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Unity Against Threats

HM King Hamad hosts GCC armed forces chiefs



TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Supreme Commander of the Bahrain Defence Force, received the chiefs of staff of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states' armed forces, along with the GCC's assistant secretary-general for military affairs and the commander of the GCC's Unified Military Command, on the occasion of their meeting in Bahrain.

The officials conveyed greetings from their respective heads of state and well wishes for the Kingdom's continued progress.

King Hamad welcomed the delegation and reciprocated the greetings to his fellow GCC leaders.

His Majesty praised the chiefs of staff for their efforts in strengthening military cooperation and coordination among GCC states, and their unified stance against threats to regional security. He commended the armed forces' efficiency and professionalism in confronting recent Iranian aggression, calling it a reflection of the strength and cohesion of the Gulf defence



system. He affirmed that an attack on any GCC state is an attack on all of them.

In response, the chiefs of staff expressed deep appreciation for King Hamad's leadership and support for joint Gulf cooperation across all fields.

PMO Opens Applications for 12th Fellowship Intake

The Prime Minister's Office announced that the application period for the 12th intake of the Prime Minister's Fellowship Program, which will run from Wednesday, 1 July 2026, to Saturday, 1 August 2026.

The programme reflects the vision and directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to strengthen investment in the national workforce through continuous skills development, supporting enhanced government performance and outcomes.

The Fellowship focuses on upskilling Bahraini professionals in the public sector through a year-long tenure at the Prime Minister's Office, during which they undertake advanced training in research, analysis, and leadership.



The programme enhances participants' skills by providing hands-on experience in government policy implementation through direct engagement with key officials and policymakers at the Prime Minister's Office. The training and experience gained will support fellows as they return to their respective roles within government agencies.

Government employees below the managerial level can apply via the PMO's website at www.pmo.gov.bh

220 fils (includes VAT)



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New passport charges for Indian expats

Embassy revises charges for expats in Bahrain starting today

TDT | Manama
Pradeep Puravankara

The Embassy of India in Bahrain has officially announced a revised fee structure for passport and passport-related services for its citizens residing in Bahrain, effective July 1, 2026. This decision follows a global notification by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, resulting in an updated fee schedule across Indian missions globally.

While individual Indian missions abroad configure exact local-currency pricing based on consular exchange rates, the baseline global fee adjustments introduced by the MEA have increased passport fees significantly. According to the updated fee schedule for normal passport services in Bahrain, a 36-page fresh passport for children aged 0-8 years is set at BD 30.800. For applicants aged 0-15 years requiring a 36-page fresh or reissued passport, the rate is BD 34.100. For adults aged 18 and above, a standard 36-page fresh or reissued passport with a 10-year va-



lidity will cost BD 47.100 whereas a 60-page jumbo booklet for the same age group is priced at BD 65.600. In cases of lost, damaged, or stolen passports, the fee is adjusted to BD 93.300 for a 36-page booklet and BD 111.800 for a 60-page booklet.

Passports issued to adults will continue to carry a validity of up to ten years, while those issued to minors will remain valid for five years or until the applicant turns 18, whichever comes first.

For urgent requirements, the updated Tatkaal service fees have also gone into effect. A 36-page passport under Tatkaal for minors up to 18 years is BD 80.400. For adults 18 and above, Tatkaal reissue fees are BD 93.300 for a 36-page booklet and BD 111.800 for a 60-page booklet. Miscellaneous consular services have also been updated, with Police Clearance Certificates (PCC), Surrender Certificates, NRI Certificates, Duplicate Birth Certificates, and

Revised Indian Passport Fees in Bahrain

- Children (0-8 years, 36-page passport) : BD 30.800
- Children (0-15 years, 36-page passport - fresh/reissue) : BD 34.100
- Adults (18+ years, 36-page passport, 10-year validity) : BD 47.100
- Adults (18+ years, 60-page jumbo passport) : BD 65.600
- Lost/Damaged/Stolen (36-page passport) : BD 93.300
- Lost/Damaged/Stolen (60-page passport) : BD 111.800

Fees updated under MEA global revision and adjusted for local consular exchange rates. Applies to Indian passport services in Bahrain effective from today.

miscellaneous passport services now costing BD 9.800. Emergency Certificates are set at BD 6.400, Birth Registration at BD 8.000, NRI Certificate / Duplicate Birth Certificate at BD 9.800 and Marriage Registration at BD 18.800.

The Embassy noted that these listed fees are inclusive of the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) contribution of BD 0.800. In addition to the Government of India fees, applicants are required to pay an ICAC service

charge of 180 fils (BD 0.180) along with any applicable bank charges. Detailed information regarding the full schedule of services can be accessed on the official embassy portal at <https://eoibahrain.gov.in/passport-misc-consular-service.php>. Expatriates are advised that fees once paid are non-refundable, and they are encouraged to review the updated costs before submitting their applications at the designated centers.

Jordan reaffirms solidarity with Bahrain



Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani received a phone call from Ayman Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

During the call, Safadi expressed Jordan's solidarity with Bahrain and strongly condemned recent Iranian attacks that targeted civilian facilities and installations. He reaffirmed Jordan's support for all measures Bahrain is taking to safeguard its security, stability, and the safety of its citizens and residents.

New push for logistics and trade links



Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa meets MSC Air Cargo CEO Jan de Vlieger and UK Special Adviser Varun Chandra along with UK Export Finance CEO Tim Reid in Manama

Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa held two high-level meetings focused on strengthening Bahrain's role as a regional hub for logistics, transport, and investment. The discussions highlighted opportunities to expand strategic partnerships and support the Kingdom's infrastructure and economic development goals.

During a meeting with Jan de Vlieger, Chief Executive Officer of MSC Air Cargo, the Minister

discussed ways to enhance cooperation in air cargo operations, ports, and logistics services. Dr. Shaikh Abdullah reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to developing an advanced transport sector supported by modern infrastructure, innovation, and an attractive investment environment.

The meeting also reviewed Bahrain's competitive advantages, investment opportunities, and incentives available for cargo operators.

In a separate meeting, Dr. Shaikh Abdullah met Varun Chandra, Spe-

cial Adviser to the UK Prime Minister on Business and Investment, and Tim Reid, Chief Executive of UK Export Finance, where they discussed enhancing Bahrain-UK cooperation in transport, telecommunications, logistics, and investment.

The talks focused on infrastructure development, financing solutions, and expanding partnerships that support strategic projects and reinforce Bahrain's position as a regional centre for business and connectivity.

National Alert System project earns top innovation honour

The Ministry of Interior won the Public Safety Innovation Award for its National Alert System project at the Bahrain Smart Cities 2026 Conference.

Lieutenant General Adel bin Khalifa Al Fadhel, Deputy Minister of Interior, received the award. He highlighted the ministry's commitment to advancing civil protection and public safety through proactive risk management and early warning systems. He noted that the



National Alert System enhances emergency communication by delivering real-time alerts to citizens and residents via smart

devices, which improves response speed and coordination across government and civil sectors.

Arab Women Diplomats celebration in Cairo

Fawzia Zainal, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to Egypt and Permanent Representative to the League of Arab States, participated in a ceremony held at the Arab League headquarters marking the International Day of Arab Women Diplomats. The event was organised by the League's General Secretariat in cooperation with the Arab Council for Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development.



During the celebration, Ambassador Zainal received the 2026 Arab Woman Award for Social Responsibility in recognition of her distinguished diplomatic and parliamentary career. She was honoured for her historic roles, including being the first elected female Speaker of a parliament in the Arab world and Bahrain's first female Ambassador to Egypt, as well as her contributions to promoting women's leadership in the region.

GCC-EU Review Strait Of Hormuz Risks

Talks in Brussels focused on Iran-related tensions, maritime stability, and strengthening strategic coordination

The European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Kaja Kallas, received the ambassadors of the Gulf Cooperation Council member states to the European Union in Brussels.

The meeting was chaired on the GCC side by Dr. Mohammed Ali Behzad, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to Belgium and Head of Bahrain's Mission to the EU, representing the current GCC presidency.

Discussions focused on recent regional security developments, including the Iranian attacks against Bahrain and other GCC member states. The talks also addressed growing concerns over developments in the Strait of Hormuz and their impact on freedom of navigation and broader international maritime security.

Both sides emphasized the importance of strengthening GCC-EU coordination on diplomatic and security matters, with the aim of supporting regional stability and advancing shared strategic interests.

The two delegations also re-



EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas meets GCC ambassadors in Brussels, with Bahrain's Dr. Mohammed Ali Behzad chairing for the bloc's current presidency.

viewed the overall progress of GCC-EU relations, upcoming joint engagements, and wider regional and international issues of mutual concern as part of ongoing political consultation and coordination mechanisms.

High Representative Kaja Kallas reaffirmed the European Union's solidarity with Bahrain and other GCC states, condemning the recent attacks attributed to Iran.

In a separate engagement, the Ambassador of Bahrain to Belgium, Dr. Mohammed Ali Behzad, met with the President of the Wallonia Region of Belgium, Adrien Dolimont, at the regional government headquarters.

The meeting reviewed the growing bilateral relations between Bahrain and Belgium,



Bahrain Ambassador Meets Belgian Wallonia Region Leader

highlighting expanding cooperation in political, economic, commercial, and investment sectors.

Both sides discussed opportunities to further develop partnerships and encourage mutual investments that benefit both countries and their peoples, while also exploring new avenues for collaboration in key development areas.

Bahrain and Botswana establish diplomatic relations



The Kingdom of Bahrain and the Republic of Botswana officially established diplomatic relations after signing a Joint Communiqué at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, marking a new step toward strengthening friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Driverless cars set for testing in Bahrain

New legislation aims to attract global technology companies

● Focus on digital transformation and sustainability

● Smart cities aim to improve the quality of life

● Strong role for AI, data and smart infrastructure

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Bahrain is set to introduce new regulations allowing the testing and operation of self-driving vehicles in the Kingdom, marking a major step towards adopting future transport technologies.

Transportation and Telecommunications Minister Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa said the upcoming legislation would create a clear regulatory framework for autonomous vehicles, enabling companies to test driverless cars and advanced mobility solutions in real-world conditions.

The minister said the initiative reflects Bahrain's efforts



Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa tours the exhibition centre at the Smart Cities Conference

to develop a modern legislative environment, encourage innovation and attract high-quality investment in the transport technology sector.

Shaikh Dr Abdulla highlighted Bahrain's previous success in supporting advanced technology trials, including BMW's testing of an early GPS positioning system installed in a vehicle, citing the Kingdom's infrastructure and operational conditions as key advantages.

Smart Cities push

The announcement was made during the ninth Bahrain Smart Cities Conference, held at the Gulf Hotel under the patronage of Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al

Khalifa.

The two-day conference brought together government officials, GCC representatives, and regional and international experts to discuss smart urban development, sustainability, digital transformation, innovation and future city planning.

Technology focused on improving lives

Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Minister Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak said smart cities are no longer defined only by technology, but by their ability to enhance quality of life, improve services and support sustainable development.

Al Mubarak highlighted Bahrain's progress in areas including



“AI, data and smart solutions are shaping better decisions and smarter resource management.”

- WAEL BIN NASSER AL MUBARAK

sustainable urban development, infrastructure, digital government services, transportation and smart solutions, describing them as part of the wider goals of Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 through government and private-sector cooperation.

Sustainability and innovation

Sustainable Development Minister Noor bint Ali Al Khalifa said smart city initiatives



“Autonomous vehicle framework opens new opportunities to test and develop future mobility solutions.”

- DR. SHAIKH ABDULLA BIN AHMED AL KHALIFA

were closely linked to global Sustainable Development Goals, with Bahrain adopting an integrated approach focused on long-term sustainability and improving citizens' quality of life.

She said Bahrain is investing in digital infrastructure, innovation, data-driven government systems, efficient resource management and solutions aimed at reducing consumption while supporting environmental and economic sustainability.

From
The Court
TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

Man Arrested for Filming Police at Checkpoint

The Ministry of Interior arrested a 29-year-old Asian national for misusing social media after he filmed police officers performing their duties at a security checkpoint and posted the footage online.

The General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security said the act constituted a legal violation. Authorities confirmed that legal procedures were taken against the individual, and the case was referred to the Public Prosecution.

Five-Year Jail Term in Violence and Vandalism Case

The High Criminal Court sentenced a defendant to five years in prison in a case involving violence and vandalism linked to incidents during last March's attacks on Bahrain.

The court also ordered the confiscation of seized items. The Public Prosecution said the defendant was arrested at the scene and later referred for investigation, where witness statements and evidence were collected before trial.

Authorities reaffirmed their commitment to taking firm legal action against acts threatening public security and societal stability.

7 Defendants Jailed 5-10 Years

The High Criminal Court issued prison sentences ranging from five to ten years against seven defendants in six separate cases involving support for terrorist attacks against Bahrain, spreading false news, and filming sensitive locations.

Some defendants were also fined 2,000 Bahraini dinars, with confiscation of seized items ordered. The Public Prosecution said cyber monitoring teams identified the involved accounts, leading to arrests and forensic examination of electronic devices.

Ex-Official on Trial for Fraud and Financial Crimes

The First High Criminal Court has begun hearing a major case against a former official from the Jaafari Endowments Directorate, accused of embezzlement, forgery, exploitation, and money laundering.

The defendant is alleged to have misappropriated more than 483,000 Bahraini dinars between 2022 and 2025 by manipulating charity aid processes, forging documents, and diverting funds into personal accounts. He is also accused of exploiting vulnerable individuals through false marriage promises and financial deception.

Investigations revealed extensive financial irregularities, including money laundering through asset purchases, loan repayments, and use of third-party accounts. IT records reportedly showed 937 aid requests processed under his control.

The Public Prosecution presented witness testimony from financial officers, auditors, investigators, and affected individuals, while the court continues to hear the case.

United Against Aggression

Parliament condemns attacks on Bahrain, Gulf states and Jordan, calls for stronger cooperation

Shura Council members Dr. Adel Abdulrahman Al Muawada and Dr. Ebtessam Mohamed Saleh Al Dallal highlighted Arab parliamentary unity in rejecting Iranian attacks targeting Bahrain, GCC states and Jordan, stressing the need to protect national sovereignty and prevent interference in internal affairs.

Speaking during the third session of the Arab Parliament's second regular session of the fourth legislative term, held at the League of Arab States headquarters in Cairo, the Bahraini representatives said discussions reflected a shared commitment to strengthening Arab



Dr. Adel Abdulrahman Al Muawada
Dr. Ebtessam Mohamed Saleh Al Dallal

cooperation and addressing regional security challenges.

They welcomed the Arab Parliament's adoption of a statement condemning attacks targeting oil facilities and civilian sites, describing it as a unified Arab stance supporting stability and security.

Al Muawada and Al Dallal stressed the importance of



greater coordination between Arab parliaments to defend common interests, strengthen parliamentary diplomacy and support efforts to maintain peace and stability.

They reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to supporting joint Arab initiatives, noting that unity and cooperation among Arab institutions remain key to safeguarding sovereignty and achieving security and development.

Regional Threats Require Unified GCC Response

Senior GCC military leaders attended a high-level coordination meeting in Manama

Regional security and strengthening collective defence cooperation were the central focus of a high-level meeting of the Higher Military Committee of the Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, held in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Lieutenant General Dhiyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, Chief of Staff of the Bahrain Defence Force, and brought together senior military leaders from GCC member states.

At the opening session, the Bahraini Chief of Staff welcomed the delegations and emphasized the importance of



advancing GCC cooperation in light of evolving regional security challenges. He described the meeting as a key platform to reinforce joint defence coordination and enhance collective readiness.

The Bahraini Chief of Staff underlined the need for a unified and practical framework to address regional security developments, stressing the importance of strengthening

coordination mechanisms, improving operational readiness, and ensuring rapid response capabilities among GCC armed forces.

The meeting concluded with GCC military leaders reaffirming their commitment to enhancing joint defence cooperation and strengthening the region's collective security architecture.

42 New Parking Meters Activated

The Ministry of Works, in coordination with the General Directorate of Traffic at the Ministry of Interior, announced the activation of 42 new parking meters in Bahrain's Diplomatic Area.

The initiative aims to regulate parking space use and improve traffic flow in the area, ensuring better parking availability for visitors and daily users. The Diplomatic Area includes 546 parking spaces, which will now be more efficiently managed through the upgraded system.

According to the ministry, the new meters offer multiple payment options, including credit cards, Apple Pay, and cash pay-



ments. This is designed to provide users with greater convenience and a smoother payment experience when using public parking facilities.

Authorities urged all motorists to comply with posted parking time limits, regulations, and guidance, emphasizing that adherence will maximize the benefit of available spaces and improve access for the largest possible number of visitors.

The Ministry of Works said the rollout is part of ongoing efforts to enhance parking services across Bahrain, improve operational efficiency, and raise the overall quality of public road services.

RHF, UNIDO Join Forces for Humanitarian Development



The Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) signed a cooperation agreement to enhance collaboration in sustainable development and humanitarian action.

The agreement was signed at the United Nations Headquarters in Vienna by RHF Acting Secretary-General Ebrahim

Dalhan Aldoseri and UNIDO Director General Gerd Müller, focusing on joint efforts to support economic recovery, restore livelihoods and empower communities affected by crises. The partnership will also contribute to rehabilitation programmes and support small and medium-sized enterprises in affected regions, including Palestine, Syria and Sudan.

RCSI Bahrain Explores Cultural Collaboration with Archaeologist

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The RCSI Medical University of Bahrain has explored potential academic and cultural collaboration with renowned archaeologist Dr Abdulaziz Ali Suwaileh, during a meeting held on campus.

The session was attended by Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Bahrain, and Dr Amal Al-Qallaf, Head of the Language and Culture Unit.

During the meeting, Dr Suwaileh presented his latest publication, "Dilmun: The Kingdom of Civilisation," which highlights Bahrain's historical role as a major cultural and trading hub in the ancient world. He also stressed the importance of historical research in preserving national heritage and strengthening cultural identity.



Renowned archaeologist Dr Abdulaziz Ali Suwaileh during a campus meeting attended by Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Bahrain, and Dr Amal Al-Qallaf, Head of the Language and Culture Unit

Discussions focused on possible cooperation through guest lectures and workshops on the Dilmun civilisation, Bahraini history, and the Kingdom's broader cultural legacy. These initiatives aim to enhance student engagement with leading scholarship and deepen understanding of Bah-

rain's heritage.

The meeting also highlighted the connection between healthcare and history, underscoring the value of interdisciplinary learning. RCSI Bahrain reaffirmed its commitment to initiatives that promote cultural awareness, national identity, and academic enrichment.

RHF Launches Beneficiary Satisfaction Index with Derasat

Study to measure feedback from 2,000 beneficiaries to improve humanitarian services

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The Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) has launched its Beneficiary Satisfaction Index in collaboration with the Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat) to enhance service quality and strengthen institutional performance.

As part of the initiative, Derasat will conduct a comprehensive survey covering RHF programmes and services, gathering feedback from around 2,000 beneficiaries using scientific research and statistical methods.

The study will include data collection, analysis and a detailed report with recommen-

dations aimed at improving humanitarian programmes and increasing beneficiary satisfaction.

Eng. Ebrahim Dalhan Aldoseri, RHF Acting Secretary-General, said the initiative highlights the foundation's commitment to improving services through beneficiary feedback.

Derasat CEO Abdulla Mohammed Al Ahmed said the survey will provide valuable insights to support evidence-based decisions and enhance institutional performance.



Listening to beneficiaries' feedback helps us enhance the quality and impact of our humanitarian programmes.

Eng. Ebrahim Dalhan Aldoseri



Our role is to provide accurate insights through scientific methodologies to support institutional development.

Abdulla Mohammed Al Ahmed

The partnership highlights the importance of national cooperation in improving humanitarian services and advancing Bahrain's digital transformation goals.

Building on IB Momentum, Bahrain Trains 200 Educators

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Just a week after Bahrain became the first country in the region to introduce the prestigious International Baccalaureate (IB) programme in government schools, the Ministry of Education trained 200 educators to support the rollout of the Middle Years Programme (MYP).

The participants completed the IB's "Developing the MYP" training programme, part of the ministry's efforts to prepare schools for implementation and ensure they meet international accreditation requirements.

The programme brought together staff from schools selected to offer the MYP, along with curriculum specialists, educa-

tional supervisors, assessment experts and school principals. The 200 participants were divided into eight training groups of 25 each.

The sessions were led by IB-certified international trainers, who introduced participants to the programme's framework and shared global best practices for classroom delivery and school implementation.

According to the ministry, the training aims to strengthen teaching and learning, build national expertise and prepare schools to meet the International Baccalaureate's standards for the Middle Years Programme.

The latest initiative follows last week's landmark announcement that Bahrain became the



first country in the region to introduce the IB programme in government schools. Education Minister Dr Mohammed Mubarak Juma described the move as a major milestone in aligning Bahrain's education system with global standards. The latest training marks the next step in preparing educators to successfully deliver the internationally recognised curriculum.

Strengthening National Identity Framework



TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

The General Secretariat of the Shura Council, in cooperation with the Institute of Public Administration, organized a dialogue session titled "The Kingdom of Bahrain's Strategy in Supporting National

Identity," presented by His Excellency Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities.

The session reviewed Bahrain's strategic approach to strengthening national identity and preserving cultural and historical heritage, highlight-

ing key national initiatives in this field. It also emphasized the importance of coordinated institutional efforts and close cooperation with the legislative authority to develop supportive legal frameworks that reinforce belonging, loyalty, and cultural preservation across generations.

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Hasan Barakat

17 Shared Housing Buildings Operating Without Registration

Only one shared worker accommodation building is officially registered in the Northern Governorate's Sixth Constituency, while 17 others have been found operating without approval, according to the Northern Municipality.

The figures were revealed by Northern Municipality Director-General Mohammed Saad Al Sahli in response to a question from representative Abdulla Abdulhameed Ashoor on monitoring shared housing conditions.

The municipality said it maintains a database of buildings used for shared accommodation, with the only registered facility recorded in December 2023.

Officials said regular inspections are carried out based on field checks, public complaints and reports. The municipality also coordinates with relevant authorities to verify rental contract requirements and ensure compliance.

A total of 24 notices have been issued to buildings operating as shared worker accommodation



without approval. Seven properties have since corrected their status, while unresolved cases

are referred for legal action.

The municipality confirmed it has no authority to cancel rental contracts but continues to inspect properties, issue warnings and refer violations through official channels.

Four inspection campaigns have been conducted, covering 14 unregistered shared accommodation buildings. Electricity and water disconnections are carried out in coordination with relevant authorities, with one property in the constituency having its electricity supply cut.

Fire-hit A'ali family awaits return home as council seeks exemption

A family displaced by a house fire in A'ali in 2024 is still waiting to return home, as the Northern Municipal Council moves to resolve a procedural delay blocking reconstruction works.

The council unanimously approved a request to the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture seeking an exemption from the residence requirement for the homeowner.

The request, submitted by Sixth Constituency representative Abdulla Abdulhameed Ashoor, comes after a technical report found the fire-damaged house was unsafe and beyond repair due to structural damage, including a deteriorated wooden roof and major wall cracks.

The homeowner had agreed to demolish and rebuild the property at his own expense, with finishing works to be supported through the Towns and Villages Development Project.

However, the family's temporary relocation after the fire



Pictures showing the house fire that displaced a family in A'ali in 2024.

required a change of official address, preventing the homeowner from meeting the residency condition needed to complete the procedures.

The council said granting the exemption would help speed up the project and allow the family to return to their home after a prolonged displacement. The recommendation will now be reviewed by the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture.

More Home Parking Space by Allowing Wall Changes

Plan aims to reduce street congestion as households struggle with rising number of vehicles

Homeowners in Bahrain's northern residential areas could be allowed to remove sections of their front walls to create additional parking spaces under a proposal approved by the Northern Municipal Council.

The proposal, submitted by representative Abdulla Abdulhameed Ashoor, has been forwarded to the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture for approval.

The suggested amendment would allow residents to modify parts of their external front walls and use the front setback area for additional longitudinal parking,



while still following approved planning regulations.

The council's technical committee said the move addresses growing parking pressure in residential areas, where streets were not de-

signed to handle the increasing number of vehicles.

Officials highlighted that many households now own four or more cars, leading to blocked pavements, crowded roads and dis-

putes over limited parking spaces.

By allowing parking within property boundaries, the council said the proposal could improve traffic flow, protect pedestrian movement and reduce random roadside parking.

Ashoor said the initiative would provide residents with a practical solution and bring greater organisation to neighbourhoods facing parking challenges.

The proposal now awaits the Minister's decision, with further considerations expected regarding construction requirements, safety standards and maintaining the appearance of residential areas.

Gulf Air Group Holding Announces New Board of Directors

Gulf Air Group Holding B.S.C. (C) announced the appointment of its new Board of Directors and for its portfolio companies Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and Bahrain Airport Company, the managing body and operator of Bahrain International Airport.

The new Board of Directors comprises the following members under the chairmanship of Mr. Khalid Hussain Taqi: H.E. Shaikh Fahad bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, Mrs. Sara Ahmed Buhiji, Mr. Faisal Ali Al Jalahma, Mr. Alaa Abdulkhaleq Saeed, Mr. Sael Al Waary and Mrs. Julia Simpson

This underscores Gulf Air Group's commitment to driving sustainable growth across its portfolio through active asset management and board governance, reinforcing the aviation industry's pivotal role in advancing the Kingdom of Bahrain's economic goals.

Gulf Air Group extends its sincere appreciation to the outgoing Board members,



recognising their dedicated efforts and the significant contributions they made during their tenure.

Gulf Air Group is a subsidiary of Bahrain Mumtalakat

Holding Company (Mumtalakat), the sovereign wealth fund of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and serves as the holding entity for Mumtalakat's aviation assets.

Beyon Cyber First Bahraini Company to Be Awarded CREST SOC Certification

Beyon Cyber, part of the Beyon Group, has achieved CREST accreditation for its Security Operations Center (SOC), marking a major external validation of its SOC capabilities and the company's overall operational excellence, confirming its ability to support organisations across Bahrain and the region in protecting their digital environments.

CREST is one of the world's most respected accreditation bodies for cybersecurity operations, awarding accreditation to organisations that meet the highest international standards for the management and operation of Security Operations Centers. The accreditation places Beyon Cyber among a select group of SOC operators globally, with only 84 SOC operators worldwide and 17 across the region currently holding this accreditation.

The achievement confirms that Beyon Cyber's SOC aligns with internationally recognised standards, including its processes, technical capabilities, service governance, and ability to monitor, detect, and



Dr. Shaikh Khalid bin Dajj Al Khalifa



Security Operations Centre

respond to evolving cyber threats.

Dr. Shaikh Khalid bin Dajj Al Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer of Beyon Cyber, said: "Achieving CREST accreditation is an important milestone in our journey and is independent validation of the organizational maturity and the specialized expertise and capability within our Security Operations Center. This internationally recognised accreditation reinforces our customers and partners' confidence in the service we provide as well as our commitment to monitoring, detecting, and responding to cyber threats effectively and in line with global standards."

The accreditation adds to Beyon Cyber's growing portfolio of achievements in cybersecurity and has resulted in the company being listed as a CREST-accredited member company on the CREST global directory.

Beyon Cyber continues to strengthen its cybersecurity capabilities to help enterprises and government organisations protect critical digital environments and build long-term cyber resilience.

Al Salam Bank First Bank Globally to Implement J.P. Morgan Payments' Overnight Murabaha Solution

Al Salam Bank has announced its successful launch of J.P. Morgan Payments' Overnight Murabaha solution, becoming the first bank globally to implement this innovative Murabaha-based liquidity management tool based on a Murabaha sale structure. The milestone reflects the Bank's pioneering approach to treasury and liquidity management innovation, while reinforcing its commitment to adopt advanced solutions to enhance efficiency and performance.

The collaboration was recently commemorated during an official visit by senior representatives from J.P. Morgan Payments to the Bank's headquarters in the Kingdom of Bahrain, highlighting the strategic importance of this relationship and its role in advancing Murabaha-based financial solu-



tions on a global scale.

Launched in March 2026, the Overnight Murabaha solution enables Al Salam Bank to generate Murabaha-based overnight returns on balances held within its USD nostro account with J.P. Morgan Payments. The solution is designed to enhance liquidity optimization by enabling the

Bank to deploy short-term funds more efficiently, improve treasury efficiency, and manage its balance sheet more effectively. This achievement marks a significant step forward in the longstanding relationship between Al Salam Bank and J.P. Morgan, reflecting a shared commitment to innovation and excellence in



financial services.

Commenting on the occasion, Rafik Nayed, Group Chief Executive Officer of Al Salam Bank, said: "We are proud to be the first bank globally to implement J.P. Morgan Payments' Overnight Murabaha solution, marking a key milestone in the evolution of liquidity management in our sector. This achievement reflects our ongoing commitment to delivering innovative, value-driven solutions that enhance the effi-

ciency of our treasury operations while maintaining the highest governance standards. Our collaboration with J.P. Morgan Payments underscores the strength of our strategic partnerships with leading global institutions and supports our broader vision to drive sustainable growth, innovation, and excellence across our operations."

Abdulla Ahmed Aljanahi, General Manager of J.P. Morgan Bahrain Branch, said, "This

launch reflects a relationship built on trust and a shared focus on solving real client needs. We have a longstanding relationship with Al Salam Bank and we're proud to deliver a meaningful milestone in Murabaha-based liquidity management, providing tangible impact for the bank's treasury operations."

The introduction of this solution underscores Al Salam Bank's continued focus on enhancing its treasury and financial institutions' capabilities through the adoption of globally recognized best practices. By leveraging strategic collaborations and introducing differentiated offerings, the Bank remains well-positioned to support the development of the Islamic finance industry while delivering tangible value to its stakeholders.

The Ladies and Gentlemen of The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain Sign the Pledge of Loyalty and Allegiance.

In a profound demonstration of national unity and unwavering loyalty, The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain hosted a formal ceremony during which a Pledge of Loyalty and Allegiance to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and its people was signed.

The ceremony was held at The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain and was attended by Mr. Yamil Santiago, Director of the International Hotels Establishment and a representative of the owners, General Manager Bernard de Villèle, members of the hotel's Guidance Team and the Ladies and Gentlemen from various departments.

General Manager Bernard de Villèle in his remarks said "Since 1783, the House of Khalifa has guided



the Kingdom of Bahrain with visionary leadership. As of 2026, for 243 years of history, Bahrain and its people have welcomed the world with open arms, drawing strength from a rich heritage to become a



beacon of diversity, tolerance, hospitality, and cultural enrichment. Through the wise leadership, together with the spirit of its citizens and residents, Bahrain has successfully preserved its cherished traditions while embracing progress. Its world-class infrastructure, advanced

healthcare and educational institutions, and commitment to safety and security have made the Kingdom one of the most inspiring places in the world to live, work, and thrive."

While Mr. Yamil Santiago stated "Bahrain is truly a second home to all of us. It is a nation that has welcomed

people from around the world with warmth, respect, and opportunity. We remain deeply committed to supporting its continued growth and prosperity, and we are grateful for the wise leadership that continues to guide the Kingdom toward lasting peace, progress, and unity."

The Ladies and Gentlemen also took the opportunity to share heartfelt stories, reflecting on how Bahrain has become their home and the meaningful connections they have built within their family and community.

The ceremony concluded with a collective affirmation of loyalty and gratitude, reflecting the deep appreciation of The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's Ladies and Gentlemen for the Kingdom they proudly call home. It stands as a testament to the hotel's dedication to remaining an active partner in the Kingdom's development while upholding the values of peace, development, tolerance and community integration championed by His Majesty throughout his leadership.

End of the line for Finland's analogue phone network

AFP | Helsinki, Finland

Finland on Tuesday pulled the plug on analogue landline phone calls after almost 150 years, the latest country to push forward in a global transition towards digital infrastructure.

Estonia, the Netherlands, Norway and Spain have already made the jump, as countries across the world roll out fibre optic cable that can handle both internet services and voice calls.

Finland's fixed-line network began operating in the 1880s, but like everywhere else the digital revolution has swallowed up the old technology based on copper wires.

And the Nordic country, home of mobile phone pioneer Nokia, has seen the use of landline phones gobbed up by mobile technology.

Elisa, the country's last major telecom operator with a fixed-line copper-wire network, marked the end of its service with a call between the firm's CEO Topi Manner and Jarkko Saarimäki, head of the country's communication and transport agency.

Poland will not send MiG-29 fighter aircraft to Ukraine: minister

AFP | Warsaw, Poland

Warsaw and Kyiv have failed to reach an agreement on a swap of Polish MiG-29 fighter aircraft for Ukrainian drone technologies, Polish defence minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz said.

Poland, which already supplied Ukraine with a large share of its MiG-29s immediately after the start of the Russian invasion in 2022, still has around a dozen such Soviet-era aircraft, according to media reports.

Amid a backdrop of weeks of diplomatic tensions over WWII-era massacres between the two neighbour allies, Kosiniak-Kamysz attributed the failure to reach an agreement to Ukraine.

Myanmar denies ASEAN request for Suu Kyi meeting

AFP | Naypyidaw, Myanmar

Myanmar's authorities have denied a request for ASEAN's special envoy to meet its deposed and detained democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi, an administration spokeswoman said Tuesday.

The military plunged Myanmar into civil war in 2021 when it staged a coup ousting the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and ending a decade-long experiment with democracy.

India's much-delayed bullet train project picks up speed

AFP | New Delhi, India

India is finally on track to open a section of its long-delayed first high-speed bullet train line in 2027, railway ministry officials say, almost a decade after work began.

New Delhi hopes what it calls "a major milestone in India's railway modernisation efforts" will serve as a springboard for a wider national electrified high-speed rail network.

"The knowledge, skills and capabilities developed through the project are expected to support future high-speed rail corridors across the country," the government's

plan reads.

The first 508-kilometre (315-mile) line is being built along its west coast, the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor.

"A considerable amount of work on the entire corridor has already been completed," Dharmendra Tewari, Indian Railways additional director general, told AFP.

"The first section-

tion of the bullet train will be operational in 2027, between the cities of Surat and Vapi," he added.

Surat, the global diamond cutting centre, and Vapi, known for its chemical and manufacturing industries, are about 100 kilometres apart.

The project has been a long time coming, mired in cost overruns and delays.



Doha peace talks begin

US envoys Witkoff, Kushner meeting mediators

AFP | Doha, Qatar

US envoys were meeting with Qatari mediators on Tuesday, the Gulf state's foreign ministry spokesman said, after Washington said it was sending a negotiating team.

"Mr. Steve Witkoff and Mr. Jared Kushner are here in Doha to meet with mediators, with Qatari officials, and the talks will be around all regional issues," foreign ministry spokesman Majed Al Ansari said.

Talks with the envoys would include discussions on Iran but also other topics including Lebanon, the spokesman said.

"They are not here for their negotiations with the Iranians," he added.

Both the US and Iran had said they would send officials for meetings in Qatar to discuss a memorandum of understanding agreed between the two sides

aimed at ending the Middle East war, which broke out on February 28 with US-Israeli strikes on Iran.

Ansari clarified that no high-level meetings or direct talks between the United States and Iran were planned in Doha.

"To the best of my knowledge, there are no direct meetings scheduled between the two parties in the coming days," he said.

He explained that an Iranian technical delegation travels to and from Doha based on the progress of negotiations. There is currently no high-level delegation present". The so-

called technical talks, negotiations between lower-ranking officials on details, included "tracks on the nuclear side... a track on the economic and state performance issue" as well as security, the spokesman said.

Qatar had previously refused to enter into mediation under Iranian fire as Tehran launched an unprecedented aerial bombardment against Gulf states in retaliation for the US-Israeli strikes.

However, the Gulf emirate has played an active role in negotiations in recent weeks after an initial April ceasefire was brokered by Pakistan.



Ultra-wealthy Chinese exile in New York sentenced to 30 years for fraud

AFP | New York, United States

Exiled Chinese entrepreneur Guo Wengui, convicted of defrauding thousands of people of more than \$1 billion, was sentenced Monday to 30 years in prison by a federal court in New York, US media reported.

In July 2024, a jury unani-

mously found him guilty of fraud and various securities offenses, wire fraud and money laundering.

Also known as Ho Wan Kwok and Miles Guo, he was accused of leveraging his online notoriety since 2018 to persuade thousands of people to invest in his companies or projects, which

promised lucrative returns or luxury services but allegedly mainly served to fund his lavish lifestyle, according to US authorities.

The billionaire businessman, in his fifties -- his exact age is unknown -- was arrested by the FBI in March 2023 in his luxury Manhattan apartment overlook-



ing Central Park. His former associate Yvette

Wang was sentenced last year to 10 years in prison for her role in the scheme.

Guo Wengui, who made his fortune in real estate, moved to the United States in 2015, fleeing China, where he was targeted by an Interpol red notice for financial fraud -- accusations he denies.

UK to spend 'record' £300 bn on defence over next four years: PM

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Outgoing UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced Tuesday that Britain would spend almost £300 billion (\$397 billion) over the next four years to modernise its armed forces amid rising threats.

Starmer, expected to leave office next month after losing the support of Labour MPs, announced that the overall defence budget would increase by £15 billion over the next four years to almost £300 billion, as he launched his long-awaited 10-year Defence Investment Plan.

"Last year I made the decision in the national interest to re-orientise aid spending towards de-



fence and achieved the biggest uplift in defence spending since the end of the Cold War," Starmer said in a speech.

Russia says shot down over 400 Ukrainian drones, baby killed outside Moscow

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russia on Tuesday said it shot down 419 Ukrainian drones over the country overnight, including in the Moscow region, where authorities said a six-month-old baby was killed.

Kyiv has stepped up its long-range drone strike campaign against Russia in recent months, as Moscow's full-scale offensive against Ukraine drags on for almost four-and-a-half years.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said his forces struck a satellite communications site in the Moscow region for the second time in a week.

Air defence systems "intercepted and destroyed 419 Ukrainian fixed-wing unmanned aerial vehicles" around the country, Moscow's defence ministry posted on the state-run Max platform.

The governor of the Moscow region, Andrei Vorobyov, later said that drones had hit the village of Yevgoryevsk, south-west of Moscow, hitting a "private house." "Unfortunately, a six-month old baby died on the way to hospital," he said on Telegram.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said earlier that air defence had shot down 61 "enemy drones" on the capital since Monday evening.

Adani to sell stake in India port to MSC for \$1.4 bn

AFP | Mumbai, India

Indian conglomerate Adani Group said yesterday that Europe's MSC will buy a 49% stake in its deep-water transshipment port in southern India for \$1.4 billion.

The purchase by Switzerland-based MSC, the world's largest container shipping company, represents the "single largest foreign private investment in Indian port infrastructure", Adani said in a statement.

The agreement comes as India seeks to develop a network of major seaports and reduce its dependence on regional transshipment hubs such as Singapore and Colombo by handling a greater share of cargo domestically.

The Adani Group said MSC would buy the stake in Adani

Vizhinjam Port Private Limited, which operates the Vizhinjam International Seaport in the southern state of Kerala.



India has more than 7,500 km of coastline and over 200 ports, including major and minor ports.

Jawaharlal Nehru Port is India's largest container port.

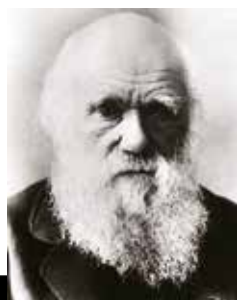
Vizhinjam International Seaport is India's first deep-water transshipment port capable of handling some of the world's largest container ships.

1690

Army of Protestant King William III of England defeats deposed Roman Catholic King James II in the Battle of the Boyne at Oldbridge, Ireland

1858

Joint reading of Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace's papers on evolution to the Linnean Society renders audience awestruck and silent [I]



1863

Battle of Gettysburg begins in Pennsylvania. Union forces halt Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia

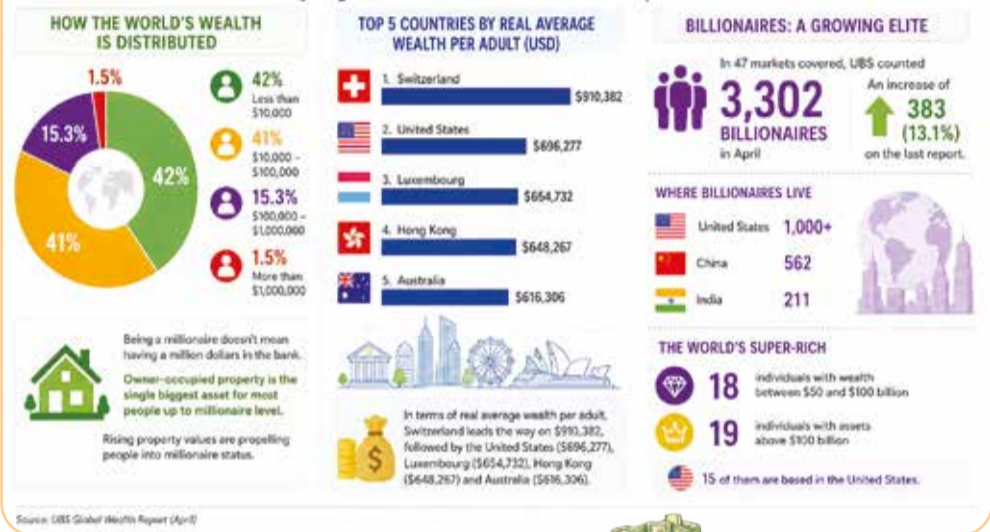
1997

United Kingdom returns Hong Kong and the New Territories to People's Republic of China

Record number of 'new millionaires' in 2025

GLOBAL WEALTH BY THE NUMBERS

Key insights from the latest UBS Global Wealth Report



AFP | Zurich, Switzerland

Global personal wealth surged in 2025, with a record number of new millionaires, Swiss bank UBS said yesterday.

Last year saw nearly one million people worldwide become US dollar millionaires -- the equivalent of 2,600 people a day, according to the bank's estimates.

The United States accounted for almost half of new millionaires in 2025, adding more than 440,000 individuals, followed by China, Japan, Germany, Britain and France, which each count more than two million millionaires in total.

Switzerland's biggest bank, which is among the world's largest wealth managers, produces the annual UBS Global Wealth Report, which assesses personal wealth trends.

It covers all financial and non-financial assets, primarily property, minus debts, with



asset values converted into dollars.

"The real story is one of continued expansion: more people moving up the wealth ladder," the report said.

"The gains... point to a world that kept building wealth, deepening its affluent population and extending a long-running upward trend."

UBS said that in 2025, global personal wealth rose by 10.8% in dollar terms, significantly outpacing growth seen in 2024 (4.6%) and 2023 (4.2%).

Wealth growth was strongest in Europe, the Middle

East and Africa, at 17.5% -- helped by a weaker dollar -- followed by the Americas at 8.5%. Asia-Pacific recorded growth of 5.9%.

Over half of global personal wealth remains concentrated in the United States and mainland China combined.

Since 2020, South Korea has led growth in real average wealth per adult across the 56 analysed markets, with gains above 50%. There have been increases above 25% in Croatia, Norway, Latvia, Taiwan and Bulgaria.

Over 58,000 buildings likely damaged or destroyed in Venezuela: satellite data



This aerial view shows buildings destroyed following twin earthquakes in Caraballeda, La Guaira State, Venezuela

AFP | Washington, United States

The powerful twin earthquakes that struck Venezuela last week damaged or destroyed more than 58,000 buildings, according to a preliminary assessment of satellite

data published by US space agency NASA.

Some 1,700 people were killed and thousands remain missing following the quakes of magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 -- the strongest to hit the South American nation in more than a century. "Approximate-

ly 58,870 buildings were likely damaged or destroyed across the affected region" based on satellite radar data gathered on June 25, the day after the earthquakes, according to researchers Corey Scher and Jamon Van Den Hoek of Oregon State University.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Denmark is the first Member State to complete its NextGenerationEU plan. Your success is a signal for Europe. With 1.63 billion investment in clean transport, energy efficiency and digital transformation, Denmark is leading the way.

@vonderleyen

02



#Sudan has declared a #cholera outbreak in West Kordofan state. As of 20 June 2026, the State Ministry of Health reported 838 suspected cholera cases, 7 confirmed cases and 117 deaths. The outbreak is unfolding amid the continued disruption of health services caused by conflict.

@DrTedros

03



During a meeting with the National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Jonathan Powell, we discussed continued support for Ukraine. We are grateful to the United Kingdom for its decision regarding a new support package worth nearly £290 million.

@ZelenskyyUa

04



BIG WIN: The United States Supreme Court just RULED AGAINST MEN PLAYING IN WOMEN'S SPORTS. Wow! That takes that ridiculous situation off the table!!!

@realDonaldTrump

WIDE ANGLE

250 Years: The US Experiment



JOEL INDRUPATI

One of the best things I did last month, I suppose, was booking a walking tour.

While in Washington D.C., although for a different reason, I decided I would spend one full morning touring the U.S. Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, and, in particular, the Capitol building, including its crypt and the rotunda.

Thanks to Jobert, our main tour guide, I now have a clear insider's view of the Capitol which is, arguably, the world's most powerful government building.

Its grand and imposing neoclassical architecture, its role as the active legislative heart of a global superpower, and its function as a universal, globally-recognized, symbol of representative democracy, makes it unique.

Its construction began on September 18, 1793, when George Washington laid the cornerstone. Sadly, however, he did not live to see the opening of this awe-inspiring building in the then-brand-new city named after him.

Rebuilt after the British burned it down in 1814, the current, heavily modified, Capitol building incorporates parts of the original structure. The earlier dome was wooden, while the current one is cast-iron.

The birth of the United States, however, was not in Washington D.C. It was in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

When, 250 years ago, the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, at the Pennsylvania State House—now known as Independence Hall—in Philadelphia, not all 56 signatories were present, but they eventually signed.

The United States Constitution then came into force in 1789, and remains the world's oldest written national constitution still in operation. The Bill of Rights, comprising the first ten amendments to the Constitution, was ratified by 1791 and still serves as a moral compass for law-makers.

While this constitution drew inspiration from earlier documents such as England's Magna Carta of 1215, it broke new ground by creating a durable framework built on federalism, checks and balances, and an independent judiciary.

The nation's founders deliberately turned to the ideals of the ancient Roman Republic when designing their new capital and its institutions. As the US Senate itself notes, they sought architecture that reflected the dignity of a republic in a world dominated by monarchies. The Capitol, with its sweeping columns and majestic dome, was intended to symbolize constitutional government and not imperial power.

History, however, offers a cautionary tale. Rome remained a republic for nearly five centuries before gradually giving way to empire. France, after its revolution, oscillated between republics, empires and monarchies before eventually settling into a stable republican system. Constitutions alone do not preserve democracies. Institutions endure only when citizens and leaders remain committed to them.

Dozens of countries have borrowed elements of the American constitutional model showing us that 'written constitution' matters. But even more important are the 'values' it seeks to protect: the rule of law, the separation of powers, accountability, and government by the consent of the governed.

Whether today's United States administration reflects the vision of the Founding Fathers depends largely on one's interpretation of current events. Some see a government adapting to twenty-first century realities. Others argue that expanding executive authority, growing bureaucracy, and increasing political polarization have taken the republic further from the founders' original intent.

The question is not whether politicians claim the founders' legacy, but whether they preserve the principles on which the republic is founded. Every generation inherits the same constitutional experiment. Every administration is merely its temporary steward.

As we concluded our tour, Jobert said something profound: "These buildings do not make the country great. It's the people inside them."

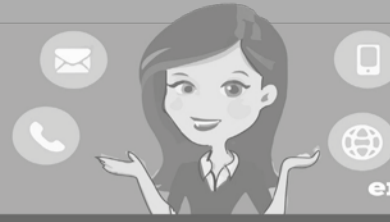
He was right. Marble columns, magnificent domes and historic chambers cannot defend democracy on their own. That responsibility rests with the lawyers and judges who interpret the law, the senators and representatives who debate and legislate, the presidents who exercise restraint, and ultimately the citizens who hold them all to account.

Great republics are not sustained by architecture. They are sustained by character.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

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

Classifieds



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region

Etiihad Rail Begins Operations

New rail service links Fujairah and Abu Dhabi, offering onboard Wi-Fi, premium seating and seamless mobility connections

The UAE has entered a new era of transportation with the launch of its first national passenger rail service, as Etihad Rail welcomed its first paying passengers onboard the inaugural scheduled journey from Fujairah to Abu Dhabi.



The historic train departed Fujairah Station at 5:34am and arrived at Mohammed Bin Zayed City Station in Abu Dhabi at 7:19am, marking the official start of scheduled passenger rail operations across the UAE.

The launch represents a major milestone in the country's transport development, introducing a modern rail option designed to improve connectivity between emirates and provide residents and visitors with a safe, reliable and comfortable travel experience.

Etiihad Rail said customer demand was strong ahead of the launch, with more than 10,000 tickets sold since bookings opened.

A total of six passenger services operated on the first day as the company began the introductory operational phase of its national passenger network.

Passengers travelling on the inaugural services experienced a range of facilities, including guaranteed seating, onboard Wi-Fi, power outlets at every seat, generous luggage allowances and Premium Class options of-

fering enhanced comfort.

Etiihad Rail also announced its partnership with the Integrated Transport Centre (Abu Dhabi Mobility) to connect passenger rail services with Abu Dhabi's wider transport network, allowing passengers to continue their journeys via buses, taxis and other mobility solutions.

Etiihad Rail Chief Operating Officer Azza Alsuwaidi described the launch as a historic moment for the UAE, saying the first journey represents the transition of a national vision into everyday life.

GCC-U.S. Think Tank Strategic Dialogue Launched

The Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat) and the American Foreign Policy Council (AFPC), in coordination with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) General Secretariat, have officially launched the GCC-U.S. Think Tank Strategic Dialogue.

The closed webinar focused on the future direction of the GCC-U.S. partnership amid changing regional security and economic conditions, with discussions covering regional stability, energy security, economic integration, and emerging geopolitical challenges.

In his opening remarks, GCC Secretary General Jassem Mohamed Al Budaawi emphasized that the GCC-U.S. partnership continues to serve as a fundamental pillar supporting regional stability. He highlighted the importance of shifting from a crisis-management approach toward developing a comprehensive regional security framework capable of addressing evolving challenges.

Derasat CEO Abdulla Mohamed Alahmed said the strategic dialogue represents an opportunity not only to analyze



current developments but also to anticipate future trends and develop practical recommendations to strengthen GCC-U.S. cooperation.

He said the initiative seeks to identify strategic lessons and support policies that contribute to regional security and stability.

Alahmed added that Derasat aims to expand the dialogue in the future to cover additional areas of mutual interest, with upcoming in-person meetings planned in Washington D.C. and Manama later this year.

The meetings will coincide with Bahrain's presidency of the 46th session of the GCC.

Security, energy and economy

Participants highlighted that security, energy and economic issues are increasingly interconnected and must be addressed through coordinated strategies to ensure the stability of the Arabian Gulf region.

The discussions also focused on recent regional developments, including attacks targeting GCC member states, critical infrastructure, maritime routes and freedom of navigation.

Key topics discussed during the dialogue included the future of the GCC-U.S. security partnership, energy resilience, economic diversification, maritime security, protection of critical infrastructure, logistics development and strengthening collective capabilities.

OIC Condemns Israeli Attacks on Syrian Territory

The General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) strongly condemned recent Israeli attacks and incursions into Syria's governorates of Quneitra Governorate and Daraa Governorate, describing them as violations of Syrian sovereignty and international law.

In a statement, the OIC denounced the shelling and military operations carried out by



Israeli forces, warning that such actions threaten regional stability and undermine security efforts.

The organization reaffirmed its solidarity with the Syrian Arab Republic, emphasizing support for its sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity.

It also called on the international community to take urgent action to halt the attacks and ensure compliance with the 1974 Disengagement Agreement to preserve Syria's stability and security.

NOTICE - CHANGE OF NAME

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BRAVE CF 107 full card revealed as Bulgaria prepares for another historic night of action

Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation™ (BRAVE CF), the world's fastest-growing and most global mixed martial arts organization, has officially unveiled the full fight card for BRAVE CF 107, setting the stage for a spectacular night of elite talent, compelling matchups, and unforgettable moments inside the cage.

The promotion returns to Bulgaria on Saturday, August 1, bringing its signature brand of world-class competition to Burgas Arena in partnership with Bulgarian Fight Agency (BFA). The upcoming spectacle marks another milestone in a relationship that has continued to flourish, elevating the sport's profile throughout Eastern Europe.

Leading the bill is a pivotal light heavyweight showdown between Bulgarian standout Kaloyan Kolev and Slovenia's Nemanja "Sledgehammer" Kovac. Competing in front of a passionate home crowd, Kolev looks to deliver a memorable performance against a dangerous challenger eager to spoil the celebration.

The co-main event features



another fascinating international contest as Georgian standout Bidzina Gavashelishvili squares off against South Africa's Luthando "Shorty" Biko in a flyweight encounter that promises to be an instant classic from the opening exchange.

Beyond the featured bouts, fans can expect an outstanding collection of rising stars and proven competitors. The lineup includes Muhammad Idrisov, Nikolay Atanasov, Delyan Georgiev, Owais Yaqoob, Danylo Voievodkin, and Grégory "Robson" Robinet, adding even

greater depth to an already stacked evening.

Excitement continues to build as August 1 approaches, with Burgas once again serving as the destination for another landmark chapter in BRAVE CF's European milestone.

Featuring established athletes determined to reinforce their status alongside promising prospects pursuing career-defining victories, BRAVE CF 107 is poised to deliver an unforgettable showcase while further solidifying the country's place on the global MMA map.

Nine years old, nine golds

The girl who turned play into power

Neethu V
TDT | Manama

It all began at home, with playful grappling sessions with her mother.

At the time, Eleonore van den Hooven had not yet learned her first Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu technique, but even then, she was clearly a natural.

A couple of months later, she is standing on international podiums. Her latest achievement came at the AJP Tour Doha International Jiu-Jitsu Championship, where she won gold.

The nine-year-old trains at Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Bahrain and with the Bahrain National Wrestling Team. In just 1.5 years of training and 10 months of competition, she has collected nine gold medals and two silver medals across Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and wrestling tournaments in Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Speaking to *The Daily Tribune* (TDT), her mother, Sophie van den Hooven, herself an MMA and grappling competitor, said she noticed her daughter's potential early on.

"From a young age, we used to grapple together for fun, and



Eleonore van den Hooven with her gold medal

Jiu-Jitsu or wrestling clubs in our city in the Netherlands. After we moved to Bahrain, she finally had the opportunity to start training in January 2025," Mrs van den Hooven told TDT.

Despite her rapid rise, Eleonore is already focused on what comes next. Her next major target is the Abu Dhabi World Championship in November. Before that, she will attend a wrestling summer camp in Uzbekistan with the Bahrain National Wrestling Team.

Inspiration

She draws inspiration from Sarah Galvão, a world champion who earned her black belt at just 18. Beyond medals, the family hopes her journey will inspire more girls in Bahrain to take up the sport.

Eleonore also hopes her success will encourage more girls to take up the sport as very few girls train in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and wrestling in Bahrain.

"She would love to have more girls around in the gym," Mrs van den Hooven added.

For Eleonore, the journey is only just beginning, as is her dream of inspiring the next generation of girls to step onto the mat.

Muscle man strikes silver again



Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahraini bodybuilder Hamad Kaldari has won silver at the Mr Universe Thailand International Bodybuilding Championship, taking second place for the second year in a row.

The event drew competitors from 49 countries, with Kaldari again reaching the podium in one of the sport's international contests.

Sami Al Haddad, president of the Bahrain Bodybuilding and Fitness Federation, congratulated Kaldari on the result and said the medal added

to Bahrain's record in bodybuilding.

He said the contest brought together leading athletes from around the world, but Kaldari showed the form needed to finish second.

Al Haddad said the result showed the level reached by Bahraini bodybuilders and praised the athletes' work, as well as the backing given to the sport in the kingdom.

He wished Kaldari further success in future events and said the federation would keep supporting Bahraini athletes as they seek to compete in regional and international championships.

27 NOCs nominate Shaikh Joaan for OCA President

TDT | Manama

The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) announced that it received nominations from 27 National Olympic Committees in favour of Shaikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani for the position of OCA President for the 2027-2035 term.

The OCA President thanked the NOCs for their trust and confidence in his leadership.

The next OCA General Assembly will be held in



Shaikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani
Doha, Qatar on January 27, 2027.

NMS Bahrain continues winning legacy at CBSE cluster championships

TDT | Manama

New Millennium School, Bahrain, once again reaffirmed its sporting excellence with an impressive performance at the CBSE Cluster (Bahrain Chapter) Inter-School Championships 2026-27. Competing against leading CBSE schools in the Kingdom, NMS students showcased exceptional talent, determination, and sportsmanship across badminton, chess, and table tennis events.

The school emerged as a top-performing institution,

NMS emerged Champions in the following categories

Badminton

Under-14 Girls - Winners
Under-17 Girls - Winners
Under-19 Boys - Runners-up

Chess

Under-11 Boys - Winners
Under-17 Boys - Winners
Under-19 Boys - Winners

Table Tennis

Under-14 Boys -- Winners
Under-17 Boys - Winners
Under-19 Boys -- Runners-up
Under-14 Girls - Runners-up
Under-17 Girls - Runners-up



Winners, including the badminton category champions, with Principal Dr. Arun Kumar Sharma

securing championship titles in multiple categories and bringing immense pride to the NMS community.

The outstanding performances reflected the students' dedication, rigorous training, and unwavering determination. Their success stands as a proud example of the school's commitment to nurturing excellence in both academics and co-curricular pursuits.

Congratulating the students, coaches, and parents on their remarkable achievements, Prin-

icipal Dr. Arun Kumar Sharma stated that the exceptional performance resulted from the students' hard work, perseverance, and competitive spirit.

He added that the school was immensely proud of its young sportspersons for representing NMS with excellence, discipline, and integrity, and for upholding the institution's rich sporting legacy.

Chairman Dr. Ravi Pillai and Managing Director Mrs. Geetha Pillai extended their heartfelt congratulations to the

students, coaches, and parents for the commendable achievement. They remarked that the impressive results reflected the school's unwavering commitment to promoting holistic education, where sporting excellence is nurtured alongside academic success.

The management, staff, and the entire NMS family congratulate the winners and wish them continued success in the forthcoming CBSE National Cluster Championships and all future sporting endeavours.



Champions of Table Tennis: Under-14 Boys - Winners | Under-17 Boys - Winners | Under-19 Boys - Runners-up | Under-14 Girls - Runners-up | Under-17 Girls - Runners-up



Haaland scores winner to send Norway into last-16 Brazil clash



Norway's forward #09 Erling Braut Haaland (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring his team's second goal.

AFP | Arlington, United States

Erling Haaland scored a late winner as Norway set up a last-16 showdown with Brazil at the World Cup after taming the Ivory Coast 2-1 in Texas on Tuesday.

The Manchester City striker prodded from close range, the ball dribbling in on 86 minutes for his fifth goal of the tournament.

It was the first time Norway had won a knockout game in the history of the competition.

After an even first half that was slow to get going, Antonio Nusa fired Norway into the lead six minutes before the break with one of the goals of the tournament.

Manchester United's Amad Diallo was sent on for the Ivory Coast after an hour and was immediately in the thick of it, stopping a certain second Norway goal and then grabbing a

terrific equaliser on 74 minutes. With extra time looming, predator supreme Haaland got on the end of a cross by Patrick Berg to make some Norwegian history.

They face five-time champions Brazil on Sunday in New Jersey with the quarter-finals at stake.

A match between two physical teams was tepid to begin with at the impressive air-conditioned home of the Dallas Cowboys.

Ivory Coast had a sight of goal after 20 minutes, defender Ghislain Konan burst into the Norway box from the left but found the side netting.

The Ivory Coast players and fans were irate just before the drinks break when the livewire Yan Diomande was brought down on the break just inside his own half.

Referee Jesus Valenzuela surprisingly did not even book defender David Moller Wolfe.

The 19-year-old winger Diomande, who appears set to join European champions Paris Saint-Germain from RB Leipzig, was growing into the game.

The African side, one of the youngest at the tournament, was on top and particularly threatening down Diomande's left-hand side of the pitch.

Haaland had little to feed on but might have done better with a tame header that bounced into the hands of goalkeeper Yahia Fofana.

Then came a moment of genuine class as Nusa, fed by captain Martin Odegaard, cut inside and bent the ball wonderfully into the top corner.

Odegaard put his hands on his head in disbelief at the strike by the 21-year-old, Diomande's Leipzig team-mate.

Stale Solbakken's Norway finished the first half on the hunt for a second and Haaland was denied by a last-gasp block by

Ibrahim Sangare, who celebrated as if scoring a goal.

The Ivory Coast, into the knockout rounds for the first time, won their 10th corner to start the second half.

Nicolas Pepe was denied by the legs of Norway stopper Orjan Nyland as the Ivory Coast piled on the pressure.

Norway, runners-up to France in the group stage, were inches away from a second when Diallo blocked the ball on the goal line following a corner.

The Norway fans, sensing the next round was close, began their now-famous rowing in the stands.

Almost as soon as they stopped, Diallo danced into the box past two challenges for a spectacular equalizer.

Then up popped Haaland to break Ivorian hearts, with goalkeeper Nyland pulling off a flying stop from Diallo's well-struck free kick at the death to send Norway through.

Golden season takes shape

TDT | Manama

The Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) has announced a new race for this year's Bahrain International Trophy meeting, as part of a season marking the club's 50th anniversary.

The Bahrain Long Distance Cup, an open handicap run over 14 furlongs (2,800m), will be staged for the first time on the Trophy card, with organisers aiming to draw strong staying horses from international stables. Its introduction means the meeting will feature two international races for the first time.

The race forms part of the eighth edition of the Bahrain International Trophy, set for Friday, 13 November 2026, which follows the Trophy's promotion to Group 1 status, the first such race held in Bahrain.

The expanded card comes as REHC marks its Golden Jubilee, celebrating 50 years since its founding in 1977. The club credited the continued support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, alongside the leadership of High



Yusuf Osama Buhiji

Committee Chairman His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, for the sport's growth in the kingdom.

Acting Chief Executive Officer Yusuf Osama Buhiji said the anniversary season would build on the club's achievements through stronger organisational and competitive standards for local and international racing.

REHC also confirmed its 2026/27 calendar, comprising 30 meetings starting 30 October 2026 and concluding 16 April 2027. Highlights include the Crown Prince's Cup Festival on 28-29 January and the King's Cup Festival on 4-5 March.

The Bahrain Turf Series will expand from 12 to 14 races with a new mile division, while the Future Stars Series returns for a third edition supporting locally bred horses.



Tuchel defensive headache as England ready for DR Congo clash

AFP | Atlanta

Harry Kane and Jude Bellingham produced the magic to carry England through to the World Cup knockout stages, but questions remain over the balance of Thomas Tuchel's squad.

The Three Lions face DR Congo tonight in what they hope will be the first of five games leading to glory.

England are heavy favourites for the clash in Atlanta, but face a tough road to the final that could include facing Mexico on home soil, Brazil and Argentina if they are to end a 60-year wait to win a major tournament.

Former Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea and Bayern Munich boss Tuchel was recruited by the English FA to get a team that has lost the past two finals of the European Championship over the line.

Evidence from the group stages has left many unconvinced that England have progressed from where they were under Tuchel's predecessor, Gareth Southgate.

The German was praised for his attacking substitutions in a thrilling 4-2 win over Croatia in England's opening game at the 2026 tournament.

But a dull 0-0 stalemate with

Ghana followed and England needed moments of inspiration from Bellingham and Kane to break down a stubborn Panama in an unconvincing 2-0 victory as they topped their group.

"Huge impact," said Tuchel of the influence of Bellingham and Kane, who have five goals between them.

"That's what we need. That's what we want. That's why we pick them. They make us dangerous. They make us a top team and that's why our expectations are high."

Coming into the tournament, there were doubts over whether Bellingham would even be a certain starter following an injury-hit season at Real Madrid.

And there have been tensions between player and manager.

A year ago the England boss said even his own mother found some of Bellingham's antics "repulsive", though he subsequently apologised for that remark.

Already in his fourth major tournament at just 22, Bellingham has silenced any debate over whether he or Aston Villa's Morgan Rogers should start behind Kane after catching the eye in the United States.

"He's in a sweet spot after his injury, he is free again," said Tuchel. "He loves to play on this



England's German head coach Thomas Tuchel and forward #11 Marcus Rashford talk during the hydration break

kind of stage."

- Right-back a problem position -

Whether the England boss can conjure the best out of the rest of his squad remains uncertain.

The decision to leave the creative talents of Cole Palmer, Phil Foden and Morgan Gibbs-

White at home has been further questioned after England's struggles against deep-lying defences.

Even more puzzling has been Tuchel's approach at right-back, which now appears a problem position.

The head coach decided

World Cup Schedule (Round of 32)

Today

Time	Match	Venue
07:00 PM	England vs DR Congo	Atlanta Stadium
11:00 PM	Belgium vs Senegal	Seattle Stadium

Tomorrow

03:00 AM	USA vs Bosnia and Herzegovina	San Francisco Bay Area Stadium
10:00 PM	Spain vs Austria	Los Angeles Stadium

(All games in Bahrain time)

against calling up another specialist when Tino Livramento was injured before England's first game.

The injury-prone Reece James is expected to miss the Congo clash with a hamstring strain.

Jarell Quansah, a centre-back by trade, started at right-back against Panama, but also had to be replaced due to an ankle twist.

Djed Spence looks likely to deputise in the position on Wednesday but the injury troubles have brought Tuchel's decision to overlook Real Madrid's Trent Alexander-Arnold into sharp focus.

The former Liverpool defender did not even get the call when Livramento was forced to withdraw, with Trevoh Chalobah called up instead -- bringing the

number of centre-backs in the squad to six.

In midfield, a concern over Declan Rice has exposed a lack of midfield options.

Jordan Henderson, 36, is understood to be in the squad for his leadership qualities, but it meant there was no place for Crystal Palace's Adam Wharton after an impressive season.

Tuchel knows if things do not come good in the coming weeks, an avalanche of criticism is coming his way.

"We believe we will get better, and we will... it is no problem putting the work in and growing into a tournament like this," said the German.

"It is important now that we keep believing, focusing on what we can influence and every game will be different."

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