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Bahrain draws support from Latvia

TDT | Manama

Latvia President Edgars Rinkevics expressed his condemnation and denunciation of the Iranian attacks targeting the territory of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

He affirmed his country's solidarity and support for the measures undertaken by Bahrain to safeguard its sovereignty, security, and national achievements.

This came as His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received a telephone call from President Rinkevics.



HM the King

During the call, HM the King affirmed that the Kingdom will remain steadfast in its established approach founded on



President Rinkevics

wisdom and moderation, and in promoting peace and cooperation with its Arab, regional, and international partners.

Nurseries, special education schools set for reopening

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Education has announced that nurseries, kindergartens, and schools catering to pupils with special needs will reopen from Sunday, 5 April 2026.

All other students will continue remote learning until further notice.

The decision follows a review of recent precautionary measures introduced to ensure continuity in education.

The ministry said the updated arrangement provides greater flexibility for families while supporting early childhood education and special education needs.

From Sunday, parents will have the option to send children back to nurseries and kindergartens.

Schools serving students with special needs, in both the public and private sectors, will also resume in-person teaching and support services.

Non-Bahraini health fees rise as waits persist

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Long waits for serious cases in Bahrain's public health system and the delayed start of health insurance for non-Bahrainis were thrust back into view.

This came after MP Mahmoud Fardan said the strain on state care could no longer be brushed aside.

H.E. Health Minister Jaleela Al Sayed said a tender had been put out for the insurance scheme and fees for non-Bahrainis were already being raised in stages.

Fardan said the timing was far from ideal given the exceptional circumstances, but argued that the figures spoke for themselves.

He said government hospitals and primary health-care centres had recorded about 67,028 cases between 2023 and 2025, which he said showed the weight now falling on the health sector.

Illnesses

The lawmaker pointed to National Audit Office findings on long waits in outpatient clinics for serious illnesses, including kidney disease and heart valve cases.

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Addressing aggression, advancing jobs



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, remotely chaired the 525th Government Executive Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed plans implemented to address the impact of the hostile Iranian aggression against the Kingdom of #Bahrain, as well as initiatives aimed at developing labour market procedures.

MPs seek six-month LMRA fee relief for distressed firms

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A six-month break from Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) fees is being sought under an urgent proposal from MP Abdulwahid Qarata and four other MPs,

who say firms are under strain as income falls and costs climb. The proposal calls for a full waiver of all fees charged by the authority, including those linked to issuing and renewing licences and work permits, sponsorship transfers, residency renewals tied to work contracts, annual work contract charges, recruitment fees and

any other sums paid by companies for services it provides.

In their explanatory note, the MPs say businesses in Bahrain are going through exceptional strain, with income in some key trades said to have fallen by 40 to 60 per cent.

Construction, tourism, retail and logistics are named among the hardest hit. The note says many small and medium-sized firms have shut, while thousands of Bahraini and expat jobs have been lost.

It says higher labour costs, energy bills, rents and international shipping charges have left many firms short of cash and unable to pay suppliers.

Reward heroes

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Parliament yesterday passed an urgent proposal urging the government to reward and honour everyone who helps maintain security and safety in Bahrain after the Iranian attacks.

This includes members of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), the Royal Guard, the National Guard, the Interior Ministry

(both civilian and military personnel), and volunteers.

The motion calls on the government to take suitable steps to recognise them through financial rewards, job-related benefits or honorary medals, in keeping with the scale of the work carried out during that period.

It was submitted by MPs Bader Al Tamimi, Hamad Al Doy, Lulwa Al Rumaihi, Mohammed Salman Al Ahmed and Moham-



MP Bader Al Tamimi

med Mousa.

Speaking in support of the proposal, Al Tamimi said it was meant to acknowledge "the great efforts" made by members of the security and military bodies in Bahrain, led by the BDF, the Royal Guard, the National Guard and the Interior Ministry, alongside civilian support teams.

He said those groups had played "a prominent national role in preserving security and

stability" and in meeting "the various challenges imposed by the exceptional circumstances" linked to the attacks.

Al Tamimi said the personnel involved had shown "a high level of readiness, discipline and professionalism" and had helped in "protecting lives and property, ensuring the continuity of essential services, and strengthening the sense of security among citizens and residents" despite the pressure of the situation.

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Compensation push

MPs call for urgent action to document Bahrain 'losses' from Iran attacks

● Seeking to file global legal case

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Damage to homes, businesses and vital infrastructure moved to the forefront of yesterday's parliament session.

MPs called for urgent action to document losses and pursue international compensation following recent attacks.

The proposal, submitted urgently by MPs Mohammed Salman Al Ahmed, Bader Al Tamimi, Mohammed Al Refai, Mohammed Al Balushi and Hamad Farooq Al Doy, called on the government to form a specialised committee to record damages and prepare a comprehensive legal case at the international level.

MPs said the attacks, which began in late February 2026, left behind more than physical destruction, affecting livelihoods,



Houses and residential buildings damaged after Iranian strikes



disrupting businesses and creating uncertainty for families and employers alike.

They stressed that without a structured and timely response, these losses risk remaining unaddressed.

The proposal aims to document all damages in detail, including individual losses, com-

mercial impacts, fatalities and wider economic effects, forming a complete file to support legal claims before international bodies.

Recognition

For those affected, the issue goes beyond procedure. It is about recognition, recovery and

the ability to rebuild.

A damaged property can be repaired, but lost income, interrupted work and prolonged uncertainty often carry lasting consequences.

MPs noted that the move aligns with international legal principles that protect civilians and prohibit attacks on non-military

targets, stressing Bahrain's right to seek compensation through recognised global mechanisms.

Coordination

They also pointed to the importance of coordination with Gulf partners and learning from similar international cases to strengthen the process and im-

prove the chances of recovering losses.

As the session concluded, the message was clear, that documenting damage is not only a legal step, but a path towards restoring rights, supporting recovery and ensuring that what was lost is not left without accountability.

Permanent state jobs for Bahraini 'frontline heroes'

● Parliament approves urgent proposal

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

An urgent proposal to give unemployed Bahrainis who served on the front lines as volunteers permanent posts in ministries and government bodies was approved by Parliament yesterday.

Put forward by MP Hassan Ebrahim, the recommendation calls for unemployed frontline volunteers to be given priority in public sector recruitment under rules meant to keep the process fair and based on merit. Hassan Ebrahim said the move was grounded in constitutional principles that protect the right to work and treat public office as a form of service.

Praise

He said those who stepped forward in frontline roles deserved more than praise and



should be given a fair chance of a government job.

"We look at every volunteer as a soldier of Bahrain, who gave his time and effort without payment," he said. "That puts a duty on us to stop and recognise these sacrifices."

He said thousands of citizens had registered through the national volunteering platform, which he said showed strong public spirit and a sincere response when Bahrain needed help.

According to MP Ebrahim, many of those volunteers were

"We look at every volunteer as a soldier of Bahrain, who gave his time and effort without payment. That puts a duty on us to stop and recognise these sacrifices."

— MP HASSAN EBRAHIM

already jobseekers but still chose to serve on the front lines.

Posts

He said that record should count in their favour when ministries and government bodies fill posts.

The lawmaker said the group had already shown it could work in the field and carry responsibility in hard times, making its members well placed to work across government.

MP Ebrahim said giving them priority in hiring would help Bahrainis land quality jobs.

Jobs and labour gaps

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Concerns over labour market imbalances and missed employment opportunities took centre stage in yesterday's parliament session, as MPs examined findings from the Financial and Administrative Audit Bureau report.

MP Ahmed Qarata raised questions about the scale of workforce irregularities, pointing to figures indicating tens of thousands of workers operating outside effective regulatory control.

He warned that gaps in oversight could distort the labour market and affect fair access to opportunities.

MP Abdulnabi Salman highlighted concerns over the continued reliance on non-Bahraini workers in roles that Bahraini citizens could fill, arguing that this trend limits opportunities for citizens and adds pressure to employment pathways.

MP Munir Suroor also pointed to structural gaps in the implementation of nationalisation policies, noting that certain loopholes in how employment ratios are calculated may allow businesses to bypass intended requirements. He suggested that closing these gaps could significantly expand job opportunities.

For many, these issues go beyond policy discussions. They reflect the reality of job seekers navigating a competitive market, where access to stable employment remains closely tied to broader economic structures.

Completion of air traffic recruit training on track

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain is in the final stages of bringing in and training Bahraini recruits for air traffic work.

This comes as part of efforts to strengthen the Civil Aviation Affairs sector and ensure sufficient staffing levels.

The move follows concerns raised by MPs during yesterday's Parliament session on the 2024-2025 National Audit Office report, highlighting the strain on existing personnel and the need for more trained professionals in air traffic management.

Transportation and Telecommunications Minister, His Excellency Dr Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, said the ministry had already begun working with the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) to recruit Bahrainis for air navigation roles, where staff shortages have meant long hours in one of the state's most sensitive services.

Issue

He said MP Khalid Buanaq was right to raise the issue, describing the unit as one that handles more than 500,000 flights a year.

That, he said, calls for "very high technical accuracy, strong concentration and the provision of all the necessary resources".

H.E. Dr Abdullah said staff numbers in air navigation were limited, adding that this had added to the pressure on employees.

Candidates

He told Parliament that candidates had already been interviewed by a specialist



"Today there are young Bahraini talents we are proud of. The team will grow, and the pressure on this department will ease as the working team grows."

— H.E. DR ABDULLAH BIN AHMED AL KHALIFA, TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS MINISTER

committee in Civil Aviation Affairs and were now close to the training stage.

"We are now in the final stages," he said. "They will be given the training needed to enable them to manage air traffic in Bahrain."

He said Bahrain had a long record in the field and that expertise had been passed from one generation to the next.

"Today there are young Bahraini talents we are proud of," he said. "The team will grow, and the pressure on this department will ease as the working team grows."

Remarks

The minister also answered remarks by MP Hamad Al Doy on management in government, saying ministries were built on institutional work rather than on people alone.

Bahraini women's leading role reaffirmed

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

MP Sabeeka Khalifa Al Fudhala, member of the Shura Council, praised the message delivered by Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women, affirming that it reflects the distinguished status



MP Sabeeka Khalifa Al Fudhala

Bahraini women enjoy under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

She noted that this status is further strengthened by the continuous support and empowerment provided by the government, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

MP Al-Fudhala described the message as an expression stemming from a sincere conscience.

Lawmakers call for urgent debate to address Iran's actions and Kingdom response

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Ten MPs have asked for an extra sitting of Parliament to discuss the Iranian aggression against Bahrain, saying the matter needs urgent debate in

the chamber so its effects can be weighed and a united response agreed.

The request was made under the second paragraph of Article 47 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, which allows Parliament to meet before its usual date at

the request of the government or at least 10 members.

In their submission, the MPs said the attack on the kingdom called for urgent debate under the Parliament dome, so members could look at its effects on many fronts and weigh the steps

needed to deal with it through one national line.

They said the rules gave Parliament this exceptional path so the legislative branch could meet when events called for it, without having to wait for the normal sitting date, helping the

chamber keep pace with emergency developments.

The MPs added that holding such a sitting would help bring public efforts together, support the state's move in dealing with the effects of the attack, and strengthen the related legislative

and watchdog role.

The request was signed by Abdulwahid Qarata, Hamad Al Doy, Mohammed Al Rifai, Mohammed Mousa, Ali Al Doseri, Hassan Ebrahim, Ali Al Doseri, Mohammed Al Ahmed, Mohammed Al Olaiwi and Abdulla Al Dhaen.

Fiscal discipline

Audit report debate focuses on spending, debt and work permit breaches

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Calls for stricter spending control, firmer governance, better revenue collection and quicker follow-through on audit findings shaped debate in Parliament yesterday as MPs took up the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee's report on the National Audit Office's 2024-2025 findings.

Opening the case for the committee, its chairman Ahmed Sabah Al Salloom said the 10 recommendations were meant to "double efforts to strengthen governance and control spending".

He said 84.9pc of recommendations had been carried out or were under way, but added that "financial and administrative challenges still require follow-up and treatment".

Meetings

Al Salloom told MPs the report, covering 81 government bodies, had been studied through a series of meetings with the bodies concerned, with legal and economic advice brought in before the committee settled on its final view.

The committee called for closer checks on project spending by ministries and public bodies, with actual outlays measured against approved sums.

It also urged the government to examine why spending on some projects remained low and to deal with that in a way that improves budget planning and the use of public funds.



Image used for illustrative purposes only

Checks

It also pressed for stronger internal checks across ministries and public bodies, with penalties where breaches occur, and said repeated remarks from past audit reports should be dealt with in full after follow-up reviews found earlier recommendations still pending.

MPs were urged to weigh ministry replies to audit findings and decide 'either to accept those replies, or use the oversight tools available to them' against ministers answerable for breaches linked to their portfolios.

During yesterday's sitting, Al Salloom said the report pointed to financial warning signs that needed close attention, including "a deficit of BD1.026 billion, public debt of BD19.3 billion, and



"The 10 recommendations were meant to double efforts to strengthen governance and control spending."

— MP AHMED AL SALLOOM



"The overspending recorded at the Ministry of Education should be seen in a positive light."

— MP ZAINAB ABDULAMEER

a rise in debt service costs".

The audit text bears that out.

Gap

It says the gap between state income and spending rose from BD774 million in 2023 to BD1.026 billion in 2024, while public debt stood at about BD19.3 billion by 31 December 2024 and interest payments climbed to BD945 million from BD843 million a year earlier.

He also pointed to borrowing outside the recorded public debt framework, spending above approved limits and returns due to the Treasury that were not transferred on time.

The audit says borrowing by some ministries and public bodies that was not included in the public debt balance recorded by the Ministry of Finance and National Economy came to about BD4.9 billion in 2024, against BD3.9 billion in 2023.

Spending

It also says recurrent spending overshot the approved 2024 budget by BD375 million.

During the debate, MP Zainab AbdulAmeer said the overspending recorded at the Ministry of Education should be seen "in a positive light" where it was linked to hiring Bahrainis and pushing ahead with replacement policies.

She also criticised delays by the Ministry of Works in carrying out service projects, including sewerage schemes, and said Bahraini workers were able to meet labour market needs while helping to cut costs.

Bid to curb subsidised flour abuse passed



MP Basema Mubarak
Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

MPs yesterday passed an urgent proposal calling on the relevant authorities to rein in the price of subsidised flour and stop abuse and profiteering during what MPs described as exceptional conditions.

The motion was put forward by Basema Mubarak, Abdulhakim Al Sheno, Ahmed Al Salloom, Bader Al Tamimi and Jalal Kadhem.

It calls for stronger checks on the sale and movement of state-subsidised flour, harsher rules against price tampering and misuse, and legal steps to make sure the support reaches those it is meant for.

MP Mubarak told the chamber that the state gives special care to basic goods, with subsidised flour near the top of the list, because it helps keep bread and other staple foods within reach.

She said the aim was to shield people from extra living costs and keep food supplies stable.

But she said the current regional and global economic climate, with food prices rising and supply chains lurching from one strain to the next, had made closer market checks unavoidable.

Thumbs up for one-year housing loan payments pause

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Parliament yesterday passed an urgent proposal calling for ESKAN Bank loan instalments for all Bahrainis using housing services to be deferred for one year.

MPs pointed to the financial strain linked to the fallout from the Iranian attacks.

The proposal, submitted by Khalid Buanaq, Ahmed Al Salloom, Hisham Al Awadhi, Zainab AbdulAmeer and Mohammed Al Maarefi, was put forward as a way to leave families with extra cash as prices come under pressure from shipping costs, insurance charges and supply disruption.

Buanaq said the aim was to give households "pre-emptive



MP Khalid Buanaq

financial protection" by keeping money in their hands in case basic goods rise in price.

Debt

"Providing this surplus prevents families from falling into debt or failing to meet living needs," he said, adding that it would help keep food and social stability in place during the eco-

nomical strain caused by military threats in the region.

He said the one-year pause would also help local trade, with markets and shopping centres already hit by weaker buying activity as fewer expats and residents visited commercial areas.

Costs

Buanaq told MPs that families were also facing higher household costs because many had stayed indoors for long spells as a precaution.

That, he said, was likely to drive up electricity and water use and add to pressure on monthly budgets.

"The citizen finds himself forced to bear extra costs resulting from circumstances beyond his control," he said.

MP files urgent proposal to speed up King Hamad Bridge project

Move to deepen Bahrain-Saudi defence links

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

An urgent proposal has been put forward in Parliament to press for faster action on the King Hamad Bridge project linking Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

MP Abdulhakim Al Sheno said the scheme is now a "strategic necessity" in light of current regional pressures.

Al Sheno said the project should move ahead without delay, arguing that it would strengthen national security,



MP Abdulhakim Al Sheno

help shore up regional stability and improve logistical readiness between the two countries.

He said the bridge would also deepen defence links between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia at a time of fast-moving regional change.

The lawmaker pointed as well to the bridge's economic value, saying it would support

trade, ease the flow of goods and services, back joint investment and give tourism a lift.

Trade between the two countries reached around 44 billion Saudi riyals in 2022, he said, adding that the planned link could open the way to wider economic gains.

Al Sheno said the presence of thousands of Saudi firms operating in Bahrain showed the depth of economic ties between the two sides and underlined the need to get on with the project.

He argued that faster execution would help push Gulf economic integration further.

The MP also said the bridge would help improve infrastructure and raise its efficiency in line with national development plans.

Fatal crash justice

Nine-year prison term upheld in tragic drug-fueled accident on the road that killed family of three

● **Bahraini driving license revoked for one year**

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

In a heartbreaking case that shook the community, the Court of Cassation has upheld the rulings of both the lower and appellate courts, sentencing a Bahraini man in his twenties to nine years in prison over a devastating traffic accident that claimed the lives of an entire family.

The court also ordered the revocation of his driving license for one year following the completion of his sentence, along

with the confiscation of the vehicle used in the incident.

The tragedy unfolded in the Saar area, where the defendant, driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol, caused a catastrophic collision that killed a husband, his wife, and their child, while leaving two other children with severe, life-threatening injuries.

According to prosecutors, on May 30, 2025, the accused lost control of his vehicle while under the influence of hashish and alcohol.

Speeding

His reckless driving included speeding over 30% above the legal limit, dangerously overtaking, and veering into oncoming traffic—ultimately leading to a fatal head-on collision.



A tragedy defined by recklessness

At approximately 12:21 AM, the defendant was traveling along Road 13 toward Saar when he suddenly swerved into the opposite lane. He collided head-on with a taxi driven by the father, who was traveling lawfully with his family. The sheer force of the crash pushed the vehicle backward into an embankment.

Fatal

The impact proved fatal. The parents and their son succumbed to their injuries after being rushed to the hospital.

Meanwhile, their two other children survived but suffered devastating injuries—one with severe fractures in both thighs, and the other with multiple fractures, internal bleeding, lung damage, and critical abdominal injuries.

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Statement of financial position
At 31 December 2025

	2025	2024	1 January 2024
	BD	BD	BD
		(Restated)	(Restated)
ASSETS			
Property and equipment	36,628	-	-
Right-of-use asset	69,082	18,827	2,758
Investment securities:			
Financial investments at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVTOCI)	15,592,288	16,857,616	19,250,154
Financial investments at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL)	21,213,722	20,389,869	20,735,664
Insurance contract assets	8,584	23,943	4,350
Reinsurance contract assets	72,189	153,837	34,759
Prepayments and other receivables	239,214	329,697	305,795
Cash and bank balances	1,666,019	962,920	1,597,775
Total assets	38,897,726	38,746,109	41,941,255
HEAD OFFICE FUNDS AND LIABILITIES			
Head Office Funds			
Head Office account	6,486,936	6,228,043	7,018,969
Cumulative change in fair value of securities	(589,754)	(1,168,939)	(1,004,475)
Total Head Office funds	5,927,182	5,059,104	6,014,494
LIABILITIES			
Provision for employees' end of service indemnity	15,564	21,244	13,454
Insurance contract liabilities	31,385,797	32,410,163	34,310,322
Reinsurance contract liabilities	353,417	538,237	786,689
Accounts payable	975,772	700,730	813,413
Lease liability	69,364	16,631	2,883
Tax Payable	170,630	-	-
Total liabilities	32,970,544	33,687,005	35,926,761
Total Head Office Funds and liabilities	38,897,726	38,746,109	41,941,255

Country Manager
George Kotsalos

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For more information, visit www.metlife.com.

Statement of profit or loss

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
	BD	BD
		(Restated)
Insurance revenue	8,968,668	8,405,157
Insurance service expenses	(6,546,795)	(6,501,143)
Insurance service result before reinsurance contracts held	2,421,873	1,904,014
Net expense from reinsurance contracts held	(502,866)	(500,118)
Insurance service result	1,919,007	1,403,896
Interest income from financial investments at FVTOCI	617,547	677,848
Realised and unrealised gain on financial investments at FVTPL	2,651,317	2,202,666
Other investment income - net	27,898	72,654
Net investment income	3,296,762	2,953,168
Finance expenses from insurance contracts issued	(3,252,833)	(2,598,554)
Finance income from reinsurance contracts held	557	48,474
Net insurance finance expenses	(3,252,276)	(2,550,080)
Net insurance and investment result	1,963,493	1,806,984
Other income	118,585	127,540
Other operating expenses	(944,544)	(774,557)
Profit before taxation	1,137,534	1,159,967
Taxation	(170,630)	-
Profit for the year	966,904	1,159,967
Statement of comprehensive income		
For the year ended 31 December 2025		
Profit for the year	966,904	1,159,967
Other comprehensive income/(loss):		
<i>Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:</i>		
Net changes in the fair value of financial investments at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVTOCI)	609,185	(164,464)
Total other comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	609,185	(164,464)
Total comprehensive income for the year	1,576,089	995,503

Auditors
Deloitte & Touche (M.E.)

Rethinking vaping safety

● **Study reviews health effects of e-cigarette use**

Neethu V
TDT | Manama

April is Oral Cancer Awareness Month, which highlights the importance of oral health and early detection.

This year, it comes amid raising concerns that vaping may be linked to cancer risk, with researchers examining how e-cigarettes may affect the mouth and lungs at a cellular level.

Latest is a study from the University of New South Wales, Sydney, which adds to a growing body of research challenging the idea that vaping is a "safer" alternative to smoking.

What stood out most in the study was that although vapes don't contain tar or carbon monoxide, chemicals in vape aerosol, including nicotine-derived compounds, flavouring agents, volatile organic compounds, and trace metals can damage tissues in the mouth and lungs, causing inflammation and stress, and potentially increasing long-term cancer risk.

Awareness

In a discussion with The Daily Tribune regarding oral cancer awareness, Dr Nadia AlSikri, Consultant, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon, Salmaniya Medical Complex said, "Even occasional vaping is not risk-free. While heavy and prolonged use increases exposure and risk, intermittent use can still introduce harmful chemicals into the oral environment."

"Recent research suggests that vaping aerosols contain



"Recent research suggests that vaping aerosols contain carcinogenic substances that may damage oral tissues and DNA."

- DR NADIA ALSIKRI

carcinogenic substances that may damage oral tissues and DNA. While the link is not as well established as with smoking, there is growing concern about its role in developing oral cancer. More long-term studies are still needed," she noted.

Screening

In light of oral cancer awareness month observed every April, Dr Nadia further explains that individuals who vape should ideally have oral examinations every six months.

Those with additional risk factors may benefit from more frequent screenings as advised by their dentist.

Screening involves a thorough visual and physical examination of the mouth, tongue, gums, and throat.

Dentists look for abnormal lesions, colour changes, or ulcers, and may palpate tissues for lumps.

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Safer living

Capital Trustees Board approves plan to move barns away from housing areas

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A proposal to move barns and animal-rearing sites out of housing areas in the Capital Governorate won approval from The Capital Trustees Board yesterday, as members endorsed a plan to shift such activity to serviced land away from homes.

The proposal, put forward by board member engineer Mohammed Tawfeeq Al Abbas, is meant to deal with the spread of barns and the keeping of animals and birds inside residential districts.

It aims to cut harm to public health, reduce noise and pollution, and make neighbourhoods cleaner and easier places to live.

Rules

It would also bring the keeping of animals and birds under planning and environmental rules, while giving breeders alternative sites where they can continue their work in lawful and safer conditions.

Members said the plan would cover all barns, slaughter sites and places used for keeping animals and birds within residential parts of the Capital Governorate, with densely populated areas taking priority.

The board discussed a scheme based on surveying and classifying existing sites, then choosing alternative land and preparing it with water, electricity, paved roads and sanitation. Those sites would be placed away from residential districts.

Transfer

The proposal also calls for a



Image used for illustrative purposes only

“The move would help reduce smells, insects and pollution caused by animal waste.”

— MOHAMMED TAWFEEQ AL ABBAS,
BOARD MEMBER ENGINEER



The proposal aims to cut harm to public health, reduce noise and pollution, and make neighbourhoods cleaner and easier places to live.

phased transfer, with a timetable for moving barns in stages and enough notice for breeders to sort out their status.

Technical and procedural support would be offered during the transition.

After the grace period ends,

the plan calls for updated rules, stricter checks and heavier inspection drives, followed by legal penalties for those who fail to comply.

Consultations

The board also said local par-

ticipation would be needed, calling for consultation meetings with residents and breeders to explain how the plan would work, as well as channels for complaints and suggestions.

Al Abbas said the move would help reduce smells, insects and pollution caused by animal waste.

He said it would also ease traffic linked to unregulated activity, raise property values, improve the look of residential areas and create a clearer, more orderly system for keeping animals.

Coordination

The board recommended that the proposal be adopted as a full executive plan, with coordination between the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture and the bodies concerned to carry it out and meet its aims within Bahrain's sustainable urban development plans.

Health centre ‘stops taking patients’ after evening

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Muharraq North Health Centre stops receiving patients after evening hours despite a 24-hour system being brought in in mid-2022, MP Abdulwahid Qarata said during Parliament's session yesterday, saying residents are still having to seek care elsewhere as new housing areas in the governorate grow.

He said the centre offers general medical care, dental care, mother and child care, early screening, and clinics for diabetes and long-term illness, with about 65 staff working shifts. “People are being forced to go to other centres after the evening,” he said.

Issue

Qarata said the issue was not a refusal in principle to sending patients to other sites, but the way staff and services were being placed across Muharraq. “The first priority should be

to direct resources and capabilities to the new residential areas in Muharraq,” he said.

He said a full centre had been built in an older area even though “the population density has shifted to newer areas”, and said health planning should keep pace with that move.

He added that more than 2,000 people took part in a public poll calling for the centre to return to round-the-clock service.

Demands

“These demands are still there, and there has still been no response,” he said.

Health Minister, Her Excellency Jaleela Al Sayed, said the ministry puts people's health first and that its decisions are made through studied plans and strategies meant to protect the public interest and keep care joined up across Bahrain. “Decisions are not taken out of stubbornness,” she said.

Garage drain plan passed by Northern Council

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Water draining from home garages onto streets could be channelled into approved sewer or drainage lines under a proposal passed by the Northern Municipal Council, after members were told the run-off was fuelling neighbour rows, foul smells and damage to roads and pavements.

The plan, tabled by council member Basim Abu Idris, calls for homeowners and owners of residential units to install a dedicated drainage channel within the garage boundary and link it to the sewerage

network or another approved drainage route.

The aim is to stop wash water and other run-off from spilling into public spaces.

Leaks

“We are asking for fixed water drainage to protect citizens, so that they are not held to account when water leaks outside the home,” Abu Idris said.

He said the move would help “protect the social fabric” by cutting disputes between neighbours and shielding residents from municipal fines when water spreads beyond their property.

MPs approve call to cut nursery fees during school suspension

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A call to deal with fees charged by private nurseries and kindergartens during the suspension of in-person classes passed in Parliament yesterday.

MPS urged the government to step in after parents were charged the same sums despite a sharp change in the teaching children were getting.

The urgent proposal asks the government to regulate fees during the period of suspended

classroom study.

Money

It says money already paid should either be carried over to the next term, counted towards later in-person classes, or offset through a clear scheme to repay parents for the gap between classroom teaching and remote learning.

It also asks for help for teaching and administrative staff during the suspension period through support schemes or partial aid to keep them in work and

“This proposal aims to find a balanced solution that gives justice to families, ensures the sustainability of educational institutions, and preserves the rights of those working in them.”

— MP DR MUNEEB SEROOR



keep the schools open. The proposal was put forward

by Dr Muneer Seroor, Lulwa Al Rumaihi, Basema Mubarak, Ahmed Al Salloom and Mohammed Salman Al Ahmed.

Speaking to Parliament, Dr Seroor said: “In light of the exceptional circumstances that led to the suspension of in-person classes and the shift to remote learning, a real problem has emerged in relation to the fees of private nurseries and kindergartens, as fees continued to be collected at the same cost despite a fundamental difference in the nature of the service being provided.”

Contact

He said early years teaching rested on face-to-face contact in a way that remote learning could not match.

“Early childhood education depends in the first place on direct interaction and on acquiring sensory, social and behavioural skills,” he said. “These are elements that cannot be achieved through remote learning in an adequate way, which creates a clear gap between the value of the fees paid and the level of service actually provided.”

Focus on counterterrorism



A delegation from Bahrain's parliamentary division took part in a virtual seminar organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, discussing how to align counterterrorism frameworks with International Humanitarian Law. It focused on how parliaments can protect humanitarian action. (Rehab Mohammad)

Working mothers of primary pupils backed for home working

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Parliament has passed an urgent proposal calling for working mothers with children in primary school to be allowed to work from home for the time being, as MPs pressed for a stop-gap measure to help families facing strain over childcare.

The proposal, tabled by MP Mohammed Al Balushi and four other MPs, asks the relevant authorities to allow women in both the public and private sectors

to do their jobs remotely if they have children in primary school, so long as work and services keep going.

Al Balushi told the chamber the request was meant to help families through “the exceptional circumstances that could affect family stability and the safety of children”.

He said the scheme should let mothers carry out their work from home during this period, under rules drawn up by the competent bodies to keep a fair balance between work needs and family demands.



MP Mohammed Al Balushi

The paper attached to the proposal says the move is driv-

en by the strain families can face when young children are left at home without direct care during working hours.

It says children in primary school are among those most in need of close and ongoing supervision, which makes it harder for working mothers to juggle their jobs and home duties.

It says remote work in such cases would help give children a safer setting, ensure direct care and watch over them at a key age, ease strain on families and keep work going through flexible arrangements.



Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Co. AGM approves 25% Cash dividend

To distribute a cash dividend of 25% equivalent to 25 fils per share amounting to BD 3,683,591

Manama

Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company (BKIC) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the financial year 2025 on Monday at the Company's Head office in Seef District with a quorum of 88.24%, and in the presence of representatives of the relevant regulatory authorities.

Dividend

The General Assembly approved the Board of Directors' recommendation to distribute a cash dividend of 25% equivalent to 25 fils per share amounting to BD 3,683,591 (excluding the treasury shares).

The General Assembly also approved the rest of the agenda items of this meeting. Finally, the General Assembly approved the appointment of Mr. Bijan Khosrowshahi, Dr. Emad Jawad Bukhamseen (Vice-Chairman), Dr. Abdulla Salah Sultan, Mr. Farid Joseph Saber, Ms. Muna Sayed Ali AlHashemi and Mr. Alaa Mohamed Elzoheiry as appointed directors representing major shareholders who have the right to the appointment of directors for the new term (March 2026 – March 2029). Also, the AGM approved the election of Mr. Murad Ali Murad (Chairman), Mr. Mohamed Ebrahim Zainal, Mr. Mohamed Ahmed AlRayes and Dr. Abdulrahman Ali Saif to this new Board for the same term.

Commenting on the occasion,

Mr. Murad Ali Murad – the Chairman of BKIC stated that the global insurance market in 2025 continued to operate in a challenging and competitive environment, shaped by evolving pricing conditions, inflationary pressures, and geopolitical developments in the region. During the year, local acquisitions from our peers, marked a significant development in the local market, resulting in a more consolidated competitive landscape. In addition, the introduction of the Domestic Minimum Top-up Tax (DMTT) for the first time represented a new regulatory and tax development for multinational groups operating in Bahrain.

Against this backdrop, the Board, together with management, remained focused on navigating these changes with discipline and prudence. BKIC remains resilient despite market changes and new regulations, while staying committed to creating long-term value for shareholders. This is supported by

Mr. Murad - Chairman



strong financial discipline, prudent investment management, a customer-focused approach, and carefully targeted growth initiatives.

Solid Profit

Mr. Murad Ali Murad added that despite the challenges, Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company (BKIC) achieved a solid profit before tax attributable to shareholders which grew to BD 5.22 million, highlighting the strength and resilience of our operations.

In his remarks, Mr. Murad stated that the year 2025 marked a significant milestone with the celebration of BKIC's 50th anniversary, reflecting five decades of service to the insurance markets of Bahrain and Kuwait. This achievement was commemorated through the publication of a dedicated anniversary book capturing the Company's legacy and evolution, alongside a memorable celebration that recognized the people behind the journey.

Lastly, Mr. Murad mentioned that the international rating agency A.M. Best has affirmed the credit rating of the company "A- Excellent with a stable outlook" after reviewing the company's and the subsidiary's performance. This rating is

the highest rating in Bahrain to be awarded to a local direct insurer, reflecting the financial strength of the company to meet its future obligations, in addition to being part of the Gulf Insurance Group (GIG) which is amongst the largest insurance Groups in the region. Alongside, we are proud members of the Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited global family.

18% surge in insurance service

Dr. Abdulla Sultan – the CEO of BKIC stated that, despite the challenges faced by the company in 2025, BKIC continued affirming its lead position in the local market and maintained its strong presence in Kuwait by achieving the historical records on growth, profitability and returns to shareholders. In 2025, we delivered a robust 18% surge in insurance service results, successfully neutralizing the impact of a major fire loss and rising motor claims. This performance was anchored by a resurgent medical line and disciplined underwriting, bolstered by a strategic reinsurance framework. Complementing this, our portfolio rebalancing drove a 13% increase in investment income, maintaining a healthy 11.4% return on equity.

Dr. Sultan highlighted a landmark 2025, marked by a record-breaking Great Place to Work Award and transformative new financial partnerships. Our commitment to

purpose has never been stronger, evidenced by a significant expansion in our CSR and ESG initiatives.

We continue to deepen our leadership and organizational capability. A key milestone was the appointment of Mohamed Salah Al-Maraj as Chief Operating Officer in April 2025. Following a year of high-impact strategic delivery, his promotion to General Manager – Bahrain Operations (effective 1 January 2026) ensures leadership continuity and reinforces our execution strength.

As for the future outlook, Dr. Abdulla Sultan said that BKIC's strategic focus is anchored on the Customer 1st Strategy, supported by continued investment in technology, data governance, and process efficiency to strengthen operational resilience and decision-making. Enhanced use of data

a n -



Dr. Abdulla Sultan - the CEO of BKIC



Bahrain Family Leisure Company B.S.C. held its Annual General Meeting on 30 March 2026 at the Awali Ballroom of The Gulf Hotel Bahrain, where the announced agenda was discussed.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

THIS ISN'T A WAR," SAID THE ARTILLERYMAN. "IT NEVER WAS A WAR, ANY MORE THAN THERE'S WAR BETWEEN MAN AND ANTS.
H.G. WELLS, THE WAR OF THE WORLDS

Iran FM rejects reports it fired missiles at Turkey, offers probe

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi yesterday rejected as "completely baseless" reports that the Islamic republic had fired missiles at Turkey and offered to jointly investigate the issue.

In a phone call with his Turkish counterpart Hakan Fidan, Araghchi warned against "false-flag operations by enemies" and said Iran was "ready for joint technical cooperation to examine any possible claim", according to a statement by the Iranian foreign ministry.

On Monday, Turkey's defence ministry said NATO forces had intercepted a new missile fired from Iran -- the fourth since the start of the Middle East war.



UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan (L) receiving Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates

Trump says other countries should 'just take' the Strait of Hormuz

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump said Tuesday the countries that have not joined the Middle East war but are struggling with fuel shortages should "go get your own oil" in the Strait of Hormuz.

In a Truth Social post, Trump said countries "that refused

to get involved" should "build up some delayed courage, go to the Strait, and just TAKE IT," adding that the United States would not help them.

"The U.S.A. won't be there to help you anymore, just like you weren't there for us. Iran has been, essentially, decimated. The hard part is done. Go get your own oil!"



Indonesia civil servants to work from home one day per week to save fuel: minister

France 'very unhelpful on Iran,' Trump says

AFP | Washington, United States

President Donald Trump lashed out at France yesterday, saying it had been "very unhelpful" in the US-Israel war on Iran.

"The Country of France wouldn't let planes headed to Israel, loaded up with military supplies, fly over French territory. France has been VERY UNHELPFUL with respect to the 'Butcher of Iran, who has been successfully eliminated!" Trump posted on his Truth Social platform.

France 'surprised' by Trump criticism

AFP | Paris, France

French President Emmanuel Macron's office said yesterday it was "surprised" by US President Donald Trump's criticism of France, stressing the country's position on US military overflights had not changed.

"France has not changed its position since day one," the presidency said.

"We are surprised by this tweet," it said, referring to Trump's social media post in which he accused France of being "very unhelpful" in the US-Israeli war on Iran and not allowing planes carrying military supplies to "fly over French territory".

Two Chinese container ships were able to pass the strait, and Beijing expressed gratitude to "the relevant parties", a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman told reporters.

Next days will be 'decisive': Pentagon chief

Reuters | Tehran

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said yesterday that the next days of the Iran war would be "decisive", while refusing to rule out US ground forces playing a role in the conflict.

Mr Hegseth conceded that Iran retained the ability to retaliate after a month-long US-Israeli bombing campaign.

"They will shoot some missiles; we will shoot them down," he told reporters at the Pentagon alongside General Dan Caine, chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

But Mr Hegseth repeated claims that Iran's military capabilities have been crippled.

"The upcoming days will be decisive. Iran knows that, and there's almost nothing they can militarily do about it," he said.

Mr Hegseth said he paid an unannounced visit to the Middle East over the weekend to visit troops at bases around the region. "I witnessed urgency to finish the job," he said.

Iran has 'necessary will' to end war, but seeking guarantees: president

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian has said Tehran has the "necessary will" to end the ongoing war with the United States, but only if its security is guaranteed and future attacks are prevented, reported news agency AFP.

Speaking amid escalating tensions, Pezeshkian stressed that Iran does not seek continued conflict but will not accept a settlement without firm assurances. He said any decision to end the war must "guarantee the security and in-

terests of the Iranian people." He further underlined that Iran is willing to move toward de-escalation if there are concrete guarantees against renewed aggression.

"We possess the necessary will to end this conflict, provided that essential conditions are met -- especially the guarantees required to prevent repetition of the aggression," Pezeshkian said in a phone conversation with the president of the European Council, according to a statement from his office, reiterating a key demand of Tehran's.

He said the US was "closer than ever before to winning". "We have more and more options, and they have less."

Asked about concerns among some of US President Donald Trump's base over the possible

use of ground troops in Iran, Mr Hegseth declined to tip his hand.

"You can't fight and win a war if you tell your adversary what you are willing to do, or what you are not willing to do, to include boots on the ground," he said.

ISNA news agency that a bombing left a desalination plant on Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz "completely out of service".

Trump warned in a post on his social media site that if Iran does not strike a deal and reopen the Strait of Hormuz to sea traffic, the US would respond by "blowing up and completely obliterating all of their electric generating plants, oil wells and Kharg Island (and possibly all desalination plants!)".

Video footage verified by AFP news agency showed at least two massive explosions and columns of smoke in Isfahan, central Iran. State media reported that the Grand Husseinia, a Shi'ite religious centre, was damaged in Zanjan in the country's northwest.

The Iranian government also said air strikes hit a pharmaceutical plant producing cancer drugs and anaesthetics, while a Health Ministry official told

Kuwait's state oil company reported that one of its giant crude oil tankers was on fire in Dubai Port after a "direct and malicious Iranian attack while in the anchorage area".

Iranian attack sparks fire on Kuwaiti oil tanker at Dubai Port

AFP | Kuwait City, Kuwait

An apparent Iranian drone attack on a fully loaded Kuwaiti crude oil tanker at Dubai Port sparked a fire that was later extinguished, authorities said.

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said early yesterday that the Al-Salmi tanker was

The tanker was loaded with two million barrels of oil from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, according to data from Lloyd's and TankerTrackers. Lloyd's listed the destination as Qingdao, China.

struck in an Iranian attack while anchored at the port in the United Arab Emirates, causing damage to the vessel and a fire on board.

KPC warned of a possible oil spill in surrounding waters, Ku-

waiti state news agency KUNA reported.

Authorities in Dubai said there was a drone attack on the Kuwaiti oil tanker overnight, and response teams had contained the incident. They added that

no oil leakage or injuries were reported, according to the Dubai Media Office.

Work is now under way to assess damage to the tanker, said KPC, which, according to Lloyd's List Intelligence data, is the par-

ent company of Al Salmi's registered owner and commercial operator.

The tanker was loaded with two million barrels of oil from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, according to data from Lloyd's and TankerTrackers. Lloyd's listed the destination as Qingdao, China.



Desalinated water provides 42 per cent of drinking water in the United Arab Emirates, 70 per cent in Saudi Arabia, 86 per cent in Oman, and 90 per cent in Kuwait.

527

Byzantine Emperor Justin I names his nephew Justinian I as co-ruler and successor to the throne

1748

The ruins of Pompeii are rediscovered by Spaniard Roque Joaquín de Alcubierre



“Big Bang” theory proposed in scientific journal “Physical Review” by American cosmologists Ralph Alpher, Hans Bethe, and George Gamow

1948

Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs found Apple Computer in the garage of Jobs’ parents’ house in Cupertino, California

1976



A ball of fire rises from the site of an Israeli strike that targeted a building adjacent to the highway that leads to Beirut’s international airport

Qatar says Gulf states ‘unified’ in calling for war de-escalation

AFP | Doha, Qatar

The Gulf states are unified in calling for a de-escalation of the Middle East war, Qatar said yesterday as Tehran launched new strikes against its

neighbors. “Our understanding is that there is a very unified position in the Gulf on calling for the de-escalation and an end to the war,” Qatar’s foreign ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari told a regular news briefing.

He warned that threats to Iran’s desalination plants pose a danger to the entire region, urging all parties to return to the negotiation table as soon as possible.

The spokesperson also called for restraint and cautioned against targeting energy and nuclear infrastructure, stressing that the future of the Strait of Hormuz should be determined collectively by regional countries.

Iran panel approves Hormuz toll plan

Iranian state media reported that a parliamentary commission had approved plans to impose tolls on vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz, the waterway vital to oil and gas shipments that has been effectively closed due to the Middle East war. Citing a member of the parliament’s security commission, state TV said the plan involved, among other things, “financial arrangements and rial toll systems” and “implementing the sovereign role of Iran”, as well as cooperation with Oman on the other side of the strait.



Firefighters inspect the site of an overnight Israeli airstrike on the Haret Hreik neighbourhood in Beirut’s southern suburbs

NATO intercepts Turkey-bound missile

NATO forces intercepted a new missile fired from Iran towards Turkey, the fourth since the start of the Middle East war. None of the four projectiles managed to hit Turkish soil, according to the authorities.

Four Israeli soldiers killed in south Lebanon

The Israeli military said yesterday that four soldiers had been killed in combat in southern Lebanon, where its forces are clashing with Iran-backed Hezbollah. Another soldier was severely wounded and a reservist moderately wounded, according to the second statement.

A military statement named three soldiers from the same battalion who “fell during combat”, and a separate statement said another soldier whose name had not yet been cleared for publication had died in the same incident.

Drone attack targets US embassy in Baghdad

One civilian was wounded in Iraq’s capital Baghdad late Monday after shrapnel from an intercepted drone attack targeting the US embassy fell onto their neighbourhood, a police source said.

Two UN peacekeepers killed

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said two personnel were killed on Monday in a blast in the country’s south, after another peacekeeper was killed a day earlier. Two other blue helmets were injured in the explosion, one severely, the force said, adding that it had opened an investigation.

China, Pakistan’s 5-point plan to end Iran war has a Hormuz mention

AFP | Beijing, China

China and Pakistan have jointly proposed a five-point plan to calm

the tensions in the wider Middle East, urging an immediate ceasefire and quick diplomatic talks as the US-Israel conflict with Iran continues to escalate. The proposal was drawn up after high-level discussions in Beijing between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Pakistan’s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. The joint proposal outlines five key steps: an

immediate cessation of hostilities, the early start of peace talks, protection of civilians and non-military infrastructure, securing shipping lanes in the Strait of Hormuz, and building an overall peace framework under the United Nations Charter.

immediate cessation of hostilities, the early start of peace talks, protection of civilians and non-military infrastructure, securing shipping lanes in the Strait of Hormuz, and building an overall peace framework under the United Nations Charter.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I strongly condemn Monday’s incident that led to the killing of two Indonesian @UNIFIL_ peacekeepers in South Lebanon. A third peacekeeper was severely injured & a fourth was also hurt.

My deepest condolences to the peacekeepers’ families, friends & colleagues & to Indonesia, and wishing a full & fast recovery to the injured peacekeepers.

This is the second fatal incident in 24 hours — following the killing of a peacekeeper in a separate incident on Sunday.

Attacks on peacekeepers are grave violations of international humanitarian law.

They must stop. No one should ever have to die serving the cause of peace.

@antonoguterres

02



Attacks during the past two nights have struck near @WHO’s office in the Iranian capital, Tehran, shattering windows.

Fortunately all WHO #Iran office colleagues are accounted for and none were injured.

Strikes impacting the operations and damaging the premises of WHO and other @UN agencies, the locations of which have been clearly identified, cannot be tolerated and must be avoided at all costs.

@DrTedros

03



It is indeed a proud moment for India’s Semiconductor ecosystem that the Kaynes Semicon OSAT facility has been inaugurated in Sanand, Gujarat. This will boost India’s efforts of emerging as a leader in futuristic technologies and innovation.

@narendramodi

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



Beyon holds Annual General Meeting

BD53.9M Dividend Announced Following Strong 2025 Performance

Manama

Beyon BSC held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) today for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The meeting was held virtually with the attendance of Beyon Chairman His Excellency Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, members of the Board of Directors, members of the executive management and Beyon's external auditor, KPMG Fakhro. Representatives from the Central Bank of Bahrain, the Ministry of Industry & Commerce, Bahrain Bourse, and shareholders also joined the meeting, which was conducted in compliance with the guidelines for holding general assembly meetings, in accordance with the laws of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

During the AGM, shareholders approved the Board of Directors' recommendation for a full-year cash dividend of BD53.9M equivalent to 32.5 fils per share. The 2025 interim dividend of 13.5 fils per share was already distributed during the second quarter of 2025, with the remaining dividend of 19.0 fils per share to be paid on 20 April 2026.

The meeting also included the appointments and elections



of Board Members for the next three-year term (2026–2029). Eight members were appointed by the general assembly: H.E. Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Mr. Ahmad Mazhar, Mr. Saleh Romeih and Mr. Sambamurthy Natarajan (representatives of Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company), Mr. Abdulla Kamal, and Ms. Fatema Alarayedh (representatives of the Social Insurance Organization) and Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa and Brig. Gen. Waleed bin Hindi (representatives of

Amber Holdings). The meeting also included the election of two members by the general assembly: Ms. Maha Abdulrahman and Mr. Abdulla Bukhowa.

Beyon Chairman H.E. Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa said, "I am pleased to welcome our newly appointed and elected board members and look forward to working closely with them as we guide Beyon through its next phase of growth and value creation. Their collective experience and insights will be instrumental as we continue to

strengthen the Group's governance and strategic direction. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the outgoing members of the Board for their valuable contributions and dedicated service over the past three years."

Commenting on Beyon's performance, H. E. Shaikh Abdulla noted: "Beyon's strong results in 2025 reflect the effectiveness of our clear strategic focus and the resilience of our diversified portfolio. The continued strength of our core telecommu-

nications operations, alongside the growing contribution of our digital businesses, underscores our ability to adapt, innovate and deliver sustainable long-term value for our shareholders, while steadily expanding our international footprint."

Concluding his remarks, he added: "I would like to thank our shareholders for their continued trust, and to acknowledge the commitment of the Board of Directors, executive management, and all Beyon team members across our markets. Their ded-

ication and hard work remain central to the Group's ongoing success and future ambitions."

During the virtual AGM, Beyon Group CEO, Andrew Kvaalseth, presented an overview of the company's key achievements in 2025, highlighting strong operational performance and continued expansion across Beyon's connectivity and digital businesses.

Mr. Kvaalseth said, "We closed 2025 with strong operational momentum across the Group. Growth in mobile, fixed broadband and wholesale services, together with the continued expansion of our digital companies, reflects the strength of our diversified business model and our focus on delivering innovative solutions to our customers."

"Looking ahead, we will continue to invest in advanced connectivity, intelligent digital infrastructure and next-generation services including the expanded use of artificial intelligence across our platforms, to support individuals, enterprises and governments to thrive in an increasingly digital economy."

Mr. Kvaalseth concluded by thanking Beyon's teams across all markets for their commitment in driving the company's continued progress.

Stocks rise on peace hopes, oil flat

AFP | London, United Kingdom

US and European stocks rose Tuesday on hopes for a quick end to the Middle East war, while oil prices steadied amid the continuing uncertainty.

Wall Street's main indices jumped more than 1% as trading got underway in New York.

The equities "market has been energized by a report that the president is willing to end the war with Iran, even if the Strait of Hormuz is not fully open,"

Key figures at around 1330 GMT

Brent North Sea Crude:	▼ 0.2% at \$107.23 a barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ less than 0.1% at \$102.93 a barrel
New York - Dow:	▲ 1.1% at 45,732.41 points
New York - S&P 500:	▲ 1.2% at 6,418.13
Nasdaq Composite:	▲ 1.4% at 21,083.37
London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.8% at 10,209.25
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.8% at 7,831.63
Frankfurt - DAX:	▲ 1.0% at 22,779.13
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 1.6% at 51,063.72 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▲ 0.2% at 24,788.14 (close)

said Briefing.com analyst Patrick O'Hare.

He called the response peculiar as this would not ensure a resumption of oil shipments, but noted the stock market is currently oversold on a short-term basis.

Investors who short stocks -- bet on a fall -- rush to purchase stocks if they believe prices will rise in order to avoid losses.

Brent North Sea crude for delivery in June -- its most traded contract -- dipped 0.2% to

\$107.23 per barrel.

But the international benchmark's contract for May, which expires Tuesday, stood at \$118.49 per barrel, up 5.1%.

The June contract better reflects market dynamics while May need for immediate deliveries.

The benchmark US contract, WTI, edged higher to \$102.93 per barrel.

The head of a maritime analyst group meanwhile warned in an interview with AFP that Asia is

confronting a major energy crisis, as it faces the gravest fallout from the war.

European stocks rose despite data showing eurozone inflation leapt in March because of surging energy prices caused by the conflict, hitting its highest level since January 2025.

Consumer prices rose by 2.5% in March, sharply up from 1.9% in February, the EU's statistics agency said.

Asia's main stock markets closed mixed.

Israel parliament approves **death penalty** bill for Palestinians convicted of deadly attacks

The bill would make the death penalty the default punishment for Palestinians

● **Palestinians in the West Bank are automatically tried in Israeli military courts**

● **The bill appears to conflict with Israel's Basic Laws**

● **The Palestinian Authority condemned the law's adoption**

AFP | Jerusalem

Israel's parliament approved a bill yesterday that would allow the execution of Palestinians convicted on terror charges for deadly attacks, a move that has been criticized as discriminatory and immediately drew a court challenge.

Sixty-two lawmakers, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, voted in favor and 48 against the bill, championed by far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir.

There was one abstention and the rest of the lawmakers were not present.

Ben Gvir in the run-up to the vote had worn a lapel pin in the shape of a noose, symbolising his support for the legislation.

"We made history!!! We promised. We delivered," he posted on X after the vote.

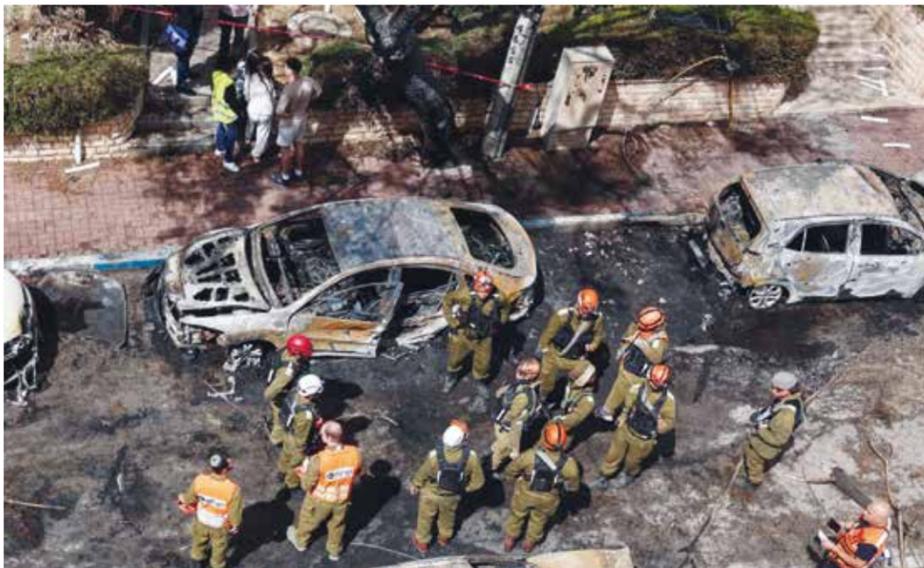
The bill would make the death penalty the default punishment for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank found guilty of intentionally carrying out deadly attacks deemed "acts of terrorism" by an Israeli military court. The bill says that the sentence may be reduced to life imprisonment under "special circumstances."

Palestinians in the West Bank are automatically tried in Israeli military courts.

Meanwhile, under the bill, in Israeli criminal courts anyone "who intentionally causes the death of a person with the aim of harming an Israeli citizen or resident out of an intention to put an end to the existence of the



Protesters hold placards outside the Red Cross offices in Ramallah, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, during a rally against a bill approved by Israel's parliament that would allow the execution of Palestinians convicted on terror charges for deadly attacks.



First responders stand by the wreckage of vehicles as they work at a site hit during an Iranian strike over Petah Tikva

State of Israel shall be sentenced to death or life imprisonment."

Criminal courts try Israeli nationals, including Palestinian citizens and residents of east Jerusalem.

The bill sets the execution

method as hanging, adding that it should be carried out within 90 days of the sentencing, with a possible postponement of up to 180 days.

'Parallel tracks'

The bill appears to conflict with Israel's Basic Laws, which prohibit arbitrary discrimination, and shortly after it was passed, a leading human rights group announced that it had filed a petition with the Supreme

Court demanding the legislation's annulment.

"The law creates two parallel tracks, both designed to apply to Palestinians," the Association for Civil Rights in Israel said in a statement.

"In military courts — which have jurisdiction over West Bank Palestinians — it establishes a near-mandatory death sentence," the rights group said.

In civilian courts, the law's stipulation that defendants must have acted "with the aim of negating the existence" of Israel "structurally excludes Jewish perpetrators," the group added.

The association argued the law should be annulled on both jurisdictional and constitutional grounds.

During the debate in parliament, opposition lawmaker and former deputy Mossad director, Ram Ben Barak, expressed outrage at the legislation.

"Do you understand what it means that there is one law for Arabs in Judea and Samaria, and a different law for the general public for which the State of

Britain, France, Germany and Italy expressed "deep concern" over the bill, which they said risked "undermining Israel's commitments with regards to democratic principles."

Israel is responsible?" he asked fellow parliamentarians, using the Israeli name for the West Bank.

"It says that Hamas has defeated us. It has defeated us because we have lost all our values."

'Discriminatory application'

The Palestinian Authority condemned the law's adoption, saying that "Israel has no sovereignty over Palestinian land."

"This law once again reveals the nature of the Israeli colonial system, which seeks to legitimize extrajudicial killing under legislative cover," it added.

While the death penalty exists for a small number of crimes in Israel, it has become a de facto abolitionist country — the Nazi Holocaust perpetrator Adolf Eichmann was the last person to be executed in 1962.



Israel has occupied the West Bank since 1967 and violence there has soared since Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel triggered the Gaza war.

UN worried by Israeli threats to occupy south Lebanon

AFP | United Nations, United States

The UN aid chief warned yesterday that southern Lebanon could become another occupied territory in the Middle East after renewed Israeli threats to seize the area following its war with Hezbollah.

Tom Fletcher drew parallels to Gaza, the Palestinian territory facing a humanitarian crisis, as he told the Security Council that fighting in Lebanon has already displaced 1.1 million people.

"Given the trajectory that some Israeli ministers have described and given what we have seen in plain sight in Gaza, how



will you protect civilians?" he said.

"Given the intensity of the coercive displacement that we are seeing, how should we prepare, collectively as the international community, for a new addition to the list of occupied territories?" Earlier Tuesday, Israel's Defense Minister Israel Katz said the military would occupy a swathe of southern Lebanon even after the end of the war against Hezbollah.

Katz's statement was not the

Damaged and destroyed vehicles are pictured at a parking lot in Dekwaneh, on the eastern outskirts of Beirut, on March 31, 2026, after the area was hit by Israeli bombardment.

first Israeli declaration signalling an intention to occupy parts of the south, but it was the clearest since the Middle East war spread to Lebanon on March 2.

Fletcher, who addressed the Security Council from Beirut, said he had witnessed "anxiety and tensions at levels I have not witnessed in and on Lebanon."

"In Lebanon, more than 1.1 million people have been displaced over the past four weeks, including more than 370,000 children," he said.

"Over 200,000 people have crossed over into Syria in the past month. A cycle of coercive displacement is unfolding.

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UN warns of huge cost of Mideast war to Arab countries

The number of jobs we will lose as a result of this conflict is around 3.7 million: UN's Al Dardari

● **Al Dardari, who is also a top UN official for the Arab region, said the countries of the oil-rich Gulf were shouldering the heaviest burden.**

● **He urged to seek out routes other than the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas flowed pre-war.**

● **Dardari sounded the alarm over the expected impact on jobs**

● **Loss to the Arab region's GDP as a result of one month of fighting will be around six per cent...**

AFP | Amman, Jordan

The war sparked by the joint US-Israeli attack on Iran and which has spread across the Middle East has cost Arab countries \$186 billion, a top UN official said yesterday, as he called for an immediate halt to the fighting.

"We hope the fighting will stop tomorrow, as every day of delay has negative repercussions on the global economy," UN assistant secretary-general Abdallah Al Dardari told reporters in Amman.

"We estimate that the loss to the Arab region's GDP as a result of one month of fighting will be around six per cent... Six per cent of GDP means the region has lost around \$186 billion from its economy in a single month," he said.

Al Dardari, who is also a top UN official for the Arab region, said the countries of the oil-rich Gulf were shouldering the heaviest burden.

"The impact on GDP is very significant in the Gulf region, where it could reach \$168 billion, and in the Levant region, where it could reach around \$30 billion," he said.

The war that erupted with a US-Israeli attack on Iran on February 28 spread quickly across the region, as Iran launched retaliatory attacks targeting Gulf countries and Israel.

Lebanon and Iraq have been drawn into the fighting, with pro-Iran groups launching attacks of their own on Israel and US interests.

Al Dardari warned against the Gulf's economic dependence on oil, saying the crisis around the vital waterway of the Strait of Hormuz had proved the need to diversify.

He also said there was a need to seek out routes other than the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas flowed pre-war.

"The Arab economy relies on



Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted a building adjacent to the highway that leads to Beirut's international airport

Israeli strikes hit Lebanon

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanon said Israeli strikes hit near Beirut's main airport road yesterday, as the UN Security Council held an urgent meeting after three peacekeepers were killed in the south.

Israeli Defence Minister

Israel Katz said his country's military would occupy a swathe of southern Lebanon even after the current war against Hezbollah has ended.

Fresh Israeli strikes hit the country's south and near Beirut on Tuesday, the state-run National News Agency said.

One strike hit a building next to Beirut's main airport road after Israel's military warned it would strike a "Hezbollah facility" there.

The road is the main means of accessing the country's only international passenger facility. AFPTV images showed

plumes of smoke rising from the site on the edge of Beirut's southern suburbs, a Hezbollah bastion that has largely emptied of residents since the latest hostilities erupted, and where Israel said it struck Hezbollah "infrastructure" earlier in the day.

Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney denounced Israel's deployment of troops against Hezbollah targets in Lebanon as an "illegal invasion" that violates its "integrity and sovereignty".

UN aid chief Tom Fletcher told the Security Council that south Lebanon could become another occupied territory in the Middle East. "Given the trajectory that some Israeli ministers have described and given what we have seen in plain sight in Gaza, how will you protect civilians?" he asked.

virtually a single commodity; even countries that do not export oil depend on remittances from expatriates in oil-exporting countries and on aid from those same countries, while the oil-exporting countries them-

selves rely on a single product," he said.

"This fragility in the Arab economy is demonstrated by recent events, which prove that it is unsustainable."

Dardari sounded the alarm

over the expected impact on jobs in a region already wracked by inequality.

"We estimate that the number of jobs we will lose as a result of this conflict is around 3.7 million," he said.

"As for the impact on poverty, we expect that around four million more people in the region will fall, or have already fallen, below the poverty line this month as a result of the hostilities."

Netanyahu says Israel will continue to 'crush Iran's regime'

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday that Israel would press ahead with its military campaign against Tehran, declaring that it would continue to "crush Iran's regime". "The campaign is not over," he said in a televised state-

ment. "We will continue to crush the regime."

Netanyahu's comments came shortly after Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said his country had the "necessary will" to end the war with Israel and the United States, but was seeking guarantees that the conflict would not be repeated.

Applying Israel's death penalty law would be a 'war crime': UN

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

The United Nations' human rights chief yesterday condemned a newly approved Israeli death penalty law, warning that applying it in occupied Palestinian territory "would constitute a war crime."

In a statement, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk described the new law as "pa-

tently inconsistent with Israel's international law obligations".

"It raises serious concerns about due process violations, is deeply discriminatory, and must be promptly repealed," he insisted.

Turk stressed that "the death penalty is profoundly difficult to reconcile with human dignity", cautioning that "its application in a discriminatory manner

would constitute an additional, particularly egregious violation of international law".

"Its application to residents of the occupied Palestinian territory would constitute a war crime."

The U.N. rights chief also expressed alarm at another bill currently before the Knesset aimed at establishing a special military court exclusively to

prosecute crimes committed during and in the aftermath of Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack inside Israel, which sparked the war in Gaza.

"I urge the Knesset to reject this bill," Turk said, warning that "by focusing exclusively on crimes committed by Palestinians, it would institutionalize discriminatory and one-sided justice".

Messi to start for Argentina in World Cup send-off: Scaloni

Argentina test full-strength lineup after lacklustre win over Mauritania

● **Messi starts against Zambia**

● **Final home game before World Cup defence**

● **Final 26-man squad due end of May**

AFP | Buenos Aires

Lionel Messi was set to start for Argentina in a friendly against Zambia in what is the reigning world champions' final game on home soil before they defend their World Cup crown.

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said Messi, who began on the bench for Friday's lacklustre 2-1 win over Mauritania, will spearhead what is expected to be a full-strength side against Zambia.

"Messi will be in the starting lineup tomorrow," Scaloni said.

Messi, 38, has not formally confirmed he plans to play in the World Cup but played a full part in Argentina's qualification campaign for the finals.

Scaloni indicated that he expects Messi to be part of his



Argentina's forward Lionel Messi controls the ball during a training session in Ezeiza, Buenos Aires province

squad for what would be the eight-time Ballon D'Or winners' sixth World Cup appearance.

"The important thing is that he comes and enjoys being at a World Cup — which, theoretically, will be his last," Scaloni said of Messi.

"We want him to enjoy it, because later on, you really miss

playing in events like these."

Scaloni said Messi yesterday would be surrounded by the established core of the team which topped South American qualifying and that will start the World Cup among the favourites for the title.

"Most of the players we know well will be playing. This will be

the final test," Scaloni said.

"Later, we'll make some changes to take a look at some of the younger guys, but the idea is to field our most familiar lineup," he said, emphasising that Friday's scrappy win over Mauritania was not representative of his squad.

"I am convinced that the



Scaloni hinted Messi's sixth World Cup could be his last, urging the 38-year-old to simply enjoy the tournament rather than focus on the pressure

team's performance level is not what we saw the other day," Scaloni said. "If we see that the team isn't quite there, we'll look for other options. But they deserve a vote of confidence."

Scaloni has already submitted a preliminary 55-player list to the Argentina Football Association, with the final 26-man squad to be confirmed at the end of May.

"I have the list pretty well figured out, but if performance levels aren't up to par, we'll take measures to ensure we bring the absolute best squad possible; we are striving for something as close to perfection as we can get," he said.

"The players who have been with us for a while hold a slight

55

players have been included in Lionel Scaloni's preliminary list submitted to the Argentina Football Association, a group that will be trimmed to just 26 for the final tournament



I am convinced that the team's performance level is not what we saw the other day. If we see that the team isn't quite there, we'll look for other options. But they deserve a vote of confidence

LIONEL SCALONI

advantage simply because we know them well; however, they have to maintain that advantage -- and everyone knows what happened the other day (against Mauritania) cannot be repeated."

Australia head to World Cup on a high after crushing Curacao 5-1

AFP | Melbourne

Watford striker Nestory Irankunda bagged a brace as Australia hammered fellow World Cup qualifier Curacao 5-1 yesterday in Melbourne, ensuring they head to North America on a high.

It was the Socceroos final home game before the global showpiece in June-July, building on a 1-0 win against Cameroon last week.

Curacao have now crashed to consecutive defeats after losing 2-0 to China, with new Dutch coach Fred Rutten facing a formidable task at the Caribbean island nation's maiden World Cup.

"A wonderful send off. We wanted to win this game and go off on a high note, and scoring five is a nice bonus," said Australia coach Tony Popovic.

"We considered a soft goal ... things to work on, but there was a great reaction after that."

Australia are in World Cup Group D with co-hosts the United States, Paraguay and either Kosovo or Turkey. Curacao are in a challenging Group E with Germany, Ivory Coast and Ecuador.

The Socceroos started slowly but got the breakthrough on 23 minutes after a loose pass



Australia's Nestory Irankunda (R) celebrates after scoring

from Curacao captain Leandro Bacuna.

It went to Kai Trewin who via Deni Juric found Awer Mabil with the Spain-based striker chipping over the goalkeeper.

Curacao, the smallest nation ever to make a World Cup, were fortunate to reach half-time only 1-0 behind, but struck back soon after the restart.

Substitute Arjany Martha

slotted the ball through goalkeeper Mat Ryan's legs, only for Australia to respond emphatically.

They collected two goals in four minutes, the first a powerful header by Parma defender Alessandro Circati then a curling shot from dynamic Feyenoord star Jordan Bos.

Irankunda added a fourth with 10 minutes left, doing a

A wonderful send off. We wanted to win this game and go off on a high note, and scoring five is a nice bonus. We considered a soft goal ... things to work on, but there was a great reaction after that

AUSTRALIA COACH TONY POPOVIC

backflip in celebration, and put another past the goalkeeper soon after as Curacao went to sleep.

Cameroon beat China 2-0 in an earlier match in Melbourne despite having coach David Pagou sent off.

They struck early with Karl Etta Eyong opening their account in the third minute and Saidou Alioum doubling it six minutes later.

There was drama in the second-half when coach David Pagou angrily protested a foul on Mael Fernandez Monyebé.

He was yellow-carded but kept up his rant and was rewarded with a red.

Newcastle say no manager change 'at the moment'



Newcastle manager Eddie Howe reacts during a match (file photo)

AFP | London

Newcastle chief executive David Hopkinson said yesterday the club have no plans "at the moment" to replace Eddie Howe as manager.

The Magpies were knocked out of the Champions League after a 7-2 loss at Barcelona earlier this month, before a home defeat by rivals Sunderland left them 12th in the Premier League.

"Eddie's our manager," said Hopkinson, speaking as Newcastle released their latest financial figures, of the 48-year-old.

"I expect to have a great run to the end of the season here

and we'll talk about the future when it's time."

Hopkinson, asked to specify his comments, added: "We are not looking to make a change at the moment. We are not having those conversations."

"We are still in the midst of the season. Right now, we are focused on the seven matches we have remaining and not distracting ourselves with speculation about what we may or may not do in the summer."

Newcastle will return to Premier League action after the international break seven points adrift of fifth place, which will likely be enough for Champions League qualification.

Mind games: How football stars are fuelling chess boom

Haaland and Salah headline crossover trend boosting chess's modern cultural appeal

● Erling Haaland invests in chess tour

● Mohamed Salah plays daily blitz chess

● Top players embrace game's strategy

● New global chess tour launched

AFP | London

Erling Haaland and Mohamed Salah are among the Premier League stars "addicted" to chess, helping to spark a surge in the game's popularity among younger people.

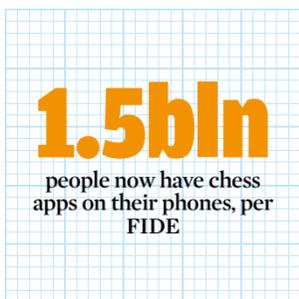
Manchester City striker Haaland is so fascinated by the game that he recently invested in a ground-breaking new chess tour to capitalise on the increased profile bestowed by its celebrity players.

As well as Haaland, Liverpool forward Salah and England team-mates Harry Kane, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Anthony Gordon are all avid chess players.

Salah is obsessed by playing the faster 'blitz' version of chess using an anonymous online profile.

"I'm addicted to chess. Every day, literally every day," the Egyptian said.

Arsenal midfielders Martin



Odegaard and Eberechi Eze are both keen players, with the latter winning an amateur tournament in 2025.

Chess grandmaster Magnus Carlsen, a five-time world champion, is a huge football fan and the Norwegian's love for both games has played a role in the surprise crossover.

Alexander-Arnold often plays chess with his brothers and once levelled-up to face Carlsen, who defeated the Real Madrid defender in a 17-move rout that lasted just five minutes.

AC Milan winger Christian Pulisic has the queen chess piece tattooed on his arm in tribute to his grandfather, who taught him the game as a child.

France World Cup winner Antoine Griezmann and Real Madrid's Dani Carvajal are also aficionados.

On the surface, the contemplative, cerebral nature of chess is a stark contrast to the physicality and aggression of football.

But dig deeper and there are more similarities than you would expect.



Erling Haaland reacts during a match (file photo)

"Chess is an incredible game. It sharpens your mind, and there are clear similarities to football," Haaland said.

"You have to think quickly, trust your instincts, and think several moves ahead. Strategy and planning are everything."

'It's remarkably similar'

Backed by the International Chess Federation (FIDE), the new tour will feature four tournaments each year in different cities, with a world champion crowned across three disciplines -- fast classic, rapid and blitz.

Each season will have a minimum prize pool of £2 million (\$2.7 million).

"Seeing a world-class athlete like Erling Haaland join the Total World Chess Championship Tour is a powerful signal of the global attention and cultural relevance that chess enjoys today," FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich said.

Chess has its roots in seventh century India.

But those humble origins are a far cry from the technology fast-tracking the chess boom, with online apps taking over

from the traditional board as the game's most common battleground.

Online play rocketed during the Covid-19 pandemic and, according to FIDE, at least 1.5 billion people now have a chess app on their phone.

Netflix series "The Queen's Gambit" and the impact of celebrity influencers, including footballers, have all contributed to the boom transforming the previously staid image of chess.

The strategy involved in chess also appeals to football managers looking for a mental edge in



their tactical battles on the pitch.

Quoted in the book 'Pep Confidential', Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola said: "You have no idea how similar the two things are."

Avid Real Madrid fan Carlsen sees his game through the same lens as former Barcelona coach Guardiola: "In chess and football, the important thing is to control the middle. If you control the middle, you control the pitch or the board," he said. "In terms of space, it's remarkably similar."

But will the satisfaction of a successful checkmate ever replace the thrill of scoring a winning goal for chess-fixated footballers?

For Kane, his true love remains football, leaving chess as the perfect way to relax.

"I use chess to switch off," he said. "It's such a mental game. You have to focus on every moment."

Undav rescues Germany late in Ghana friendly

AFP | Stuttgart

Last-gasp Deniz Undav goal saved Germany's blushes in an unconvincing 2-1 win over Ghana in a friendly in Stuttgart on Monday.

Germany dominated possession and field position against the visitors but needed a Kai Havertz penalty to break through just before half-time.

A counter-attacking Abdul Fatawu goal drew the visitors level and the lifeless match looked on track for a draw until Stuttgart striker Undav's 88th-minute effort put Germany back in front.

The home fans chanted Undav's name until the striker was brought on at half-time. The former Brighton forward told ARD: "It was crazy to hear how the fans stood behind me," adding "it was a perfect evening. Got the win, scored a goal -- top."

"We were completely in control in the first-half, but we have to make more out of our chances," Undav said.

Despite a seventh win in a row, it was an inconsistent performance from Julian Nagelsmann's men against an out-of-form Ghana side.

"We didn't play in position. There was a lot of 'freestyle' play again, like against Switzerland,



Germany's forward #13 Deniz Undav (L) celebrates scoring his team's second goal with teammates

which left us very vulnerable to counter-attacks," Nagelsmann said.

Former Arsenal player Thomas Partey lined up in midfield for Ghana, making his second international start since telling a London court he would plead not guilty to two new charges of rape, with a trial set to take place in November.

Before the game, Nagelsmann seemed unfazed despite Germany's leaky defence in Friday's 4-3 win over Switzerland on Friday, telling reporters "a clean sheet is nice, but above all we

need to be winning."

The hosts had Ghana pinned back for much of the opening half, with the visitors handing Germany the initiative with misplaced passes and failed clearances.

Involved in all four of Germany's goals against Switzerland, Florian Wirtz went close with a dipping free-kick after six minutes, hitting the outside of the post.

Nick Woltemade set Wirtz up for what seemed to be Germany's opener just after the half-hour mark, but the Newcastle

“
We didn't play in position. There was a lot of 'freestyle' play again, like against Switzerland, which left us very vulnerable to counter-attacks
”

JULIAN NAGELSMANN

forward was narrowly offside in the build-up.

In first-half stoppage time, VAR showed Jonas Adjetey handled an Angelo Stiller shot, allowing Havertz to convert from the spot.

Bayern Munich starlet Lenhart Karl came on at half-time and almost set up Germany's second minutes later with a deft chip which Woltemade headed against the crossbar.

With 20 minutes left, Ghana broke through on the counter to punish the hosts for their wastefulness, Derrick Koehn threading a ball for Fatawu to tap home.

Undav had little impact until the dying stages when he collected a Leroy Sane pass and prodded the winner into the top corner.

'Iran will be at World Cup' and play in US, FIFA's Infantino says

AFP | Antalya

FIFA president Gianni Infantino said yesterday that Iran "will be at the World Cup" and will play their group matches in the United States as scheduled, despite the Middle East war.

"Iran will be at the World Cup," Infantino said at half-time of Iran's friendly against Costa Rica in Turkey.

"That's why we're here. We're delighted because they're a very, very strong team, I'm very happy."

"I've seen the team, I've spoken to the players and the coach, so everything is fine," added Infantino, whose attendance at yesterday's game was unannounced.

Infantino went on to stress that Iran's "matches will be played where they are supposed to be, according to the draw".

The World Cup, being hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada, starts on June 11.



Gianni Infantino

Iran are set to play their first Group G game against New Zealand in Los Angeles on June 15. They are then scheduled to play Belgium in Los Angeles on June 21 and Egypt in Seattle on June 27.

Iran's participation had been thrown into doubt by the war with the US and Israel that broke out on February 28.

The Iranian football federation said earlier this month it was "negotiating" with FIFA to relocate the country's World Cup matches from the United States to Mexico.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum also said that her country is prepared to host Iran's first-round matches at the tournament if needed.

Bahrain's 3x3 teams eye strong Asia Cup showing in Singapore

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's men's and women's national 3x3 basketball teams are in Singapore today to compete in the FIBA 3x3 Asia Cup 2026, which runs from April 1-5 at The Kallang. The tournament marks the fifth consecutive year it will be staged in Singapore, one of the sport's premier continental hosts. Both teams aim to make an impact in the Asia Cup while keeping an eye on qualification for the 2026 FIBA 3x3 World Cup in Warsaw, Poland, from June 1-7.

The men's team, coached by Murtadha Mohammed, features Naser Almusawi, Isa Jassim, Mohammed Ghazwan, Al Wathiq Ali, and Salman Al Kaabi. Almusawi's journey is as compelling as his game: a cancer survivor, he returns as a dynamic scoring option capable of sparking momentum shifts with quick bursts of offense. Drawn into Group D of the qualifying stage, Bahrain will face Kazakhstan first, then Hong Kong, and finish against India. With 24 men's teams competing, early performances will be critical for advancing to the main draw and keeping their pathway to Warsaw alive.

The women's team, also led by coach



Bahrain's men's 3x3 team during training in Singapore



Bahrain's women's 3x3 team ahead of the Asia Cup

Murtadha Mohammed with team administrator Ahmed Elias, includes standout player Bayan Salman, Shereen Abdulrahman, Noor Najaf, and Nouf Abdullah. Competing in Group C, Bahrain opens against Chinese Taipei, then

faces Hong Kong, before concluding the first day against Saudi Arabia. With 22 teams competing in the women's tournament, Bayan Salman's energy and competitiveness will be central as the team seeks to reinforce Bahrain's

growing presence in continental 3x3 basketball.

This year's Asia Cup features both established powers and rising squads, with Australia entering as the reigning champion in both men's and women's

competitions. On the men's side, Mongolia, China, Japan, New Zealand, and Qatar are the key challengers, while in the women's tournament, China, Mongolia, Japan, and New Zealand will be looking to dethrone the champions.



Bahrain men's 3x3 player Naser Almusawi is a cancer survivor

Calls grow for 15-year-old Suryavanshi to make India bow

● Suryavanshi hits 52 off 17 balls in IPL

● Hit 35-ball century in 2025 IPL debut

AFP | New Delhi

There were growing calls yesterday for teenager Vaibhav Suryavanshi to be fast-tracked into India's senior national team after slamming a 17-ball 52 to launch his IPL season.

The batsman turned 15 last week, making him eligible to represent India under International Cricket Council rules, having already starred for his country at youth level.

On Monday he smacked four fours and five sixes as Rajasthan Royals chased down a target of 128 with 7.5 overs to spare against Chennai Super Kings in Guwahati.

The teenager made history in last year's IPL in a dazzling debut season highlighted by a 35-ball century, the second fastest in the history of the T20 tournament.

Spin bowling great Anil Kumble compared Suryavanshi to batting legend Sachin Tendulkar, who made his full international debut aged 16.



Rajasthan Royals' Indian cricket player Vaibhav Suryavanshi plays a shot

"Yes, absolutely. If a player shows this level of consistency, he should be fast-tracked, just like Sachin Tendulkar," Kumble said on JioHotstar.

Suryavanshi has already made his mark at youth international level, hammering 175 off just 80 balls as India beat England in the Under-19 World Cup final in February.

Former India batter Ambati Rayudu described Suryavanshi as "a cut above a lot of young-

"If a player shows this level of consistency, he should be fast-tracked, just like Sachin Tendulkar"

ANIL KUMBLE

sters in the country". "He's a talent that will defi-



nately do wonders for Indian cricket," Rayudu said on ESPN-cricinfo.

"I don't know when, but definitely in the future."

Inside the Rajasthan Royals camp, the leadership group has been focused on shielding the prodigy from the pressures of early fame.

"What I tell him is that you're going to play 14 games (in this season's IPL) and regardless of what goes on in the game, it shouldn't bother you," captain Riyan Parag said.

"What goes around in the media shouldn't bother you."

He added following Monday's latest eye-catching display: "Like everyone in the stands, we also had this feeling of 'wow', wondering how he is able to do this.

"He is a talent and I am very glad that he is in our team, and not the opponent's," he said.

Chelsea's Cucurella laments 'instability' caused by Maresca exit



Former Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca

AFP | London

Chelsea's Marc Cucurella believes former manager Enzo Maresca's departure and the club's policy of signing young players is behind the London side's recent struggles.

Maresca left Stamford Bridge by mutual consent on New Year's Day after just 18 months in charge following a breakdown in his relationship with the London side's hierarchy.

Chelsea were then fifth in the Premier League table -- 15

points adrift of leaders Arsenal.

The Italian was initially replaced by Under-21s coach Calum McFarlane before current manager Liam Rosenior arrived from Strasbourg -- a club also owned by Blues supremo Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital.

Chelsea, however, have won only four of their last 12 matches, suffering a humiliating 8-2 aggregate defeat by holders Paris Saint-Germain as they crashed out of the Champions League and slipping to sixth in the Premier League.

The making of champions

Coach John Conlon's Bahrain Boxing Mission

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

John Conlon has swapped the streets of Belfast for the gyms of Bahrain, driven by a single mission: to make the Kingdom a boxing force to be reckoned with. Speaking exclusively to The Daily Tribune, the Irishman, appointed head coach in December 2025, brings decades of experience training Olympic champions. He is now focused on shaping Bahrain's young fighters and instilling in them what he calls "warrior DNA."

Coach's Roots

Conlon grew up in West Belfast, a neighborhood renowned for producing Olympians. "I worked as a club coach for a long, long time. We have a great history of producing Olympians, my sons included," he said. His sons, Jamie and Michael Conlan, are accomplished boxers. Jamie held the Commonwealth super-flyweight title, while Michael won Olympic bronze, World Championship gold, and also challenged for the featherweight world title. From grassroots coaching to leading Ireland's high-performance programs, he also trained stars like Katie Taylor and Kellie Harrington. "Ireland has a strong boxing culture. It was a pleasure to be involved."

After a two-year break, Bahrain's Boxing President, His Excellency Rashid Felyefel, approached him. "I just connected straight away. I felt, you know what, this fits perfectly." Conlon spent his first days meeting athletes and visiting gyms, impressed by their commitment and warmth. He replaced Englishman Tony Davis as coach, bringing fresh energy and a clear vision to



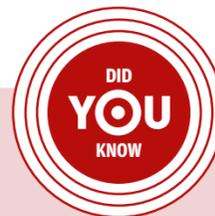
John Conlon, Bahrain's new head coach and performance director, at The Daily Tribune's headquarters

the federation.

Warrior DNA

At the heart of the coach's philosophy is courage. "I'm very similar to Irish people. You cut me, I have this warrior

DNA. I can't teach that. It's something you're born with," he said. He sees the same drive in Bahraini athletes, even those with limited natural talent. His role is to refine technique, conditioning, and strategy. "You want to throw



Coach Conlan's sons, Jamie and Michael, are former professional boxers

Jamie held the Commonwealth super-flyweight title, while Michael won Olympic bronze and challenged for the featherweight world title

one punch and take ten? No, not in my game." Exposure to diverse styles – American, Russian, European, Asian, and African – ensures Bahrain's boxers will surprise their opponents on the global stage.

Youth Development

Developing young talent is central to Conlon's approach. "The juniors are like sponges. They're diamonds that need to be polished," he said. He highlighted 15-year-old Mohammed Atiya, who impressed during a recent sparring trip to Saudi Arabia. Initially underestimated because of his age, Atiya quickly dominated. "Within two seconds, his opponent realized the game had changed. This kid fights for pride, not pay. That drive, focus, and heart is exactly what we look for."

Other Bahraini boxers like Sami AlAdsani, Ali AlAradi, and Rasheed Mehfrifar are learning to rotate strat-

egies, inspired by fighters such as Vasyl Lomachenko. Conlon emphasizes discipline, mental resilience, recovery, and attention to detail, all of which are crucial traits for producing well-rounded athletes.

10-Year Vision

Conlon's long-term plan connects local clubs to elite competition. Athletes will receive full support – medical, psychological, technical, and social – while remaining connected to grassroots coaches. "The club coaches do a huge amount of work. My role is to polish that work, not replace it," he said. The ultimate goal: medals at the Asian Games, World Championships, and Olympics, alongside national pride.

While touring local gyms, Conlon praised their role in shaping character. "They're teaching courage and self-respect. Boxing creates strong, disciplined, respectful young men and women. They're not thugs. Nobody messes with them because they know they can get clipped, but they behave in a way people admire."

Building Champions

Recent sparring camps, particularly Atiya's performance, hint at a bright future for Bahrain's youth fighters. Conlon's mission is ambitious but clear: instill discipline, and provide a structured pathway for the country to become a global boxing force. "Everything in life passes. When times are better, we will host more camps, bring in more countries, and develop athletes and coaches alike," he said.

With Conlon at the helm, Bahrain's boxing future is no longer a dream – it's a rising force, shaping champions round by round.

Tottenham appoint De Zerbi in battle for Premier League survival

Italian replaces Igor Tudor with Spurs one point above relegation zone

● Third manager of the season

● Seven Premier League games remaining

● De Zerbi signs reported five-year deal

AFP | London

Tottenham appointed Roberto De Zerbi as the club's third manager of the season yesterday as they battle to avoid relegation from English football's top-flight for the first time in nearly 50 years.

Former Brighton and Marseille boss De Zerbi has reportedly been handed a lucrative five-year deal to convince him to take the job immediately rather than waiting to see which division Spurs are in next season.



Marseille's Italian head coach Roberto De Zerbi gives instructions to his players (file photo)

Tottenham sit just one point outside the relegation zone with seven games of the Premier League season remaining.

De Zerbi replaces Igor Tudor, whose interim reign lasted just

seven games after Spurs crashed out of the Champions League and fell ever closer to the Premier League drop zone.

"I am delighted to be joining this fantastic football club,

which is one of the biggest and most prestigious in the world," said De Zerbi in a club statement.

"I am here because I believe in that ambition and have signed a long-term contract to give everything to deliver it.

"Our short-term priority is to climb the Premier League table, which will be the complete focus until the final whistle of the last game of the season."

De Zerbi established a positive reputation for himself in England during a two-year spell as Brighton boss between 2022 and 2024.

His time at Marseille started positively, finishing second to Paris Saint-Germain in Ligue 1 last season to qualify for the Champions League.

But he left the French club in February after failing to make it out of the Champions League group phase and a humiliating 5-0 defeat by PSG.

Tottenham have not tasted life outside the top flight of English football since the 1977/78 season.

Despite boasting a new 63,000-capacity stadium, state-of-the-art training ground and revenues that make them among the top 10 richest clubs in world football, they are at severe risk of a humiliating relegation to the Championship.

Just a few years ago they were Champions League regulars under former manager Mauricio Pochettino, reaching the final in 2019.

Last season they ended a 17-year trophy drought by winning the Europa League.

But the warning signs of a battle for survival were there as Ange Postecoglou was dismissed despite victory over Manchester United in the Europa League final after finishing 17th in the Premier League.

Thomas Frank was appointed



De Zerbi left Marseille in February after a 5-0 humiliation by PSG and failing to progress from the Champions League group stage, but now takes on an even greater challenge at Tottenham

as the Australian's successor, but the Dane was sacked in February after a run of two wins in 17 league games and replaced by Tudor.

De Zerbi's first match in charge will be away to Sunderland on April 12.