

**Pearling Path named 'best walking tour site' in Middle East**



Pearling Path symbolises history and modernity  
TDT | Manama

The prestigious global travel magazine, Condé Nast Traveller, has ranked the Pearl and Hermes Heritage Area in the Kingdom of Bahrain as the top walking tour site in the Middle East.

This recognition comes after the completion of the path's development earlier this year, enhancing Manama's historic alleyways with a blend of restored historic buildings and contemporary structures.

The 3.5-kilometre Pearl and Hermes Heritage Area, which holds UNESCO World Heritage status, weaves through the historic heart of Bahrain and showcases the nation's rich pearling legacy.

According to Condé Nast Traveller, "This trail tells the story of the heyday of Bahrain's pearling heritage, offering an exciting glimpse into the lavish residences of former merchants, as well as the challenges pearl divers faced during their months-long labour at sea."

This accolade underlines Bahrain's commitment to preserving its cultural heritage while integrating modern enhancements.

**Zelensky wants to end war by 'diplomacy'**

AFP | Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday that Kyiv would like to end the war with Russia next year through "diplomatic means", as both countries prepare for Donald Trump's return to the White House. February 2025 would mark the third anniversary of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, with Russia's troops gaining ground in recent months against Kyiv's outmanned and outgunned soldiers.

The prospect of Trump returning to power in the US next year has raised questions about the future of the war. *(Detailed report on World Page)*

# Israeli strikes hit Hezbollah bases

AFP | Beirut

Israel launched a wave of air strikes on Hezbollah bastions in Beirut and south Lebanon yesterday, a day after Lebanese officials said they were studying a US truce proposal.

An Israeli strike on neighbouring Syria earlier this week killed two Islamic Jihad leaders, the Palestinian group, which has fought alongside Hamas in Gaza, confirmed.

Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad are all backed by Israel's arch-enemy Iran, which on Friday said it supported a swift end to the nearly two-month war in Lebanon.

Since September 23, Israel has escalated its bombing of targets in Lebanon, later sending in ground troops after almost a year of limited, cross-border exchanges of fire begun by Hezbollah fighters over the Gaza war.

AFPTV footage showed fresh strikes on the southern suburbs of Beirut yesterday, following calls from the Israeli army for residents to evacuate.

**'Heavy strikes'**

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported four strikes during the day and further "heavy strikes" in the early evening.



A commercial aircraft flies above plumes of smoke rising from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted Beirut's southern suburbs. (AFP)

The Israeli military said its aircraft had targeted "a weapons storage facility" and a Hezbollah "command centre" in south Beirut.

NNA also reported a strike on the southern city of Tyre, in a neighbourhood near UNESCO-listed ancient ruins.

In eastern Lebanon, funerals

were held for 14 civil defence staff killed in an Israeli strike on Thursday.

**Calls for help**

"They weren't involved with any (armed) party... they were just waiting to answer calls for help," said Ali al-Zein, a relative of one of the dead.

Hezbollah claimed sever-

al rocket attacks on northern Israel, targeting military sites including a naval base in the Haifa area.

The Israeli military said "approximately 65 projectiles" had crossed the border.

Lebanese authorities say more than 3,452 people have been killed since October last year, when Hezbollah and Israel be-

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

An Israeli strike in the Bekaa Valley in the east of Lebanon killed six people including three children.

**'Operational activity'**

In Gaza, the Israeli military said its forces continued "operational activity" in the northern areas of Jabalia and Beit Lahia, the targets of an intense offensive since early October.

Israel says its renewed operations in the ravaged north were meant to stop Hamas fighters from regrouping.

A UN-backed assessment at the weekend warned famine was imminent in northern Gaza, and UN figures showed the Israeli operation had forced at least 100,000 people to flee.

**G20 under pressure**

**UN climate summit hits deadlock**

AFP | Baku, Azerbaijan

Negotiations were deadlocked yesterday at the midway point of the UN climate summit, with hopes pinned on G20 leaders intervening to strike a critical finance pact at the crunch talks.

After nearly a week of bargaining in Azerbaijan, nations were no closer to agreeing a \$1 trillion deal for climate-action investments in developing nations.

Diplomats worked through the night in a sports stadium near the Caspian Sea to produce a fresh draft yesterday that only served to underscore divisions, with little changed from an earlier text.

"We absolutely want an agreement in Baku because it is in the collective interest," said a French diplomat granted anonymity to discuss the ongoing talks.

But "clearly we are deadlocked, and not where we should be to have an agreement".

Government ministers jetting into Baku on Monday face an uphill battle trying to break the impasse before the summit ends on November 22.

"There is still much, much to do," said Samir Bejanov, deputy lead negotiator of COP29 host Azerbaijan.

**Doubts**

"Over the last few days, some people have doubted whether collectively we can deliver. It's time for the negotiators to start proving them wrong."

Optimism was in short supply as the first week fizzled out, but some attendees offered a rosier view. "It's not as bad as it might look from the outside," said Irish climate minister Eamon Ryan.

**Step back in time**



A giant light sculpture displayed in the exhibition titled "Jurassic on the way to enlightenment" in the alleys of the Jardin des Plantes in Paris. The luminous nocturnal tour, which highlights the biodiversity of the Jurassic era, runs until January 19, 2025. (AFP)

# Breaking barriers

Education Ministry opposes autism-specific school plan in Southern Governorate

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Inclusion trumps separation, says the Education Ministry, as it opposes a proposal to establish a dedicated school for autism patients in the Southern Governorate, arguing it contradicts national integration policies.

In a statement to Parliament, the Ministry said it has been working to bring children with mild autism and Asperger's Syndrome into public schools.

It noted that, by last year, 23 schools had programmes designed for these students, with 13 more schools set to follow this year.

Officials argued that setting up a separate school would isolate children with autism instead of encouraging them to mix with their peers.

## Support

The Ministry says it already offers special support, such as trained staff, adapted classrooms, and extra time during exams, to help these students succeed in regular schools.

The proposal, submitted by MP Dr Ali Al Nuaimi, calls for a dedicated school for children with severe autism who struggle to adapt to public schools.

Supporters of the plan say these children need a safe and tailored environment to thrive.

The Services Committee, led then by MP Mamdouh Al Saleh, has backed the proposal, saying it addresses a gap in the current



system.

The committee argues that while public schools are making progress, some children need a different setting that public schools cannot offer.

In its report, the committee recognised the Ministry's efforts to support children with mild autism but insisted that a specialist school is necessary for those with more complex needs.

The report stated: "The proposal to establish a comprehensive school for autism patients aims to meet the needs of children who cannot adapt to mainstream schools by providing a safe, supervised environment and specialised educational programmes."

Attempts to get input from the Bahrain Autistic Society went unanswered, and the Ministry of Social Development declined to comment, saying it doesn't have authority over schools.

The Ministry has stuck to its stance that inclusion is the best

Creating a separate school could undo years of progress in helping children with autism feel part of society.

EDUCATION MINISTRY STATEMENT

way forward for most children with autism.

Specialised classrooms are already in place for children aged 6 to 12 who can cope in mainstream schools.

The statement highlighted that steps have been taken to make schools more accessible, including training teachers and adjusting learning environments.

## Social skills

They also stressed that help-



MP Dr Ali Al Nuaimi



MP Mamdouh Al Saleh

## Hazardous waste in Bahrain on the decline

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A recent report released by the Supreme Council for the Environment reveals that hazardous waste inventory in Bahrain decreased at the beginning of last year, recording 559,819.21 tons, and ending the year at 556,759.86 tons.

This marks a reduction of 185,677 tons compared to the 288,963 tons reported in 2022.

In contrast, industrial waste saw a relative increase in 2023, reaching 86,476.18 tons, up from 83,409.22 tons in 2022.

The report also highlighted the collection of 23,018.78 tons classified as other hazardous waste during 2023.

Additionally, 3,153.50 tons of hazardous waste were exported for treatment, recycling, or reuse.

## Landfills

Regarding other methods of hazardous waste disposal, the statistics indicate that 36,281.10 tons were recycled, while 9,754.88 tons were incinerated, and 12,782.00 tons were disposed of in landfills.

An additional 52,439.60 tons



100% of Bahrain's population is covered by municipal waste collection services, underscoring the government's commitment to effective waste management.

were processed in various facilities for waste treatment and disposal.

The report also noted that municipal waste collected from households amounted to 581.41 thousand tons in 2023, reflecting a decrease from 608.89 thousand tons in 2022.

## Judicial notifications go digital

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The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs, and Endowments, in collaboration with the Information and eGovernment Authority (IGA), announced the adoption of the National Notifications System for judicial announcements, effective January 2025.

This initiative aims to enhance service efficiency and support environmental sustainability.

The ministry stated that this step completes the digital transformation of all court notifications by utilising the unified database provided by the platform.

The adoption of the National Notifications System will streamline litigation procedures, ensuring judicial announcements are delivered to individuals through reliable and up-to-date contact details.

The ministry urged lawyers and litigants to register with

the national notifications system via the Kingdom's national portal, bahrain.bh, and update their contact information if changes occur.

Contact details registered on the platform will serve as the official basis for judicial notifications.

## Commitment

The ministry reiterated its commitment to implementing digital transformation initiatives and reducing paper transactions, contributing to service efficiency and accessibility while supporting national environmental sustainability efforts.

The National Notifications System, accessible via bahrain.bh, provides citizens, residents, and GCC nationals with a unified platform for receiving official notifications regarding government transactions through SMS and email, replacing traditional paper correspondence.

# Push for alternative solutions

SHC rejects proposed medical complex for consultations and training

H Naser  
TDT | Manama

The Supreme Health Council (SHC) has rejected a parliamentary proposal to establish a comprehensive medical complex for consultations and training, citing legal limitations on the establishment of private clinics.

Instead, the SHC proposed alternative solutions to achieve the proposal's objectives, including government initiatives to increase Bahraini doctor employment and professional development.

Submitted by MPs Khalid Buanaq and Zainab Abdulameer, the proposal aimed to employ unemployed Bahraini



MP Khalid Buanaq



MP Zainab Abdulameer

medical professionals, funded by Tamkeen (Labour Fund) and the Economic Development Board (EDB). The SHC stated that current regulations only permit the opening of private clinics by specialists and above, excluding newly graduated and unemployed doctors who lack specialist qualifications.

The proposal argued that the

complex would integrate experienced consultants to support the national healthcare system, provide employment for unemployed medical graduates under the supervision of consultants, and leverage Tamkeen's funding for job seekers and training programmes.

It also aimed to boost Bahrain's health economy and med-

ical tourism.

The SHC countered that training for newly licensed doctors should occur in accredited medical centres like teaching hospitals, which offer comprehensive specialties and training standards.

## Training

The government healthcare sectors, the SHC explained, already provide training for new graduates through programmes aligned with the Arab Board of Health Specialties and the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties. Furthermore, the Arabian Gulf University (AGU) offers clinical diploma and master's programmes in family medicine, the SHC stated.

## BAB welcomes Afghanistan Banks Association delegation



The Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB) recently hosted a delegation from the Afghanistan Banks Association, led by its CEO, Mr. Najibullah Amiri. The visit aimed to strengthen bilateral relations between the banking sectors of Bahrain and Afghanistan, with a particular focus on Bahrain's esteemed Islamic financial and banking practices. During the meeting, both associations agreed to formalize their collaboration through a memorandum of understanding to facilitate ongoing cooperation and knowledge exchange, including regular meetings coordinated with BAB's committees and key stakeholders in Bahrain's financial sector.

## 25 Hajj campaigns meet minimum pilgrim numbers

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The electronic Hajj platform has revealed that 25 Hajj campaigns have already met the minimum pilgrim number requirement for the upcoming 1446H (2025) Hajj season, according to a comprehensive survey conducted by our sister newspaper Alayam.

However, the registration process, which includes the ability to cancel or modify existing applications, remains open until midnight on Friday, November 22nd.

This initial selection, based on a new competitive system, is still subject to change within the remaining seven days before the registration deadline.

Registered pilgrims can still alter their chosen campaign or cancel their applications

entirely. Interestingly, among the 25 campaigns that have provisionally met the required number of pilgrims, none are newly licensed operators.

The innovative system ensures that pilgrims registered with campaigns that haven't met the minimum requirement will be redistributed to those that have.

This redistribution will follow the order of preference specified by each pilgrim, while adhering to established priority criteria.

Last year, 24 Bahraini Hajj campaigns operated after a merger.

The Supreme Committee for Hajj and Umrah Affairs reported that a total of 12,283 individuals have registered for the Hajj pilgrimage via the electronic platform so far.

## Focus on government's traffic congestion policy

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The Parliament will hold a public discussion on the government's policy to alleviate traffic congestion.

The focus will be on clarifying the government's strategies to address the ongoing traffic issues within the country.

The debate, initiated by a group of MPs, will prioritise

the opening statement by MP Hassan Ibrahim Hassan.

The request for the public discussion was submitted by ten MPs Hassan Ibrahim Hassan, Dr Hisham Al Asheeri, Hassan Bukhmas, Hamad Al Doy, Mohsin Al Asboul, Mahmoud Fardan, Ahmed Al Saloum, Khalid Buanq, Jalal Hassan, and Mahdi Al Shuwaikh.

## Jail term affirmed for Hajj campaign owner



### ● Forged permit case

By H Naser

The High Appeals Court upheld the first-instance ruling sentencing the owner of a Hajj campaign to one year in prison for delivering 12 forged permits to pilgrims.

The first-instance court had sentenced the campaign owner to one year in prison, setting bail at BD100 to suspend the execution of the sentence.

The court also acquitted the campaign owner of fraud charges, as well as the owner's son and the administrator, of the charges related to forging and using the permits.

The Public Prosecution had charged all defendants, including another individual sentenced abroad, with forging official documents, specifically Hajj permits for the year 1446 H, allegedly issued by the Ministry of Hajj in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The charges included creating these documents through forgery and entering false in-

formation, as they produced these documents resembling valid permits and falsely listed the names of the pilgrims.

The defendants, along with the individual sentenced abroad, knowingly used the forged documents by presenting them to the official employees responsible for verifying pilgrims in Saudi Arabia.

### Pilgrimage

They also fraudulently obtained cash amounts belonging to 12 individuals by misleading them into believing they could secure valid Hajj permits and allow them to perform the pilgrimage within their licensed campaign, delivering forged permits as if they were genuine, thereby unlawfully appropriating their funds.

Additionally, the Public Prosecution charged the first defendant, in his capacity as the licensed contractor, with failing to provide the Supreme Committee for Hajj and Umrah with an accurate list of pilgrims and all obligations he had committed to them, in violation of legal provisions.

## Drug traffickers convicted

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The High Criminal Court has concluded a high-profile drug trafficking case, issuing a range of sentences to members of a sophisticated network responsible for importing and distributing heroin, tramadol, and methamphetamine.

The case, which began on June 22, 2023, with the arrest of a 68-year-old woman at Bahrain International Airport, unveiled a complex operation involving multiple individuals and advanced smuggling techniques.

The court acquitted the 68-year-old woman, despite the discovery of 5.3 kilograms of methamphetamine concealed in her luggage at the airport.

While customs officials not-

ed her suspicious behaviour and the unusual weight of her bags, the court found insufficient evidence to secure a conviction.

The woman, who uses a wheelchair, maintained her innocence, claiming the bags were ordinary luggage purchased abroad.

Three other co-conspirators received significant prison sentences and fines.

### Life imprisonment

The alleged ringleader, who remains at large since 2023, was sentenced to life imprisonment in absentia, a BD5,000 fine, and deportation upon completion of his sentence.

Two other defendants received ten-year prison sentences and BD3,000 Bahraini dinar fines each.



# Proposal 'impractical'

Tamkeen opposes parliamentary push for direct worker payments

Mohammed Darwish  
TD | Manama

Tamkeen has opposed a parliamentary proposal to transfer wage subsidies directly into workers' accounts, arguing it would disrupt oversight and weaken the effectiveness of its flagship employment programme, which has so far benefited over 25,000 Bahrainis.

The plan, which aims to tackle salary delays and strengthen job security, will be debated and put to a vote next Tuesday in Parliament.

Tamkeen described the proposal as impractical, pointing to the challenges it would create in employer-employee relationships.

"Employers bear the responsibility for managing attendance, job performance, and any wage deductions. Tamkeen cannot bypass this structure without risking the programme's goals," the organisation stated in a letter to Parliament.

### Concerns

The fund also raised concerns about verifying workers' adherence to contracts, especially when employers delay or withhold necessary documents.

تمكين  
Tamkeen

"Our role is to ensure employers meet their obligations before subsidies are released. Paying workers directly would complicate this process and increase the risk of misuse of public money," it said.

Since its launch, Tamkeen's National Employment Programme has supported 25,347 Bahrainis and 5,389 businesses.

### Careers

The scheme subsidises between 30 and 70 per cent of salaries for up to three years, helping Bahrainis establish careers in the private sector.

Tamkeen said its existing measures ensure workers receive their wages on time, with payments made only after employers submit proof, such as bank records or salary slips.

The proposal, brought forward by MPs Mohammed Al Ma'arifi, Jaleela Alawi, and three others argues that direct payments would remove delays in salary payments and provide workers with financial stability.



Direct wage payments would make a meaningful difference to workers' stability and financial well-being

MP MAMDOUH AL SALEH, COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

### Local talent

"This step would encourage more Bahrainis to take up private-sector jobs by guaranteeing timely wage payments while giving businesses a reason to employ local talent," said MP Alawi, speaking on behalf of the proposal's supporters.



This step would encourage more Bahrainis to take up private-sector jobs by guaranteeing timely wage payments while giving businesses a reason to employ local talent

MP JALEELA ALAWI

Despite Tamkeen's objections, the Services Committee has backed the proposal, recommending it for approval.

Committee Chairman Mamdouh Al Saleh said: "Direct wage payments would make a meaningful difference to workers' stability and financial well-being."

## Bahrain poised to join 1949 Road Traffic Convention

H Naser  
TD | Manama

The Council of Representatives is set to vote on Tuesday on a crucial piece of legislation: the country's accession to the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic.

This move signifies Bahrain's commitment to international cooperation on road safety and the standardisation of traffic regulations.

The government-submitted draft law aims to bring Bahrain in line with established international norms, promoting smoother and safer cross-border travel.

The convention's primary goal is to harmonise road traffic rules across participating nations, creating a more predictable and safer environment for drivers and passengers alike.

This is particularly vital in an increasingly interconnected world, where international travel is commonplace.



Bahrain's accession reflects its proactive approach to enhancing road safety and its dedication to aligning its national regulations with international best practices.

The Foreign Affairs, Defence, and National Security Committee of the House of Representatives, after careful deliberation, has recommended the approval of the draft law.

### Consultations

The committee's recommendation follows consultations

with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which highlighted the significant benefits of joining the convention.

These benefits include the establishment of consistent road rules among member states, leading to improved safety and efficiency on international routes. The ministry also emphasised that the convention allows for member states to propose amendments, ensuring the agreement remains relevant and adaptable to evolving circumstances.



The successful passage of the draft law will mark a significant step towards integrating Bahrain more fully into the international road traffic framework, ultimately contributing to safer and more efficient road travel for both Bahraini citizens and international visitors.

## Real estate firm ordered to pay BD8,305 in rent row

TD

Months of missed rent payments have landed a real estate firm in court, where it has been ordered to pay BD8,305.

The High Civil Court delivered the judgment on 13 November, also directing the company to pay BD100 in lawyer fees and reimburse additional court and execution costs.

The dispute arose from a tenancy agreement signed in January 2022, with the plaintiffs leasing a flat to the company.

### Lease

The lease was renewed in

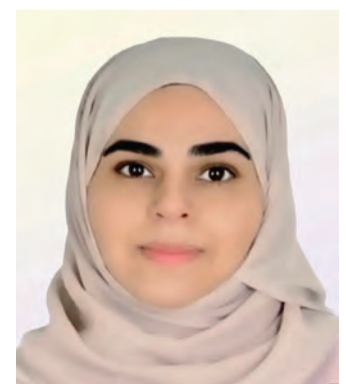
March 2024 for two years, setting quarterly rent payments at BD4,152,500.

However, the firm failed to pay rent for the period from March to September 2024, leading the plaintiffs to file the case in October.

The plaintiffs, represented by lawyer Zainab Ali Madan, submitted key evidence, including the original lease, the renewal agreement, and proof of legal fees amounting to BD500.

### Legal expenses

The court, while recognising the legal expenses, determined that BD100 were recoverable,



Zainab Madan, plaintiffs' lawyer

reflecting the effort and scope of the case.

Judges referred to Bahrain's

Civil Code, which asserts that contracts are binding unless altered by agreement or legal requirements.

They also cited the Property Rent Law obliging tenants to fulfil their payment terms.

### Evidence

Although neither party attended the hearings, the court relied on the evidence to issue its ruling.

In addition to paying the overdue rent and lawyer fees, the company was ordered to cover lawsuit costs of BD500.266 and execution charges of BD10.

# 60 and homeless

30 years of marriage and BD10,000 couldn't save man from eviction after divorce

**H Naser**  
TDT | Manama

A sixty-year-old man never imagined that agreeing to transfer the title of their marital home to his wife would lead to his eviction after 30 years of marriage.

Despite contributing over BD10,000, he now finds himself homeless, alternating between hotels and staying with his married children.

After his divorce and subsequent homelessness, the man sought help from the Civil Court, which ruled that his ex-wife must pay him nearly BD12,000, as reported by lawyer Abeer Al Anzi.

According to the details of the case, Al Anzi explained that the defendant filed for divorce in the Sharia Court, which granted her the divorce and required the husband to receive BD2,000 as part of the settlement.

## Marital home

Following the court's decision, the wife evicted him from their marital home and barred him from returning, forcing



him to stay with relatives and rent accommodation at times.

This situation resulted in significant financial damage due to his eviction and the costs of temporary housing in hotels.

He also suffered moral harm due to her actions, which included threats of police involvement if he attempted to enter the home, despite his appeal against the divorce ruling, which upheld the initial decision.

## Purchase

A report from an expert indicated that the husband contributed BD10,425 towards the purchase of the marital home.

He paid BD9,000 as a down payment on April 13, 1993, as documented by a receipt and acknowledged by the wife in a text message via WhatsApp.

Additional payments included BD185, BD40 for property appraisal fees, BD1,200 for a contract to build an external room in 2001, and BD945 for property registration fees.

## Evidence

However, the husband could not provide documented evidence for some of these amounts, leading him to request an oath regarding the last amount and compensation for his damages.



Abeer Al Anzi, lawyer

The court noted in its ruling that the expert report concluded the husband was entitled to BD10,425 from his ex-wife.

The court referenced the acknowledgment from the wife regarding the BD9,000 via WhatsApp, as well as the receipts for the other amounts, supported by testimony from the couple's children, who confirmed their father paid for the room's construction.

## Contribution

The court confirmed that the husband had proven his contribution of BD10,425.

Additionally, it ruled that he was entitled to the BD945 he paid for the property registration fees, as the wife admitted to the payment, establishing her liability. Consequently, the court ordered her to repay the amount owed to him.

## Plan for pedestrian bridge in Manama under review

TDT | Manama

The Council of Representatives will on Tuesday debate a proposal advocating for 100% Bahraini staffing in nursing roles across Salmaniya Medical Complex and primary healthcare centres.

The proposal, submitted by MP Muneer Serour, aims to fully Bahrainize nursing positions, enhancing the national workforce within the healthcare sector and improving service quality.

The proposal cites several factors supporting its implementation, including the significant number of nursing graduates produced annually by the College of Health Sciences, the proven competence of Bahraini nurses, and the success of the healthcare sector, particularly nursing staff, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, the proposal highlights the potential to create more jobs for Bahraini job seekers.

## Proposed pedestrian bridge in Manama reviewed

TDT | Manama

The Public Utilities and Environment Committee of the Council of Representatives has reviewed a proposal for the construction of a pedestrian bridge connecting the waterfront along King Faisal Highway at the intersection near the Sheraton Hotel in the capital, Manama.

The proposal was referred to the committee by the Speaker of the Council, Mr Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, on June 8, 2023, for study and a comprehensive report.

The proposal, put forward by MPs Ahmed Qarata, Hisham Al Awadhi, Jameel Mullah Hassan, Mohammed Al Aliwi, and Mohammed Al Rifai, aims to enhance pedestrian safety and reduce potential accidents at the busy intersection.

This is particularly important given the increasing num-

ber of visitors to the financial harbour and waterfront area.

Additionally, the proposal seeks to alleviate traffic congestion on King Faisal Highway in the second district of the Capital Governorate.

## Commitment

The Ministry of Works has confirmed its commitment to ongoing plans for developing and modernising infrastructure to support growth and facilitate strategic service projects across Bahrain.

While the ministry acknowledged the government's dedication to implementing the highest traffic safety standards in road designs, its studies concluded that constructing a pedestrian bridge at this location may not be feasible.

The ministry anticipates that pedestrian crossing needs will be addressed through the future Bahrain Metro project.

**YOU KNOW WHAT**  
After being evicted by his wife from their marital home, he faced significant financial strain due to the eviction and the costs of securing temporary accommodation in hotels.

# Battle of the Minds

4pm News 'Keraleeyam 2024' quiz unites Bahrain's Malayalis in cultural showdown

TDT | Manama

In a celebration of Kerala's vibrant culture and heritage, the online news portal 4PM Malayalam News brought the pulse of Kerala to Bahrain through an electrifying quiz competition, 'Keraleeyam 2024'.

Held at the McIndeez Auditorium in Mahooz, the event transformed a mundane weekend into a cultural festivity, uniting Bahrain's Malayali expatriate community under one roof.

The event was more than just a test of wits - it was a tapestry woven with Kerala's history, tradition, and identity.

With 24 Kerala expatriate associations vying for the spotlight, the competition saw two contestants from each organization delve into rounds of intense intellectual combat.

## Ultimate accolade

The contest culminated in a nail-biting finale, where six teams went head-to-head for the ultimate accolade.

Emerging victorious were Sreeja Bobby and Josie Thomas, representing Malayali Mums Middle East.

Their journey to the top was marked by sharp intellect and quick wit.

Securing the second spot were Muhammad Ali and Anish



Winners of 'Keraleeyam 2024' with dignitaries and organizers

Mathew of Bahrain Pratibha's B Team, while Bahrain Pratibha's A Team, represented by Gio George and Sajitha Sathish, claimed third place, cementing the organization's stronghold in the competition.

## Energetic moderation

The event was masterfully steered by quizmaster Bonney Joseph, whose energetic moderation was complemented by the dedicated efforts of P.P. Suresh, Ajay P. Nair, and Viswanathan Bhaskaran.

Together, they ensured a seamless flow of events, making the evening both entertaining and enlightening.

Every participant left the stage with a token of appreciation - certificates, cash prizes, and vouchers - as a tribute to their efforts. The prize distribution ceremony added a touch of

prestige, with the honours bestowed by SPAC (Strategic Publicity and Advertising Company W.L.L) directors Latha Unnikrishnan and Boban Idiculla, CEO Adv. Abdul Jaleel Abdulla, and 4PM News Executive Editor Pradeep Puravankara.

## Commitment

Their presence underscored the significance of the event and the shared commitment to celebrating the Malayali identity abroad.

The event's success was amplified by the generosity of its sponsors.

Toyo Tyres, NEC Remit, Kalakendra Arts Centre, and Yaqvy International-Nirapara took the helm as main sponsors, while co-sponsors such as BrainoBrain, Dar Al Shifa Medical Centre, Mangala, Sreejas Wisdom Education Institute WLL,

and Pravasi Guidance Centre WLL added depth to the sponsorship pool.

Together, they ensured that 'Keraleeyam 2024' was not just an event but a milestone in Bahrain's Malayali community's cultural journey.

## Excitement

For those who missed the live event, the excitement is far from over.

The program will soon be available for viewing on 4PM Malayalam News' official social media channels, allowing the wider community to relive the cultural celebration.

As the dust settles on 'Keraleeyam 2024', it leaves behind not just memories but a lasting impact - a reminder of how the essence of Kerala thrives far from its shores, binding its people in unity and pride.

## 37 Filipinos complete dressmaking course



Dressmaking training in progress

TDT | Manama

Thirty-seven Filipinos completed a seven-week dressmaking training course.

A graduation ceremony was held on November 8, 2026 at Arman Hotel, Juffair to mark the success of the event organized by Pinay IKaw Na (PIN) in collaboration with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Bahrain.

The dressmaking skills gained will not only open up new avenues for employment, but also provide opportunities for entrepreneurship, whether one can choose to start its own small business for financial security and stability and to create more jobs for others.

## Passion and dedication

"As we look around this function room, we observe not only exquisite garments but also the passion and dedication that have gone into each stitch, each design, and each

project," said PIN president Dinah Sta. Ana.

"Each of you has embarked on a journey filled with challenges, learning, and most importantly, growth, you have transformed fabric into fashion, dreams into designs, and skills into artistry."

During the ceremony, Philippine Ambassador to Bahrain, Her Excellency Anne Jalandon-Louis, congratulated all graduates of the fifth batch for dressmaking training for standing firm and working hard during the course of the program.

## Commitment

"I commend you for the extraordinary level of commitment you have shown throughout these past seven weeks. It's not easy to sustain a program like this," Ambassador Louis said.

"It requires a great level of dedication and commitment to build new skills."

# Trump picks Doug Burgum as energy czar in new administration

AFP | Washington, United States

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump announced Friday that North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum will head a new energy council -- on top of serving as his Secretary of the Interior.

Burgum will be at the helm of a newly created National Energy Council, which Trump said "will consist of all Departments



Burgum, Trump (file)

and Agencies involved in the permitting, production, generation, distribution, regulation, transportation, of ALL forms of American Energy."

Trump added in a statement that the council is expected to oversee a path to US energy dominance "by cutting red tape, enhancing private sector investments" and focusing on innovation over regulation.

The position will give Burgum a seat on the National Security Council, Trump added, although it remains uncertain if the National Energy Council will be based in the White House as well.

The aim is to expand all forms of energy production and re-

store the United States' "fabulous Oil and Gas advantage," Trump said.

Trump, who is set to return to the White House in January, has pledged to reverse the green policies of his Democratic predecessor President Joe Biden.

He could also pull the United States out of international efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial times.

On the campaign trail, Trump repeatedly said he would "unleash" the US oil sector by boosting production and curbing the move towards renewable energy pushed by Biden.

Experts have warned that a second Trump presiden-

cy would slam the brakes on the transition to green energy, crushing hopes of hitting crucial long-term climate targets.

Burgum's appointment at the Interior Department was criticized by climate group Evergreen Action.

In a statement Friday, Evergreen Action executive director Lena Moffitt called his nomination "nothing more than a reward for a career of putting fossil fuel corporations and special interests ahead of the American people."

Moffitt raised concerns that Burgum could turn the agency into "a tool for fossil fuel corporations to exploit public resources."

## Russia to stop delivering gas to Austria: energy company



AFP | Vienna, Austria

Russia is expected to stop delivering gas to Austria from Saturday, said a spokeswoman for OMV, the Alpine nation's energy company.

"We have been informed" by Russian energy giant Gazprom that it will no longer deliver Russian gas, the OMV spokeswoman told AFP on Friday.

Austria has long been heavily dependent on Russian gas, but its environment minister Leonore Gewessler insisted the energy supply was secure.

"Russia is once again using energy as a weapon. Austria has been preparing for this situation for a long time," Gewessler posted on X.

Domestic gas storage facilities were full and currently able to meet more than one year's consumption for Aus-

tria, she added.

On Wednesday, OMV announced it had received an award of 230 million euro (\$243 million) after launching arbitration proceedings against Gazprom over its irregular German gas supplies.

The award was given under the rules of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). OMV said the award would be set off "with immediate effect" against its payments due to Gazprom.

"It is expected that there may be a deterioration of the contractual relationship... with Gazprom Export, including a potential halt of gas supply," OMV said.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, countries across the EU have worked to shift their dependency away from Russian gas.



**Doug Burgum, the Governor of North Dakota since 2016, made his fortune in business before entering politics. A former executive at Microsoft, he helped lead the acquisition of his company, Great Plains Software, by Microsoft in a \$1.1 billion deal in 2001. This move catapulted him into the tech giant's ranks, where he became a senior vice president. Beyond his success in tech, Burgum has also made significant investments in real estate and venture capital, further building his wealth.**

# With Trump comeback, will EU go easier on ally Musk?

● The world's richest man -- as the boss of Tesla and SpaceX as well as the former Twitter -- threw his full weight into Trump's campaign to reclaim the US presidency

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

Donald Trump's White House comeback gives his ally Elon Musk a sizeable advantage in a running standoff with EU tech regulators -- who may now think twice before fining his X platform over disinformation concerns.

The world's richest man -- as the boss of Tesla and SpaceX as well as the former Twitter -- threw his full weight into Trump's campaign to reclaim the US presidency.

Musk backed the Republican with hard cash but also used his far-reaching social media platform to push pro-Trump messages, including inflammatory disinformation, to his more than 200 million followers.

The bet amply paid off, with a victorious Trump tapping Musk for an outsized role to overhaul the US government -- and putting Brussels in an uncomfortable spot.

With the European Union



Tesla CEO Elon Musk (R) jumps on stage as he joins former US President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump during a campaign rally at site of his first assassination attempt in Butler, Pennsylvania

counting on continued US backing to keep an aggressive Russia from its borders, can it really afford to upset Trump by going after a prized ally?

Trump's future vice-president J.D. Vance even mused on the campaign trail that Washington could drop support for NATO if the EU presses on with attempts to regulate Musk's X network under a landmark new content law. "American power comes with certain strings attached. One of those is respect free speech, especially in our Euro-

pean allies," he warned.

For Musk, hostility to the EU's Digital Services Act (DSA) is about more than just business: along with supporters on the American right he increasingly paints it as an ideological battle against censorship.

"The election in the US will not impact our enforcement work," a spokesman for the European Commission -- the powerful tech enforcer for the 27-nation EU -- told AFP.

But experts are not so sure.

Billions in fines?

Musk's X platform was formally accused by the commission in July of misleading users with its blue checkmarks for certified accounts, of insufficient advertising transparency and failing to give researchers access to the platform's data.

The allegations are part of a wider DSA inquiry into how X tackles the spread of illegal content and information manipulation.

Each offence could theoretically trigger a fine of up to six

percent of the annual global turnover of all the companies Musk controls -- reaching into the billions. According to several sources close to the proceedings, the commission was wrapping up its probe -- and readying a heavy fine -- when its digital chief Thierry Breton quit in September, having been denied a second term by EU chief Ursula von der Leyen.

But the stars have since realigned, with the EU now caught in the headlights for fear the volatile Trump will start a trade war and cut support for Ukraine against the Russian invasion.

### 'Provoke' Trump?

With Trump at the reins, enforcing EU tech rules against X may become a matter of politics as much as anything else.

"I'd be surprised if the commission chooses to provoke Trump over something like this," said Alexandre de Streel, an expert at the Center on Regulation in Europe (CERRE) think tank.

"Transatlantic relations are going to become more complicated -- and this probably isn't the area where they will need to fight hardest," he said.

"Musk believes the DSA goes too far in how it asks platforms to regulate content -- and that is also the view of far-right parties in Europe," de Streel noted. "It's become a battle of ideas, and I don't see Musk folding -- especially not now." The European

Commission also has to factor in Trump's hard-right allies within the bloc, from Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban to Italian leader Giorgia Meloni.

After Trump's re-election, von der Leyen stressed the importance of the EU-US "partnership" and a "strong transatlantic agenda" -- a stance echoed by Breton's designated successor as digital enforcer, Henna Virkkunen.

"With war on its doorstep, Europe must think carefully," said Umberto Gambini, of European affairs consultancy Forward Global. "I don't think it can afford to upset Trump in these first months."

Gambini predicts that the commission's probes into X will keep ticking along but the departure of Breton -- who clashed spectacularly with Musk via social media -- will offer a chance to reset the relationship.

Already back in August, Brussels had distanced itself from a letter of warning sent by the French commissioner before Musk interviewed Trump live on X.

That said, "if Europe wants to remain credible" in the fight to rein in Big Tech, it "has to keep threatening fines in the billions, not millions", Gambini said.

But with fragile transatlantic ties in mind, it may choose to focus its firepower on Chinese platforms such as TikTok instead, judged the EU expert.

QUOTE OF THE DAY THE QUESTION ISN'T WHO IS GOING TO LET ME, IT'S WHO IS GOING TO STOP ME AYN RAND

TODAY IN HISTORY

1558

Elizabeth I, aged 25, ascends the English throne upon the death of her half-sister, Queen Mary I

1831

Ecuador and Venezuela separate from Gran Colombia



David Livingstone becomes the first European to see Victoria Falls in what is now Zambia and Zimbabwe

1855

1869

Suez Canal in Egypt opens, linking the Mediterranean and Red seas

News in brief

A fire at the neonatal unit of an Indian hospital killed 10 newborns, authorities said Saturday...



10 newborns killed in India hospital fire

Southwest Airlines said one of its planes was apparently hit by gunfire while preparing for takeoff at an airport in the US city of Dallas on Friday...

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg Friday urged the release of political prisoners held by COP29 summit host Azerbaijan...

Activist Thunberg urges release of Armenians in Azerbaijan



Iran 'categorically' denies envoy's meeting with Musk

A copy of Iran's Farhikhtegan daily newspaper is pictured on a shelf in a kiosk in Tehran with a cartoon drawing of Elon Musk on its front-page...

SPOTLIGHT

Iran 'categorically' denies envoy's meeting with Musk



A copy of Iran's Farhikhtegan daily newspaper is pictured on a shelf in a kiosk in Tehran with a cartoon drawing of Elon Musk on its front-page...

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman on Saturday 'categorically' denied The New York Times report on Tehran's ambassador to the United Nations meeting with US tech billionaire Elon Musk...

In an interview with state news agency IRNA, spokesman Esmail Baghaei was reported as 'categorically denying such a meeting' and expressing 'surprise at the coverage of the American media in this regard'.

The Times reported on Friday that Musk, who is a close ally of President-elect Donald Trump, met earlier this week with Iran's ambassador to the UN, Amir Saied Iravani.

Zelensky says wants to end war by 'diplomatic means' next year

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Saturday he would like to end the war with Russia next year through 'diplomatic means'.

He spoke a day after saying he expected the conflict to end sooner than it would otherwise have done, once Donald Trump takes office in the United States next year.

'For our part, we must do everything we can to ensure that this war ends next year. We have to end it by diplomatic means,' Zelensky said in an interview



A field of flowers planted in front of a destroyed house in Andriivka, Donetsk oblast

with Ukrainian radio. 'And this, I think, is very important.'

There have been no meaningful talks between Russia and Ukraine, but a Trump presidency raises questions about the future of the conflict...

Referring to Ukraine, he said: 'You are at war with a state that does not value its people, that has a lot of equipment, that does not care how many people die.'

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said he will only accept



An intriguing aspect of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict is the role of drone warfare, which has been a game-changer in modern combat...

talks with Ukraine if Kyiv surrenders Ukrainian territory that Moscow occupies.

The Kremlin said he repeated that demand in a phone conversation with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Friday.

Zelensky has rejected Putin's conditions. Moscow has made steady advances in eastern Ukraine since this summer...

Zelensky said on Saturday that Russian forces were suffering heavy losses and that the advance had 'slowed down' in some areas.

Health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza says war death toll at 43,799



People gather as smoke rises from a UN school-turned-shelter after it was hit in an Israeli strike, in the Rimal neighbourhood of Gaza City in the northern Gaza Strip

AFP | Palestinian Territories

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said Saturday that at least 43,799 people have been killed in more than 13 months of war between Israel and Palestinian militants.

The toll includes 35 deaths in the previous 24 hours, according to the ministry...

said 103,601 people have been wounded in the Gaza Strip since the war began when Hamas militants attacked southern Israel on October 7, 2023.

The Israeli army said earlier on Saturday that its troops continued 'their operational activity' in the northern areas

of Jabalia and Beit Lahia.

The military said 'over the past day, the troops continued to operate in the Rafah area, eliminating numerous terrorists, dismantling terrorist infrastructure sites, and locating a large amount of weapons in the area' in the territory's south.

Trump defence pick Hegseth accused of 2017 sexual assault

No charges were filed in the case

Police in Monterey, California confirmed Thursday that they had investigated 'an alleged sexual assault'

AFP | Washington, United States



Hegseth

One of Donald Trump's most controversial cabinet picks just became even more so: Pete Hegseth, tapped for defense secretary earlier this week, was accused of sexual assault in 2017, according to police.

No charges were filed in the case, but shocked Trump transition team officials are nonetheless reportedly weighing next steps for the Fox News host...

President-elect Trump nominated the 44-year-old National Guard veteran on Tuesday to run the world's most powerful military, despite having never managed a large organization.

Police in Monterey, California confirmed Thursday that they had investigated 'an alleged sexual assault' at a hotel involving Hegseth that included bruising to the victim's right thigh, in early October 2017.

News of the woman's accusations caught the Trump team off guard, according to Vanity Fair, which first reported the story.

Hegseth's lawyer Timothy Paratore told the publication that the allegation 'was already investigated by the Monterey police department and they found no

evidence for it.'

And Trump's communications director Steven Cheung said that Hegseth 'has vigorously denied any and all accusations, and no charges were filed.'

'We look forward to his confirmation as United States Secretary of Defense so he can get started on Day One to Make America Safe and Great Again,' Cheung said.

Hegseth's hearing in the Senate is likely to be among the more fraught, not only due to his lack of experience but also other controversies, such as his lobbying

of Trump during his first term to pardon service members accused of war crimes.

Hegseth joined Fox News as a contributor in 2014 and now co-hosts 'Fox and Friends Weekend' and serves as a host for 'Fox Nation.'

He additionally served as an infantry officer in the National Guard, deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The accusations against Hegseth come as Trump's pick for attorney general, far-right former congressman Matt Gaetz, stunned many following his lengthy embroilment in sexual misconduct allegations. And Trump himself was convicted of financial wrongdoing for covering up payments to a former porn star and found liable for defaming and sexually abusing an author.

Hegseth has been married three times, divorcing his first wife in 2009 following an 'irretrievable breakdown' and 'infidelity,' according to the Washington Post.

His second wife filed for divorce in September 2017, one month after he had a baby with a Fox News producer whom he subsequently married, according to US media.

Noel Gallagher's 'best' guitar sells for £226,800

AFP | London, United Kingdom

The guitar described by Noel Gallagher as 'the best in the world', which he played on the third Oasis album 'Be Here Now', sold at auction on Saturday for £226,800 (\$286,000).

The custom Silver Sparkle Gibson Les Paul Florentine guitar that starred on the 1997 album was one of Gallagher's primary guitars during the height of Oasis's fame.



It was made for him at Gibson's custom shop and appeared in performances on The David Letterman Show and Saturday Night Live.

The guitar was sold in a sale of entertainment memorabilia by online auction group Propstore.

'It's not one of the best guitars. It's the best guitar,' Gallagher said of the instrument in a 1997 interview with Spin magazine.

Spain arrests 7 Britons after seizing over a tonne of hashish

AFP | Madrid, Spain

Seven Britons have been arrested in southern Spain for drug trafficking after police seized 1.2 tonnes of hashish, the government said on Saturday.

'National police working with Britain's National Crime Agency have dismantled a ring in Marbella and Elche suspected of trafficking drugs in lorries,' the interior ministry said.

'The officers have seized 1,200 kilogrammes (2,646 pounds) of hashish and de-



Elche. Some of the drugs were hidden in 'large plastic containers filled with fine builder's sand', the ministry said.

The haul was discovered in the tourist resorts of Marbella and Fuengirola, which have large British expat populations, and in the southeastern city of

Elche. Some of the drugs were hidden in 'large plastic containers filled with fine builder's sand', the ministry said.

Police also seized more than 63,000 euros in cash, five people carriers and a large lorry.

The seven Britons arrested have been remanded in custody. Spain is a major gateway to Europe for cannabis resin manufactured in North Africa.

Nearly 325 tonnes of hashish were seized in Spain in 2022, according to the latest available official data.



TOP 2 TWEETS

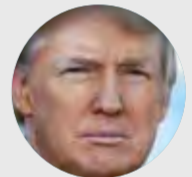
01



Over the next few days, I will be in Nigeria, Brazil and Guyana. I will have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of programmes, both bilateral and multilateral, which will add momentum to India's ties with various nations. I will take part in the G20 Summit in Brazil and will meet Caribbean leaders in Guyana. I will also be interacting with the Indian community during this visit.

@narendramodi

02



I am thrilled to announce Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as The United States Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). For too long, Americans have been crushed by the industrial food complex and drug companies who have engaged in deception, misinformation, and disinformation when it comes to Public Health. The Safety and Health of all Americans is the most important role of any Administration, and HHS will play a big role in helping ensure that everybody will be protected from harmful chemicals, pollutants, pesticides, pharmaceutical products, and food additives that have contributed to the overwhelming Health Crisis in this Country. Mr. Kennedy will restore these Agencies to the traditions of Gold Standard Scientific Research, and beacons of Transparency, to end the Chronic Disease epidemic, and to Make America Great and Healthy Again!

@realDonaldTrump

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

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Overloaded Roads: Time for Innovative Solutions



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

Day by day, it becomes clear to every driver of a car, bus, truck, or even a motorcycle in Bahrain that the traffic situation faces a dilemma with no obvious solution.

I do not blame any particular entity, but it seems we are battling a disease that is spreading throughout the nation, treating it with medications, antibiotics, chemical therapies, and radiations, without addressing the root cause or stopping its growth.

Recent statistics show that Bahrain imported more than 19,000 vehicles in the first half of 2024, a number that is expected to exceed 40,000 by year's end. The total number of imported vehicles over the past five years has surpassed 187,000. Despite the setbacks during the COVID-19 pandemic, which temporarily reduced vehicle imports by 28% in 2020, the influx of cars returned to a 'ferocious' pace, consuming asphalt and dirt like fire consumes everything in its path.

These alarming figures undermine the significant efforts made by the Urban Planning Authority, the Ministry of Works, and the Traffic Management Department, which are struggling to keep pace with this frantic race. Every time a tunnel or bridge opens in one area, congestion simply shifts to another. For instance, when the Prince Khalifa Bridge in Al-Hidd was inaugurated, it provided relief for those escaping internal road congestion. However, it has now become part of a high-traffic zone, overwhelmed by the sheer number of vehicles stopping at its entrances, midpoints, and exits.

I am aware that there are plans to address the problem of traffic congestion, but these efforts still target the symptoms rather than the underlying issue. While there are attempts to legislate measures to limit the number of cars on the roads, these proposals are often contentious, with some aspects being more acceptable and feasible than others.

The problem is not solely about the number of vehicles; several other factors contribute to congestion, including work hours, weekends, and roads leading to commercial and recreational areas. I experienced this firsthand when trying to attend the Bahrain International Airshow on its last day, only to find it nearly impossible to reach the venue due to the thousands of cars heading there, despite the location being relatively spacious with large roads.

We need to think outside the box and develop revolutionary innovations that encompass several measures, creating a balanced equation to address this issue and eradicate this 'disease.' There are indeed many ideas available, some of which have been implemented but require further refinement and innovation. Therefore, let us leave this matter to the creative minds of our talented youth.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)











## Bahrain hosts Egyptian-Bahraini Basketball Super Cup

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

Under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of the General Sports Authority, and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, Bahrain is set to host Egyptian-Bahraini Basketball Super Cup from November 28 to November 30.

The event will feature elite basketball teams from both countries. On November 28, Egypt's Al Ahli will face Al Itihad of Alexandria in a Egyptian



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa

tian Super Cup matchup. The following day, Bahrain's Manama will clash with Al Ahli Bahrain in the Bahraini Super Cup. The winners of these games will then compete in the

grand final—the Egyptian-Bahraini Super Cup—on November 30. Before the final, a match to determine third place will be played, ensuring a full weekend of competitive basketball action.

### Strengthening Bilateral Ties

His Highness Shaikh Khalid highlighted that such joint tournaments symbolize the strong bonds between Bahrain and Egypt, nurtured under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi of Egypt. These events reflect the shared values of friendship and unity between the two nations, further solidifying their

historical ties.

### Sport as a Driver of Tourism

HH Shaikh Khalid also emphasized the role of these competitions in fostering sports tourism in Bahrain. The tournament aligns with efforts to host more international sporting events, enhancing Bahrain's profile as a regional hub for athletics and culture.

This marks the second consecutive year that Bahrain has hosted the Egyptian-Bahraini Basketball Super Cup, reaffirming its commitment to promoting excellence in sports and strengthening international collaboration.

## Bahraini leader honoured as Arab Sports Personality of the Year



Dr. Shaikha Hessa bint Khalid Al Khalifa at an event

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Dr. Shaikha Hessa bint Khalid Al Khalifa has been celebrated for her unparalleled contributions to women's sports, receiving the prestigious title of Arab Sports Personality of the Year at the Shaikha Fatima bint Mubarak Women's Sports Award 2024. The award highlights her tireless dedication to advancing gender equality in sports across the Arab world.

Both Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Bahrain Football Association, and Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Isa Al Khalifa, Vice Chairman, extended their congratulations, lauding her pivotal role as a member of the Supreme Council for Women, the Bahrain Olympic Committee, and the Committee for Equal Opportunities and Gender Balance in Sports.

Dr. Shaikha Hessa's recogni-

tion coincided with her active involvement in Bahrain's hosting of the Arab Girls Sailing Championship, organized by the Bahrain Maritime Sports Association on the shores of Al Jazair Beach. She attended the event, where she witnessed competitive displays in categories such as Optimist, ILCA 4, and ILCA 6.

Upon her arrival, Dr. Shaikha Hessa was greeted by prominent figures, including Shaikh Khalifa bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Maritime Sports Association and the Arab Sailing Federation, as well as other senior officials.

During the event, Dr. Shaikha Hessa met with athletes and representatives from participating Arab nations. She expressed her pride in Bahrain's role as host, highlighting the tournament's significance in empowering women in maritime sports and fostering regional collaboration.

## Amorim says he will take Man Utd back to where club 'belongs'

AFP | London

New Manchester United manager Ruben Amorim said that he would give "everything" to help take the struggling Premier League giants back to the top of English football.

The Portuguese boss, who replaced the sacked Erik ten Hag, arrived at the club's Carrington training complex on Monday following a 4-2 win at Braga in his final match in charge of Sporting Lisbon.

On Friday, United released a video of Amorim's first interview with the club's in-house TV channel.

United are 13th in the Premier League table after a poor start to the season but are only four points off the top four.

"I will try to do everything to put this club in the place that it

belongs," he said.

"And I believe a lot that we are going to succeed."

Amorim's first match in charge will be away at struggling Ipswich on November 24, following the international break.

United finished eighth in the Premier League last season, their worst league finish since the 1989-90 campaign.

"We know that we need time, but we have to win time," added Amorim.

"To win time is to win games. But the



most important thing for me is identity.

"Since day one we

will start with our identity. Of course we are going to prepare (for) the games, but we will focus a lot on our game model. How to play, how to press, these small details.

"You cannot go 100 percent on every detail because it will be confusing for the players. So if I have to say one thing, my main goal, my first goal, is identity."

**"I will try to do everything to put this club in the place that it belongs. And I believe a lot that we are going to succeed"**

RUBEN AMORIM

# Bahrain's Para Athletes Light Up the Manama 2024 World Boccia Challenger

Hussain Almaskati

Focus and precision were on full display as Isa Sports City Hall played host to the Manama 2024 World Boccia Challenger. The stakes were high, with 70 athletes from 14 nations vying for glory across four categories—BC1, BC2, BC3, and BC4. For Bahrain, it was a chance to show the world the heart and spirit of its Para sports athletes.

### The Heartbeat of the Home Team

The Bahraini athletes gave the home crowd plenty to cheer about.

In BC2, Sayed Ali AlWadaei impressed as Bahrain's stand-out performer, navigating the tension of competition with remarkable poise. A 4-2 win set the tone, but his 7-1 success in the next match felt like a masterclass in precision and tactics. Each throw seemed calculated, each point earned with purpose.

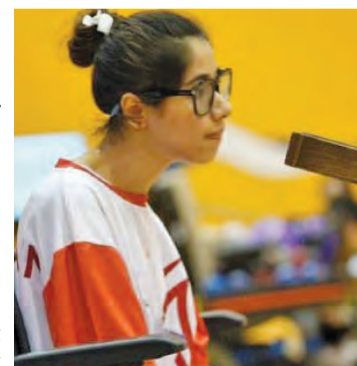
Isa Marjan, competing in BC4, showed resilience that will resonate far beyond Isa Sports City. After a narrow 6-3 loss in his opener, Marjan regrouped and delivered a composed 8-4 win in his second match—a



strength of will that earned the admiration of fans and competitors alike.

It wasn't all smooth sailing for the home side. Ameen Al-Hedi (BC1) split his matches, starting with a 4-2 win before falling 5-1 in a tightly contested second game. Meanwhile, Hazem AlQarooni (BC2) struggled to find his rhythm, suffering defeats of 4-2 and 12-1. Yet his effort spoke volumes about the perseverance of Bahrain's Para athletes.

For Noof Dismal (BC3), the scoreline of her 14-0 loss doesn't tell the full story. On a day dominated by high-caliber competition, Dismal's presence on the court symbolized a new chapter for Bahrain's female



athletes in Boccia—a moment of representation that's as important as any medal.

### Beyond the Court

The Manama 2024 World Boccia Challenger, orchestrated by the Bahrain Paralympic Committee was a celebration



of inclusion and sporting excellence. From the opening ceremonies to the final moments of competition, the event highlighted Bahrain's growing influence in Para sports.

But what lingers most from this day isn't just the results. It's the support of the crowd, the tension in every throw, and the quiet resolve of athletes determined to give their all. For Bahrain's players, every match was a testament to their ability and heart—qualities that ensure their journey is just beginning.

### A New Era for Bahrain's Para Sports

The Manama 2024 World Boccia Challenger has set the



stage for a promising future. While Bahrain's athletes faced ups and downs on the day, their collective performance proved they belong on the world stage. The road ahead looks bright, and the impact of their efforts will be felt long after the courts are cleared.

Yesterday's opening was a statement—and Bahrain's Para athletes made theirs loud and clear. The tournament will continue today at Isa Sports City - Hall D, and run until the 20th.

## Pogba's Juve contract terminated despite doping ban reduction



Paul Pogba

AFP | Turin

Paul Pogba's Juventus career is over after the Serie A club announced that the France midfielder's contract had been terminated even though his doping ban was cut to 18 months on appeal.

Pogba will be able to return to competitive football in March after the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) chopped last month an initial four-year suspension handed down by the Italian anti-doping authority NADO.

But Juventus have decided to cut ties with the 31-year-old, whose return to Turin from Manchester United in 2022 was ruined by a string of problems on and off the pitch.

In a statement, Juve said that they and Pogba "have reached a mutual agreement for the termination of their contract as of 30 November, 2024".