

## Bahrain to host 17th Arab Games edition in 2031

Amman

Bahrain has won the bid to host the 17th edition of the Arab Games in 2031, while Jordan will organise the 18th edition in 2035.

The announcement was made during the 22nd General Assembly meeting of the Union of Arab National Olympic Committees, held in Jordan and chaired by Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki bin Faisal, President of the Union of Arab National Olympic Committees.

Bahrain's delegation to the meeting included Fajer Jassim, Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) board member and Director of Arab and International Relations and Olympic Solidarity, and Ahmed Abdul Ghaffar, Executive Director of Operations.

## ICC issues arrest warrants for Netanyahu

AFP | The Hague

The International Criminal Court yesterday issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defence minister, as well as Hamas's military chief Mohammed Deif.

Israel's closest allies, including the US, slammed the warrants against the Israeli politicians, but rights groups including Amnesty International welcomed them.

The ICC's move theoretically limits the movement of Netanyahu, as any of the court's 124 national members would be obliged to arrest him on their territory. (Detailed reports on World Page)

## Russia mid-range ballistic missile

AFP | Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin said yesterday that the country's forces had hit Ukraine with a new mid-range ballistic missile.

Putin said in a televised address that Russia carried out "testing in combat conditions of one of the newest Russian mid-range missile systems".

220 fils (includes VAT)



# Kingdom Ascends

## Bahrain Launches Groundbreaking Leadership Initiative

Mahir Haneef  
TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa has unveiled Bahrain's first executive leadership training initiative, a milestone programme designed to empower Bahraini professionals and elevate their leadership skills.

In partnership with globally renowned institutions, including Harvard Business Corporate Learning, HEC Paris, and INSEAD Business School, the initiative highlights Bahrain's dedication to nurturing world-class talent capable of driving economic growth and innovation.

Speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the Isa bin Salman Education Charitable Trust and the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), H.H. Shaikh Isa emphasised the Kingdom's commitment to advancing its workforce.

H.H. noted that investing in the skills and capabilities of Bahrainis is essential to positioning them as the preferred choice in the labour market, reinforcing their role in the Kingdom's development under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the guidance of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.



His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa with event organisers

Details about the application process for the programmes will be announced through Tamkeen's official channels in the coming weeks, providing Bahrainis with the opportunity to participate in this transformative initiative.

### Strategic Alignment

H.H. Shaikh Isa highlighted how these programmes align with Tamkeen's strategic priorities for 2024, which focus on creating employment opportunities for Bahrainis, enhancing career development pathways, and empowering private sector enterprises to adopt new technologies and improve productivity.

These goals not only aim to bolster the competitiveness of Bahrainis in the global labour market but also support the Kingdom's broader aspirations for sustainable economic growth.

Details about the application process for the programmes will be announced through Tamkeen's official channels in the coming weeks, providing Bahrainis with the opportunity to participate in this transformative initiative.

### Future Workforce

The launch of this initiative marks a significant step forward in Bahrain's efforts to build a resilient and innovative workforce, further strengthening its position as a leader in regional economic development.

By fostering local talent and supporting leadership development, the Kingdom continues to pave the way for a brighter, more prosperous future.

### Leadership Programmes

The initiative offers a series of carefully designed programmes aimed at professionals in middle and senior leadership roles within the private sector.

Among these is a leadership programme developed in collaboration with the EMIC Institute and Harvard Business Corporate Learning.

It focuses on equipping participants with critical skills in leadership, digital transformation, and fostering collaboration and innovation.

Another programme, designed with the EMIC Institute and INSEAD, is tailored for current and aspiring board members, addressing governance challenges and preparing them to excel in their roles.

Additionally, a programme created with HEC Paris seeks to empower women leaders, strengthening their capabilities and enabling their professional growth.

### Empowering Women

This initiative also includes an executive development programme dedicated to advancing the leadership roles of Bahraini women, reflecting a strong commitment to fostering gender equity in leadership.

By creating opportunities for professional growth, this component underscores the impor-



### Milestone project

# Vertical living: Bahrain's housing future

TDT | Manama

His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Deputy Prime Minister, inaugurated the first project under Bahrain's newly developed vertical housing model yesterday, marking a transformative milestone in the Kingdom's approach to social housing.

The innovative project in Salman City blends modern design with citizen-focused solutions, setting a benchmark for future housing developments.

Basim Yacob Al Hamer, President of the Survey and Land Registration Bureau, and H.E. Amna bint Ahmed Al Rumaihi, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning, attended the event,



H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa with senior officials at the event

highlighting the significance of this milestone in advancing Bahrain's vision for housing and urban development.

### Royal Support

H.E. Shaikh Khalid credited the unwavering backing of His

Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the continuous guidance of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for Bahrain's progress in social housing.

He highlighted the impor-

tance of these efforts in accelerating housing services and ensuring that suitable homes are delivered promptly to citizens.

The Deputy Prime Minister praised the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning for their implementation of this advanced project. He noted its innovative design, efficient use of space, and commitment to enhancing residents' quality of life.

The apartments are equipped with modern facilities and integrated services, making the development a distinguished model in vertical housing.

H.E. Shaikh Khalid extended his gratitude to the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, which financed the BD132 million project as part of the Gulf Develop-

ment Programme.

This collaboration highlights the importance of regional partnerships in supporting Bahrain's ambitious housing goals.

### Quality Living

Located on Island 12 in Salman City, the project includes 1,362 residential apartments designed to meet the specific needs of Bahraini families.

The designs were informed by social studies and surveys conducted by the ministry, ensuring alignment with contemporary living standards and citizen expectations.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning will conduct follow-up surveys after apartment allocations.

## HM King appoints iGA deputy CEO

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued Decree (92) of 2024, appointing a deputy chief executive officer at the Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA), based on the proposal of the Minister of Interior and following the approval of the Cabinet.

Under Article I, Ali Abdulaziz Mohammed Janahi shall be appointed as Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Electronic Transformation at the Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA), replacing Dr. Zakareya Ahmed Al Khaja.

The Minister of Interior shall implement this decree, which takes effect from the date of issuance and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

## Media personnel dies

TDT | Manama



Dr. Yousif Mohammed

The Ministry of Information mourned the passing of media personnel Dr. Yousif Mohammed, a prominent media figure, who passed away today after a distinguished career in national media.

It highlighted his contributions to local and regional media, noting his professionalism and ethical conduct.

The ministry extended heartfelt condolences to his family, loved ones, and the media community, praying to Allah Almighty to rest the soul of the deceased in eternal peace, and bless his relatives with patience and fortitude.

# Spring Awakens

Spring of Culture 2025: A Season to Celebrate Bahrain's Artistic and Cultural Soul

TDT | Manama

As the calendar flips to the new year, Bahrain will come alive with the vibrant hues of its much-anticipated Spring of Culture Festival, a beloved celebration of music, art, heritage, and innovation.

Now in its 19th edition, the festival promises to immerse residents and visitors alike in a cultural experience that bridges the past and present while offering a glimpse into the global arts scene.

## Cultural Collaboration

Announced yesterday, during a press conference at the Bahrain National Theatre, the festival is a joint effort between the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), Beyon Al Dana Amphitheatre, the Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Centre for Culture and Research, and a network of cultural spaces, including Albareh Art Space and La Fontaine Centre for Contemporary Art.

Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, President of BACA, expressed the festival's significance in connecting Bahrainis to their heritage.

"This year's Spring of Culture offers a captivating Bahraini, Arab, and global cultural experience, reminding us of the Kingdom's authentic spirit and its rich civilisation," he said, emphasising the festival's role in fostering cultural pride and collaboration.

## Musical Highlights

From grand orchestral performances to intimate folk tunes, the festival's music programme spans genres and geographies. The season opens on January 9th with Bahraini artist Ebrahim Habib, accompanied by the Bahrain Music Band, under the baton of Maestro Zeyad Zaiman. Beyon Al Dana Amphitheatre



The event offers a delightful mix of cultural experiences for visitors

and the Bahrain National Theatre will host global sensations like Grammy-winning composer Lorne Balfe, performing Top Gun: Maverick in Concert with the Manchester Camerata, and Dutch maestro André Rieu with his Johann Strauss Orchestra.

Fans of Arabic music can look forward to performances by Kaddim Al Sahir, Amal Maher, and Omar Khairat, who will collaborate with the Bahrain Philharmonic Orchestra.

Bahraini folk traditions will take centre stage at historic venues such as Dar Al Muharraq and Dar Bin Harban, featuring performances by local bands like the Ismaeel Dawas Band and Shabab Al Hidd Band.

## Art Exhibitions

The festival also transforms Bahrain into a canvas for creativity. Art enthusiasts can explore exhibitions such as Memories Carved in Steel by Spanish sculptor Juan Garaizabal at the Bahrain National Museum, and



SHAIKH KHALIFA BIN AHMED AL KHALIFA, PRESIDENT OF BAHRAIN AUTHORITY FOR CULTURE AND ANTIQUITIES (BACA)

This year's Spring of Culture offers a captivating Bahraini, Arab, and global cultural experience, reminding us of the Kingdom's authentic spirit and its rich civilisation

Twilight by Fatema Aljameaa at Albareh Art Space.

The Arts Centre will feature the Japanese crafts exhibition From Hand to Hand: 100-Year-New Craft, while the Art Concept Gallery will present Fayoum Portraits by Ahmed Emam.

In addition to visual art, workshops and interactive events will invite audiences to engage with traditional crafts, artificial intelligence in design, and filmmaking, ensuring a hands-on experience for participants of all ages.

## Heritage Exploration

The festival extends beyond concert halls and galleries, inviting audiences to discover Bahrain's storied past.

Guided tours will take visitors through the Pearling Path in Muharraq, the ancient site of

Qal'at Al Bahrain, and Manama's historical landmarks.

Interactive programmes, such as Tales from the Bahrain National Museum and On Board the Jalboot, promise to bring history to life.

The Post Office Museum will host From the Post every Saturday in February, offering cultural activities centred around rediscovering Manama's old neighbourhoods, markets, and landmarks.

## Inspiring Dialogues

Cultural dialogue takes the spotlight with lectures and seminars hosted by the Shaikh Ebrahim Centre, featuring luminaries such as Bahraini poet Qassim Haddad, Palestinian-American writer Susan Abulhawa, and Syrian cultural figure Ibrahim Al Dogheim.

These discussions promise to enrich the festival with diverse perspectives on literature, media, and heritage.

## Community Engagement

True to its ethos, the Spring of Culture Festival is as much about giving back as it is about celebration. Educational programmes, held in partnership with the Ministry of Education and other institutions, will provide workshops on crafts, heritage, and the arts, catering to students, families, and social groups.

With sponsorship from the Economic Development Board, BBK, and Tamkeen, alongside contributions from embassies of countries like the UK, France, and Italy, the festival exemplifies how cultural diplomacy and public-private collaboration can elevate a nation's artistic landscape.

## Joining Celebration

The festival invites everyone to be part of its journey. For event details and registrations, follow @springofculture on social media or visit [www.springofculture.org](http://www.springofculture.org).

From its roots in heritage to its embrace of global art forms, the Spring of Culture Festival is a celebration of Bahrain's evolving cultural identity - a season to inspire, educate, and unite.

## Health awareness event on diabetes



The Northern Governor visits the venue

TDT | Manama

Northern Governor Ali bin Al Shaikh Abdulhussain Al Asfoor attended a health awareness event on diabetes, organised by the governorate in collaboration with the World Health Organisation for World Diabetes Day, with participation from health sector entities and students from government schools.

The Northern Governor

emphasised the governorate's commitment to the Healthy Cities programme, highlighting its efforts to promote healthy lifestyles and foster community engagement through initiatives like the diabetes awareness event.

The event featured medical examinations and health awareness activities by Al Hilal Hospital, medical centres, and the Ministry of Health, alongside walking marathon with the students.

## Eco-friendly initiatives



Bahrain has adopted a sense of pioneering national initiative and programs aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions causing global warming to 30% by 2035 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2060. This was emphasised by His Excellency Dr. Mohamed bin Mubarak Bin Dainah, the Minister of Oil and Environment and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, as he participated in the high-level session held on the sidelines of the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC), in Baku.

## 'Forever Green' campaign



The National Initiative for Agricultural Development (NIAD) continues its national afforestation campaign, "Forever Green," with the planting of 64 trees and shrubs at the Ibn Khaldoon Social Centre, covering an area of 259 square metres, funded by the Trafco Group. The launch event was attended by Shaikha Maram bint Isa Al Khalifa, Secretary General of NIAD; Sahar Al Mannai, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Social Development; and Azzam Moutragi, CEO of Trafco Group. Shaikha Maram bin Isa highlighted the importance of continued collaboration between the public and private sectors to achieve environmental sustainability.

## Asian expat cleared of wage withholding charge

TDT | Manama

Claims that an Asian expat manager withheld wages from a colleague have been dismissed by the Sixth Minor Criminal Court, overturning an earlier fine of BD200.

The court ruled that the manager had no control over payroll and was wrongly accused.

The case arose when the manager was accused of withholding the employee's wages and being responsible for payroll distribution — claims he firmly denied.

Defended by lawyer Essam Al Tayeb, the manager explained that his role revolved around overseeing food supplies, coordinating with vendors, and ensuring the premises met health and safety standards.

### Job

Paying staff wages, he maintained, was never part of his job.

The defence described the allegations as baseless, pointing out that the manager had a cordial, professional relationship with the employee and there was no evidence of animosity or wrongdoing.



Essam Al Tayeb, lawyer

The lawyer argued that the accusations had been aimed at the wrong person, as the manager had no authority over salaries.

### Involvement

Witnesses were called to confirm the manager's role and his lack of involvement in payroll disputes.

The defence also urged the court to consider the absence of any intent to break the law or act unfairly.

In the end, the court ruled in favour of the manager, dismissing the case entirely.

## Bahraini man, company to pay BD3m in unpaid excise taxes

TDT | Manama

A Bahraini man and his company have been ordered by the Court of Cassation to pay nearly BD3 million in unpaid excise taxes.

The ruling comes after a two-year legal battle stemming from the importation of 465,431 units of electronic shisha devices and related products.

The Public Prosecution accused the defendant, between 2019 and 2021, of importing 123,860 pre-filled electronic smoking devices without paying the full excise tax, amounting to BD456,978,750.

The prosecution alleged this was a deliberate attempt to evade taxes.

### Tax evasion

Furthermore, the defendant was accused of possessing and distributing 341,571 units of electronic shisha ac-

cessories without paying the corresponding excise tax of BD444,099, again with intent to evade taxes.

The second defendant, the man's company, was also charged with tax evasion, as it is a legally registered entity operating in Bahrain, owned and managed by the primary defendant.

The company facilitated the alleged tax evasion activities.

### Verdict

Initially, the Lower Criminal Court acquitted the defendant. However, the Public Prosecution appealed the verdict.

The High Appeals Court unanimously overturned the acquittal, ordering the defendant to pay BD456,978,750 in unpaid taxes and a fine of the same amount for the first charge. For the second charge, the defendant was ordered to pay BD 444,099 in unpaid taxes and a fine of the same amount.

## New e-registration system to benefit Bahraini pilgrims

TDT | Manama

The Supreme Committee for Hajj and Umrah Affairs has emphasised the pivotal role of the new electronic registration system in streamlining the pilgrimage process for Bahraini pilgrims.

By fostering a competitive environment among service providers, the system has enabled pilgrims to access a variety of packages at competitive prices, significantly increasing interest in Hajj registrations.

### Features

The committee highlighted that the system's transparency and user-friendly features have empowered pilgrims to

compare packages and select campaigns that best meet their needs.

This competitive model has contributed to reducing the costs of Bahraini Hajj campaigns while ensuring that campaigns meeting the minimum participation requirements were those chosen by pilgrims themselves.

A key feature of the platform is its prioritisation of first-time pilgrims, offering enhanced opportunities for Bahrainis who have not performed Hajj before.

The system provides comprehensive and transparent information, ensuring an informed decision-making process.

# Fit for Marriage?

MPs press for drug screening, mental health check as part of premarital tests

H Naser  
TDT | Manama

A group of Bahraini MPs has proposed expanding mandatory premarital medical examinations to include drug screening and mental health assessments, aiming to address broader social challenges through early intervention.

### Current Requirements

Under the existing Law No. 11 of 2004, couples planning to marry must undergo medical checks for hereditary and infectious diseases.

The law also mandates counselling by doctors and requires those officiating marriages to verify the completion of these examinations.

### Proposed Amendments

The proposed amendment, submitted by MPs Basma Mubarak, Jaleela Al Alawai Al Sayed, Hanan Mohamed Ali Fardan, Hisham Ahmed Asheeri, and



Mahmoud Mirza Fardan, seeks to extend the scope of these tests.

In addition to the current requirements, it recommends mental health assessments and screenings for illegal drug use or misuse of prescription medications.

It also grants the minister the authority to impose further conditions as deemed necessary.

### Rationale Explained

The MPs' explanatory memorandum argues that assessing

the psychological stability of prospective spouses and identifying risks of addiction are crucial for fostering stable families.

It highlights the significant impact of addiction on family life, equating its potential harm to that of hereditary or infectious diseases.

"Mental health and addiction risks are fundamental to the success and stability of family life," the memorandum states, adding that early detection could help prevent long-term social and security issues stem-



**Mental health and addiction risks are fundamental to the success and stability of family life**

MPS' EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

ming from family instability.

### Building Stronger Families

The MPs emphasise that the proposal is part of a broader strategy to strengthen family structures, creating healthier environments for future generations and contributing to Bahrain's national development.

By addressing challenges before marriage, the lawmakers believe this approach will reduce risks to children and support societal stability.

The proposal is now under review by the Bahraini parliament, where its implications for families, public health, and national development are expected to be closely debated.

## Man missing after boat crash near Sitra following nightfall

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Rescue teams are struggling against strong currents and fading light as they search for 26-year-old Isa Ali, who disappeared near Sitra following a boat collision on Wednesday evening.

The accident has left his father in hospital and his family holding out hope for his safe return.

Isa had set out on a fishing trip with his father in the Al-Warf area earlier that day.

The pair departed at noon, but the exact circumstances of the collision remain unclear.

The accident occurred after nightfall, adding to the difficulties faced by search crews.

### Injuries

Isa's father suffered injuries to his head and legs and a minor brain bleed.



Isa Ali

He is now in a stable condition in hospital, according to Isa's uncle, Abdullah.

Rescue efforts, led by the Coast Guard and supported by divers, civil patrols, and local fishermen, began immediately after the collision and have continued into yesterday.

However, the strong tides in the area have slowed progress.



The Coast Guard's rescue efforts underway

### Operation

The Ministry of Interior confirmed yesterday that the Coast Guard is leading the operation.

Isa Ali, a married man from Al Hidd, has yet to be found.

His family, friends, and neighbours remain hopeful that he will soon be found and reunited with his loved ones.

## Employer charged with exploiting African worker

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Forced to endure gruelling hours without pay, an African woman's experience has led to her employer being charged with human trafficking, the Public Prosecution announced yesterday.

The case is now heading to the High Criminal Court.

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) reported that the defendant forced the victim to work unpaid for long hours under unsuitable conditions, with no time off.

Upon receiving the LMRA's report, the Public Prosecution began its inquiry without delay.

### Harsh conditions

Investigators recorded the victim's statement, in which she



detailed the harsh conditions she faced.

The victim was moved to a shelter run by The National Committee for Combatting Trafficking in Persons, where she is receiving care and protection.

Witness accounts were also taken, and police investigations gathered additional evidence.

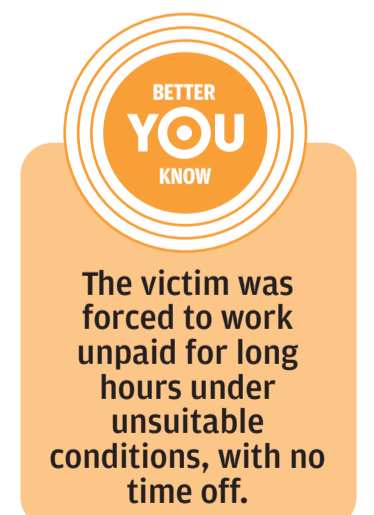
The defendant has since been charged with human trafficking

and will face trial in the High Criminal Court.

### Approach

This case shows the kingdom's active approach to addressing forced labour and human trafficking.

The LMRA and National Committee are key players in ensuring victims are supported while those responsible are held accountable.



The National Committee's shelters play a critical role in rescuing individuals from exploitation, offering them immediate safety and a chance to rebuild their lives.

# Revitalizing Malkiya Beach

Project promises to breathe new life into beloved coastal spot

H Naser  
TDT | Manama

The Al Malkiya Beach development project is one step closer to realization as the Bahrain Tender Board opened 12 bids yesterday, showcasing significant interest from contracting companies in enhancing one of the Kingdom's cherished public beaches.

## Project Details

The development aims to revitalise the northern beach with new facilities, including a cafe building, open-air restrooms, and a service building.



Facilities and services at Al Malkiya Beach are set to be upgraded to enhance the experience for beachgoers

Plans also include upgrades to the existing walkway and associated structures, ensuring a more enjoyable experience for beachgoers.

## Bids Submitted

Issued by the Northern Governorate Municipality, the tender drew bids ranging from BD76,702 to BD193,436.

Arab Concepts Construction emerged as the lowest bidder

at BD76,702, with Dynamic Construction following at BD109,489.

Other notable submissions included Al Safar Trading and Contracting Company at BD82,940, Al Jazim Contracting Establishment at BD83,575, and Gulf Fencing & Specialist Surfacing at BD88,761.

Al Asayel General Trading offered a bid of BD94,957, while Integrated Facilities Manage-

ment Company submitted the highest bid at BD193,436.

## Public Ambitions

The project is set to transform Al Malkiya Beach into a vibrant community hub, reflecting Bahrain's commitment to improving public spaces.

The final selection of a contractor will soon be announced, marking the next stage in bringing these upgrades to life.

# Shura Council supports Tamkeen funding reform

TDT | Manama

The Shura Council's Services Committee has approved a proposed amendment to Law No. 57 of 2006, significantly altering the criteria for receiving funding from the Labour Fund, Tamkeen.

The amendment, initially proposed by the Council of Representatives and subsequently refined following feedback from the government and Tamkeen, prioritises support for businesses with Bahraini ownership.

The revised law will focus Tamkeen's support on provid-

ing funding and support for projects with Bahraini shareholders, aiming to increase Bahraini employment, particularly in high-value-added projects.

It will also enhance access to consulting and financial services for companies and institutions with Bahraini ownership to improve worker efficiency and productivity.

Furthermore, support will be provided for programmes that train employers in Bahraini-owned businesses to adapt to evolving labour market demands.

# Southern Governorate steps up preparations for desert season



Safety is priority for the 2024-2025 desert season

TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Governor of the Southern Governorate, conducted an official visit to the Desert Services Centre to ensure the success of the upcoming desert season.

The visit aimed to evaluate service readiness and enhance the experience for campers and desert goers, underscoring the governorate's commitment to high-quality service delivery.

## Directives

His Highness was accompanied by Brigadier Hamad Mohammed Al Khayyat, Deputy Governor, along with key officials from the Ministry of Interior, government entities, and Southern Governorate authorities.

Emphasising the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts with relevant authorities to prepare for the desert season running from November 20, 2024, to February 20, 2025.

The initiative also reflects the continued support of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs.

During the visit, His Highness inspected the newly equipped Desert Services Centre, noting the state-of-the-art facilities and advanced devices designed to enhance the safety and comfort of desert visitors.

## Community partnerships

He stressed the importance of community partnerships with security and governmental agencies, including the General Traffic Department, Civil Defense Directorate, Southern Governorate Police Directorate, and National Ambulance Center, in ensuring a secure and organized camping season.

A visual presentation showcased the digital registration process available via the "Al Janoubia" application, enabling users to register electronically, choose camping locations, and access environmental and safety guidelines.

To date, over 2,800 registrants have utilized the system, reflecting significant public engagement.

# Stage Set for Record-Breaking Bhangra Celebration

TDT | Manama

A groundbreaking cultural event is set to take center stage in Bahrain, where This is Bahrain and Punjabi Virsa Bahrain are joining forces to break a Guinness World Record for the largest Bhangra performance.

Scheduled for December 13, 2024, this ambitious gathering will transform the Bahrain National Stadium car park into a sea of rhythm and unity, as organisers aim to bring together 5,100 participants - shattering the current record.

Bhangra, a spirited folk dance rooted in the Punjab region of the Indian subcontinent, traditionally marks the joy of the harvest season.

## Platform

However, this event will transcend its agrarian origins, offering a platform to celebrate diversity and foster community bonds across nationalities and backgrounds.

With no prior dance experience required, the organizers are inviting anyone aged 13 and above to don their dancing



Event organisers speak at a press conference held at the InterContinental Bahrain

shoes and join this historic moment.

At a press conference held at the InterContinental Bahrain in Manama, event organisers revealed that registrations are now open.

Enthusiastic participants can secure their spot by signing up through the Instagram account @punjabivirsa23bahrain.

## Vision

Speaking at the conference, organisers emphasised the event's inclusive vision.

"This isn't just about setting a world record," they said. "It's

about celebrating culture, heritage, and the unity that binds us as a global community. We want everyone to feel welcome, whether they've been dancing Bhangra for years or are stepping into it for the first time."

As anticipation builds, the event promises to highlight Bahrain's role as a hub for cultural exchange.

The choice of Bhangra, with its infectious energy and unifying spirit, mirrors the ethos of the island nation - where people of diverse backgrounds come together in celebration

and harmony.

## Attempt

The Guinness World Record attempt, backed by passionate organisers and the enthusiastic public, is more than just a dance performance.

It is a statement of Bahrain's commitment to inclusivity, community, and the celebration of shared heritage.

Mark your calendars, register early, and become part of a cultural milestone. December 13, 2024, is set to be a day when Bahrain dances its way into history, one vibrant step at a time.

# Filipino dressmaking trainees hail experience

TDT | Manama

Filipino participants of a seven-week dressmaking training program praised the initiative for equipping them with valuable skills that promise to open doors to employment and entrepreneurship.

The program was organised by Pinay IKaw Na (PIN) in collaboration with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Bahrain.

The graduation ceremony, held on November 8, 2024, at Arman Hotel, Juffair, celebrat-

ed the achievements of trainees who hailed the initiative as transformative.

Among them, Gina N. Langga, a 54-year-old housemaid from Tacoron, Sultan Kudarat, expressed heartfelt gratitude to OWWA and the Philippine government for the opportunity.

A resident of Bahrain for 28 years, Langga emphasised that the program not only provided her with dressmaking skills but also instilled a renewed sense of self-worth and purpose.

She shared how the training empowered her to contribute



A graduate receives her certificate of completion

meaningfully to her family and community, envisioning future opportunities for entrepreneurship and financial security.

Miriam Guese, an officer of PIN, highlighted the collaborative and interactive nature of the training, noting how participants worked together to hone their craft.

The initiative reflects the organisers' commitment to empowering overseas Filipinos with practical skills.

# World Diabetes Day activity

TDT | Manama

The Health and Social Affairs Directorate of the Interior Ministry organised an event to mark World Diabetes Day.

The event involved the General Directorate of Verdict Enforcement and Alternative Sentencing, the Office of Assistance Undersecretary for Planning and Organisation, the Supply and Catering Di-

rectorate, and the Office of the National Plan to Promote Nationalism (Bahrainouna).

The event was inaugurated by the Assistant Undersecretary for Administration Affairs, Shaikh Salman bin Rashid Al Khalifa, and included an awareness exhibition.

Government school students and beneficiaries of the alternative sanctions and open prisons participated in the event.

# Three Days of Culinary Excellence

The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain welcomes Culinary Masters for 30th Anniversary Event

TDI | Manama

The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain invites guests to experience Three Days of Culinary Excellence from November 25 to November 27, celebrating its 30th anniversary. Located on the Arabian Gulf, the luxury resort will showcase world-class chefs, mixologists, and a range of bespoke culinary experiences.

Esteemed guest Culinary Masters include Chef Alexis Beaufile, named the World's Best Confectioner in 2022; I Kadek Sugiantara, renowned for his vibrant Balinese street food; and two mixologists. They will join in-house culinary experts, such as Executive Chef Joergen Sodemann, Cluster Executive Chef Mahipal Singh, and Chef Alexis Knecht, for an extraordinary gastronomic event. Special experiences will include dishes



inspired by Indian, Mexican, and Italian cuisines, created by chefs like Mirsha Moreno and Cesar de Jesus.

The event partners with prestigious brands such as Valrhona, Cristal de Paris, HERB ALL, and Rothschild to enhance the

celebration, offering premium chocolates, crystal products, and luxury bubbly. The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain was established on No-

vember 26, 1994, and rebranded in 2003 as the 50th Ritz-Carlton in the world. Over the years, it has become a beacon of luxury hospitality, featuring the award-winning Ritz-Carlton Spa and 16 top-tier restaurants.

"We invite the Kingdom's residents to join us on a culinary journey," said Bernard de Villele, General Manager. The Three Days of Culinary Excellence will showcase creative talents from around the world, promising a one-of-a-kind experience.

The event include:

**La Gourmandise:** An elevated gourmet boutique offering chocolates from Valrhona and crystal products from Cristal de Paris.

**Masterclass with Alexis Beaufile:** Learn the art of cheesecake creation.

**Afternoon Tea at the Lobby Lounge:** Featuring Basilur Tea and signature pastries.

**Thai Lounge:** Discover Balinese street food with Chef I Kadek's vibrant creations.

**Burlington Club:** Enjoy Ritz-Carlton Bubbly and canapés, followed by glamorous performances and music.

**Primavera:** A 3-course Italian menu by Chef Mirsha Moreno.

**La Table Krug:** A fine dining French experience paired with Krug Champagne.

**Cantina Kahlo:** A celebration of Mexican flavors and Mariachi music.

**Nirvana:** An Indian culinary journey with Chef Mahipal, celebrating Indian heritage.

The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain offers an array of luxury accommodations and event spaces, perfect for meetings, weddings, or special occasions. For more information or reservations, call +973 1758 6499 or WhatsApp +973 3977 0525.

## Adani Group calls US bribery charges 'baseless'

AFP | New Delhi, India

India's Adani Group yesterday rejected charges made by US prosecutors that its founder Gautam Adani had paid more than \$250 million in bribes to secure lucrative government contracts.

"The allegations made by the US Department of Justice and the US Securities and Exchange Commission against directors of Adani Green are baseless and denied," the conglomerate said in a statement, adding that "all possible legal recourse will be sought".

Wednesday's indictment accuses Adani and multiple subordinates of paying huge sums of more than \$250 million in bribes to Indian officials for lucrative solar energy supply contracts. The deals were projected to generate more than \$2 billion in profits after tax over roughly 20 years.

None of the multiple defendants named in the case are in custody.

"The Adani Group has al-

ways upheld and is steadfastly committed to maintaining the highest standards of governance, transparency and regulatory compliance across all jurisdictions of its operations," the statement added.

"We assure our stakeholders, partners and employees that we are a law-abiding organisation, fully compliant with all laws."



Adani Group has recognition on TIME's "World's Best Companies 2024" list. This prestigious accolade acknowledges the group's outstanding performance in three key areas: employee satisfaction, revenue growth, and sustainability.

## Stock markets waver as Nvidia, Ukraine tensions urge caution

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Stock markets were little changed in Europe and on Wall Street Thursday after Ukraine claimed that Moscow fired an intercontinental ballistic missile, ratcheting up fears of further escalation in the war on Europe's doorstep.

Quarterly earnings from the AI chip giant Nvidia also gave investors reason for pause, failing to match the sky-high expectations of many analysts that might underpin further tech stock gains.

But bitcoin resumed its march higher at around \$97,000 on expectations that Donald Trump, spurred by cryptocurrency cheerleader Elon Musk, will bring it further into everyday use upon re-entering the White House in January.

"Will Americans be able to use crypto to pay their taxes in

### Key figures around 1455 GMT

New York - Dow:	▲ 0.2% at 43,489.58 points
New York - S&P 500:	▼ 0.1% at 5,907.37
New York - Nasdaq:	▼ 0.4% at 18,887.91
London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.5% at 8,123.38
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.1% at 7,190.62
Frankfurt - DAX:	▲ 0.3% at 19,065.93
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 0.9% at 38,026.17 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▼ 0.5% at 19,601.11 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 0.1% at 3,370.40 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.0531 from \$1.0545 on Wednesday
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.2632 from \$1.2652
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 154.09 yen from 155.45 yen
Euro/pound:	▲ at 83.38 pence from 83.33 pence
Brent North Sea Crude:	▲ 1.3% at \$74.07 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ 1.3% at \$70.04 per barrel

future? There is a bigger possibility of this happening now than before the election," said Kathleen Brooks, research director at XTB.

But the mood was decidedly more cautious in mainstream markets after this week's developments in the Ukraine war, with the US and Britain author-

ising Kyiv to make long-distance strikes into Russia, prompting warnings of retaliation by Moscow. Ukraine's claim Thursday that Moscow had fired an intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time in combat added to uncertainty over what might come next.

Oil prices also rose "as geopolitical tensions outweighed concerns over rising US crude supplies", said Matt Britzman, senior equity analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown.

Asian stocks had mostly fallen earlier Thursday under pressure from Nvidia's earnings, though analysts said profit-taking was unlikely to dampen enthusiasm for the key AI player.

"The negative market reaction to Nvidia's results suggests investors are now focusing on the minutiae rather than the big picture," said Dan Coatsworth, investment analyst at AJ Bell.

## Banana taped to a wall sells for \$6.2 million in New York

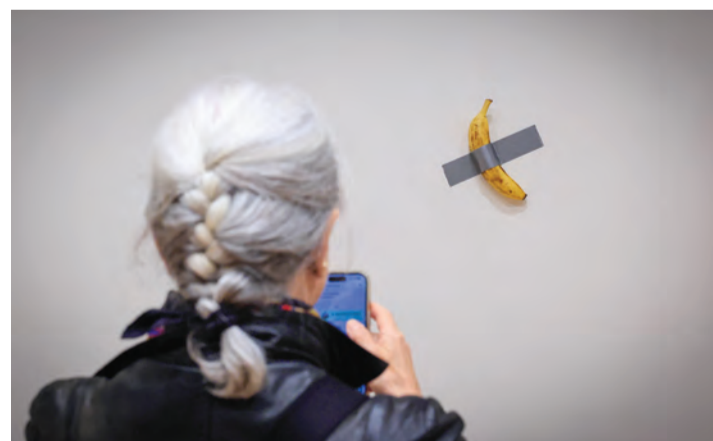
AFP | New York, United States

A fresh banana taped to a wall -- a provocative work of conceptual art by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan -- was bought for \$6.2 million on Wednesday by a cryptocurrency entrepreneur at a New York auction, Sotheby's announced in a statement.

The debut of the edible creation entitled "Comedian" at the Art Basel show in Miami Beach in 2019 sparked controversy and raised questions about whether it should be considered art -- Cattelan's stated aim.

Chinese-born crypto founder Justin Sun on Wednesday forked over more than six million for the fruit and its single strip of silver duct tape, which went on sale for 120,000 dollars five years ago.

"This is not just an artwork. It represents a cultural phenom-



enon that bridges the worlds of art, memes, and the cryptocurrency community," Sun was quoted as saying in the Sotheby's statement.

"I believe this piece will inspire more thought and discussion in the future and will become a part of history."

The sale featured seven poten-

tial buyers and smashed expectations, with the auction house issuing a guide price of \$1-1.5 million before the bidding.

Given the shelf life of a banana, Sun is essentially buying a certificate of authenticity that the work was created by Cattelan as well as instructions about how to replace the fruit

when it goes bad.

The installation auctioned on Wednesday was the third iteration -- with the first one eaten by performance artist David Datuna, who said he felt "hungry" while inspecting it at the Miami show.

Sun, who founded cryptomoney exchange Tron, said that he intended to eat his investment too.

"In the coming days, I will personally eat the banana as part of this unique artistic experience, honoring its place in both art history and popular culture," he said.

### 'Gone mad'

As well as his banana work, Cattelan is also known for producing an 18-carat, fully functioning gold toilet called "America" that was offered to Donald Trump during his first term in the White House.

His work is often humorous and deliberately provocative, with a 1999 sculpture of the pope stuck by a meteor titled "The Ninth Hour."

He has explained the banana work as a critical commentary on the art market, which he has criticized in the past for being speculative and failing to help artists.

The asking price of \$120,000 for "Comedian" in 2019 was seen at the time as evidence that the market was "bananas" and the art world had "gone mad," as The New York Post said in a front-page article.

The banana sold on Wednesday was bought for 35 cents from a Bangladeshi fruit seller on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, according to The New York Times.

Sun has hit headlines in the past as an art collector and as a major player in the murky cryp-

tocurrency world.

He was charged last year by the US Securities and Exchange Commission for alleged market manipulation and unregistered sales of crypto assets, which he promoted with celebrity endorsements, including from Lindsay Lohan.

In 2021, he bought Alberto Giacometti's "Le Nez" for \$78.4 million, which was hailed by Sotheby's at the time as signaling "an influx of younger, tech-savvy collectors."

Global art markets have been dropping in value in recent years due to higher interest rates, as well as concern about geopolitical instability, experts say.

"Empire of Light" ("L'Empire des lumieres"), a painting by Rene Magritte, shattered an auction record for the surrealist artist on Tuesday, however, selling for more than \$121 million at Christie's in New York.



News in brief

China blamed Washington's support for Taiwan for the failure of the two countries' defence ministers to meet this week, after US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin called Beijing's no-show "unfortunate". Multiple US media reported this week that Austin had hoped to meet his Chinese counterpart Dong Jun at a regional summit in Laos as part of efforts to maintain military contact between the two superpowers. Austin reportedly said China had declined the meeting, calling the decision "a setback for the whole region". Beijing hit back Thursday, saying "the responsibility for not holding a meeting... lies solely with the US side."



China blames US for failure of defence chiefs to meet

Ukraine yesterday accused Russia of having deployed a ballistic missile designed to carry nuclear warheads for the first time in history which, if confirmed, would be a major escalation of the war. Ukrainian allies have yet to confirm initial assessments from Kyiv's military that Russia had launched an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). The Kremlin has not denied it used the weapon, which can strike targets from a distance of thousands of kilometres, spokesman Dmitri Peskov refusing to comment when questioned. The Ukrainian air force said Moscow had launched the nuclear-capable missile as part of a barrage towards the central city of Dnipro, where local authorities said an infrastructure facility was hit and two civilians were wounded. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said experts were examining evidence before confirming an intercontinental ballistic missile had been fired by "our crazy neighbour". He said that the attack bore "all the characteristics" of an ICBM attack and accused the Kremlin of "using Ukraine as a testing ground".

UK former deputy PM John Prescott dies aged 86



Advanced Chinese warship showcased in Hong Kong



An advanced Chinese warship thought to play a key role in the country's South China Sea and Taiwan strategies sailed into Hong Kong yesterday, part of a publicity campaign showcasing Beijing's increasingly sophisticated military force. The 36,000-tonne Hainan is a helicopter-carrying amphibious assault ship that was hailed as a breakthrough for China's navy when it came into service in 2021.

China's defence ministry this week said it was there to showcase the country's "military development" and the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) "firm determination and strong capabilities in safeguarding national sovereignty and security". One expert told AFP its presence in Hong Kong was a deliberate reminder of China's authority there, after the quashing of the city's pro-democracy movement with a sweeping national security law in 2020.

"Sending some of the most powerful Chinese warships for public view in Hong Kong, in a way, symbolises and signals the very fact that (China's) government is behind the Hong Kong SAR government," Collin Koh, senior fellow at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, told AFP.

ICC issues arrest warrants for Netanyahu, Gallant, Deif

The Hague, Netherlands

The International Criminal Court yesterday issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former defence Minister Yoav Gallant, as well as Hamas's military chief Mohammed Deif. The ICC's move now theoretically limits the movement of Netanyahu as any of the court's 124 national members would be obliged to arrest him on their territory.



Israel's Defence Minister Yoav Gallant (L) and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Yoav Gallant, for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed from at least 8 October 2023 until at least 20 May 2024, the day the Prosecution filed the applications for warrants of arrest," the Hague-based ICC said in a statement.

A warrant had also been issued for Deif, it added. Israel said in early August it had killed Deif in an air strike in southern Gaza in July, although Hamas denies he is dead.

The arrest warrants had been classified as "secret", to protect witnesses and to safeguard the conduct of the investigations,

the court said. "However, the Chamber decided to release the information below since conduct similar to that addressed in the warrant of arrest appears to be ongoing," the tribunal said.

"Moreover, the Chamber considers it to be in the interest of victims and their families that they are made aware of the warrants' existence."

ICC chief prosecutor Karim Khan in May requested the court issue arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant over alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza. Netanyahu sacked Gallant as

defence minister on November 5. Khan also sought warrants against top Hamas leaders including Mohammed Deif on suspicion of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The prosecutor dropped the application for Ismail Haniyeh, the group's political leader, on August 2 "because of the changed circumstances caused by Mr Haniyeh's death" in Tehran on July 31, the ICC earlier said in a statement. Since Hamas conducted its October 7, 2023 attack, the deadliest in Israeli history, Israel has been fighting a war in Gaza, which the militant group rules.

YOU KNOW WHAT The Hamas government's health ministry in the Gaza Strip said Thursday that at least 44,056 people had been killed in more than 13 months of war. 104,268 people had been wounded in the Gaza Strip since the war began.

World leaders split over ICC arrest warrants

Paris, France

Israel and its close allies were furious, human rights groups rejoiced, and many countries responded cautiously after the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant on Thursday for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The court also issued warrants for Israel's former defence minister as well as Hamas's military chief Mohammed Deif.

The warrants were issued in response to accusations of crimes against humanity and war crimes in the bloody conflict set off by the militant Palestinian group's October 7, 2023 attacks and Israel's retaliation.

Israel: New 'Dreyfus trial' "The anti-Semitic decision of the International Criminal Court is comparable to the modern-day Dreyfus trial -- and it will end in the same way," Netanyahu said in a statement, referring to the 19th-century Alfred Dreyfus affair in which a Jewish army captain was wrongly convicted of treason in France before being exonerated.

US: 'Fundamentally rejects' The United States "fundamentally rejects" the ICC's decision and "we remain deeply concerned by the prosecutor's rush to seek arrest warrants and the troubling process errors that led to this decision. The United States has been clear that the ICC does not have jurisdiction over this matter," a National Security Council spokesperson said.



A Palestinian man reacts as he carries a young victim inside the Kamal Adwan hospital following an Israeli strike that hit an area near the medical establishment in Beit Lailya in the northern Gaza Strip

does not have jurisdiction over this matter," a National Security Council spokesperson said.

Hamas: 'Justice' "(It's) an important step towards justice and can lead to redress for the victims in general, but it remains limited and symbolic if it is not supported by all means by all countries around the world," Hamas political bureau member Bassem Naim said.

European Union: 'Binding' EU foreign policy chief Joseph Borrell said the warrants were "binding" and should be implemented.

Human Rights Watch: 'Secure justice' "The ICC arrest warrants against senior Israeli leaders and a Hamas official break through the perception that certain individuals are beyond the reach of the law. These warrants should finally push the international community to address atrocities and secure justice for all victims in Palestine and Israel."

Amnesty International: 'Wanted man' "Prime Minister Netanyahu is now officially a wanted man," said Amnesty's Secretary General Agnes Callamard. "ICC member states and the whole international community must stop at nothing until these individuals are brought to trial before the ICC's independent and impartial judges."

Italy: 'Will evaluate' "We support the ICC, while always remembering that the court must play a legal role and not a political role. We will evaluate together with our allies what to do and how to interpret this decision."

Sweden: 'Independence and integrity' "Sweden and the EU support the important work of the court and safeguard its independence and integrity," Foreign Minister Maria Malmer Stenergard said.

Turkey: 'Positive decision' The ICC's decision "is a belated but positive decision to stop the bloodshed and put an end to the genocide in Palestine," Turkish Justice minister Yilmaz Tunc said on X. "The barbaric Israeli authorities, who target our innocent Palestinian brothers and sisters... must be brought to justice as soon as possible for their war crimes and crimes against humanity."

Argentina: 'Deep disagreement' Argentina "declares its deep disagreement" with the decision, which "ignores Israel's legitimate right to self-defence against the constant attacks by terrorist organisations like Hamas and Hezbollah," President Javier Milei posted on X.

India: 'Confidence' "It is important that the ICC carries out its mandate in a judicious manner. I have confidence that the court will proceed with the case based on the highest fair trial standards," Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide said.

Spain holds 1st talks with Palestinian govt since recognising state

Madrid, Spain

The Spanish and Palestinian prime ministers signed four agreements yesterday at an inter-governmental meeting in Madrid, the first since Spain officially recognised the state of Palestine in May.

The gathering, held at Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's official residence, is a "symbol of Spain's commitment to the present and future of Palestine", the Spanish government said in a statement.

The aim is to "help promote Palestine's statehood at the international level" and encourage other nations to follow the example of Spain, Ireland, Norway and Slovenia, the statement added.

All four officially recognised the state of Palestine earlier this year. The agreements signed by Sanchez and Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa aim to boost cooperation in labour, education, youth and agriculture.

Following today's meeting, Spain has committed to providing Palestine with at least 75 million euros (\$79 million) over the next two years," the government said.

It did not provide details as to how the aid would be distributed. Sanchez wrote on X after the meeting that the encounter had been held "on an equal footing, to promote the prosperity and development of our societies".

Mustafa said in a statement he trusted the meeting would "serve as a catalyst for further cooperation between our nations, strengthening the bonds of friendship and solidarity that we cherish".

Russian spokeswoman told not to comment on Ukraine missile strike live on air



Moscow, Russia

Russia's foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova received a phone call during a live press briefing yesterday telling her not to comment on reports of a ballistic missile strike on Ukraine, video showed.

The hot mic moment came after Ukraine accused Russia of firing an intercontinental ballistic missile at the city of Dnipro, in what Russian military bloggers speculated was an attack on aerospace manufacturer Pivdenmash -- previously known as Yuzhmash. "Masha," an unknown male voice on the phone said, addressing Zakharova using a diminutive form of her first name.

"On the 'Yuzhmash' ballistic missile strike that the West-erners have started talking about, we are not commenting

at all," the voice added.

In later comments to Russian state news agency TASS, Zakharova said the phone call was aimed at clarifying whether the foreign ministry was able to broach a specific topic and dismissed any "intrigue".

"I clarified with experts whether this topic is ours. The answer came during the briefing -- not comment. So there is no intrigue," she told the news agency.

The Ukrainian air force said earlier Russia had launched several types of missiles at Dnipro in the morning, including an intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time since the conflict began.

An air force source told AFP it was "obvious" that the missile, which is designed to carry both conventional and nuclear warheads, did not carry a nuclear charge.

Modi in Guyana to strengthen ties, talk oil deal



Guyana's President Irfaan Ali (4th R) posing with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (C) and the leaders of the other member countries during the family photo of the second Caricom-India summit in Georgetown

Georgetown, Guyana

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a state visit Wednesday to the South American country of Guyana, where 40 percent of the population is of subcontinental origin.

Modi signed cooperation agreements with President Irfaan Ali in the fields of agriculture, defense and hydrocarbons -- the last of which the tiny nation possesses major reserves of.

"In our meeting today, we identified new initiatives to further strengthen our cooperation. We will continuously make efforts to enhance our mutual trade and economic cooperation," Modi said after the meeting in Georgetown.

He paid homage to the people who arrived from the Indian subcontinent about 180 years ago, many under a system of indentured labor that served as a replacement for slavery under British colonial rule.

Modi said the community was making a "very important contribution" to Guyana's development.

"It's a matter of pride for me and for 1.4 billion Indians," said Modi. Ali said Modi's visit was important to boost cooperation between two nations with a shared heritage "by culture, by blood".

Guyana's minister for natural resources, Vickram Bharat, told reporters India was interested in buying Guyanese petrol.

Modi will address a summit of the CARICOM bloc of Caribbean nations, headquartered in Georgetown, before leaving Guyana on Thursday. Guyana, an English-speaking former British and Dutch colony, has the world's biggest reserves of crude oil per capita, but the vast majority of its 800,000 people live in poverty. The country is embroiled in a dispute with neighbor Venezuela over an oil-rich region they both lay claim to.

TOP 4 TWEETS 01

My appeal to negotiators & ministers at the #COP29 climate conference: Soften hard lines. Navigate a path through your differences. Keep your eyes on the bigger picture. Never forget that the future of humanity is at stake.

02

A phenomenal accomplishment! Congratulations to our hockey team on winning the Women's Asian Champions Trophy. They played exceptionally well through the tournament. Their success will motivate many upcoming athletes.

03

The Democrats are trying to stack the Courts with Radical Left Judges on their way out the door. Republican Senators need to Show Up and Hold the Line -- No more Judges confirmed before Inauguration Day!

04

A fully reusable orbital rocket is the critical breakthrough needed to make life multiplanetary

## autobuzz



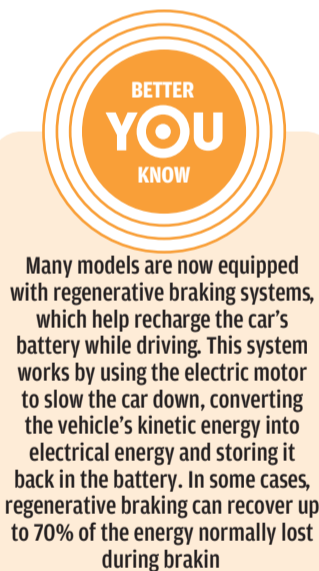
## Hyundai Ioniq 9 debuts with up to 620 km range

TDT | agencies

South Korean carmaker Hyundai has unveiled its latest flagship electric SUV, the Ioniq 9, targeting the global market. This new model, a three-row electric SUV, is set to go on sale in South Korea and the United States in the first half of next year, with availability in other global markets to follow shortly afterwards.

The Hyundai Ioniq 9 has dimensions of 5,060 mm in length, 1,980 mm in width, and 1,790 mm in height, with a wheelbase of 3,130 mm. It boasts a drag coefficient of 0.259 Cd, slightly better than the Mercedes EQS SUV, which has a 0.26 Cd. The SUV offers 620 litres of boot space, expandable to 1,323 litres with the third row folded down. In addition, the rear-wheel drive (RWD) version provides an 88-litre frunk, while the all-wheel drive (AWD) variant offers 52 litres.

Design-wise, the Ioniq 9 features a rounded front end with Hyundai's signature Parametric Pixels and a vertical tailgate equipped with full-combination tail lights. The vehicle comes standard with 19-inch alloy wheels, with optional upgrades to 21 inches. Buyers can choose



from 16 exterior colours and seven interior configurations.

Inside, the Ioniq 9 is available in six or seven-seater layouts. Both front rows are equipped with massage functions, while the second row includes swivelling seats, enabling passengers to face those in the third row. Additional features include a panoramic sunroof,

dual 12-inch displays for the digital instrument cluster and infotainment system, multi-zone climate control, roof-mounted air vents, USB-C ports (100W) in all three rows, an 8-speaker sound system, and an optional 14-speaker Bose audio system with synthesised driving sounds.

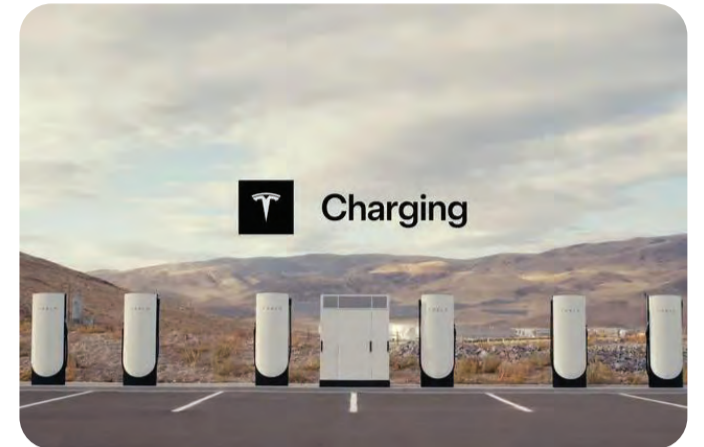
The Ioniq 9 is built on Hyundai's E-GMP platform and is offered in two trims: Long Range and Performance, both featuring a substantial 110.3 kWh battery. The Long Range model offers both RWD and AWD configurations, while the Performance

comes exclusively with AWD.

Hyundai claims a maximum range of 620 km on a single charge (WLTP cycle) for the Long Range model. The Ioniq 9 Long Range RWD delivers 218 BHP and 350 Nm of torque, while the AWD adds an additional 95 BHP and 255 Nm to the front axle. The top-tier Performance model is equipped with 218 BHP motors on both axles, achieving 0-100 km/h in just 5.2 seconds. The Ioniq 9 supports fast charging up to 350 kW, enabling a 10-80% charge in just 24 minutes.



## Tesla's V4 superchargers to deliver 500 kW speeds next year



TDT | agencies

Tesla is gearing up to launch its V4 Supercharging stations next year, according to reports. These new V4 Superchargers are expected to deliver charging speeds of up to 500 kW for electric vehicles and 1.2 MW for commercial trucks.

Installation of the V4 cabinets has already begun, but Tesla plans to upgrade the stall electronics next year to enable faster charging speeds. Although V4 stalls were introduced in Europe and select

locations in the United States last year, they are currently limited to V3 Supercharger capabilities, which max out at 250 kW.

In addition to enhanced charging power, the V4 Supercharger stalls will feature new physical payment terminals, longer cables, and CCS connectors, making them compatible with Tesla vehicles as well as other manufacturers' EVs. Tesla also claims that V4 cabinets can be deployed more quickly and are capable of powering up to eight stalls each.

## Ford CEO Jim Farley praises Xiaomi SU7, calls it a Game-Changer

TDT | agencies

Ford CEO Jim Farley recently shared on a podcast that he imported a Xiaomi SU7 from China and has been driving it around the Chicago for the past six months. He praised the vehicle, calling it "fantastic" and expressing his reluctance to give it up. Farley also shared how this experience made him realize how much Western automakers, including Ford, have lagged behind Chinese companies in innovation, particularly in the automotive space.

Farley remarked that while Western tech companies like Apple don't have a significant presence in the automotive industry, Chinese firms like Huawei and Xiaomi are deeply

embedded in vehicle development. He emphasized the popularity of the Xiaomi SU7, noting that it sells tens of thousands of units each month, often selling out for months in advance. "The Xiaomi car exists, and it's fantastic," he said. "That is a consumer brand much stronger than car companies."

His comments reportedly gained significant attention in China, sparking conversations among industry analysts. Farley reflected on the shift in competition, saying, "I can't unlearn the fact that the Detroit Three never really had a plan... we're going to have to get it right from scratch."

## Australian drivers over 50 could face mandatory refresher lessons

TDT | agencies

A recent report suggests that Australian drivers over 50 could soon face mandatory driving lessons. Researchers at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, argue that all drivers, regardless of a clean record, should undergo re-examinations to enhance road safety.



Kaarin Anstey, a UNSW Scientia Professor specializing in cognitive ageing, highlighted that driving errors are not always tied to age but often to ingrained habits developed over the years.

Anstey has been leading research to boost older driver safety, including the 'Better Drive Study,' which tracked

over-65 drivers for a year. Although results are still pending, she confirmed that targeted interventions can improve the driving skills and safety of older drivers.

Discussing the need for re-evaluation, Anstey noted, "We frequently observe drivers not checking blind spots, misjudging right turns, cutting

corners, or drifting from lanes—issues often rooted in bad habits from their youth. Many don't consider updating their driving skills over time."

She suggested a potential solution: "At 50, drivers might be invited to take a refresher lesson, a step currently only triggered by noticeable driving issues."







# Classifieds

**VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED**

CHEMMANUR JEWELLERS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17229766 or CHEMANUR@BATELCO.COM.BH

4W SECURITY CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39772772 or info@sss.bh

Heritage Sweets and Pastries has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 77744888 or ALKHALIFAFATIMA82@GMAIL.COM

GULF & ARAB WORLD RESTAURANT CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262998 or SSALEH@AMERICANA.BH

MOTOR CITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of GENERAL MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262262 or HR.S@EKKANOO.COM.BH

ALGHADEER VISITOR ASSISTANT SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33656333 or SIMOCONT99@GMAIL.COM

SHARYAR INTERNATIONAL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36806463 or SHARYARKHANSHARYAR064@GMAIL.COM

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDBLASTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37787773 or DUAIJMALKHALIFA@ASRY.NET

NEW ALMUGHAL MECHANICAL WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17491570 or almghalpk@yahoo.com

RADHWAN BAKERIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17645655 or RADHWANBAKER@GMAIL.COM

RMA MIDDLE EAST W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17008425 or SIMONE.SCHREIBER@RMA-RHEINAU.DE

4W SECURITY CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39772772 or info@sss.bh

ARGAN DAY SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39818998 or HUSSAIN1897@GMAIL.COM

NOOR HANAN SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35904595 or ADILKHAN334442@GMAIL.COM

4W SECURITY CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39772772 or info@sss.bh

TEXEL AIR W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of AIR TRANSPORT PILOT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17200096 or HAMZA.DARWISH@CHISHOLMENTERPRISES.COM

Stiller Agency for the Supply Workers w. l. I has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17717730 or rsuresh@alazzamgroup.com

FIORANTINA MENS SALOON CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66356021 or MADNAN6021@GMAIL.COM

4W SECURITY CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39772772 or info@sss.bh

AL RAFEEQ TOWER EXCAVATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39000116 or MOSAWI67@HOTMAIL.COM

Ladaid bojawher restaurant has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36113030 or ISA.JOHAR.EBRAHIM@GMAIL.COM

HARDEEZ RESTURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262998 or MAHMED@AMERICANA-FOOD.COM

FRESH TECH AIR CONDITIONING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36907579 or buttsam901@gmail.com

JASMI'S CORPORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17588787 or lmra@jasmis.com

I T Y CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39297380 or MARIARASOOL90@GMAIL.COM

SANA INTERIORS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably

qualified applicants can contact 33316063 or RASHID.DXB01@GMAIL.COM

Amans Food Trading Co W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33600675 or SALES@AMANSFOOD.CO

AFAQO ALKALIJ EXCAVATION & BUILDING EQUIPMENTS RENTLAL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(ROAD MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 13644244 or afaqalkhalij@gmail.com

Hot and Sour Restaurant.W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39883440 or KINGSMAN.BAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

NEW SEVEN SKY SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35025302 or MDBH294@GMAIL.COM

DAR AL HAMOUZ FISH RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34344084 or EBRAHIM\_646@HOTMAIL.COM

DREAM TOYS AND GIFTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39622347 or ABD11@REDIFFMAIL.COM

MELO BEAUTY LOUNGE has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17777706 or MELOBEAUTYLOUNGE.BH@GMAIL.COM

AREENA CONTRACTOR GROUP CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17245222 or ALANSARI@AREENAGROUP.COM

KUPPAYAM BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38782839 or SHANAC6@GMAIL.COM

4W SECURITY CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39772772 or info@sss.bh

GUJJAR AC ELECTRINC REPAIRING SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33982664 or RAMZANGUJJAR64@GMAIL.COM

SANGINAK PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ADVERTISING SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33286823 or BUSINESSBAY05@GMAIL.COM

FLORIDA GULF CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33323995 or clearance@jaradahfish.com

AZIAN FASHION has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36360595 or ALKOOHEJ192@GMAIL.COM

BOU BILAL BAKER has a vacancy for the occupation of BREAD BAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36120088 or ABDULLAABDULHALEM183@GMAIL.COM

SABEL AIR CONDITIONING SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66699596 or DANA44012@GMAIL.COM

NILE EGYPT FOR EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION 2 W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39014947 or OMARSIEM5777@GMAIL.COM

BLACK HAWK TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33316063 or SAJJADBUTT125@YAHOO.COM

O.B.C CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17213989 or MUFADDALBUILDINGMATERIALS@GMAIL.COM

MUGHAL DOCUMENT CLEARANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COMPUTER OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34000328 or KHURRAM474358@GMAIL.COM

PENTON PUBLICITY AND ADEVERTISING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35040213 or AKHTARANAS@GMAIL.COM

ADAM SUPER SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33455252 or HAROON.SHAHBAN@GMAIL.COM

MUNEER COMBINED SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37396027 or FAISALKHATTAK149@GMAIL.COM

DESKY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33178630 or MOON6786@GMAIL.COM

## World Boccia Challenger Series concludes

**Hussain Almaskati**  
TDT | Manama

The World Boccia Challenger Series 2024 in Manama concluded on Wednesday, with five days of gripping action at Isa Sports City's Hall D. Bringing together 70 elite Para athletes from 14 countries, the event displayed both the technical mastery and emotional intensity that define boccia—a sport where precision meets nerves of steel.

Isa Al Marjan Leads Bahrain's Charge

For Bahrain, the standout moment came from Isa Al Marjan, whose poise and determination earned him a silver medal in the highly competitive BC4 category. Al Marjan's achievement is a testament to his talent and the meticulous preparation behind the scenes, spearheaded by the



Bahrain Paralympic Committee. "It's an incredible feeling to represent Bahrain on this stage and deliver a result we can all be proud of," Al Marjan said, reflecting on his journey to the podium. His silver medal highlights Bahrain's growing prominence in Para sports and the promise of future successes.

- Hungary: 2 Gold
- Sweden: 2 Gold
- India: 1 Gold, 1 Silver, 3 Bronze
- Singapore: 1 Gold, 1 Silver
- Ukraine: 1 Gold, 2 Silver
- Kazakhstan: 2 Silver, 1 Bronze
- Saudi Arabia: 1 Silver, 1 Bronze
- Bahrain: 1 Silver
- Belgium: 1 Silver
- ustralia: 1 Bronze

The Bahrain Paralympic Committee, led by Sheikh Mohammed bin Duaij Al Khalifa, has once again proven its commitment to fostering Para sports on the world stage. Bahrain's focus now shifts to upcoming events, including the World Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships, as the nation continues its pursuit of sporting excellence and inclusion.

### The Final Rankings

The competition saw an impressive display of talent from across the world. Here's how the nations stacked up:

- Hong Kong, China: 2 Gold, 2 Silver, 1 Bronze
- South Korea: 2 Gold, 1 Silver, 3 Bronze

# Bahrain to host 17th Arab Games in 2031

**TDT | Manama**

Bahrain has secured the bid to host the 17th edition of the Arab Games in 2031, while Jordan will welcome the 18th edition in 2035. This decision was announced during the 22nd General Assembly meeting of the Union of Arab National Olympic Committees, held today in Jordan, under the leadership of His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al-Faisal, President of the Union.



The Bahraini Olympic Committee was represented at the meeting by Board Member Fajr Jassim, Director of Interna-

tional and Arab Relations and Olympic Solidarity, and Executive Director of Operations, Mr. Ahmed Abdel Ghaffar.

The meeting included a review of reports on the 15th Arab Games, which took place in Algeria in 2023, and the Arab Women's Club Games in Sharjah from February 2-12, 2024. Additionally, the annual report for 2023 was approved, along with the financial statements and the independent auditor's report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023. The meeting also saw the appointment of Pure Company to develop the association's strategy moving forward.

## Bahrain ready to host para Taekwondo events

**Hussain Almaskati**  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain is preparing to make history with the First World Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships and the Bahrain Para Taekwondo Open 2024, both set to take place this week.

The World Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships (November 26-27) is expected to be a milestone for Para Taekwondo, bringing together athletes from around the world to compete in a discipline that com-



Paralympic Committee, emphasized the importance of these championships in promoting an inclusive sports culture. "These events represent not only an opportunity for Para athletes to compete at the highest level, but also a moment for Bahrain to demonstrate its commitment

to developing sports for all, regardless of ability." The World Taekwondo Federation and Dr. Chungwon Choue, its President, expressed excitement at the collaboration, stating: "Bahrain's passion for sports and inclusivity is truly inspiring. With the support of the Bahrain Paralympic Committee, we are confident that these events will not only set a high bar for Para Taekwondo but also empower athletes with impairments to continue breaking barriers in the sport."

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### Bahrain Basketball Federation



The Bahrain Basketball Federation has expressed its deep gratitude towards His Excellency Abdulaziz Al Eid, Bahrain's Ambassador to Tunisia, for his exceptional support in facilitating the national basketball team's training camp in Tunisia. In a statement, Mr. Alaa Madara, President of the Bahrain Basketball Federation, acknowledged the ambassador's efforts and those of the embassy staff in ensuring the smooth operation of the camp. The Bahrain national team is now preparing for their upcoming matches, starting with a clash against Syria this Friday at the Khalifa Sports City Hall. They will then face the UAE in Dubai on Monday, as they continue their preparations for regional competitions.

# BIC set for season-opening Race Day

## 2024/2025 Drag Racing Championship

TDT | Manama

The action and intensity are set to hot up tomorrow as the opening Race Day in the 2024/2025 season of the Bahrain Drag Racing Championship lights up the strip at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir.

More than 200 participants – including 140 cars and over 60 bikes – from around the world have been competing over three days from Tuesday to Thursday in Test and Tune and Qualifying.

The stage is now set for the heated eliminations, which will be the culmination of the first of five rounds in the new national campaign.

Leading drag racers and their crews from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Lebanon, Palestine, Canada, and the US have flocked to 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East'



to be a part of the region's biggest and most competitive drag racing series this week.

They have been going head-to-head along BIC's world-class quarter-mile drag strip – part of the NHRA Worldwide Network of the U.S.-based National Hot Rod Association (NHRA).

The drag racers are battling it out in 14 categories for both cars and motorbikes. The car classes include the Index 7.5, Pro 29.5 V8, Outlaw 4 Cylinder, Outlaw 6 Cylinder, Index 10.00, Index 9.00, Index 8.50, Competition 4.5, and Pro Mod; while the motorbike classes are Pro Street Bike, Street Fight 9.5, Index 8.5 Bike, Outlaw Bike, and Street Fight.

The championship, which is sanctioned by the NHRA, is being organised and run by BIC in

cooperation with the Bahrain Motor Federation and Bahrain Drag Racing Commission.

Friday's Race Day programme is scheduled to get underway at 4pm and continue well into the night.

Those wishing to attend the meeting and enjoy the high-octane drag racing action can purchase tickets at BD3 apiece for BIC's Beyon Grandstand. Tickets can be bought online at bahraingp.com, by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000, or at the gate.

The drag racers are competing at BIC for glory, bragging rights, and all-important championship points. At the end of the season, each category will crown their champion, who will get to take home a prestigious 'Wally Trophy' – awarded

only to title winners of NHRA events. The 'Wally' is drag racing's most prestigious accolade. It has been named after NHRA founder Wally Parks, and has been handed out since the 1969 NHRA season in the US.

Also available to fans attending on Friday is the Dragster Experience – BIC's most adrenaline-pumping passenger activity. Known as 'the Fastest Ride on Earth', this offers fans the chance to get a taste of pure speed as they are taken from zero to 100kph in just one second while in the cockpit of a 10,500cc Top Dragster. It can be enjoyed individually or by two passengers at a time.

The Dragster Experience is available at BD44 for a first passenger, while a second passenger can join for half the price.

## 30% Early Bird discount on tickets to Bahrain Darts Masters 2025 to end on Monday

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', is calling on fans wishing to attend next year's Bahrain Darts Masters to purchase their tickets today to take advantage of the incredible 30 per cent Early Bird discount, which will end on Monday.

The first World Series of Darts event of 2025 will be hosted by BIC on 16 and 17 January and it will feature a world-class, 16-player field featuring the biggest names in the game. The Bahrain Darts Masters is organised by BIC and sports promoter CBX and supported by the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA).

The 30 per cent Early Bird promotion is scheduled to conclude at the end of the day on Monday (Editor's note: 25 November).

Tickets for next year's Bahrain Darts Masters currently start from BD21 – after the Early Bird discount – for a two-day pass. Premium seating, including stage-side tables, are available for BD35, while VIP seats cost BD180 apiece.

All ticket options are available



online at bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000. Fans are urged to act quickly as the event is expected to sell out, based on the huge demand for its 2023 edition.

The Bahrain Darts Masters 2025 will take place at the BIC Dome, which will be transformed for the weekend into an incredible darts venue. Eight Professional Darts Corporation (PDC) superstars are set to lock horns with eight Asian representatives, which will again include two qualifiers from Bahrain.

Teenage sensation Luke Littler secured a famous victory in the Kingdom on his World Series debut back in January – hitting a nine-darter during an historic event – following Michael Smith's success in the inaugural Bahrain Darts Masters in 2023.

## Batelco Fitness on Track and Open Track Day

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) continues its busy in-season calendar this weekend with back-to-back days of experiences on track.

Taking place tomorrow morning at 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East' will be Batelco Fitness on Track – BIC's fan-favourite exercise activity for those looking to keep physically healthy.

The intensity then dials up a notch on Saturday with Open Track Day, offering speed enthusiasts the opportunity to power along a Formula 1 host venue in their very own cars or motorbikes.

Both activities are part of BIC's stacked calendar for the 2024/2025 season, which has plenty more on offer both on the tarmac and off of it.

To make a booking for either Batelco Fitness on Track or Open Track Day, visit BIC's official website bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

Friday's Batelco Fitness on Track is scheduled for 6am to 10am, making for a bright and early start to the weekend.

The activity can be done both on foot or on a bicycle – either individually or with a group of friends and family. Runners and walkers will be utilising BIC's 2.550-kilometre Inner Circuit, while cyclists will get to ride their bikes along the 3.543-kilometre

Outer Circuit, with another dedicated area for children's cycling.

The cost to take part is BD2 for cyclists and BD1 for runners. Payment must be made upon booking. Children under the age of 12 can participate for free if accompanied by a paying adult.

On Saturday, Open Track Day will then be giving motorsport lovers the ultimate thrill with a drive like no other in their private vehicles. The day's events will be held from 11am to 6pm along BIC's 2.55-kilometre Inner Circuit.

Open Track is one of the most sought-after activities at BIC. Driver etiquette is of ultimate importance, and there is no close or aggressive overtaking permitted. Overtaking is by invitation between corners and driving is monitored, with poor or dangerous driving being dealt with swiftly.

Those interested in taking part can book their slot in advance at a reduced rate. The cost for the full day is BD82,500, while the half day is BD55, and a single session is BD22. If booking on the day itself, the cost is BD93,500 for the full day, BD66 for half the day, and BD27,500 for a single session. Instructor sessions are also available, while additional drivers and passengers can participate, all for an additional fee.



## Bahrain's stars shine in World Cup qualifiers despite uphill battle

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's FIFA World Cup qualification campaign might be teetering on the edge, but its players are stealing the spotlight. With six matches played in the grueling third round of the AFC qualifiers, Bahrain ranks as the second-most decorated team in the group for "Man of the Match" accolades, securing four awards out of six games—a tally bettered only by Japan.

These individual performances have highlighted the team's resilience in a campaign filled with narrow margins and late heartbreaks.

### A Team of Standouts in Testing Times

In Bahrain's 2-2 draw with Australia, Ameen bin Adi earned his "Man of the Match" nod for a commanding midfield display. His ability to break lines and



dictate the game was crucial, especially as Bahrain clawed back from a deficit to briefly take the lead.

Mohamed Marhoon delivered an electric performance against Indonesia, his attacking intent and creativity carving out opportunities in a tightly contested affair. He walked off the pitch with Bahrain's second "Man of the Match" honor of the campaign.

Meanwhile, Ibrahim Lutfullah

stood tall between the posts against Saudi Arabia. With the stakes high, Lutfullah's crucial saves kept Bahrain in contention, earning him a well-deserved individual accolade in a high-pressure matchup.

The fourth award is another marker of Bahrain's consistency, as players rise to the challenge even in moments where results remain elusive.

### The Road Ahead

For all the individual brilliance, Bahrain's collective struggles are evident. The team sits fifth in Group C, with six points—just one behind Australia in 2nd, and level with Indonesia and Saudi Arabia. Bahrain's inferior goal difference could prove to be an issue in the latter stages of the qualifiers. Japan's dominance at the top with 16 points casts a long shadow over the group.

Bahrain's next major test comes against Japan on March 20, following a Gulf Cup opener against Saudi Arabia on December 22. With little room for error, every match is effectively a final.

The performances of Bahrain's key players have offered glimpses of what this team is capable of when things click. The challenge now is to turn flashes of individual excellence into a collective surge that could rewrite the script of their campaign.