

New Zealand fight back after India's strong batting display

Fast bowlers shine as New Zealand aims for first victory over India since 1988 | P12

6 Netanyahu residence targeted as Hezbollah fires barrage at Israel

Khalifa bin Salman Port sees mixed Q3 trends

HM King receives condolences from Saudi leadership

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, received a condolence cable from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, following the passing of Shaikh Humood bin Abdullah bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

HM the King also received a similar cable from His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia.

Hezbollah tried to 'assassinate' me, says Netanyahu

AFP | Jerusalem

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday accused Iran-backed Hezbollah of trying to assassinate him, with the Middle East already on edge after Israel had vowed retaliation for an Iranian missile barrage. Netanyahu's office said a drone was launched toward his residence in the central town of Caesarea yesterday but he and his wife were not home at the time and there were no injuries.

"The attempt by Iran's proxy Hezbollah to assassinate me and my wife today was a grave mistake," Netanyahu said in a statement.

Iran supporters ransack Saudi TV channel offices

AFP | Baghdad

Supporters of pro-Iraq armed groups in Iraq ransacked offices affiliated with a Saudi TV channel in Baghdad yesterday, two security sources said.

Iraq's media regulator said it would suspend the channel over the broadcast, which aired with regional tensions soaring between pro-Iraq groups and Israel, which is at war with both Hamas fighters in Gaza and Tehran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon.

After midnight, between 400 and 500 people attacked the studios of a Baghdad production company that works for the Saudi broadcaster MBC.

Pay on time or pay the price

Government cracks down on businesses failing to pay workers' wages on time

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Businesses that fail to pay their workers on time are now facing the full force of the law, as the government launches surprise inspections in a clampdown on wage delays.

Workers have been given new power to report late payments, triggering immediate action, in a bid to tackle this growing issue across private companies.

In a statement from Parliamentary Affairs Minister, His Excellency Ghanim Al Buainain, to the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, the government stressed that unpaid wages threaten workers' rights and remain a top priority for the authorities.

"The government is determined to ensure that all private companies follow wage payment rules," the response said. "This is being managed through strict monitoring and checks."

The Wages Protection System, under Article 46 of the Labour

Law for the Private Sector, set up by Law No. 36 of 2012, is already in use.

System

Established in 2019 under Decision No. 68, the system ensures that wages are paid through approved methods like bank transfers or prepaid cards, overseen by the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB).

The government explained that close cooperation between the Ministry of Labour, the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA), and the CBB has been crucial in ensuring firms obey the rules.

These bodies, working with Benefit Company and local banks, carry out inspections and regular checks to spot any violations.

Penalties

"Employers who fail to pay wages on time will face penalties, including legal action," the statement added. "Inspections are organised as soon as complaints are made, and employers



Workers can report wage delays through several channels, including by phone

are required to correct the situation without delay."

In cases where wage delays are due to financial difficulties, a payment plan is arranged under the Ministry of Labour's oversight.

If employers fail to attend

meetings or stick to the plan, further legal action is taken, including suspending work permits for expats until the matter is resolved.

Resolution

The government also empha-

sised that one of the key aims of the Wages Protection System is to speed up the resolution of wage disputes in labour courts.

The system allows courts quick access to detailed records of wage payments, helping them settle cases more quickly.

As part of this wider effort, the government is increasing the number of inspections and prioritising wage complaints.

Report

Workers can report issues through several channels, including phone, email, and the Ministry's website.

"Companies that fail to comply are added to a watchlist," the government said. "If the issue is not fixed within a month, further legal steps are taken, including referral to the Public Prosecution."

This move is part of the ongoing work to protect workers' rights and ensure wage disputes are handled efficiently, with the government reaffirming its push to uphold fair treatment of workers in the Kingdom.

Revitalising heritage

Manama souq set for major makeover next year

H Naser

TDT | Manama

Ambitious plans to revitalise Manama's historic souq are moving forward with significant support from Bahrain's legislative and executive branches.

Members of Parliament and the Capital Municipal Council have pledged their full backing for the project, emphasising its importance to the preservation of Bahrain's cultural heritage and economic development.

MP Ahmed Al Saloum announced that the Strategic Thinking Bloc will advocate for dedicated budget allocations in the upcoming 2025-2026 national budget to support the project.

Integral parts

Meanwhile, MP Mohammed Hussain Janahi stressed the need for comprehensive improvements to public services and a solution to traffic congestion as integral parts of the plan.



MP Ahmed Al Saloum



Eng. Saleh Tarada

From his side, Engineer Saleh Tarada, Chairman of the Capital Municipal Council, confirmed that multiple government entities are collaborating on the project, including the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), and the Assistant Agency for Municipal Services within the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture. He anticipates the project's

commencement in 2025, following the approval of the new budget.

Plan's scope

Eng. Mohammed Al Abbas, a member of the Capital Municipal Council, detailed the plan's scope.

It will encompass the preservation of traditional architecture, the documentation of the souq's history through museums and exhibitions, and the devel-



The redevelopment plan for Manama souq will bring joy to residents, merchants, and tourists

opment of key areas such as Bab Al Bahrain, the Al Musaqafa area, the Al Tawawish Square, and the Wednesday Market.

The project also aims to improve public facilities, providing essential amenities like re-

strooms and parking.

Tarada highlighted the significance of royal directives emphasising the preservation of Bahrain's historical and cultural identity in its buildings and cities.



Nostalgia on wheels

A roaring success as Discover America Week 2024 ends with classic car extravaganza

● Iconic American cars and bikes put on display

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

The US Embassy's Discover America Week 2024 wrapped up with an American classic car show in partnership with Bahrain Classic Cars (BCC), the American Chamber of Commerce in Bahrain (AmCham) and Water Garden City.

His Excellency Steven C. Bondy, the US Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, inaugurated the car show yesterday, at



H.E. US Ambassador Steven C. Bondy touring the car show



The event organisers receive a token of appreciation

the Water Garden City premises.

The car show featured a stunning display of approximately 50 American-made cars and 25 motorcycles.

Nostalgic look

The show offered a nostalgic look at American automotive history while celebrating the enduring impact of US innovation.

Discover America Week 2024 explored how American innovation in transportation is creating new opportunities for economic growth in Bahrain and the US.

This year's celebration also marked a significant milestone: the 20th anniversary of the signing of the US-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement (FTA).



Visitors admire the craftsmanship and innovation of American-made cars while celebrating their legacy. (Pictures by Ashen Tharaka)



Engaging EU and GCC youth in climate action

TDT | Manama

The European Union delegation to the Kingdom of Bahrain, in collaboration with the EU-GCC Cooperation on Green Transition project and the EU Outreach Facility for the GCC, has supported the organisation of a Conference of the Parties (COP) simulation games for youth.

This initiative was part of the 7th edition of the 'Young Parliamentarian' programme, an annual youth empowerment initiative held under the patronage of His Excellency Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Chairman of the Shura Council.

Over two days, 42 young Bahraini students and professionals aged 16 to 30 participated in workshops and simulations designed to raise awareness about climate change and the importance of driving global climate action.

Participants

The participants assumed roles as representatives of various countries – including industrialized nations, emerg-



Young Bahraini students and professionals take part in workshops

ing economies, and developing countries such as Bangladesh, Brazil, China, the European Union, India, Japan, Morocco, Nigeria, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States – to engage in simulated COP negotiations.

Speaking about the initiative, Theo Lemaire (Delegation of the European Union, Political Officer and EU Focal Point for Bahrain), stated: "Climate change is a global challenge that demands collective action. This

simulation is not just an exercise; it is an immersive learning experience. It highlights the difficult balance countries must strike in their approaches to climate action, often weighed against national interests and global responsibilities.

New generation of leaders

"By engaging Bahraini youth in these simulation games, we are fostering a new generation of leaders equipped with the knowledge and skills to contrib-



ute to global climate solutions. We are proud to support this initiative, reinforcing our commitment to sustainability and empowering young voices in the climate discourse."

The simulation games enhanced participants' understanding of the diverse roles that individuals, civil society, and political actors play in championing climate action.

They also benefited from dedicated sessions on international negotiations and the European Union's flagship policy, the European Green Deal, which outlines the EU's commitment to tackling climate change and achieving a sustainable future.

'A priceless moment'

Families rejoice as five Bahrainis return from Yemen detention

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The families of the five Bahrainis held in Yemen have spoken of their great joy and relief following the safe return of their loved ones.

Mrs Zainab, mother of Mahmoud Fouad Ibrahim, and Hussain Saleh Hassan, father of Ali, were among those offering heartfelt thanks to the country's leadership for bringing their sons home.

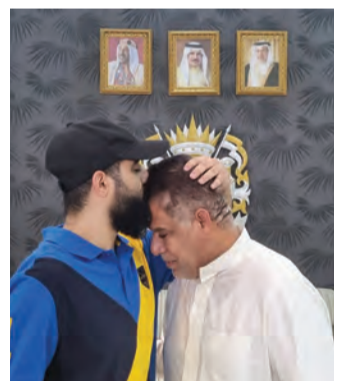
Mrs Zainab shared her overwhelming happiness at being reunited with Mahmoud, while Hussain spoke of his pride in the way Bahrain looks after its citizens, no matter where they are.

Abbas Mohammed Abdulrasool, father of Fadhel, also gave his deep thanks to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and Interior Minister Lt General H.E. Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

Care

He praised the care shown in bringing the five men home, noting the great efforts of everyone involved in sorting the matter.

Abbas spoke of his joy, calling it "a priceless moment," and appreciated how officials kept in regular touch with the families, which gave them peace of mind that their sons would come home safely, thanks to God and the wise leadership of His Majesty the



Home sweet home for returning Bahrainis

King. Their thanks also went to the Ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs, whose hard work brought about the release of their relatives after weeks of talks with Yemeni authorities.

Legal steps

The Ministry of Interior, in a statement, thanked Yemeni officials for helping in the return of the five Bahrainis, who are now back in the Kingdom and going through the necessary legal steps.

Mrs Zainab, Hussain Saleh Hassan, and Abbas Mohammed Abdulrasool also praised the work done by the Council of Representatives, appreciating their part in helping resolve the situation.

The families gave their heartfelt thanks to HM King Hamad for his caring leadership and ongoing concern for the welfare of Bahraini citizens, both at home and abroad.

They praised the authorities' efforts, which led to their return.

Low demand sinks Bahrain housing swap proposal

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Just a handful of Bahrainis want to swap homes. That tiny fraction – less than 1% – led the government to reject a parliamentary proposal for a new housing exchange platform.

In a letter to Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed Al Musallam, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, His Excellency Ghanem Al Buainain, explained the rationale behind

the decision.

He stressed the government's steady work with the Council of Representatives to ensure that citizens continue to receive better housing services.

Platform

Al Buainain explained that current housing rules, mainly Decision 909 of 2015, already cover much of what the proposed platform hoped to sort out.

These rules guide how housing services are handed out, with the main focus on how long a person has been waiting for a home.

Factors

Other factors, such as where the person lives now, where they have lived before, family ties, and any special matters raised with the Minister of Housing, are also taken into account.

"These rules have allowed cit-

izens to get housing near their families, which has lowered the number of requests to swap housing units," the letter noted.

The government also said it is open to taking requests from citizens who want to swap housing services, whether for ongoing projects, future builds, or ones still being worked on.

Each request will be considered individually, and approval will be given only if the service is available and fits the rules.

A new era in crime control

Bahrain strengthens safety and security efforts with the help of sociology, psychology and IT specialists

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain is sharpening its focus on tackling crime through expertise, with specialists in sociology, psychology, and IT joining the Ministry of Interior, following a government-backed proposal.

In response to the Council of Representatives, the government laid out its plan to improve crime prevention and rehabilitation.

The statement noted, "The government has carefully considered the proposal to strengthen the Ministry of Interior and Public Prosecution with experts from fields such as sociology, psychology, and information systems. These disciplines are essential in maintaining the highest standards of safety and security in our society."

The government highlighted that it already employs several specialists in these areas, saying, "We are fortunate to have a dedicated team of highly skilled professionals actively involved in addressing crime through modern techniques."

Efforts

The statement also noted the efforts to keep up with new technologies, adding, "We are constantly advancing in fields like computer engineering and IT to tackle increasingly sophisticated crimes."

The response also referenced Bahrain's long-standing focus on information security.

"Since the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security was set up in 2004, Bahrain has prioritised securing its digital spaces," the government said. "With the creation of the National Cyber Security Centre in 2017, we've made significant strides in combating cyber threats."

Approach

Human rights remained central to the government's approach.

"Upholding human dignity



Upholding human dignity is at the core of His Majesty the King's vision. That's why law enforcement officers and prosecutors receive thorough training to ensure human rights are respected, in accordance with national laws and international agreements

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

is at the core of His Majesty the King's vision," the government stressed. "That's why law enforcement officers and prosecutors receive thorough training to ensure human rights are respected, in accordance with national laws and international agreements."

The Ministry of Interior's work in engaging communities was also highlighted, particularly through the Community Police Directorate.

"This directorate works directly with groups across society, examining new social issues and helping to develop strategies for tackling emerging crimes," the government explained. "We've already recruited a number of experts to support these efforts."

Operations

Meanwhile, the Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA) is integrating advanced technology into government operations.

"A new unit has been established to assess emerging technologies and how they can be used within administrative bodies," the statement said, "all aimed at improving performance and effectiveness."

The iGA is also developing ethical guidelines for the use of artificial intelligence in the public sector.

"It's vital to ensure AI is used responsibly, particularly when handling personal data," the government said, stressing the importance of privacy and security.

Rehabilitation

Regarding rehabilitation, the government reaffirmed its focus on reintegrating offenders into society.

"We've introduced a range of successful programmes, including alternative sentencing and open prisons, to help offenders turn their lives around," it said. "Our specialists in psychology and social work continue to provide vital support in this area."

Finally, the government thanked the Council of Representatives for its involvement, stating, "We greatly appreciate the Council's attention to this issue. This collaboration between the government and the Council allows us to work together to uphold human rights, improve public services, and continually refine our approach to public safety."

Court annuls property sale, orders refund

H Nasser
TDT | Manama

The High Court has ruled to annul a property sale in a Bahraini city and ordered the four defendants to jointly refund the purchase price of BD40,000 to the plaintiff.

The court also ordered the defendants to pay court costs and BD200 in legal fees.

According to the plaintiff's lawyer, Mohammed Al Mahdi, the four defendants owned the property in question, having



received the title deed from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning on April 10, 2011.

The plaintiff and defendants agreed on the sale of the property on December 12, 2012, for BD40,000, which was paid in

full at the time of the agreement.

Al Mahdi explained that the plaintiff subsequently began construction on the land, erecting a fence and gate, and completing part of the building.

The plaintiff then requested that the defendants finalise the property registration process to allow for further construction. However, the second defendant prevented this, claiming a lack of necessary permits and inability to obtain them, a claim corroborated by witnesses.

Worries over 50% fee cuts for retirees

TDT | Manama

A plan to cut government fees and healthcare costs for retirees in half is raising worries about its impact on public funds.

The government warns that the plan, aimed at easing costs for pensioners with over 30 years of service, could put a heavy strain on the state's budget and risk key services.

The draft law, now being considered by the Council of Representatives, proposes a 50 per cent reduction in government fees and healthcare expenses for retirees, which officials argue could harm public finances. The government says current laws already provide wide-ranging support for older citizens.

Discounts

The Law on the Rights of the Elderly, for example, already gives retirees lower fees and discounts on goods and services through the Elderly Service Card.

This card offers pensioners a 50 per cent reduction on government fees and benefits from private companies.



The Council of Representatives is currently reviewing the proposal, which includes a call for the Ministry of Social Development to introduce an "Economic Protection Card for Retirees"

However, the proposed law would go further, applying across-the-board cuts to all

government services and compelling both private healthcare providers and public hospitals to lower healthcare costs for retirees by at least 50 per cent.

In response, the government has raised several objections.

Constitutional rights

It argues that forcing private businesses to lower their prices could violate constitutional rights, which allow businesses to set their own fees unless otherwise mandated by law.

The government also warns that such cuts would heavily impact the state's ability to fund essential services, especially during economic hardship.

It cautions that reducing all fees by 50 per cent could disrupt financial planning and long-term efforts to stabilise the economy.

Landlord's claim for unpaid rent rejected by court

TDT | Manama

A Bahraini court has rejected a landlord's claim for BD720 in unpaid rent from a tenant.

The High Court of Rent dismissed the case, ruling that both parties had mutually agreed to terminate the lease early.

The landlord had filed a lawsuit against the tenant, seek-

ing payment for the remaining two months of a one-year lease agreement.

The tenant had rented a property in Jadali for BD360 per month since Sep. 1, 2023.

BREAST CANCER SCREENING PACKAGES

PACKAGE 1 (Below 40 Yrs)

- 👉 Ultrasound
- 👉 Clinical Examination
- 👉 Gynecologist Consultation

BD 25

PACKAGE 2 (Above 40 Yrs)

- 👉 Ultrasound
- 👉 Mammogram
- 👉 Clinical Examination
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UTB admissions open for second trimester AY 2024-2025



Admissions open for second term AY 2024-2025

TDT | Manama

UTB launches new master's programmes in digital marketing and logistics and supply chain management - your path to industry leadership

Are you ready to take your career to the next level? The University of Technology Bahrain (UTB) is launching two industry-responsive master's programmes: the Master of Science in Digital Marketing and the Master of Science in Logistics and Supply Chain Management. These programmes are designed to equip you with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in today's fast-paced, technology-driven world.

As the digital and global business landscapes continue to evolve, UTB is committed to providing education that meets the demands of today's industries. Whether you are passionate about digital marketing or logistics and supply chain management, UTB is here to help you unlock your potential and bring your career to greater heights.

Why study Digital Marketing?

In an era where digital presence is everything, businesses need professionals who can navigate the ever-changing landscape of online marketing. UTB's Master of Science in Digital Marketing programme is your ticket to mastering this dynamic field. From social media strategy and content marketing to data analytics and SEO, this programme covers it all.

You will learn how to craft compelling campaigns, leverage cutting-edge tools, and make data-driven decisions that drive real results. Whether you are looking to advance in your current role or pivot to a new career, this programme offers the practical skills and strategic thinking you need to stand out in

the digital marketplace.

Why study Logistics and Supply Chain Management?

In a world that is more connected than ever, the efficiency of supply chains can make or break a business. UTB's Master of Science in Logistics and Supply Chain Management programme is designed for those who want to become leaders in this critical industry. This programme goes beyond the basics, diving deep into topics like procurement, transportation, warehousing, and supply chain sustainability.

You will explore the latest advancements in supply chain technology, including automation, blockchain, and AI, ensuring you are prepared to tackle the challenges of modern logistics. Whether you are managing global supply chains or optimising local operations, this programme provides the expertise you need to create efficient, resilient, and sustainable supply chains.

Who should apply?

These programmes are ideal for professionals looking to upskill, recent graduates seeking specialised knowledge, and career changers eager to enter these high-demand fields. Whether you are aiming to become a digital marketing guru or a logistics and supply chain expert, UTB's master's programmes offer the education and support you need to achieve your goals.

How to get started?

Applications for all UTB programmes are now open for the second trimester AY 2024-2025. You can apply online through <https://admissions.utb.edu.bh/>. For more information or other enquiries, you can WhatsApp (+973) 17787979. Don't miss out on this opportunity to advance your career and make a real impact in your field.

Verdict on drugs 'supplier' set

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Appeals Court will announce its verdict on October 28th in the appeal filed by a 30-year-old man sentenced to five years imprisonment and a BD3,000 fine.

The man was convicted of providing manufactured hashish to a minor, inducing the child to use the drug, and endangering the child's well-being through acts of moral corruption.

The court heard the appeal on October 13th.

The case centers around the testimony of the victim's mother, who discovered her son in an altered state, suspecting drug use.

She took him to Salmaniya Medical Complex, where he revealed he had been with the defendant and three others in a vehicle.

He claimed they forced him to use an e-cigarette containing CBD.

No need to worry

Government assurance: Graduates' futures are secured with jobs and scholarships

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Jobs and scholarships for graduates have already been secured, the government has told MPs, suggesting that their concerns are already covered.

Replying to a recent call from the Council of Representatives, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, H.E. Ghanem Fadhel Al Buainain, told Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam that checks on job needs across public bodies are carried out often, and scholarship plans are already in place, so no further action is needed.

Al Buainain said the Civil Service Bureau and the Ministry of Education work closely together to make sure that graduates' skills match what the public sector needs.

He said this system is already in place, with the Bureau keeping track of what fields of study are required to fill roles with-



in ministries and other public bodies.

Growth plan

On scholarships, the minister stressed that education is a key part of Bahrain's growth plan.

Several existing schemes give young Bahrainis the chance to succeed, he said.

One such scheme is the Ministry of Education's yearly scholarship programme, which is shaped by feedback from both the public and private sectors to

guide students towards fields where there is demand.

Al Buainain also pointed to His Royal Highness the Crown Prince's International Scholarship Programme, which backs study at top schools abroad and gives extra training to help ensure graduates are ready for their working lives.

The Isa bin Salman Education Charitable Trust, launched in 2013, was also brought up.

Higher education



Checks on job needs across public bodies are carried out often, and scholarship plans are already in place, so no further action is needed

H.E. GHANEM FADHEL AL BUAINAIN,
MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

This programme helps students who cannot afford higher education, making sure their studies line up with Bahrain's job market needs.

Further, the AlMabarrah AlKhalifa Foundation continues to offer scholarships that support Bahraini students and prepare them for the needs of the job market.

The government argued that these ongoing efforts already meet the goals set out in the Council's call.

9,000 Bahrainis join workforce, beating job targets

TDT | Manama

Nearly 9,000 Bahrainis took their first steps into the job market last year, pushing employment figures far beyond what was expected.

The Ministry of Labour announced that a total of 29,533 job placements were made in 2023, a sizeable increase on the 20,000 target set out in the economic recovery plan.

The rise reflects how well

government efforts are working to get people into jobs, particularly those starting their careers.

Responding to a parliamentary proposal about not counting those who simply moved jobs under the ministry's watch, officials noted that 8,924 of last year's recruits were newcomers to the private sector, making up 30% of the total.

For those who left their jobs in 2022, 8,238 were back in work within a month, 5,472 found

a new job between two to six months, and 6,899 secured employment after six months.

Overall, the ministry's 29,533 placements in 2023 comfortably exceeded the recovery plan's annual target.

The ministry stressed that unemployment rates are based on the number of registered job seekers, not those already employed, ensuring what it described as a manageable jobless rate.

It also confirmed that all registered job seekers — whether new to the job market or switching careers — have access to the same services, provided they are not already employed, retired, business owners, or students.

The aim of government policies is to open up job opportunities regardless of previous work experience, with legal guarantees in place for all citizens.

15,000 still backed by unemployment system

TDT | Manama

Facing concerns from Parliament over potential instability, the Bahraini government has reassured MPs that the unemployment insurance system is holding firm, with 15,000 people currently receiving support.

Responding to a proposal for a new job interview form, the government argued that exist-

ing procedures already ensure smooth job matching and payment handling.

Unemployment registrations typically range between 12,000 and 15,000 a year, with regular payments made to those who stick to the rules.

"Job placement, training, and hiring services remain available to all job seekers, even if their benefits are stopped," said the

government's statement.

Benefits are only halted when a person finds work, retires, or becomes self-employed.

Benefits

The government stressed that stopping benefits doesn't affect how the national unemployment rate is counted.

Those whose benefits are stopped are still considered

unemployed unless they find work and continue attending monthly reviews and job applications.

Employers post job openings on the Ministry of Labour's online system, where details like pay and qualifications are checked. Once approved, the jobs are listed for candidates to apply, as long as they meet the employer's requirements.

137 new homes to be built in Salman City

H Naser

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning has announced the launch of three tenders for the construction of 137 new housing units in Salman City.

This initiative is part of the government's "government land development rights" programme, a public-private partnership aimed at boosting housing supply.

The project is being undertaken in accordance with directives from His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The ministry stated that the



new projects, spanning 27,000 square meters, comprise three packages: the first with 69 units, the second with 44 units, and the third with 24 units.

The deadline for tender submissions is February 19th, 2025.

This announcement marks the seventh new housing project launched under the programme since its inception.

Previous projects include the "Suhail" housing project in Al Luzzi, completed in partnership with a private developer and with all units sold; a 131-unit project in Salman City partnered with Delmon Gate; and the "Al Buhair" and "Hawrat Sanad" projects, developed in collaboration with Al Saraya and Al Namal companies, respec-

tively. The ministry emphasised that the Salman City projects will benefit from ready infrastructure.

The provision of complete infrastructure and integrated services in the designated areas aims to streamline the construction process for developers, ensuring timely completion and increasing the availability of housing units for citizens applying for housing finance programmes offered by the ministry.

The Ministry confirmed that its team is preparing to launch more housing projects under the same programme, contributing to a significant increase in housing supply across the Kingdom.

Khalifa bin Salman Port sees mixed Q3 trends

Vehicle Traffic Rebounds While Container and Liquid Cargo Decline

H Naser
TDT | Manama

Khalifa bin Salman Port reported varied traffic trends for the third quarter of 2024, reflecting shifting dynamics in the shipping and logistics landscape. While vehicle traffic saw a significant rebound in September, other sectors, including container and liquid cargo, experienced declines.

Fluctuations in Container and Cargo Traffic

Container traffic fell to 36,318 TEUs in September, down from 39,409 TEUs in August, indicating a slowdown after reaching 28,719 TEUs in July. Despite this drop, general cargo volumes remained relatively stable, with 48,163 tons processed in September, slightly higher than August's 47,296 tons, though still lower compared to July's 113,526 tons.

Vehicle Traffic rebound

Vehicle traffic surged to 4,357



units in September, bouncing back after dropping to 2,618 units in August from a peak of 4,776 units in July.

However, vessel activity showed a gradual decline throughout the quarter, with calls decreasing from 57 in July to 60 in August, and dropping further to 53 in September. Liquid cargo handling also trended downward, with September's volume of 817,156.72 metric tons falling from August's 841,856.36 metric tons.

Conversely, solid cargo handling displayed robust growth, climbing to 2,542,088 metric tons in September from 1,762,736.38 metric tons in August.

Administrative activities mirrored the cargo trends, with 36 commercial licenses issued in September compared to 20 in August, and inspections rising to 12 from August's 10. The number of vessel departure certificates saw a slight decline, totaling 171 in September, down from 172 in August, following a higher activity level of 194 in July.

Google wins delay in opening Android app store to rivals

San Francisco, United States

A US judge let Google delay opening Android-powered smartphones to rival app shops, suspending a November 1 deadline ordered in an antitrust case brought by Fortnite-maker Epic Games.

Google was pleased by feder-

al judge James Donato's decision to "temporarily pause the implementation of dangerous remedies demanded by Epic," a company spokesperson said, as an appeals court considers permanently blocking the order stemming from Epic's argument that Android Play store is an illegal monopoly.

US budget deficit widens to \$1.8 tn, third highest on record

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States on Friday reported a budget deficit of \$1.8 trillion for the past year, widening from 2023's level on greater spending, including for interest on the public debt.

The overall deficit expanded by \$138 billion for the fiscal year, said the Treasury Department. The nation's debt remains a key concern for voters ahead of November's presidential election.

This year marks the third highest US deficit, behind 2021 and 2020, according to the Treasury.

There was a near 30 percent rise in spending on interest on the public debt, largely due to higher interest rates, it said.

The rise in receipts for the latest fiscal year was mainly due to increases in the amount of individual and corporate income tax collected, among other

areas.

In announcing the latest budget results, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen stressed that the US economy remained resilient in 2024.

The Treasury added that the 2024 deficit was \$76 billion lower than an estimate published in March.

As a percentage of GDP, the deficit was 6.4 percent, up from 6.2 percent in the fiscal year of 2023.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds unveils its flagship showroom in the USA at Los Angeles

TDT | Manama

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally with over 360 showrooms across 13 countries, has launched its flagship showroom in the USA at Los Angeles. Marking a major milestone in the brand's growth journey in North America, the new showroom will be Malabar Gold & Diamonds' 5th and largest showroom in the USA.

The showroom was inaugurated by the honorable Congresswoman for California, Michelle Steel. Mr. M.P. Ahammed, Chairman of Malabar Group, Mr. Abdul Salam K.P., Vice chairman of Malabar Group, Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Mr. Joseph Eapen, Regional Head of North America, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, other senior directors, management team members from Malabar Gold & Diamonds, customers, media and well-wishers were also present for the occasion.

Commenting on the occasion, Malabar Group Chairman M.P. Ahammed said: "Malabar Gold & Diamonds has been making great headway in the international jewellery sector and North American continues to be



The flagship showroom of Malabar Gold & Diamonds in the USA at Los Angeles was inaugurated by the honorable Congresswoman for California, Michelle Steel. Mr. M.P. Ahammed, Chairman of Malabar Group, Mr. Abdul Salam K.P., Vice chairman of Malabar Group, Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Mr. Mayankutty C, Senior Director, Malabar Group, Mr. Ameer CMC, Director - Finance & Admin, Malabar Group, Mr. Shaji K, Chief Digital Officer, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Mr. AK Faisal, Head of Manufacturing, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Mr. Salahuddin, Director of Malabar Investments PLC, Mr. Kappan Jabbar, Mr. Joseph Eapen, Regional Head of North America, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Mr. Jasar R, Branch Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, other senior directors, management team members from Malabar Gold & Diamonds, customers, media and well-wishers were present for the occasion.

a key market driving this growth. With the launch of our 5th and largest showroom in the USA at Los Angeles, we are committed to build on our foundation of providing an exceptional jewellery shopping experience to all jewellery lovers in the region in a 100% responsible and sustainable manner. The launch of our LA showroom was the key highlight in our ambitious plan of opening 20 showrooms globally in the month of October 2024. As we expand our horizon

and embark on our vision of becoming the world's no 1 jewellery retailer with renewed focus and energy, I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to all our customers, team members, shareholders and other stakeholders for their contributions in making this occasion truly significant".

Located in the city of Artesia, and boasting over 6,500 sq.ft of jewellery shopping area, the showroom houses over 30,000 jewellery designs from 20 coun-

tries across 25 exclusive brands and collection in gold, diamond & precious gem jewellery. An extensive collection of bridal jewellery, alongside a wide range of options for occasional wear, daily wear & office wear will also be available.

The new showroom will also feature a customized jewellery design facility, providing jewellery lovers with the opportunity to bring their own designs to life with expert assistance of artisans from Malabar Gold

& Diamonds. As part of the inaugural offers, customers will get assured gold coins on the purchase of diamond and precious gem jewellery. The limited period offers are valid till the 3rd November 2024.

"We opened our first U.S. showroom in 2018, and our growth since then has been driven by our steadfast commitment to offering exquisite jewellery with unparalleled service. Building on the success of our showrooms in New Jersey,

Dallas, Chicago, and Naperville, we are confident that our Los Angeles venture will be equally well-received", commented Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has announced that it will be opening its 6th showroom in the USA in Atlanta, Georgia. The brand has an aggressive expansion strategy in North America which will include new showrooms in cities like San Francisco, Seattle, Austin, Tampa, Virginia, Detroit, Houston, Charlotte, Phoenix, New York, and San Diego. In Canada, the brand will extend its footprint into British Columbia and Alberta.

"As we aim to become a leading player in the global jewellery market, we are committed to growing sustainably and responsibly", commented Mr. Abdul Salam K.P., Vice Chairman of Malabar Group.

The ambitious global expansion plan that Malabar Gold & Diamonds has charted to open 20 new showrooms in the month of October to is in full swing, with 7 showrooms already launched and 13 showrooms to be launched in the coming weeks across the USA, UAE, Qatar, KSA & India.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
WELL DONE IS BETTER THAN WELL SAID
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

TODAY IN HISTORY
1097
The first Crusaders arrive in Antioch, Ancient Syria, during the First Crusade



1603
Chinese uprising in the Philippines fails after 23,000 are killed

1803
US Senate ratifies the Louisiana Purchase

1935
Communist forces end their Long March at Yan'an, in Shaanxi, China, bringing Mao Zedong to prominence

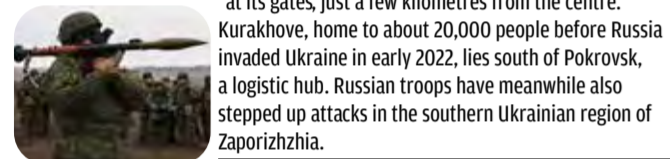
News in brief

◆ **Chinese drone maker DJI**, which dominates the global consumer market, said Saturday it was suing the US Department of Defense, complaining that Washington had "erroneously" included the company on a Chinese military company blacklist. It has faced scrutiny from Washington in recent years, including for its alleged role in surveilling ethnic minorities in China, and DJI drones have reportedly been used extensively by both sides in the war in Ukraine. "On October 18, DJI filed a lawsuit to challenge the Department of Defense's (DoD) erroneous designation of the company as a 'Chinese Military Company,'" DJI said in a statement sent to AFP. The Pentagon added DJI to its list of Chinese military-linked companies in 2022. It said at the time that it was seeking to "highlight and counter (China's) Military-Civil Fusion Strategy, which supports the modernization goals of the People's Liberation Army (PLA)".



Chinese drone maker DJI sues Pentagon over blacklisting

◆ **Russia yesterday** said it has taken the village of Zoryane in eastern Ukraine, enabling its troops to approach the industrial hub of Kurakhove. Kurakhove lies west of Donetsk city, which is already under Russian control. Russia's defence ministry said "The locality of Zoryane... has been liberated". Russia has been concentrating its offensive on Kurakhove with Moscow's troops at its gates, just a few kilometres from the centre. Kurakhove, home to about 20,000 people before Russia invaded Ukraine in early 2022, lies south of Pokrovyk, a logistic hub. Russian troops have meanwhile also stepped up attacks in the southern Ukrainian region of Zaporizhzhia.



Russia says captured another village in eastern Ukraine

◆ **An adviser to Al-Qaeda's** likely current leader is calling for Hamas to release its Israeli hostages held in Gaza, according to an American jihadist monitoring organisation, SITE. The online declaration was made Friday by Mustafa Hamid, also known as Abu Walid al-Masri, who is father-in-law to Saif al-Adel, the man widely believed to now head Al-Qaeda, according to SITE. In it, Hamid claimed the attention given to recovering the Israeli hostages, both dead and alive, was overshadowing the fate of Palestinian prisoners being held by Israel. He also hailed Yahya Sinwar, Hamas's leader whom Israel announced a day earlier it had killed. Sinwar was the mastermind of the October 7, 2023 attacks on Israel that triggered the ongoing war in Gaza. Hamas must now "immediately" return the hostages and their bodies, and "this file must be closed and not opened again, as we know its consequences," according to the statement.

Al-Qaeda adviser urges release of Israeli hostages in Gaza



SPOTLIGHT
China's Xi calls for troops to boost war preparedness



AFP | Shanghai, China

around the self-ruled island in recent years. On Monday, Beijing had deployed fighter jets, drones, warships and coast guard vessels to encircle Taiwan -- its fourth round of large-scale war games around the democratic island in just over two years. China's communist leaders have insisted they will not rule out using force to bring Taiwan under Beijing's control. Xi on Thursday said the Chinese military must "strongly safeguard the country's strategic security and core interests", according to the CCTV report. The dispute between China and Taiwan dates back to a civil war in which the nationalist forces of Chiang Kai-shek were defeated by Mao Zedong's communist fighters and fled to the island in 1949. China and Taiwan have been ruled separately since then.

Netanyahu residence targeted as Hezbollah fires barrage at Israel

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel said a drone targeted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's residence yesterday, as Hezbollah launched a barrage of projectiles into Israel from its northern neighbour Lebanon.

On the southern front, Israel hammered Gaza with air strikes, with an overnight raid on Jabalia in the north killing 33 people, according to the besieged civil defence agency.

Netanyahu's office said the prime minister and his wife were not at their residence in the central town of Caesarea during the drone attack and there were no injuries. Earlier, the military said a drone launched from Lebanon had "hit a structure" in Caesarea.

Sirens blared across Israel throughout the morning as Hezbollah fired projectiles from various locations in Lebanon.

The Iran-backed group said it launched a large salvo of advanced rockets at a military base in Israel's Haifa region.

A man in the northern Israeli port city of Acre died after being struck by shrapnel, the Magen David Adom emergency service said, while shrapnel also wounded five people in the Haifa city of Kiryat Ata.

Late last month Israel ramped up air strikes on Lebanon and deployed ground forces after nearly a year of cross-border exchanges.

The fighting in Gaza came after the Israeli military killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar on Wednesday.

Sinwar, accused of masterminding the October 7 attack on Israel, was seen as pivotal to ending the Gaza war and securing the release of Israeli hostages.



A woman walks past destroyed buildings in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip



Palestinians queue to fill cans with water near Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip

On Friday, Qatar-based Hamas official Khalil al-Hayya reiterated no hostages would be freed "unless the aggression against our people in Gaza stops".

"Urgent warning to residents of the southern suburb (of Dahiyeh), specifically those in...Haret Hreik neighbourhood: You are located near facilities and interests belonging to Hezbollah, against which the IDF (Israeli military) will be operating in the near future," military spokesman Avichay Adraee wrote in Arabic on X.

The Israeli military yesterday called on residents to leave parts of southern Beirut, a warning usually followed by strikes on those areas of the Lebanese capital.

Turkey says Israel pushing Iran to take 'legitimate steps'

AFP | Istanbul, Turkey

Israel's attacks in Lebanon and Gaza are pushing Iran to take "legitimate steps", Turkey's foreign minister said Saturday in a joint press conference in Istanbul with his Iranian counterpart. "Israel's aggressive stance is forcing Iran to take legitimate steps," Turkey's Hakan Fidan said alongside Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was "constantly opening new fronts in the region" and "trying to draw Iran into this war," he said.

"The risk of war spreading to the entire region should not be underestimated."

Araghchi, who took part in Friday's meeting of South Caucasus nations in Istanbul, said the rising tension in Lebanon was "very worrying".

Gaza rescuers say over 400 killed in two weeks of Israeli assault on territory's north

AFP | Palestinian Territories

Gaza's civil defence agency said Saturday more than 400 Palestinians were killed in the north of the territory over the past two weeks during an ongoing military assault Israel says is aimed at preventing Hamas militants from regrouping.

The military launched a sweeping air and ground assault targeting northern Gaza on October 6. Since then, it has tightened its siege, which has displaced tens of thousands.

"We have recovered more than 400 martyrs from the various targeted areas in the northern Gaza Strip, including Jabalia and its camp, Beit Lahia and Beit Hanoun, since the start of the military operation by the occupation army" on October 6, Gaza civil defence agency spokesman, Mahmud Bassal, told AFP. "There are dozens of bodies scattered in the streets of Jabalia due to continuous shelling."

The Israeli military press department when contacted by AFP said it was "checking" the reports.

Bassal said the death toll from the Israeli operation up to Friday was 386.

"In addition to that we had 33 martyrs from a massacre in Jabalia. So, the total is now more than 400 martyrs in northern Gaza," he said, referring to an Israeli air strike on Jabalia refugee camp overnight Friday to Saturday.

Bassal said the dead included women, children and the elderly.

"They were all transferred to the northern Gaza Strip hospitals of Kamal Adwan, Al-Awda and Indonesian," said Bassal. "There are a number of pleas from families being bombed inside Jabalia camp... but it is difficult for our teams to reach the bombed sites," Bassal said.

Boat carrying more than 100 Rohingya sighted off Indonesia: officials



Representative picture

AFP | Banda Aceh, Indonesia

A boat loaded with more than 100 Rohingya refugees was spotted off Indonesia's west-ernmost province with at least one dead body seen on board, local officials said Saturday.

The mostly Muslim ethnic Rohingya are heavily persecuted

in Myanmar, and thousands risk their lives each year on long and dangerous sea journeys to try to reach Malaysia or Indonesia.

The Rohingya boat is anchored around three to four miles (five to six kilometres) off the coast of South Aceh district with its engine turned off, community leader Muhammad

Jabal told AFP. He said the boat was first seen on Friday when he and others set off to deliver food and water to the refugees, estimating more than a hundred were on board.

"I saw with my own eyes there was a body. There were many children too aboard the boat," Jabal said.

Gaza officials accuse Israeli forces of attacking hospital

AFP | Palestinian Territories

Gaza health officials said Israeli forces surrounded and shelled the Indonesian Hospital in the territory's northern town of Beit Lahia at dawn on Saturday, while the military reported troops were operating near the facility.

"Israeli tanks have completely surrounded the hospital, cut off electricity and shelled the hospital, targeting the second and third floors with artillery," said the facility's director, Marwan Sultan. "There are serious risks to medical staff and patients."

In a statement, Gaza's health ministry also said Israel had targeted the upper floors, adding there were "more than 40 patients and wounded in addition to the medical staff" present.

"Heavy gunfire" towards the hospital and its courtyard had sparked a "state of great panic" among patients and staff, it added.

Contacted by AFP, the Israeli military said its troops were operating near the Indonesian



A cloud of smoke erupts following an Israeli airstrike on Beirut's southern suburbs

Hospital.

"The troops operating in the area have been trained for the operational activity and briefed on the importance of mitigating harm to civilians and medical infrastructure," the military said in a statement to AFP.

creasingly dire and dangerous situation that civilians in northern Gaza are facing. Families there are trying to survive in atrocious conditions, under heavy bombardment."

Indonesian Hospital was also damaged during Israeli shelling in October, residents told AFP at the time.



On September 23, Israel launched an intense air campaign on Lebanon and later sent in ground forces after nearly a year of cross-border exchanges with the Iran-backed Hezbollah group over the Gaza war. Since late September, the war has left at least 1,418 people dead in Lebanon, according to an AFP tally of Lebanese health ministry figures, though the real toll is likely higher.

TOP 4 TWEETS
01

Attacks against @UN peacekeepers are completely unacceptable. They are in breach of international law and may constitute a war crime. Despite all the challenges, @UNIFIL remains in its positions on the Blue Line in Lebanon - and on the front line of peace.
@antoniguterres

02

Inaugurated the 'Karmayogi Saptah' - National Learning Week today. The learnings and experiences from this initiative will help us improve our work systems and realise our goal of Viksit Bharat.
@narendramodi

03

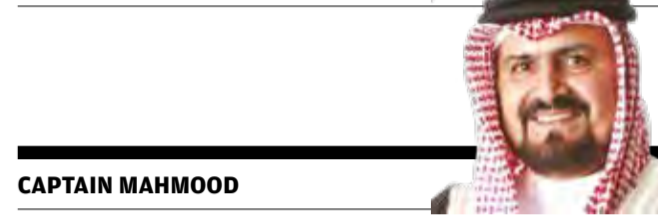
If you're a registered Pennsylvania voter, you & whoever referred you will now get \$100 for signing our petition in support of free speech & right to bear arms. Earn money for supporting something you already believe in! Offer valid until midnight on Monday.
@elonmusk

04

The United States will always stand with its friends - for peace, security, and prosperity.
@SecBlinken

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

Mental Health Dynamics Need Caring



Bahrain has one of the best and most compassionate healthcare systems. Despite putting expats on the paid patients list and requiring elderly guests to Bahrain to have health insurance, the Kingdom never denies care to those in a crisis. Unlike in other countries, it is always about managing the patient's problem first and foremost and worrying about his/her ability to pay later.

It is my sincere wish therefore that this attitude be extended to cover intervention and treatment for mental health as well. This is a condition that affects so many of us but societal norms and fear of backlash keeps us silent when we are ourselves suffering or if we know of a sufferer. Moreover, our perception of people with mental health challenges has been shaped by the melodramatic portrayal of such issues in media - films, television and books, all draw scary pictures of mental health challenges and imply that these conditions are not only incurable but dangerous to society as well.

The fact is people with mental health conditions need support and psychological help rooted in scientific study. In recent years, as the stigma of seeking help dissolved, more and more

It is my sincere wish therefore that this attitude be extended to cover intervention and treatment for mental health as well. This is a condition that affects so many of us but societal norms and fear of backlash keeps us silent when we are ourselves suffering or if we know of a sufferer. Moreover, our perception of people with mental health challenges has been shaped by the melodramatic portrayal of such issues in media - films, television and books, all draw scary pictures of mental health challenges and imply that these conditions are not only incurable but dangerous to society as well.

people in Bahrain have been reaching out for help and we have seen an uptick in the number of facilities offering well-managed psychiatric intervention. However, this is still way out of reach for the average patient, especially the expat community. I am told that even those who are insured are not willing to seek treatment or to even buy medication for their condition because it is not always covered by their insurance policy.

This has got to change. Just as Bahrain's public hospitals will not question whether a suffering patient can afford an appendectomy, they should have a policy of treating mental health issues, no payment or nationality asked. None of us want such a condition and it is wrong to monetize it under a virtually free healthcare system.

(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)

CAMPUS

BSB enters Carfax's Global School Index

British School of Bahrain finds place in 'Top 150 Private Schools in the World' and 'Top 15 Schools in the Middle East'

TDI | Manama

The British School of Bahrain (BSB) has achieved a remarkable milestone by being included in Carfax's Global School Index, earning its place among the "Top 150 Private Schools Worldwide" and the "Top 15 Schools in the Middle East."

The school owned by Inspired Education Group is the only school in Bahrain to be listed in the 2024 rankings. This recognition underscores BSB's commitment to academic excellence, making it one of only two schools in Bahrain to receive such an honour. This achievement follows BSB's consistent performance, having maintained the best A-Level results in the country for the past five years.

The school has also been rated "Outstanding in all areas" by both the British



Founder, Chairman and CEO of Inspired Education, Nadim Nsouli

Schools Overseas (BSO) and the Education & Training Quality Authority (BQA). Additionally, BSB was previously the only school in Bahrain to be featured in Carfax's list of the "Top 25 Private Schools to Watch Worldwide."



Founder, Chairman and CEO of Inspired Education, Nadim Nsouli, said, "Only the best schools in the world are part of Inspired and we are honoured to have the British School of Bahrain being named among the 'Top 150 Private Schools Worldwide'. This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our teachers, students, and the entire BSB community. At Inspired Education Group, we remain focused on delivering world-class education and preparing future leaders who will make a positive impact globally."

Carfax Education, a leading global

The British School Bahrain becomes the only school in Bahrain to be listed in Carfax's 2024 Global School Index, ranking among the top 150 private schools worldwide, recognizing its commitment to academic excellence and innovative teaching methodologies

education specialist founded in Oxford in 1997, has recognised BSB for its commitment to academic excellence, innovative teaching methodologies, and exceptional student outcomes. The Global School Index is a comprehensive assessment that considers various factors, including academic performance, extracurricular activities, and overall school environment.

Head of Education at Carfax Education, Fiona McKenzie, Head of Education, Carfax Education, said: "Now in its fifth year, The Schools Index has become a valuable resource for parents looking for the very best education

for their child, wherever they are in the world - as well as for the private schools sector. The demand for excellent schools continues to grow and remains fiercely competitive as parents strive to ensure their child receives the strongest foundations to set them up for a lifetime of success."

The school renowned for its rigorous academic curriculum and holistic approach to education, has consistently demonstrated a dedication to nurturing well-rounded individuals. The inclusion in the "Top 150 Private School Worldwide" by Carfax Education is a testament to the school's relentless pursuit of excellence in education.

Executive Headteacher, Liz Stanley, commented "We are honoured to have achieved a place on this highly sought-after global list, recognised by the esteemed organisation Carfax Education. The Bahrain community has always recognised BSB as the leading British School in Bahrain, and the school is now being recognised internationally. We are proud that BSB's collective efforts and community spirit continue to be acknowledged globally."

BIS observes Think Pink Week to raise awareness for breast cancer

TDI | Manama

Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School (BIS) observed "Think Pink Week," a dedicated initiative aimed at raising awareness about breast cancer. Throughout the week, students were engaged in a variety of creative and educational activities designed to foster understanding and support for this important cause.

The week kicked off with students sporting pink T-shirts, symbolizing their solidarity. Craft activities included the creation of personalized bookmarks, which served as a reminder of the importance of early detection and support for those affected by breast cancer.

The festivities continued with a "Pink Glad Rags Show," where students showcased their creativity in fashion, and fun games that encouraged par-



participation and camaraderie.

Students Council also planned a fundraising activity as a part of Think Pink Week

Observation. The proceeds will go to the 'Think Pink: Bahrain Breast Cancer Society'.

Director Himanshu Verma expressed his pride in the students' enthusiasm and commitment, stating, "It is inspiring to

see our students come together to support such a vital cause. Their creativity and dedication are commendable."

Director Ritu Verma added, "Awareness is the first step towards prevention. I am thrilled by the innovative ways our students have chosen to engage with the community and raise awareness about breast cancer."

Principal Saji Jacob reflected on the week's successes, saying, "Think Pink Week has not only educated our students about breast cancer but has also instilled a sense of responsibility and compassion within them."



Bangladesh School achieves 100% HSC pass rate

TDI | Manama

The Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. of the Bangladesh Embassy in Bahrain, A.K.M. Mohiuddin Kayes, conveyed his heartiest congratulations to the students of the Bangladesh School in Bahrain for achieving a 100% pass rate in this year's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations, which were held at the school's premises under the invigilation of the Embassy's officials.

The Bangladeshi expatriate community in Bahrain were tremendously happy to learn about the HSC results that were announced earlier this morning. In keeping with the school's tradition of academic excellence, the brilliant students demonstrated their exceptional abilities once again and passed their examinations with very good results. This time, a total of 34 students sat for the exams, out of which, four achieved the highest GPA of 5.0 (Grade A+), twenty achieved Grade A, and the rest also achieved commendable results.

The CDA a.i. Kayes also expressed his gratitude to the dedicated teachers and supportive parents for their unwavering guidance and encouragement, which played a pivotal role in the students' outstanding performance. He expressed his hope that the students would continue to strive for greater heights by wishing them continued success in their academic pursuits and urging them to contribute their skills and talents to the betterment of their community and homeland.

NMS hosts GOPIO Cybersecurity session

TDI | Manama

The Global Organisation of People of Indian origin (GOPIO) Bahrain in collaboration with New Millennium School (NMS), conducted a cybersecurity awareness event for students of 9th - 12th grade, aiming at educating students on the importance of online safety and digital hygiene.

The Global Organisation of People of Indian origin (GOPIO) Bahrain in collaboration with New Millennium School (NMS), conducted a cybersecurity awareness event for students of 9th - 12th grade, aiming at educating students on the importance of online safety and digital hygiene.

er Roshan George from Hilal Technology, who provided valuable insights and practical tips for staying safe in the digital landscape.

As cyber threats and online scams become more prevalent, it is essential for students to understand the potential risks they may face online. The seminar addressed critical topics such as

password protection, phishing scams, and social media safety, equipping students with actionable advice to protect their personal information and privacy.

"AskGopio" was introduced to the students as an intelligent and free AI search engine designed by GOPIO Bahrain whereby it can be used to as-

ist in querying AI and receiving fast, accurate, and reliable answers while ensuring the security of your information).

"Ask Gopio" provides teachers and students a platform where they can ask questions, seek guidance, and connect with experts in various fields.

"We believe that educating our students about cybersecurity

is vital in today's digital era," stated Arun Kumar Sharma, Principal of NMS.

Present at the event were NMS Principal Arun Kumar Sharma, GOPIO Bahrain President Tina Mathew, VP Samuel Paul, Asst GS Sunita David and PR Sec Ameena Rahman along with other school officials.



Classifieds



Call us on +973 36458394
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Man Utd, Spurs secure crucial wins

Ten Hag's side fights back; Tottenham dominate West Ham in emphatic second-half display

● **Man United beat Brentford 2-1; Garnacho, Hojlund shine**

● **Ten Hag relieves pressure with first win in six games**

● **Tottenham thrash West Ham 4-1; strong second half seals victory**

AFP | London

Manchester United eased the pressure on beleaguered boss Erik ten Hag as they fought back to beat Brentford 2-1, while Tottenham got back on track with a 4-1 rout of West Ham yesterday.

Ten Hag had defiantly slammed "fairy tales and lies" about his United future on Friday as the Dutchman insisted he was not in danger of the sack.

But the 54-year-old is widely believed to be fighting to save his job after presiding over United's worst start to a top-flight season since 1989-90.

Ten Hag was surely teetering on the brink of being dismissed after Brentford pounced to take the lead in first-half stoppage time when Ethan Pinnock met a corner with a powerful header.

The goal sparked a furious reaction from Ten Hag, who was booked for protesting about Matthijs de Ligt's enforced absence to have treatment on a bloodied head wound.

But Alejandro Garnacho started United's revival in the 47th



Manchester United's Rasmus Hojlund (2R) scores his team's second goal past Brentford's goalkeeper Mark Flekken (L)

minute as the Argentinian met Marcus Rashford's angled pass with a superb volley into the top corner.

And Rasmus Hojlund bagged the decisive second goal in the 62nd minute, taking Bruno Fernandes' clever flick and clipping a composed finish over Brentford goalkeeper Mark Flekken.

United's first win in six games in all competitions was only their third victory in eight Premier League matches this term.

They sit 10th in the table ahead of an intriguing week, featuring a Europa League trip to Jose Mourinho's Fenerbahce and a visit to West Ham.

Tottenham scored three goals

in eight second-half minutes against the Hammers to ease the pain of their recent col-lapse in a 3-2 loss at Brighton.

Mohammed Kudus' opener for West Ham was cancelled out before the break by Dejan Kulusevski.

Tottenham ran riot after the interval thanks to Yves Bissouma's strike, an own goal from West Ham goalkeeper Alphonse Areola and a fourth from Son Heung-min.

It was a third win in four league games for Ange Postecoglou's men, heaping pressure on new West Ham coach Julen Lopetegui after his side's spluttering start to the season.

"Second half was outstanding from the lads -- good energy, good goals, good football," Postecoglou said.

Leicester's great escape

Brighton moved up to fifth place with a 1-0 victory at Newcastle on a day of mixed emotions for Danny Welbeck, who scored the 35th-minute winner but was later stretchered off with a back injury that left him needing an oxygen mask.

Leicester staged a stirring fightback to snatch a dramatic 3-2 victory at winless Southampton.

Cameron Archer struck in the eighth minute before Joe Aribo's

28th-minute goal increased the lead for the bottom-of-the-table hosts.

But Leicester's Facundo Buonanotte bundled home in the 64th minute before Ryan Fraser was sent off for conceding a penalty with a foul on Jamie Vardy.

Vardy stroked in the 74th-minute leveller from the spot and Jordan Ayew drilled into the bottom corner in the eighth minute of stoppage-time.

Fourth-placed Aston Villa extended their unbeaten run to nine matches in all competitions with a 3-1 win at Fulham.

Raul Jimenez netted in the fifth minute, but Villa's Morgan Rogers equalised four minutes later.

Andreas Pereira had a penalty saved by Villa keeper Emiliano Martinez before the interval.

Ollie Watkins' 59th-minute header completed the comeback and Fulham's Joachim Andersen was sent off for a professional foul on the Villa striker five minutes later.

Issa Diop's 69th-minute own-goal sealed the win, although Villa had Jaden Philogene sent off for two yellow cards in three minutes.

Everton clinched

their first away win in 16 games in all competitions with a 2-0 victory against Ipswich.

Iliman Ndiaye fired into the top corner in the 17th minute and Michael Keane doubled Everton's lead in the 40th minute to leave fourth-bottom Ipswich without a win in eight league games.

Third-placed Arsenal will go top of the table if they win at Bournemouth in yesterday's final match.

On Sunday, Liverpool, currently in pole position, host sixth-placed Chelsea, while champions Manchester City travel to Wolves.



Manchester United's win over Brentford ended a six-game winless streak, marking only their third victory in eight Premier League games this season



Tottenham's Son Heung-min

Indonesia responds to Bahrain's request for neutral venue

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

In response to Bahrain's concerns, the Indonesian Football Association (PSSI) reassured Bahrain that full security would be provided for their national team during their visit to Jakarta.

Arya Sinulingga, a member of the PSSI Executive Committee, stated, "We will ensure the safety and comfort of our Bahraini guests. Indonesia is known for its hospitality, and we will leave no stone unturned in making them feel secure." Sinulingga also noted Indonesia's strong track record of hosting international events, such as the 2023 U-17 World Cup, without any major security issues.

Indonesia's Minister of Youth and Sports, Dito Ariotedjo, also weighed in, dismissing Bahrain's request to move the match. "There is no reason to relocate the game. The match will be held in Jakarta as scheduled, and we are fully prepared to host it. If Bahrain refuses to play here, Indonesia will be awarded the three points," Ariotedjo emphasized.

AFC Acknowledges Concerns

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has been informed of the concerns raised by the Bahrain Football Association regarding the safety and security of their national team ahead of the away match in the Asian



Players clash following the match (file photo)

qualifiers—the road to the 2026 World Cup—in Group C against Indonesia, scheduled for March 25, 2025.

Controversial Officiating Fuels Fan Backlash

The October 10 match in Riffa became a flashpoint for controversy when referee Ahmed Al Kahf extended injury time from the original six minutes to nine, allowing Bahrain to equalize in the 99th minute. This decision ignited outrage among Indonesian fans, who accused the Omani referee of bias.

Indonesian supporters took to social media in droves, venting

their frustrations and directing online harassment toward the BFA, Bahraini players, and AFC officials.

The intensity of the backlash, which included cyberattacks on the BFA's social media platforms and threats to Bahraini players, prompted Bahrain to appeal to both FIFA and the AFC to move the second leg to a neutral venue.

The second leg is scheduled for March 25, 2025. In their formal statement, the BFA emphasized the importance of ensuring the safety of their athletes and officials.

The officiating during the

October 10 match remains a focal point of controversy. Indonesia had been leading 2-1 when referee Ahmed Al Kahf extended injury time, allowing Bahrain to snatch a last-minute equalizer.

Indonesian fans questioned the fairness of the added time, leading to a surge of online protests that ultimately escalated into personal threats against players and officials.

Indonesian striker Ragnar Oratmangoen and Bahrain's Vincent Emmanuel were among the standout performers in the match, but their efforts were overshadowed by the heated fallout surrounding the refereeing decisions.

Awaiting a Final Decision

As both teams prepare for their second-leg encounter, Bahrain remains firm in its request for a neutral venue, while the PSSI continues to insist that the match will proceed in Jakarta. FIFA and the AFC have yet to announce a final decision regarding Bahrain's appeal.

The second-leg match is scheduled to take place on March 25, 2025, at Jakarta's Gelora Bung Karno Stadium, pending a final ruling from the governing bodies. The outcome of this request is eagerly awaited, as the tension from the first-leg encounter looms large over this crucial World Cup qualifying fixture.

Bahrain fall to China in U17 Asian Cup Qualifiers opener

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's U17 national team faced a challenging start to their AFC U17 Asian Cup qualifying campaign, suffering a 2-0 defeat to China in their Group C opener. The match, held in Dalian, saw China take an early lead and maintain control throughout, leaving Bahrain to regroup ahead of their next fixtures.

China's fast start caught Bahrain off guard, with forward Aibibula Nueraji chipping in the opening goal just two minutes into the match. Despite Bahrain's efforts to regain composure, the early setback disrupted their rhythm, and they struggled to find their footing against the well-organized Chinese side.

Throughout the match, Bahrain found it difficult to

break through China's relentless attack. Midfielder Bian Yulang doubled China's lead with a precise strike in the 60th minute, putting the game further out of Bahrain's reach. Although Bahrain's defense worked hard to withstand the pressure, they were unable to generate any clear chances on the offensive end.

China nearly extended their lead further when Yao Junyu's free kick struck the crossbar late in the game, but Bahrain's defeat was sealed as they failed to create any significant opportunities.

Bahrain will need to regroup quickly as they face a tough road ahead in their group stage matches. With fixtures against Bhutan, the Maldives, and South Korea still to come, Bahrain's hopes of advancing in the tournament will hinge on their ability to bounce back from this defeat.

CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Mohammad Basimul Haque S/O Junaid Ahmad** holding Indian Passport No:- **S3043773** dated 23/04/2018 issued at **Bahrain** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **Sonhaul, Chandpura Basaitha, Benipatti, Madhubani, Bihar** presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) **Villa 929, Road 214, Block Manama Center 302**, will henceforth be known as (Given name) **Mohammad Wasimul** (Surname) **Haque** Objection(s) if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, PO Box 26106, Bldg 1090, Road 2819, Block 428, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

New Zealand fight back after India's strong batting display

Fast bowlers shine as New Zealand aims for first victory over India since 1988

● India bowled out for 462 in second innings

● Sarfaraz Khan (150) and Rishabh Pant (99) star for India

● Target of 107 for New Zealand, rain halts their chase

AFP | Bengaluru

New Zealand hit back after smashing knocks by India's Sarfaraz Khan and Rishabh Pant on a rain-hit day four of the first Test yesterday, with the tourists needing 107 for victory.

Fast bowlers Matt Henry and William O'Rourke took three wickets each to bowl out India for 462 in the final session in Bengaluru.

New Zealand skipper Tom Latham and Devon Conway came out to bat but only four balls were bowled and no runs were scored before bad light forced the players off, a heavy downpour began and stumps were called.

"I wouldn't say it's an easy wicket here. Obviously we've got a world-class team going up against us," O'Rourke said.



India's Sarfaraz Khan plays a shot

"I think we've got to be confident going out there tomorrow and hopefully for the crowd's sake the rain stays away and we get the chance to have a crack at the total."

New Zealand will attempt on Sunday's final day to wrap up their first victory over India since 1988. The Black Caps have won just two Tests in India, including one in 1969.

The lowest target ever defended successfully in a Test by India

was 107 against Australia at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium in 2004.

Rain also interrupted play towards the end of the first session, with around two hours lost on an action-packed day.

Sarfaraz, who struck 150, and the left-handed Pant, who hit 99, put on 177 runs for the fourth wicket to overhaul India's big deficit of 356 before the second new ball did the trick for the Black Caps.

Sarfaraz, who hit his first ton in four Test appearances, fell soon after reaching 150 when he was caught at cover off Tim Southee.

"Since I started playing cricket, it was my dream to play for India and score a 100 for India. I am happy," the 26-year-old Sarfaraz told reporters.

"It is not an easy wicket and I feel the game has not slipped out of our hands. If we can take out two or three quick wickets then



they will suffer the same fate."

India collapse

O'Rourke denied Pant his century with a delivery from around the wicket that took the edge of the bat and rattled the stumps and then got KL Rahul out for 12 on the stroke of tea.

Pant came in to bat after resting on Friday with a knee injury.

It was the same knee he hurt in a serious car crash in December 2022 that forced him out of action for more than a year.

Wickets kept tumbling and Henry wrapped up the innings with two in one over.

India, who resumed on 231-3, lost seven wickets for 54 runs after New Zealand took the second

new ball in the 81st over. Rookie O'Rourke sent down three successive maiden overs with a wicket in each to finish with 7-114 from India's two innings. Before lunch, Sarfaraz punched a boundary off the back foot through cover off Southee to reach his ton, earning a hug from Pant and a standing ovation from fans and teammates. India were bowled out for 46 in the first innings, their third-lowest Test total and their lowest at home. New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra then put the tourists ahead with 134, steering them to 402 all out. The opening day's play was washed out due to rain.

SARFARAZ KHAN

Verstappen ends long wait for pole at US Grand Prix sprint qualifying

AFP | Austin

Max Verstappen swept to a convincing pole position for yesterday's sprint race at the United States Grand Prix in a fast and frantic qualifying session on Friday.

It was the first time in 12 events since the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix in May that the three-time world champion had secured any kind of pole position.

Verstappen clocked a best lap in one minute and 32.833 seconds to beat Mercedes' George Russell by 0.012 seconds with Charles Leclerc taking third place on the grid for Ferrari.

McLaren's Lando Norris, who trails Verstappen by 52 points in the championship with six Grands Prix including three sprints remaining, was fourth ahead of Carlos Sainz of Ferrari and Nico Hulkenberg of Haas.

"That was good," said Verstappen. "We had a good day. Sprint qualifying is always difficult. You never know how much you can push, but the car was working well."

"Of course I'm very happy to be first, it's been a while."

The Dutchman added: "It's always very hectic and you know this track is amazing to drive."



Max Verstappen celebrates after taking pole for the sprint

Norris was left frustrated after struggling for set-up balance with his car.

"That was not very good. We are struggling. And my lap was shocking," said the Briton.

"I hope I can go forward in the sprint, or at least that's the plan, but honestly for pace we are where we deserve to be."

'In the mix'

Russell said: "I'm happy and it's been a while since we were

"We had a good day. Sprint qualifying is always difficult. You never know how much you can push, but the car was working well. Of course I'm very happy to be first, it's been a while"

MAX VERSTAPPEN

on the front tow and my last run was strong. It's good to be back in the mix. The car is feeling great and it's close."

Seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton was seventh for Mercedes ahead of Kevin Magnussen in the second Haas, Yuki Tsunoda of RB and Williams' Franco Colapinto.

Both Sergio Perez of Red Bull and Oscar Piastri of McLaren failed to progress to the top ten shootout.

Day of thrills at Bahrain's Kids Triathlon Championship

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The Sofitel Bahrain Zallaq was buzzing with excitement as young athletes from Bahrain, the Gulf, and beyond gathered for The Triathlete Factory's Kids Triathlon Championship yesterday.

Supported by the Bahrain Olympic Committee and the Bahrain Triathlon Association, the event brought together over 150 children aged 6 to 15, showing their remarkable athletic talents in swimming, cycling, and running.

From the moment of arrival, the atmosphere was vibrant and filled with energy. The event kicked off at 3 PM with lively music that kept the spirits high, as announcers hyped up both the triathletes and the enthusiastic families cheering from the sidelines.

Participants came not only from Bahrain but also from neighbouring Gulf countries and international families living in Bahrain, making the event a truly diverse and festive occasion.

Divided into five age groups, each competitor gave their all



A view of the venue

across the three challenging legs of the event. The youngest group, 6 to 7-year-olds, impressed the crowd with their determination as they completed a 25-meter swim, an 800-meter cycle, and a 300-meter run. In the 14 to 15-year-old category, older triathletes took on a more demanding 300-meter swim, 4-kilometer cycle, and 2-kilometer run, pushing their limits under the cheering crowd's watchful eyes.

As the first leg of the TTF Kids Triathlon Series, this event set the stage for what's to come. The series will continue with races in Qatar on November 15 and Saudi Arabia on December 7.