building connections between communities. CERN stands as a global exemplar of scientific and cultural collaboration, and it is a privilege to showcase its extraordinary contributions to humanity.”

Dr. Bradley J. Cook, President of the American University of Bahrain, commented, “We are pleased to celebrate today 70 years of remarkable scientific achievements by CERN. Partnering with such a prestigious organization reflects our commitment to making science and innovation integral to education and progress. This collaboration is a step forward in building stronger connections between academic and research institutions, using science and innovation as a catalyst to achieve Bahrain's ambitions and establish it as a regional hub for research and discovery.”

Indian School commemorates Punjabi Divas



The Indian School celebrated Punjabi Divas 2024 with vibrant cultural programmes organized by the Punjabi Language Department. The event was held on Tuesday at the school's Jashanmal auditorium. The event was officially inaugurated by Principal VR Palaniswamy, who lit the ceremonial lamp in the presence of Senior School & Academic Administration Vice-Principal G. Satheesh, Middle Section Vice-Principal Jose Thomas, Staff Representative Parvathi Devadas, and Heads of Departments from various disciplines. This event marked the grand finale of a week-long celebration, which included various competitions for students. The event also featured cultural performances, with traditional Punjabi Gidda and Bhangra dances being the main attractions.



Indian School Bahrain celebrates Children's Day



The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) celebrated Children's Day with a special assembly. The celebration paid tribute to India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, whose love for children and his efforts to promote their welfare inspired the observance of Children's Day. The highlight of the celebration was a lively dance performance on the theme of Children's Day. Middle Section Vice-Principal Jose Thomas, and Class IV & V Head Teacher Annly Joseph addressed the gathering. ISB Chairman Adv. Binu Mannil Varughese, Secretary V. Rajapandian, Executive Committee Members, Principal V. R Palaniswamy and Senior School & Academic Administration Vice-Principal G Satheesh congratulated the students for their active participation and commended the successful execution of the event

Classifieds



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His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, received in the presence of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Chairman of the General Sports Authority and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, Javier Tebas, President of La Liga and the accompanying delegation. HH Shaikh Nasser praised the great efforts made by the President of La Liga in promoting and developing football in his country. Javier Tebas expressed his thanks and appreciation to HH Shaikh Nasser for his efforts in continuing the advancement of Bahraini sports in general and football in particular, wishing the Kingdom of Bahrain more progress and prosperity



HH Shaikh Nasser attends closing ceremony of GCC Military Shooting Championship

AFP | Brisbane

Lieutenant General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the National Security Adviser and Commander of the Royal Guard, attended the final rounds and closing ceremony of the first Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Military Shooting Championship, hosted by the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) and organised by its Military Sports Union.

HH Shaikh Nasser was accompanied by His Highness Colonel Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Royal Guard Special Force Commander.

Upon their arrival, Their Highnesses were welcomed by Major General Ghanim Ibrahim Al Fadhala, Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations of the BDF and Chairman of the Organising Committee; Brigadier General Mohammed Abdullatif bin Jalahma, Director of the Military Sports Union; and the heads of the delegations from participating GCC states.

HH Shaikh Nasser presented the awards to the winners, including the overall championship trophy, which was awarded to the Bahrain team. HH also distributed prizes for the winners of the 200-metre Plate Shooting with Rifles competition, where the Bahrain team secured first place, the United Arab Emirates team took second, and Oman team placed third.

In the 20-metre Plate Shoot-



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa (R) talks with HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa presents the trophy to a winner

ing with Pistols competition, Oman won first, followed by UAE's Major Ali Salem Al Ghafri and Bahrain's Major Mohammed Ahmed Al Qahtan.

In the 40-metre Plate Shooting with Submachine Guns competition, UAE claimed first, Bahrain second, and Saudi Arabia came third.

In the Warrior Competition for Officers, First Lieutenant Asaad Khalaf Al Kalbani from

Oman won first, followed by UAE's Major Ali Salem Al Ghafri and Bahrain's Major Mohammed Ahmed Al Qahtan.

In the Warrior Competition for Individuals, Bahrain's Sergeant Ahmed Zareef Hamoud claimed first, Bahrain's Sergeant Bashar Ahmed Awad second, and Saudi's First Sergeant Saeed Sagheer Al Zahrani third.

Arab talent mark second-round action in ITF Junior event

TD | Manama

The second round of the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Junior Championship, J60 category, continued yesterday with thrilling matches that included a few surprises in the results.

Russia's top seed, Marat Salbiev, made an impressive start to the tournament with a dominant 6-0, 6-2 victory over Turkey's Hakan Arda Aydin. Bahraini player Ahmed Al-Sayed, however, was eliminated in the first round after losing to Greek player Iason Lakos, 6-2, 6-1.

In other matches, Austria's Maximilian Hidlmair advanced to the round of 16 after defeating third seed Turkey's Bogra Ozkoc, 7-6(5), 3-2, following Ozkoc's retirement due to injury. Serbian Mateja Potic also



Action from a match

secured his place in the next round with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Turkey's Kaya Kankardes, while Turkish player Iskender Nasiri triumphed over compatriot Erkut Aydin, 6-0, 6-2.

Saudi Arabia's Sattam Muafi was knocked out in the first round after a 6-1, 6-3 loss to Sweden's Axel Raper. Romania's Teodor Alexandru beat

Spain's Victor Velasco, 6-0, 6-4, to progress to the next stage. Turkey's Cagan Tofikci also moved forward with a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Italy's Santiago Brisपाली.

Egypt's Ahmed Ibrahim triumphed over Lebanon's Giorgio Bidan with a scoreline of 6-7, 6-3, 6-2, while Yemeni player Mohamed Meki advanced to the round of 16 after defeating Turkey's Yagiz Yildiz 2-6, 7-5, 6-1.

In the girls' singles competition, Serbia's top seed Masa Jankovic impressed with a dominant 6-0, 6-0 victory over China's Xinru Zhong, securing her place in the round of 16. Romania's third-seeded Gloria Bob also advanced to the next round with a 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 win over Turkey's Salin Kayakint.

A December to remember

Hussain Almaskati
TD | Manama

Bahrain is about to witness one of the most electrifying MMA events of the year as BRAVE Combat Federation brings two back-to-back shows to the Kingdom. On December 13-15, BRAVE CF 91 and 92 will transform Khalifa Sports City into a spectacle of world-class martial arts action, culminating in a memorable close to the MMA calendar.

Return of "The Pride of Bahrain"

At the heart of this event is Bahrain's own Hamza Kooheji—undisputed MMA icon and fan favorite. After 2 years out of the octagon and months of recovery, Kooheji is now primed for a comeback. His return is no ordinary fight. It's a monumental homecoming for the Bahraini national, and a chance to reassert his dominance on home soil.

With a professional MMA record of 13-3-0, Kooheji steps into the cage against Alperen "The Demigod" Karabulut of Turkey, who holds a pro record of 11-4-0. Karabulut represents a tough challenge for Kooheji in what promises to be a sell-out event.

A Platform for Bahrain's Rising Stars

But the spotlight doesn't just



Hamza Kooheji celebrates after a win

shine on Kooheji. BRAVE CF 91 and 92 will also parade Bahrain's rising MMA talent. These young fighters are the future of the sport in Bahrain, stepping into the cage with a clear vision—to continue the nation's growing legacy in combat sports.

At BRAVE CF 91, Bahrain's Sabrinna Laurentina de Sousa will face off against Mariane Bantasan Mariano of the Philippines. De Sousa, with a perfect MMA record, will look to keep her momentum going after her win in November. Her opponent, Mariano, has a 3-1-0 record, with her only loss coming recently in October.

In another exciting matchup, Mohamed Alsameea, representing Bahrain, will take on Egypt's

Salah Walid Salah. Alsameea, who holds a 2-1-0 record, will aim to bounce back from a loss in August, while Salah brings a 2-3-0 record into the cage. This flyweight fight will be crucial for both fighters to solidify their standing within the BRAVE CF rankings.

Also representing Bahrain is Hussain Al Kurdi, an amateur sensation with a 9-1-0 record, who takes on Egypt's Shawk "Dababa" Mohamed, who enters with a 1-1-0 pro record. Al Kurdi is on a 3-match win streak, and with a bright future ahead, he will be looking to continue his rise in the lightweight division.

The night will also feature Zagid Gaidarov, a Middleweight

phenom fighting out of Bahrain. With an impressive 6-1-0 pro record, Gaidarov is on a 9-match win streak and is set to face the undefeated Eliezer Kubanza from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Kubanza's 6-0-0 record is a testament to his talent, but Gaidarov's experience and momentum could give him the edge on the night.

A Legacy of Excellence

Founded by His Highness Shaikh Khaled bin Hamad Al Khalifa, BRAVE CF has become one of the most prominent MMA organizations in the world. The federation has hosted events across 34 countries, but Bahrain remains its beating heart. These Decem-



Sabrinna Laurentina de Sousa celebrates after a win

ber shows further cement the Kingdom's status as a global destination for combat sports, where the local pride and international spectacle come together in one sensational weekend of action. Bahrain's deep-rooted passion for MMA, paired with BRAVE CF's commitment to excellence, makes every event in the Kingdom a celebration of both the sport and the country's global rise.

BRAVE CF 91 is the 11th event in BRAVE Combat Federation's 2024 schedule and forms part of the sixth annual BRAVE International Combat Week. The weeklong celebration also includes BRAVE CF 92, set to take place on December 15 as the organisation's 12th and final event of the year. Comple-

menting the schedule, the IMMAF Asian Mixed Martial Arts Championships will also be held, overseen by the International Mixed Martial Arts Federation (IMMAF).

Mark Your Calendar

Whether you're a die-hard MMA fan or just discovering the sport, BRAVE CF 91 and 92 are guaranteed to deliver unforgettable nights of action. With Hamza Kooheji leading the charge and Bahrain's rising stars ready to make their mark, these events are set to make an indelible impact on the global MMA landscape. Make sure to be there for this headline weekend of combat sports—Bahrain's finest hour awaits.

Hon. Chairman **Najeb Yacob Alhamer** | Chairman & Managing Director **P Unnikrishnan** | Editor-in-Chief **Mahmood Al Mahmood**

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