

Arsenal must manage emotions of title race says Arteta

Gunners can go six clear but must juggle Champions League semi-final demands | P12

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Bahrain slams Iranian statements as breach of sovereignty

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly rejected recent statements by the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson, describing them as blatant interference in the Kingdom's internal affairs and a clear violation of sovereignty and the principle of non-interference in the domestic matters of states.

The Ministry dismissed Iranian claims as lacking credibility, stressing that attempts to portray Bahrain's legal and sovereign procedures as human rights violations constitute unacceptable politicisation and a deliberate distortion of facts.

It noted that Bahrain has been monitoring what it described as Iran's continued conduct over decades, reiterating that such interference undermines regional security and stability and constitutes a flagrant breach of international law and good-neighbourliness principles.

The Ministry reaffirmed the need for Iran to adhere to the principles of the United Nations Charter, urging it to cease escalatory policies and irresponsible statements, respect state sovereignty, and refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of other countries.

Unified National Support

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received messages of support and allegiance from several Bahraini tribes, including Al Nuaimi, all Al Murrah tribes, and Al Kaaban.

In their separate telegrams, the signatories expressed "loyalty and commitment" to the King and affirmed their continued support for Bahrain's leadership and national unity. They reiterated their backing for measures aimed at safeguarding the Kingdom's security, stability,



and sovereignty, stressing unity behind the country's leadership.

The messages also highlighted long-standing traditions of allegiance passed down through generations, while praying for the King's continued health and for Bahrain's enduring prosperity and security.

Fugitive Extradited to Bahrain

TDT | Manama

The Interior Ministry has announced the extradition of a 32-year-old fugitive to face a court sentence in a theft case.

The International and Interpol Affairs Directorate at the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security said the suspect was apprehended following an international notice issued by Interpol, based on an arrest warrant from Bahrain's Public Prosecution and in coordination with friendly countries.

After completing the required legal procedures, the individual was referred to the Public Prosecution.



HRH Prince Salman, Jordan King drive forward strategic partnership



HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and prime minister, met Jordan's King Abdullah II yesterday during an official visit to Jordan, reaffirming strong bilateral ties and exploring ways to deepen strategic cooperation. HRH Prince Salman emphasised that the close ties between the two kingdoms continue to grow, supported by the leadership of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and King Abdullah II. He conveyed the Bahraini monarch's greetings and best wishes for Jordan's continued progress. King Abdullah II, in turn, extended his greetings to King Hamad, wishing Bahrain further development and prosperity. The Crown Prince expressed appreciation for Jordan's solidarity, particularly in light of regional challenges, while reaffirming Bahrain's support for Jordan's security and sovereignty. Discussions also covered opportunities to enhance bilateral cooperation, alongside regional and international developments of mutual concern. Left, A squadron of the Royal Jordanian Air Force escorts the aircraft of HRH Prince Salman when it enters the airspace of Jordan

Unity stands guard over Bahrain



His Majesty's address reflects a decisive approach to protecting national interests and reinforcing Bahrain's security and stability.

National unity and steadfast support for the leadership remain the foundation for continued progress and resilience.

HIS HIGHNESS SHAIKH ISA BIN SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, MINISTER OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S COURT



His Majesty's remarks provide a clear national framework to safeguard Bahrain's achievements and strengthen unity in the face of challenges. The Kingdom's security and stability remain a shared responsibility that cannot be compromised

HH SHAIKH MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA

Fuel prices revised

- Jayyid (91): BD 0.233
- Mumtaz (95): BD 0.269
- Super (98): BD 0.362
- Diesel: BD 0.229

The Fuel Price Committee approved fuel prices for the local market in Bahrain for May 2026.



220 fils (includes VAT)



Security, sovereignty a firm red line

HH Shaikh Nasser warns betrayal is a moral and national crime

● **HM King's message draws a firm line between loyalty to the nation and those who falter**

● **The current phase requires heightened national awareness**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's security and sovereignty are a "red line" that will not be compromised under any circumstances, HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa declared yesterday, reinforcing the firm stance outlined by HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, said that betraying the nation or sympathising with its enemies constitutes a "mor-



Betraying one's country or sympathising with its enemies is a moral and national crime that has no place among honourable people and cannot be tolerated

HH SHAIKH NASSER

al and national crime" with no place in society.

He further stressed the importance of national awareness and unity, noting that genuine loyalty remains the benchmark of citizenship, while praising the role of Bahraini youth in safeguarding the nation.

Historic Moment

In a separate statement, Interior Minister General Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa described the King's recent media address as a "historic moment" that reinforces the state's foundational principles on security, sovereignty and stability.

He said the message calls for national unity and collective responsibility, warning that any attempt to undermine Bahrain's stability would face firm legal consequences. He added that the Interior Ministry will continue its security duties with resolve, guided by the leader

MPs Apologise Over Judicial Law Debate

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Three MPs will make a public apology at Tuesday's Parliament sitting after offering regret to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and to Bahrainis over remarks made during last week's debate on changes to the Judicial Authority Law.

The apology was signed by First Deputy Speaker Abdulnabi Salman, Services Committee chairman Mamdouh Al Saleh, and Dr Mahdi Al Shuwaikh, a member of the same committee. They said it concerned remarks and positions taken during debate on Decree-Law No. 13 of 2024, which amends Article 7 of the Judicial Authority Law issued by Decree-Law No. 42 of 2002.

In a statement issued by Parliament on Friday, the three MPs offered what they called 'a clear apology and deep regret' to His



Abdulnabi Salman, First Deputy Speaker

Majesty the King, adding: 'We are at your command, sir.'

They also apologised 'in the clearest and most direct terms' to the people of Bahrain for what had taken place during the previous sitting.

The MPs said they stood behind Bahrain under the leadership of His Majesty the King, affirmed their full loyalty to the kingdom and its leadership, and condemned what they described as Iranian aggression against Bahrain, its sovereignty



Dr Mahdi Al Shuwaikh, MP

and its stability. They also said they supported all steps taken by Bahrain against anyone who had betrayed the country, worked with those behind the attack, or shown sympathy for those involved.

They said Bahrain was a trust borne by all and stood above all else. Anyone who betrayed it had no place among them and did not deserve the honour of belonging to it or living on its soil.

The MPs praised the Bahrain



Mamdouh Al Saleh, Chairman of Services Committee

Defence Force, security bodies and civil agencies for their role in confronting the attack on the country, its citizens and residents.

They said their apology came with a pledge to remain loyal, adhere to national principles, keep their oath, and carry out their public duties with honesty, sincerity and responsibility.

The apology will be delivered publicly during Parliament's next sitting on Tuesday morning, 5 May 2026.

Public urged to separate savings from instant transfer apps

TDT | Manama

As part of the Ministry of Interior's "Al Aman" awareness programme, Osama Bahar has urged the public to safeguard their savings against digital banking risks.

Colonel Bahar advised that lump-sum funds — including pensions, end-of-service benefits and savings — should be kept in separate bank accounts not linked to instant transfer services.

He warned that holding large balances in such accounts increases the risk of acci-

dental transfers, cyber fraud and unauthorised access, particularly if mobile devices are lost or compromised.

Separating savings, he said, adds an extra layer of protection, and urged residents to help family members, especially the elderly, review their banking arrangements.

The guidance is part of ongoing efforts under the "Al Aman" programme to promote cybersecurity and financial safety awareness.



Colonel Bahar

Labour Day

Health and Social Affairs Department honours staff



The Health and Social Affairs Department marked Labour Day with a ceremony recognising employees for their continued contributions to work operations and the delivery of healthcare services to Ministry of Interior personnel. The event also honoured a number of outstanding staff members in appreciation of their dedication and commitment to their duties.



Nasser Centre and Arabian Gulf University strengthened their collaboration in the field of cybersecurity, marking a step forward in advancing Bahrain's digital capabilities and innovation ecosystem. Discussions between the two sides focused on enhancing student training through access to advanced cybersecurity facilities, expanding practical, hands-on learning programmes, and developing joint initiatives aimed at reinforcing digital protection systems. (By Rehab Mohammed)

Iran Maritime Threat Condemned

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomed a resolution issued by the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Marine Environment Protection Committee during its 84th session. The resolution calls on the Islamic Republic of Iran to immediately halt attacks and

threats targeting commercial vessels, oil tankers, port infrastructure, and coastal civilian facilities.

The ministry said such actions pose serious risks to maritime safety and contribute to marine pollution in the Arabian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

Bahrain reaffirmed its firm

position urging Iran to comply with UN Security Council Resolution 2817, as well as relevant IMO legal and environmental committee decisions, to ensure freedom and safety of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and other key waterways under international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of

the Sea.

It also called for stronger regional and international cooperation to protect natural resources, biodiversity, and maritime and environmental security, describing these as essential pillars for stability and sustainable development in the region and globally.

Workers' Silver Screening



The Indian Community Welfare Association (ICRF Bahrain), in collaboration with Lulu Care, Epix Cinema, and Dana Mall, and supported by BBK, organised a special "Silver Screen Experience" at a cinema in Dana Mall, Sanabis. The initiative brought together around 250 workers from various sectors for a memorable day of entertainment and appreciation.

New Millennium School Bahrain celebrates Labour Day



Students of New Millennium School, Bahrain marked Labour Day both in classrooms and online, paying tribute to support staff through creative activities and a shared message of gratitude and respect. Addressing the students, Principal Dr Arun Kumar Sharma expressed deep appreciation for community helpers and reiterated the importance of the dignity of labour. He emphasised that respecting every profession fosters empathy, builds responsibility, and contributes to a more sustainable and humane society.

International Dance Day at Bahrain Indian School



Bahrain Indian School celebrated International Dance Day with a vibrant event titled "Feet of Harmony", bringing together students, teachers and school leaders in a colourful showcase of rhythm and culture. The programme highlighted dance as a universal language that transcends borders and connects communities through artistic expression. Among the highlights was a creative performance portraying the stages of human life, with expressive choreography tracing the journey from childhood to old age. Students also presented a dynamic fusion of global dance styles, blending diverse traditions into a seamless display of movement and rhythm.

Security Is Red Line

Officials stress firm national position following the King's media address

TDT | Manama

Senior Bahraini officials said that the recent remarks by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to the media reflect the national sentiment and reinforce unity in defending the Kingdom's security and sovereignty.

Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa said the King's message embodies the "conscience of the Bahraini people" and affirms a firm national stance prioritising the country's stability above all else. He said the remarks underscore national unity in confronting threats and safeguarding achievements.

Dr. Ramzan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi, Information Minister said the King's statements represent a clear and decisive message on protecting sovereignty and strengthening national cohesion. He added that the media has a key responsibility to counter misinformation and reinforce facts during sensitive periods.



"His Majesty the King clearly expresses the conscience of the Bahraini people and reflects a unified national stance"

SHAIKH SALMAN BIN KHALIFA AL KHALIFA, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND NATIONAL ECONOMY



"Bahrain's security and sovereignty are a red line that cannot be compromised under any circumstances."

DR. RAMZAN BIN ABDULLAH AL NUAIMI, MINISTER OF INFORMATION



"Unity affirms that loyalty to the country is a responsibility that admits no hesitation or compromise."

ALI BIN SALEH AL SALEH, SPEAKER OF THE SHURA COUNCIL



"Protecting national security is fundamental to safeguarding human rights."

ALI AHMED AL DERAZI, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



"Calling for clarity of stance and stronger national cohesion in the face of challenges."

DR. ALI BIN MOHAMMED AL ROMAIHI, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh said the remarks reaffirm that loyalty to the nation is non-negotiable and

stressed the importance of national solidarity in addressing security challenges.

Ali Ahmed Al Derazi, President of the National Institution for Human Rights, said the statements

also reflect a balance between national security and human rights, noting that protecting stability is essential for safeguarding public rights and freedoms. He stressed that the rule of law remains central to

addressing any actions that threaten social unity or security.

In an additional statement, Al Derazi reiterated that the King's remarks reinforce "responsible citizenship based on respect

for the law" and reject any behaviour that could harm social cohesion or endanger national stability. He said safeguarding the homeland is inseparable from protecting human dignity and rights.

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Missing Girl Found Safe

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

The court sentenced a defendant to seven years in prison after finding him guilty of luring a child through an online game and sexually exploiting her, according to the Family and Child Prosecution.

The High Criminal Court also ordered the confiscation of the defendant's mobile phone as part of the ruling.

According to case details, the Public Prosecution began investigations after East Riffa Police received a missing person report filed by the father of a 14-year-old girl. Following search operations, the girl was located at the defendant's residence, where she reported that she had been harmed.

The Family and Child Prosecution, working with the Victim and Witness Protection Office, ensured the child's identity and personal information remained confidential to protect her privacy.

During interrogation, the defendant admitted to the charges, and the case was referred to court, which issued the final verdict.

Officials from the Family and Child Prosecution warned of the growing risks posed by unsupervised access to online platforms and digital games, which can be exploited to target minors. They urged parents to closely monitor their children's online activity and report any suspicious behavior immediately.

Jail Terms for Unlicensed Fundraising

Introducing a New Risk-Based Monitoring System



TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Ministers are set to debate a decree-law introducing tougher penalties, including up to BD10,000 fines and jail terms, for unlicensed fundraising in Bahrain.

The proposed law, backed by the Services Committee, expands oversight powers over public fundraising and strengthens measures against money laundering and terrorism financing, including stricter controls on transferring funds abroad without approval.

The draft also introduces a risk-based monitoring system for licensed fundraisers, requiring ongoing updates aligned with national risk assessments and FATF standards ahead of Bahrain's 2026 review.

Under the law, collecting funds for terrorist purposes could carry life imprisonment or at least 10 years in jail, along with fines up to BD500,000. Unlicensed fundraising would

- Fines up to BD10,000 for violations
- Unlicensed fundraising: jail and up to BD1,000 fine
- Terror-related fundraising: up to life imprisonment and BD500,000 fine
- Stronger monitoring, reporting, and fund transfer controls

carry smaller jail terms and fines, while courts would also confiscate illegally raised funds.

The Ministry of Social Development reported rising compliance checks and highlighted increasing monitoring of fundraising licences in recent years. Some charities supported the reforms, while others raised concerns over penalties and reporting burdens.

TDT | Manama

Partnership to enhance expertise and knowledge exchange in arbitration

The Bahrain International Dispute Resolution Council signed a memorandum of understanding with the Thailand Arbitration Center to strengthen cooperation in international arbitration and dispute resolution.

The MoU was signed via vid-

Arab-Asia First Link



eoconference by Professor Marika Pataranee Polson, Secretary-General of the Bahrain International Dispute Resolution Council, and Suriyapong Tobtimthai, Director-General of the Thailand Arbitration Center.

This marks the first agreement of its kind between an Arab country and the Kingdom of Thailand in the field of arbitration and institutional cooperation, representing

a milestone in enhancing legal and professional ties between the Arab region and Southeast Asia.

The agreement reflects a shared commitment to developing expertise in arbitration and dispute settlement through dialogue, knowledge exchange, and future collaboration. It also supports Bahrain's broader efforts to deepen international partnerships and expand institutional cooperation in the field.

Sovereignty Jurisdiction Under Review

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

The Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee of the Shura Council has referred its report on amendments to the Judicial Authority Law concerning nationality matters to the Council Bureau for consideration at an upcoming session.

Chaired by Lawyer Dalal Jassim Al Zayed, the committee reviewed Decree-Law No. (13) of 2024, which amends Article (7) of the Judicial Authority Law of 2002. The amendment stipulates that nationality-related issues are sovereign acts and fall outside judicial jurisdiction.

The committee examined the decree-law's legal basis, the government's position, the Council of Representatives' decision, and a legal memorandum prepared by its advisor before finalising its report.

In a related review, the committee issued its opinion on the constitutional and legal validity of Decree-Law No. (38) of 2025,



which amends provisions of the Commercial Companies Law.

Pakistan Transfer Deal

It also confirmed the soundness of draft legislation approving Bahrain's accession to Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 1973), as well as a draft agreement with Pakistan on the transfer of sentenced persons.

Both draft laws were referred to the Foreign Affairs, Defense and National Security Committee for further study as the competent body.

Holy Journey Begins

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

The first groups of pilgrims are set to depart for the Holy Sites on May 12, marking the beginning of a carefully coordinated travel schedule extending through May 22 via Bahrain International Airport, King Fahd Causeway, and King Fahd International Airport in Dammam.

A total of 24 licensed Hajj campaigns will operate this year, serving Bahrain's official quota of 4,625 pilgrims. These operations are under arrangements aimed at ensuring high standards of comfort, safety, and smooth logistical coordination in partnership with the Bahrain Hajj Mission.



Free-Flow Route Planned

From Bahrain Bay to Madinat Salman

Sea bridges, free-flow sections and new junctions are being studied for a northern coastal road running from Bahrain Bay to Marina, the Works Ministry has said.

The Bahrain Northern Link Road would follow Bahrain's north coast, passing Nurana Island, Seef Marina and planned investment areas, and tie Manama's eastern side to housing, tourism and trade sites further west.

Works Minister Ebrahim Al Hawaj gave the details in a written reply to MP Ahmed Al Salloom, who had asked about road and traffic works planned for 2026 to 2030, as well as the Northern Link Road project.

The ministry said the scheme is still in early studies and detailed planning. Work now under way covers possible routes, main junction sites, the number of lanes needed, and the form of each junction, based on expected traffic flows.

The main parts of the road are planned as free-flow stretches, reducing conflict points and keeping vehicles moving without the stop-start delays caused by junctions and traffic lights.

The project also includes a number of sea bridges and road links to the islands and districts north of Bahrain, along with connections to existing and planned roads across the kingdom.



Ebrahim Al Hawaj, Minister of Works

A consultant is preparing a traffic impact study, including future traffic modelling tied to Bahrain's approved traffic model. The work will measure likely effects on trip times, service levels on nearby roads, road capacity and the value of alternative routes for drivers.

Tender

A tender was issued in November 2025 to appoint a financial consultant for the project. The study will look at funding methods, delivery stages, traffic needs, chances for private sector partnership, and the wider economic and social return. The ministry said bids would be judged under the usual rules.

Al Hawaj said the northern road is among the projects listed in the ministry's plans, with a role in completing a northern coastal corridor and allowing Bahrain's road network to carry more traffic. It also ties in with Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030 and the strategic plan for 2030.



Shaikh Jaber Highway

On the wider 2026 to 2030 road programme, the minister said the ministry has a number of road projects across the governorates, each at a different stage. Work will start on each scheme once final designs are ready, funding is approved and coordination with other government bodies is completed.

Preparatory work has begun on Budaiya Highway. Other schemes listed by the ministry include the first phase of Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah Highway, the fourth bridge between Manama and Muharraq, the junction of Shaikh Salman Highway and 16th December Highway, and the fourth phase of roads leading to Bahrain International Airport.

The list also includes Isa Town Gate junction and the widening of Shaikh Salman Highway, the second and third phases of Shaikh Jaber Highway, the junction of Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Bridge

and Dry Dock Highway, King Faisal Highway, Wali Al Ahd Highway and Isa bin Salman Highway.



- Road projects to be delivered in phases (2026-2030).
- Salmaniya (Road 2904): Road upgrade, drainage, lighting, parking, pavements, junctions.
- Zinj (Road 5803): Drainage, speed humps, lighting, road markings.
- Avenue 13: Widening and junction improvements near Map of Bahrain.

WHAT'S NEXT ON PARLIAMENT'S AGENDA?

By Mohammed Darwish



\$100m Gas Deal Debate

A \$100 million first-phase Jubah gas concession deal will be debated in Parliament on Tuesday, under an agreement between Bahrain, EOG Resources and Bapco Energies.

The project gives EOG a 51% stake while Bapco Energies holds 49%, with EOG fully covering initial exploration costs. Bahrain will receive a 10% royalty on profits and 46% in oil-related taxes.

The deal covers exploration of the Jubah and pre-Tawil reservoirs using advanced drilling technology, with early production results expected in 2026 if successful. Officials said the state retains full ownership of the fields, while the part-



Ahmed Al Salloom, Chairman of Parliament's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee

nership is aimed at boosting exploration, investment, and local production without burdening the national budget.

The agreement also includes training Bahrainis, technology transfer, and prioritising local employment and suppliers. The parliamentary committee has recommended approval of the decree-law governing the deal.

Sports Clubs Face Funding Cuts

A 25% cut in government support to Bahraini sports clubs has left several in debt, forcing reductions in training programmes, youth activities, and team preparations, according to a parliamentary report.

Clubs warned that rising operating costs, limited budgets, and slow investment approvals are undermining their ability to function,

with some struggling to retain staff and maintain facilities. Isa Town Club said the funding drop had pushed smaller clubs into financial strain and disrupted annual training plans.

Multiple clubs called for increased financial support, easier investment procedures, and greater autonomy over assets to generate income.

Flyover Works Announced

Sewerage coverage in the Southern Governorate's second constituency is nearly complete, the Ministry of Works said, while a series of road projects in Isa Town are either finished, ongoing, or planned over the next two years.

The ministry said sewerage connections in the constituency have reached almost 100 per cent, with wider coverage across the Southern Governorate at 82 per cent.

In a reply to MP Dr Maryam Al Dhaen, Works Minister Ebrahim Al Hawaj said infrastructure projects are prioritised based on need, development density, technical feasibility, and available funding.

Several road projects worth BD2.59 million have already been completed, including



Dr Maryam Al Dhaen, MP

major upgrades in the Educational District and Isa Town, while additional maintenance works are still underway or scheduled through 2027.

A major traffic improvement plan is also in progress, featuring a three-lane flyover, a signal-controlled junction, and expansion of Shaikh Salman Highway from three to five lanes over 1.7 kilometres to ease congestion around Isa Town Gate.

BD2.5m Road Works Boost

Bahrain has spent around BD2.5 million on road works in the sixth constituency of the Capital Governorate, while sewerage coverage in the area has reached 87%, Works Minister Ebrahim Al Hawaj told Parliament.

In a written reply, the minister said several road and sewerage projects have been completed, with others ongoing or in the pipeline under a phased development plan.

He noted that overall sewerage coverage in the Capital Governorate stands at about 93%, with remaining areas to be connected in future projects based on priority and technical readiness.

Major road works completed since the start of the legislative



Mahmood Fardan, MP

term include upgrades, resurfacing, drainage improvements, traffic access enhancements, and utility relocation across areas such as Tubli, Jidhafs, Al Musalla, and Abu Baham.

The ministry said it will continue implementing road development projects, including the planned reconstruction of Avenue 14 linking Budaiya Highway to Tashan Avenue.

Hawar Highway Set for Two-Lane Upgrade

Hawar Highway is being designed for a two-lane upgrade in each direction, with new drains, pavements, lighting and road signs planned as part of the works.

Works Minister Ebrahim Al Hawaj gave the update in a written reply to MP Lulwa Al Rumaihi, who asked when the highway would become a dual carriageway because of its growing use.

Mr Al Hawaj said the Ministry of Works had a project to widen the road so that traffic would run on two lanes in each direction.

The scheme also includes a rainwater drainage network, side pavements for pedestrians, underground ducts for future service lines, better lighting,



Lulwa Al Rumaihi, MP

traffic markings and guide signs. The project is now in the detailed design stage, the minister said.

Work will go ahead after the designs are completed and the ministry finishes the required procedures and co-ordination with the service bodies concerned.

Mr Al Hawaj said the ministry would continue working with Parliament to meet public needs within its remit.

Term Extension Boosts Work

Parliament Speaker Ahmed Al Musallam has welcomed Royal Order No. 13 of 2026 extending the current legislative term by one year, thanking HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and affirming continued co-operation with the government in serving the nation.

Al Musallam said the extension reflects royal confidence in the legislature and will guide MPs and Shura Council members in advancing national work, noting



Ahmed Al Musallam, Parliament Speaker

support from HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa in previous parliamentary achievements.

MP Hassan Ebrahim Hassan described the extension as a "national responsibility," urging lawmakers to accelerate key legislation affecting



Hassan Ebrahim, MP

citizens, particularly in areas such as the economy, housing, services, and living costs.

He said the additional year should be used to improve legislative output and strengthen oversight, stressing closer coordination between parliament and the government.

Heritage Protection Expanded

The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) has classified 855 properties in the Capital Governorate's second constituency as archaeological and heritage sites, in a response to Second Deputy Speaker Ahmed Qarata.

Of these, 724 are already listed in the National Heritage Register, while 131 more are under review for possible inclusion.

The authority highlighted key Manama landmarks such as Bab Al Bahrain, the Manama Post Office—now restored as a museum—and Al Fadhel Mosque, which has undergone restoration.

BACA said its efforts, guided by national heritage laws, aim to preserve historic buildings while allowing regulated development, with emphasis on protecting Bahrain's cultural identity and encouraging sustainable reuse of heritage sites.



"The preservation of heritage buildings in the Capital Governorate reflects the importance of safeguarding national identity for future generations."

- AHMED QARATA, SECOND DEPUTY SPEAKER

India raises cooking gas, jet fuel prices

AFP | New Delhi, India

India raised yesterday the prices of commercial liquefied petroleum gas and jet fuel for international airlines, according to a state-run energy firm, as supply pressures from the Iran war mount.

Prices of bulk and commercial LPG cylinders have been revised," the state-run Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), the country's leading energy marketing company, said.

IOCL's price chart shows an increase of 993 rupees (\$10.50) in the price of a 19-kilogramme LPG cylinder meant for commercial use.

That amounts to a nearly 48% rise in the capital New Delhi. Local levies mean rates vary across cities.

The oil company said that the price of jet fuel for international airline operations has also "been adjusted upward".

Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) has gone up by around five percent in Delhi, according to IOCL's catalogue.

Apple earnings beat forecasts on iPhone 17 demand

AFP | San Francisco, United States

Apple said Thursday it had its best-ever start to the year when it came to earnings, with iPhone demand and digital service sales helping it beat expectations.

The pioneering Silicon Valley company reported profit of \$29.6 billion on revenue of \$111.2 billion in the recently ended quarter.

During the quarter, iPhone sales grew by double digits in just about every country where it does business, and its services unit reached an all-time high, according to Cook.

John Ternus, 50, will take over as Apple chief executive in September, with Cook becoming executive chairman of the iPhone maker's board of directors.

One concern haunting investors is that Apple appears to be easing into generative AI while rivals Google, Microsoft and OpenAI race ahead.

A promised upgrade to its Siri digital assistant was delayed in what analysts called a rare stumble for the company.

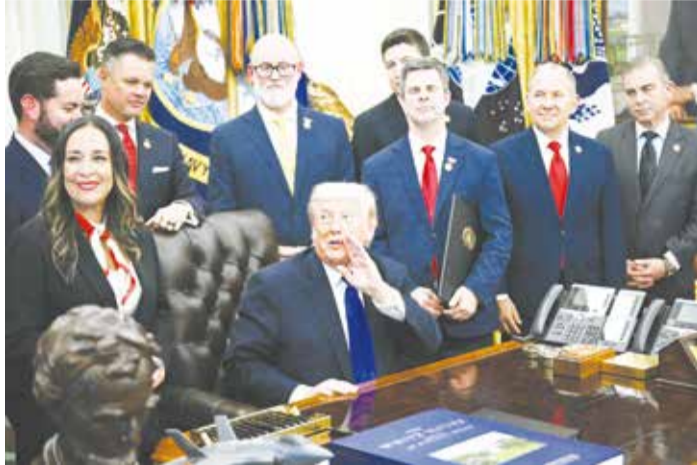
Trump says will raise US tariffs on EU cars, trucks to 25%

AFP | Washington, United States

President Donald Trump said yesterday that he will hike US tariffs on cars and trucks from the European Union next week, charging that the bloc is not complying with an earlier trade deal.

The pact, which was struck last summer, had capped the US tariff on EU autos and parts at 15 percent, which is lower than the 25-percent duty that Trump imposed on many other trading partners.

But the US leader said Friday: "Based on the fact the European Union is not complying with our fully agreed to Trade Deal, next



US President Donald Trump speaks after signing executive orders in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, DC

week I will be increasing Tariffs charged to the European Union

for Cars and Trucks coming into the United States."

"The Tariff will be increased to 25%," he wrote on his Truth Social platform.

He did not give a further reason for the planned hike, but the announcement came a day after his renewed criticism of German Chancellor Friedrich Merz.

Trump told Merz to focus on ending the Ukraine war instead of "interfering" on Iran.

Germany would likely be hit hard by a sharp tariff on cars and parts, as it is responsible for a significant amount of EU auto exports.

Blockbuster EU-Mercosur trade deal enters into force

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The European Union's mammoth trade deal with South American bloc Mercosur provisionally enters into force yesterday, despite a pending court ruling on its legality.

The agreement to create one of the world's biggest free-trade zones was sealed in January after more than 25 years of intermittent negotiations.

Together, the EU and Mercosur account for 30% of global GDP and more than 700 million consumers.

The deal, which eliminates tariffs on more than 90% of trade between the two sides,



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

has proven divisive in Europe. France has led opposition over concerns some of its farmers will be left worse off.

But -- backed by a majori-

ty of EU countries -- Brussels ploughed ahead as it pushes to diversify trade in the face of challenges from the United States and China.

European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen on Friday hailed the start of the deal's implementation, stating on X: "Provisional application will show the agreement's tangible benefits."

She said that "as of now... tariffs start falling" and European companies "are gaining access to new markets".

The agreement favours European exports of cars, wine and cheese, while making it easier for South Ameri-

can beef, poultry, sugar, rice, honey and soybeans to enter Europe.

Von der Leyen and Antonio Costa, the president of the European Council, held a video call to mark the occasion with Mercosur leaders, which include Argentina and Brazil.

Afterwards, Costa said the agreement was "more than a trade deal" but "a partnership that reflects our shared vision of the world".

"A resilient multilateral system rests on win-win agreements like this, grounded on rules, values and shared interests," he wrote on X.

Oil prices fall as Iran proposes new US talks

AFP | London, United Kingdom

The price of oil fell yesterday after Iranian media reported that Tehran had proposed fresh talks with the United States in a message sent via mediator Pakistan.

A barrel of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) fell briefly more than five percent, dipping below the symbolic \$100 mark, before clawing back to stand at \$101.7 by 1530 GMT.

The other main US benchmark Brent North Sea crude also recovered slightly, initially dropping by more than three percent to \$106.98 before edging back to \$108.4.

At the start of the US-Israeli war on Iran in late February,



A man fills his truck with diesel at a petrol station in Saint-Etienne-de-Montluc, western France

Brent was almost \$73 a barrel and WTI \$67.

"The Islamic Republic sent the text of its latest proposal to

ed, without providing further details.

Both benchmarks had started Friday's session edging upward, with the prolonged blockade of the Strait of Hormuz continuing to obstruct oil exports from the Gulf. With strategic crude reserves dwindling, investors are closely watching for any sign of an improvement in supply.

Meanwhile, seven members of the OPEC and OPEC+ group are to decide on Sunday on production quotas for the first time since the United Arab Emirates left the cartel. The group is expected to increase its quotas by 188,000 barrels per day, according to Arne Lohmann Rasmussen, chief analyst with Global Risk Management.

Pakistan, the mediator in the talks with the United States, on Thursday evening," the official IRNA news agency report-

Pentagon signs classified AI deals with tech giants, snubs Anthropic

AFP | Washington, United States

The Pentagon yesterday announced agreements with seven leading artificial intelligence companies to deploy their technology on classified military networks, a move that pointedly excludes Anthropic amid its ongoing dispute with the Defense Department.

SpaceX, OpenAI, Google, Nvidia, Reflection, Microsoft and Amazon Web Services will be integrated into the Defense Department's most sensitive classified systems, used for mis-



sion planning, weapons targeting and other purposes, according to a statement. The statement did not men-

tion Anthropic, which is caught up in a fight with the Pentagon over guardrails governing how the military could use its AI tools.

The US military currently uses Anthropic's AI but is weaning itself from it after the company objected to its technology being used for mass domestic surveillance or to directly control lethal autonomous weapons.

The Pentagon subsequently labeled the AI startup a supply-chain risk earlier this year, barring its use by the US military and its contractors.

In February, Trump instruct-

ed the government to "immediately cease" using Anthropic's technology -- a designation typically reserved for organizations from unfriendly foreign countries. "What we've learned... is that it's irresponsible to be reliant on any one partner," Emil Michael, the Pentagon's de facto chief technology officer, told CNBC. Michael added that the deals included a mix of closed and open-source models, with a source familiar with the matter telling AFP that the latter would be provided by Nvidia and AI firm Reflection.

US Fed official says rate hikes may be needed if inflation surges

Washington, United States

A key US Federal Reserve official warned yesterday that a series of interest rate hikes could be needed if price shocks from the Middle East war are larger than expected, fuelling inflation.

"Federal funds rate increases, potentially a series of them, could be warranted, even at the risk of further weakness to the labor market," Minneapolis Fed President Neel Kashkari said, explaining his dissent to the central bank's overall decision this week.

A bigger price shock could cause public expectations of inflation to shift, and the Fed would need to act against it, he believes.

Kashkari was among four officials who voted against the Fed's statement Wednesday after a two-day policy meeting. There are 12 voting members on the bank's rate-setting committee.

Like him, two other regional Fed presidents, Beth Hammack and Lorie Logan, supported the decision to hold rates steady but not the bank's signal that another cut was the next likeliest move.

Hammack and Logan cited risks of steeper inflation too in separate statements defending their decisions.

Fed governor Stephen Miran, however, continued pushing for lower interest rates.

This was the highest number of dissents since October 1992, highlighting the challenges that Fed Chair Jerome Powell's expected successor, Kevin Warsh, will face if he is confirmed.

UK exports to US slump as tariffs bite: official data

London, United Kingdom

British exports to the United States have slumped since the introduction of US tariffs, official data showed yesterday.

The value of goods exports to the US fell by £800 million (\$1.1 billion), or around 14%, in April 2025 compared with one year earlier, the ONS said.



Anthropic was founded in 2021 by former OpenAI researchers with a core focus on building safer and more controllable AI systems, and its flagship chatbot, Claude, is designed around the principle of being "helpful, honest and harmless."

Turkish police fire tear gas, arrest hundreds at Istanbul May Day rallies

AFP | Istanbul

Turkish police yesterday fired tear gas and arrested hundreds of people holding May Day demonstrations in Istanbul, as thousands rallied nationwide.

According to the CHD Lawyers' Association, at least 370 people were arrested in Istanbul, where police fired tear gas from riot-control vehicles into the crowd, AFP journalists observed.

Images aired on the opposition channel HALK TV also showed the president of the Turkish Workers' Party, Erkan Bas, engulfed in pepper spray.

"Those in power already speak 365 days a year, so let workers talk about the hardships they face at least one day a year," he said.



Lebanese first responders search for human remains amongst the rubble the day after a house was targeted in an Israeli airstrike in the southern Lebanese city of Nabatieh, yesterday. Israeli airstrikes on southern Lebanon killed at least 17 people on April 30, 2026, the Health Ministry announced, despite the ceasefire that has been in effect since April 17

Blow for Lula as Brazil MPs slash Bolsonaro prison term

AFP | Brasília

Brazil's Congress on Thursday overturned President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's veto of a law dramatically reducing the prison sentence of his arch-rival Jair Bolsonaro, the second major defeat for Lula in as many days.

Former president Bolsonaro, 71, was sentenced last year to 27 years behind bars for coup plotting over his attempt to cling to power after losing the 2022 elections to Lula.

Rebels take key military camp in Mali's north

AFP | Bamako

Mali's army and its Russian mercenary allies surrendered a strategic northern military stronghold to armed rebels yesterday, as Tuareg separatists and jihadists waged a unified front to bring down the country's junta.

Forces at Mali's Tessalit military base, a "super-camp" near the Algerian border, surrendered and were scattering southward, an official from the Tuareg-dominated FLA separatist group told AFP.

The FLA's allies, jihadists from the Al-Qaeda-linked Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (JNIM), are calling for cooperation to bring down the junta that has run Mali since 2020.

Iran offers **new proposal** amid stalled US peace talks

Proposal handed to Islamabad as Trump says 'not satisfied'

● Ceasefire holds since April 8

● Hormuz restrictions disrupt global trade

AFP | Tehran

Iran submitted a new proposal for talks with the United States via mediator Pakistan, state media reported yesterday, with negotiations between the two sides frozen despite a weeks-long ceasefire.

The text of the proposal was handed to Islamabad on Thursday evening, the IRNA news agency reported.

However, US President Donald Trump signalled dissatisfaction with Tehran's latest offer. "At this moment I'm not satisfied with what they're offering," Trump told reporters yesterday, raising doubts about the prospects for a breakthrough.

The war involving Iran, the United States and Israel, which began with a wave of strikes on February 28, has been on hold since April 8, but only one failed round of direct talks has taken place between Iranian and US representatives.

In the meantime, Iran has maintained restrictions on the Strait of Hormuz, cutting off vast amounts of oil, gas and fertiliser from the world economy, while the United States has imposed a counterblockade on Iranian ports.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday that US



A digital billboard displays an image reading "end the Iran war now" in Times Square in New York City

President Donald Trump had told security officials to prepare for the blockade to last months, causing oil prices to spike.

Despite the failure to negotiate an end to the war, the ceasefire has held. Yesterday, judiciary chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei, a senior cleric, said the Islamic Republic remained open to negotiations.

But in another sign that finding a compromise may prove difficult, Ejei said "we certainly do not accept imposition", in a video shared by the judiciary's Mizan Online website.

Tehran, though, does not want a return to war, he said.

He said Iran did not seek a continuation of the conflict.

The lack of fighting has not

assuaged markets, with oil prices still more than 50 percent above their prewar levels as traders confront continued disruption linked to the closure of Hormuz, while the European Central Bank held interest rates amid fears of soaring inflation.

War powers debate

Washington, meanwhile, was gripped by a legal debate over whether Trump had passed a deadline for requesting congressional approval for his war with Iran.

US imposes new Iran sanctions, warns against paying Hormuz tolls

AFP | Washington

The United States imposed new sanctions on three Iranian foreign currency exchange firms, in an effort to target Tehran's "financial lifelines" in the Middle East war.

The US Treasury Department warned in a separate statement against paying a "toll" to Iran's government in exchange for safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, saying this could trigger sanctions.



The White House is currently embroiled in a legal battle over the War Powers Resolution, arguing that the ongoing ceasefire effectively "paused the clock" on the 60-day deadline for Congressional war authorization

Administration officials, including defence secretary Pete Hegseth, insisted that the ceasefire meant that the clock was paused on a 60-day deadline requiring the president to seek war powers authorisation from Congress.

"For War Powers Resolution purposes, the hostilities that began on Saturday, February 28 have terminated," a senior administration official told AFP late on Thursday.

Trump is under increasing domestic pressure over the war, with no clear outcome in sight, inflation rising due to the conflict and midterm elections due in November.

On Thursday, US government data showed slower than expected growth and inflation hit 3.5 percent.

1945

Battle of Berlin ends as the Soviet army storms the capital, forcing German commander of the city, General Helmuth Weidling, to surrender

1949

Arthur Miller wins a Pulitzer Prize for his play "Death of a Salesman"



2008

Cyclone Nargis makes landfall in Myanmar, killing over 130,000 people and leaving millions homeless

2011

Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind behind the September 11 attacks and the FBI's most wanted man, is killed by US special forces in Abbottabad, Pakistan

USS Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier leaves Middle East

AFP | Washington

The USS Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier has left the Middle East after taking part in operations against Iran, a US official said yesterday, leaving two of the massive American warships in the region.

The Ford is currently in the US European Command area of responsibility, according to the official, who put the number of remaining US Navy ships in the Middle East at 20, including the USS Abraham Lincoln and USS George H.W. Bush aircraft carriers.

The Ford has been at sea for more than 10 months -- a deployment that



Harbour tugboats and other civilian vessels approach the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford at an anchor point off the Croatian city of Split

has already seen it take part in US operations in the Caribbean, where Washington's forces have carried out strikes on alleged drug-smuggling boats, interdicted sanctioned tankers and seized Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro.

A fire broke out in a laundry room aboard the carrier on March 12, injuring two sailors and causing major damage to some 100 beds, according to the US military.

The carrier has also reportedly suffered significant problems with its toilet system while at sea, with US media reporting clogs and long lines for restrooms on the ship.

King Charles gets warm welcome in Bermuda after whirlwind US visit

- King greeted by crowds in St. George's
- First visit to an Overseas Territory as King

AFP | St. George's

King Charles III stopped off in the British island territory of Bermuda yesterday after a high-stakes visit to the United States where he sought to heal strained ties between Washington and London.

The monarch greeted a line of schoolchildren, pausing to chat with them, on the steps of the whitewashed St. Peter's church in St. George's.

"Thank you for coming," said one crowd member who held a miniature union flag on the first day of the two-day stop.

"Get home safe," said another member of the hundreds-strong crowd gathered in King's Square.



Britain's King Charles III cuts a cake to mark the centenary of the Bermuda Aquarium Museum

One well-wisher wore a plastic crown speckled with imitation jewels as she filmed the gathering on her cell phone after a 21-gun salute.

Charles received a Royal Salute and the Royal Bermuda Regiment's band played the national anthem before setting a more relaxed tone with Bob Marley

and the Wailers' song "Jamming." The island stop -- the first visit by Charles to a British Overseas Territory as sovereign -- comes after a packed US itinerary for the king and Queen Camilla, who did not join for the Bermuda leg of the trip.

Trump charmed

The four-day US visit was largely seen as a success, with President Donald Trump serving as solicitous host who honored the royal couple with a white-tie banquet at the White House.

"He's a great king -- the greatest king, in my book," Trump told reporters as they said farewell.

Soon after, Trump announced he was removing tariffs on Scottish whisky "in honor" of Charles and Camilla.

"The King and Queen got me to do something that nobody else was able to do, without hardly even asking!" Trump said on his Truth Social platform.

With the US trip concluded, the royals thanked Americans for "the warmth of your welcome"



In a notable break from traditional military protocol, the Royal Bermuda Regiment's band followed the formal national anthem with a performance of Bob Marley's "Jamming" to set a relaxed tone for the royal arrival

throughout the couple's first US trip as king and queen.

"Until the next time... God Bless America," they posted on X.

The centerpiece of the trip was Charles's speech Tuesday to the US Congress, the first by a British monarch since Queen Elizabeth II in 1991.

Activists on Gaza aid flotilla seized by Israeli forces disembark in Crete

AFP | Athens

Dozens of activists on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla which was intercepted by Israeli forces in international waters off Crete disembarked yesterday in the Greek island, an AFP journalist saw.

Escorted by Greek coastguards, around 175 activists, the majority of them nationals of European countries, were taken in four coaches to the port of Atherinolakkos, in the southeast of the island.

As they approached the port, the activists chanted "Free Palestine," AFP saw.

Israel's foreign ministry earlier said around 175 activists had been taken off more than 20 vessels on Thursday. Flotilla organisers put the number at 211.

Turkey's foreign ministry said some 20 Turkish nationals in the flotilla who had been grabbed by the Israeli forces and taken to Crete would be



Activists from the Global Sumud Flotilla stand at the port of Atherinolakkos on the island of Crete after disembarking from a Greek Coast Guard vessel

repatriated. It said "certain participants from third countries" would also be sent to Turkey.

The flotilla comprising more than 50 vessels set sail in recent weeks from Marseille in France, Barcelona in Spain and Syracuse in Italy.

Its aim, according to the organisers, was to break the blockade of Gaza and bring hu-

manitarian aid to the Palestinian territory.

Israel controls all entry points to Gaza. It has been accused by the United Nations and foreign NGOs of strangling the flow of goods into the territory, causing shortages since the start of Israel's war against Hamas in October 2023.

India's weather forecasters warn of heatwaves

AFP | New Delhi

India's weather office predicted above-normal temperatures across several parts of the country, warning yesterday that May could bring intense heatwave conditions along the coast and in the west.

The South Asian country is no stranger to scorching summers but years of scientific research has found climate change is causing heatwaves to become longer, more frequent and more intense.

The Indian Meteorological Department predicted four to five additional heatwave days in the western states of Gujarat and Maharashtra, and regions along the eastern coast, in the coming weeks.

"There will be an increased number of heatwave conditions along the east coast states and Gujarat by about four to five days in the month of May," IMD chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra told reporters.

Temperatures could run three to five degrees Celsius above normal during peak spells in some of those areas, Mohapatra said.

At the same time, the heat is likely to be fairly moderate in India's northern and central regions.

India usually experiences four to seven heatwave days between April and June.

Infants, the elderly, people with existing health problems and outdoor workers are particularly vulnerable to hotter temperatures.

The resulting heat stress can cause symptoms ranging from dizziness and headaches to organ failure, and even death.

City dwellers surrounded by concrete, brick and other heat-absorbing surfaces also face an elevated risk.

Prolonged periods of extreme heat can also strain infrastructure such as power grids and transportation systems.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



The Middle East crisis is in its third month & the whole of humanity is paying the price. All sides must refrain from actions that could undermine the ceasefire. The world needs a peaceful, comprehensive, and durable resolution to the conflict.
@antonioguterres

02



Somali families are facing triple shock of food delayed by closure of Hormuz, droughts and floods, conflict. The world is making the wrong choices about where to focus its time, energy and money.
@UNReliefChief

03



Trump has no plan in Iran. Hegseth doesn't even know the cost. The American people are paying for their incompetence -- every day at the pump.
@GavinNewsom

04



I would like to thank each of you for your commitment to the EU-Mercosur agreement. @SantiPenap @JMilei @LulaOfficial @OrsiYamandu And dear @eucopresident Together we send a powerful message to the world. That openness and partnership create prosperity for all.
@vonderleyen

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

Hormuz Trade Collapse

UKMTO warns of rising threats to global trade and maritime safety.

● **Hormuz shipping has fallen over 90% amid regional conflict.**

● **Dozens of vessels have been damaged or impacted in the Gulf.**

● **About 20,000 sailors may be affected or stranded.**

Shipping through the strategic Strait of Hormuz has fallen by more than 90 per cent since the outbreak of conflict in the Middle East, according to maritime monitoring experts, raising alarm over global trade disruptions and growing risks to seafarers.

Experts from the Royal Navy-led UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO), which monitors key waters from its base in southern England, said more than two dozen vessels have been damaged or reported casualties while attempting to pass in and out of the Gulf during the escalation.

Beyond the sharp decline in maritime traffic, UKMTO has



warned of a potential humanitarian crisis, with an estimated 20,000 sailors currently affected or stranded in Gulf waters due to heightened insecurity and disrupted shipping routes.

The centre, which functions as both an emergency contact hub for seafarers and an information service for shipping companies, also cautioned that global at-

ention on the Strait of Hormuz could create conditions for a resurgence of piracy off the coast of Somalia.

Established after the 9/11 attacks in 2001, UKMTO has become a key coordination point for maritime safety across the Red Sea, Gulf waters and northern Indian Ocean, earning a reputation among governments and

shipping operators for rapid and impartial reporting.

The region had only recently seen a return to relative stability after earlier waves of Somali piracy in the late 2000s and renewed attacks on commercial shipping by Houthi rebels in late 2023 disrupted key sea lanes. That fragile recovery is now again under threat.

Lebanon Crisis Deepens



A residential building in Beirut, Lebanon, lies in ruins.

At least nine people were killed in southern Lebanon on Thursday as continuing hostilities intensified, deepening a humanitarian crisis marked by rising civilian casualties, worsening food insecurity, and strained public services.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that at least 13 others were injured in multiple airstrikes and military activity across southern towns, citing Lebanese authorities.

Between April 17 and 28 alone, 48 people were killed and 183 injured. Since the escalation began on 2 March, more than 2,500 people have been killed and over 7,800 wounded, according to Lebanon's health ministry.

Despite a declared ceasefire, OCHA described the situation as "fragile and volatile," warn-

ing that ongoing violence continues to obstruct humanitarian access and recovery efforts. Aid agencies have nonetheless conducted around 100 assisted missions to hard-to-reach areas through a UN-coordinated system.

Meanwhile, economic disruption linked to the conflict has further worsened living conditions. Rising prices and supply shortages are driving acute food insecurity, affecting nearly a quarter of the population.

A UN-backed global food security assessment warned on Wednesday that around 1.2 million people could face high levels of acute hunger between now and August. The World Food Programme said it is scaling up assistance, stressing that "behind every number are families struggling to meet their food needs."

Gulf Condemns Cyberattacks

ITU Strengthens Infrastructure Protection Role

A council of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) adopted by consensus a UN-backed resolution submitted by the Gulf Group and Jordan. The resolution condemned "illegal and deliberate" Iranian attack on civilian information and communications technology infrastructure in Kuwait, Qatar, the UAE, Bahrain and Jordan.

The resolution, described as a "global precedent," marked the first known case of the intentional targeting of civilian cloud computing infrastructure. It also condemned broader attacks on critical communications services and what it called coordinated cyber operations by Iran-linked groups against digital infrastructure in the region.

Kuwait's Permanent Rep-

resentative to the UN and other international organisations in Geneva, Ambassador Nasser Al-Hain, welcomed the adoption of the resolution, praising member states for their support and Iran's "clear violation" of the ITU constitution. He expressed hope for de-escalation and regional stability.

Al-Hain also reiterated Kuwait's rejection of threats to cut internet cables in maritime routes, particularly the Strait of Hormuz, warning of severe economic and social consequences and calling such actions a breach of international law and human rights frameworks.

He further criticised a separate Iranian proposal that failed to gain support, describing it as

"unbalanced," and warned the Iranian delegate against what he termed "misleading and unprofessional" statements about Gulf states.

The resolution stressed respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, including maritime domains. It called for strengthened international cooperation to protect critical communications infrastructure, which it identified as a global security priority.



UAE Rejects Iran

The United Arab Emirates categorically rejected Iran's election as Vice-President of the Eleventh Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), during the conference's general debate.

The UAE said elevating Iran to such a position is "completely rejected," citing concerns over Tehran's compliance with its safeguards obligations under the NPT. It accused Iran of undermining



the International Atomic Energy Agency's authority, carrying out unlawful actions against neighbouring states, destabilising the region, and threatening international waterways.

Reaffirming the NPT's importance as a cornerstone of global

non-proliferation efforts, the UAE stressed that the peaceful use of nuclear energy is a right of all member states. It added that its own nuclear programme is being developed responsibly and transparently, consistent with international obligations.

Saudi Forces Assessment

The Chief of Staff of the Saudi Land Forces, Lieutenant General Fahd Al-Jahni, conducted an inspection visit to the Western Region Command, where he reviewed the readiness level and operational capabilities of military units, according

to the Ministry of Defense (Saudi Arabia).

During the visit, Lt. Gen. Al-Jahni assessed combat preparedness and operational efficiency across various units as part of ongoing efforts to maintain high readiness standards within the armed forces.



Qatar Presents Credentials

President Carlos Vila Nova of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe has received the credentials of Yusuf bin Mohammed Al-Hilal, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Qatar, who is non-resident to the country.

During the ceremony, the Qatari envoy conveyed greetings from Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, along with wishes for the President's good health and for continued progress and prosperity for the people of São Tomé and Príncipe.

President Vila Nova, in turn, sent his greetings to the Amir of Qatar, wishing him good



health and further development and prosperity for the State of Qatar.

UAE Azerbaijan Defence

Senior UAE military commanders received His Excellency Aqil Gurbanov, Deputy Minister of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Director General, during his official visit to the UAE Ministry of Defence.

He was received separately by Major General Staff Hamid Mohammed Al Rumaithi, Commander of the UAE Naval Forces; Major General Staff Rashid Mohammed Al Shamsi, Commander of the Air Force and Air Defence; Major General Staff Yousef Abdullah Al Kaabi, Commander of Joint Avi-



ation; and Major General Staff Awad Saeed bin Mulseh Al Ahbabi, Commander of Joint Operations. The meetings discussed ways to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation and reviewed several issues of mutual interest.

During the visit, Gur-

banov was also briefed on the UAE's defence industrial ecosystem and military production capabilities, including advancements in manufacturing and modern technologies, reflecting a high level of readiness and operational efficiency.

US Navy Replenishment at Sea



USNS Wally Schirra (T-AKE 8) replenishes the guided-missile destroyer USS Delbert D. Black (DDG 119) while at sea. Underway replenishments allow U.S. Navy ships to receive fuel, food, munitions, and essential supplies.

Classifieds



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Luis Enrique says 'unique' PSG-Bayern first leg could have gone either way

AFP | Madrid

Paris Saint-Germain coach Luis Enrique said yesterday that he was "not frustrated" by the narrow advantage his side hold over Bayern Munich heading into their trip to Germany for the Champions League semi-final second leg.

Last week, the two sides played out what many considered to be one of the best matches in Champions League history as the side from the French capital emerged 5-4 winners at their Parc des Princes home.

"No, I'm not frustrated because it's a unique football match for me," Luis Enrique told reporters, despite the fact his side had led by five goals to two midway through the second period.

"We won the match. But we could have drawn, and we could have lost the match, and that wouldn't have been unfair."

Luis Enrique said the first leg



Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian defender #05 Marquinhos (C) and his teammates celebrates after winning the match

was such a spectacle because of the outstanding performances of both team's attackers, rather than any defensive shortcomings.

"It was a very spectacular match because the strikers from both teams got the better

of the defenders on numerous occasions, but not because they did a poor job defensively," he explained.

”

We won the match. But we could have drawn, and we could have lost the match, and that wouldn't have been unfair

LUIS ENRIQUE

"No, that's what makes this match magnificent, because the standard was incredible, especially from the strikers."

The 55-year-old praised in particular the contributions of PSG forward Ousmane Dembele and Bayern's English centre-forward Harry Kane.

"The two number nines -- look at how they defend. How they attack is what we normally see. But look at how they both defend -- it's incredible," he said.

The second leg of the semi-final will take place next Wednesday in Munich.

Villa boss Emery fumes as Forest star Anderson escapes red card



Aston Villa manager Unai Emery reacts during the match

AFP | London

Unai Emery slammed the decision not to send off Nottingham Forest star Elliot Anderson as Aston Villa crashed to a 1-0 defeat in the Europa League semi-final first leg on Thursday.

Chris Wood's second half penalty, awarded for a needless handball by Lucas Digne, fired Forest to a tense victory at the City Ground.

But Villa boss Emery was incensed by Forest midfielder Anderson's escape after his ugly foul on Ollie Watkins in the first half.

"The VAR is so, so bad. It's a clear red card, I don't understand why the VAR is not calling the referee because it's so clear. It's a huge, huge mistake. VAR is responsible," Emery said.

"The referee, fantastic, fantastic job, 10 out of 10, I appreciated how he managed the match for 90 minutes.

"But I watched it back. Wow. Huge. He could break his ankle. VAR where are you? It is your responsibility, we are professionals.

"It was so clear for everybody. He could break his ankle. It's not fair."

Insisting Villa can still bounce back and reach their first European final since 1982, Emery added: "After their goal the most important thing was not to lose our mind and to keep our game plan.

Formula One drivers welcome rule tweaks, but say more change needed

AFP | Miami

Formula One's drivers on Thursday welcomed rules tweaks made on safety grounds, but warned that more was needed to improve the racing at this weekend's Miami Grand Prix.

Speaking at an official news conference, most drivers said the changes made to the levels of 'super-clipping' and of battery power harvesting would reduce dangers, but have little overall effect on the spectacle in the sport's new hybrid era.

While Aston Martin's Canadian driver Lance Stroll lambasted the new formula as "fundamentally flawed" and a thousand times less fun than Formula Three, others took a more positive approach.

"The positive thing is that we had some nice meetings with F1 and the FIA and I think that's probably a starting point for the future even if there is time for that or maybe I'm not here anymore," said four-time champion Max Verstappen, who has struggled this season.

Verstappen had been a leading critic of this season's changes, accusing F1 of losing its identity



McLaren's Australian driver Oscar Piastri (L) and Cadillac's Mexican driver Sergio Perez attend a press conference

and suggested that he was contemplating his future if the sport did not take action to salvage its heritage as an all-out test of power and speed for drivers and machines.

"I really hope that the driver have more input to the organisers in general because most drivers have a good understanding and a good feel of what is needed to make F1 a good product, a fun product."

"At the end of the day, it's a very complex and political sport, but at least I think everyone has tried their best to do something -- but, of course, it won't change the world!"

The conflict has stemmed from this year's introduction of the 50-50 split between use of battery power and traditional engine power in an attempt to create a greener sport.



Some drivers believe modern F1 racing feels overly "computer-controlled," with strategy and battery management overshadowing pure speed and driver skill

Many drivers feel the sport needs more naturally aspirated power from an engine and less from the battery.

"It's a step in the right direction," said Audi's Nico Hulkenberg. "I'm curious to see how it feels and works on track now."

McLaren's Oscar Piastri said the collaboration had produced good changes, but added that he felt the chief problems could not be fixed without a fundamental overhaul of the hardware of the power units.

Bahrain Begin Countdown to Gulf Games

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's basketball team are stepping up preparations for the 4th Gulf Games in Doha, focusing firmly on making a strong start to the competition.

The squad will face a demanding schedule of three games in three days in the group phase, all to be played at the Al Gharaif Sports Hall.

Bahrain begins its campaign against Saudi Arabia on 15 May at 4pm, before quickly turning attention to the United Arab Emirates the following day at the same time. They round off the preliminary stage against hosts



Coach Vovorras oversees Bahrain's training session at the Zain Basketball Arena Qatar on 17 May at 6pm. The results will determine semi-final seeding: the top-ranked team faces the fourth-ranked team,

while the losers compete for bronze a day later.

In preparation for the tournament, the Bahrain Basketball Association has named an initial 15-player squad, who have already begun training under head coach Georgios Vovorras and his coaching staff. The group includes Ahmed Salman, Ahmed Alderazi, Mohammed Buallay, Ali Jaber, Ahmed Bindayneh, Mahmood Abbas Isa, Mohammed Juma'a, Ali Hussain, Emran Ashkanani, Nader Ali, Hassan Ghareeb, Mohammed Ghazi, Mohammed Sami, Nader Shaker and Hassan Fahad.

Salah 'deserves big send-off', says Liverpool boss Slot

Minor injury ensures star forward can feature again before Liverpool departure

● Salah expected to return soon

● Emotional exit planned at Anfield

● Slot praises Salah's legacy

AFP | London

Arne Slot said Mohamed Salah "deserves a big send-off", confirming he expected the departing superstar to return from injury before the season is over.

The Egypt forward, who will leave Anfield at the end of the campaign, was forced off in last weekend's 3-1 win at home to Crystal Palace, prompting fears he may have played his final game for the Reds.

An emotional Salah applauded the fans and was given a standing ovation as he made his way off the pitch.

But Liverpool confirmed earlier this week that the 33-year-old had only suffered a "minor muscle injury" and was expected to return to action.

Slot's men travel to face bitter rivals Manchester United on Sunday after three straight wins

257
goals in 440 appearances underline Mohamed Salah's Liverpool legacy

virtually sealed a place in next season's Champions League.

"We expect him to be back in the final part of the season, but not for Sunday," Liverpool boss Slot said at his pre-match press conference yesterday, describing the winger as a quick healer.

"In all ways it's a big relief that his injury is minor, so that he's able to play for us, that he's able to play at the World Cup.

"And if there's ever a player who deserves to get a big send-off, it's definitely Mo."

Salah has scored 257 goals in 440 appearances since his arrival at Anfield in 2017, behind only Ian Rush and Roger Hunt in Liverpool's list of leading goalscorers.

He had a public spat with Slot in December, declaring he had "no relationship" with the Dutchman after being dropped for three consecutive games, but quickly returned to the fold.



Liverpool's Egyptian striker #11 Mohamed Salah celebrates on the pitch after a match (file photo)

Liverpool, whose Premier League title defence collapsed dramatically from late September, have four games remaining, starting with their trip to face United.

The Reds are fourth in the table, three points behind third-placed Manchester United but eight points clear of sixth-placed

Brighton.

The top five automatically qualify for next season's Champions League.

'Right step'

Slot said qualifying for Europe's top club competition was vital after a turbulent season.

"I wouldn't say a step forward,

but it's the right step to make," he said. "We know how important it is to qualify for the Champions League, for any club, but definitely for our club."

The manager was asked whether he had been judged harshly in the light of Liverpool's success last season, when they won the Premier League



Despite a public fall-out earlier this season, Salah and Slot quickly reconciled, with the forward returning to form before his emotional farewell run-in

in his first campaign in charge. "That's for you guys to judge, if I've been too harshly judged by many people," he said.

"That's not up to me. I'm judging my football players, if they play well, if they work hard enough, if they execute tactics well enough, and I'm not in this job to judge if I'm criticised too harshly or too much or too less."

Slot said first-choice goalkeeper Alisson Becker, who has not played since March, was nearing a return to training.

"He is very close but of course, also we don't want to take any risks, because that's never what you do with a player and that's also not what we do now," he said.

Bahrain Victorious Take Fourth in Frankfurt

TDT | Manama

Pello Bilbao produced a strong ride for Bahrain Victorious, finishing fourth at Eschborn-Frankfurt after a fast and selective edition of the German WorldTour one-day race on Thursday.

An early breakaway went clear in the opening phase and was kept under control by the peloton as the race reached the climbs of the Taunus. The pace steadily increased on the ascents, gradually reducing the bunch before the decisive selection.

The key move came on the final climb, where a reduced lead group went clear and forged a decisive gap. The riders in front worked well together on the run-in to Frankfurt, holding off a determined chase from the peloton.

In the closing kilometres, the bunch closed in rapidly, but the leaders managed to stay away to contest the sprint for victory. Bilbao positioned himself well in the final and crossed the line in fourth, narrowly missing out on a podium finish in a tightly contested finale.

The race was won by Georg



Pello Bilbao of Bahrain Victorious

Zimmermann, ahead of Tom Pidcock and Ben Tulett.

Despite just missing the podium, Bahrain Victorious were encouraged by an aggressive and well-executed team performance throughout the day.

Bilbao said the finale left

mixed emotions after a strong collective effort. "We played our cards in the best way, made the race harder and the boys were excellent, very aggressive," he said. "In the end, it's a bit of a strange feeling because when you see the line while sprinting

YOU KNOW WHAT
Bilbao rode strongly but finished just off the podium as the front group held their gap to the finish line

and you are so close to victory, then losing the podium in the last moment is a pity. But I know we did our best."

Sports director Aart Vierhouten praised the team's approach and execution. "First of all, we are happy with Pello's result, which was really great again after all the Classics. He deserved the podium. He was really close, but that's cycling," he said.

"We knew what to do from the start and wanted a harder race. Afonso did a great job on the climbs to increase the pace. In the final, Pello did everything right. In the end, we go home confident with a good result."

Flick happy Raphinha back for Barca with title in sight

AFP | Barcelona

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick celebrated the return of winger Raphinha from injury yesterday as the Catalans close in on the Spanish title.

Flick's team are 11 points clear of second-place Real Madrid and can win a second successive La Liga title this weekend if they beat Osasuna on Saturday and Los Blancos drop points at out of form Espanyol the following day.

Raphinha suffered a hamstring injury while playing

for Brazil in March, which left him sidelined as Barcelona were knocked out of the Champions League by Atletico Madrid in the quarter-finals.

Barca face Real Madrid on May 10 in a Clasico which could seal their title defence if they do not clinch it this weekend, and are still in with a chance of matching the all-time record of 100 points in a Spanish league campaign.

"Rapha is a player who always gives us 100 percent, when he's on the pitch or in training," Flick told reporters.

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Arsenal must **manage emotions** of title race says Arteta

Gunners can go six clear but must juggle Champions League semi-final demands

● Arsenal chasing first title in 22 years

● Four games remain in season

● Form dip raises concerns

AFP | London

Mikel Arteta has urged Arsenal to manage their emotions as a gripping Premier League title race builds to a nerve-shredding climax.

Arteta's side can move six points clear of second-placed Manchester City if they beat Fulham at the Emirates Stadium on Saturday.

But the Gunners have been far from convincing in recent weeks, blowing a substantial lead at the top after damaging defeats against City and Bournemouth.

A tense 1-0 win against Newcastle last weekend hardly suggested Arsenal have conquered their anxiety.

But Arteta called on his players to embrace the positives of being potentially just four games away from a first league title in 22 years.

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MIKEL ARTETA

to manage in the right way. But I want to put more emphasis on showing that desire, that hunger that we have shown all season," he told reporters yesterday.

"We have only four games left and everything to play for, so it doesn't get better than that."

After facing Fulham, Arsenal will have played two more games than City, who are next in action at Everton on Monday.

City's games in hand could tip the balance in a desperately close race that may be decided on goal difference or goals scored.

Arsenal have the extra complication of balancing their Premier League efforts with a quest to win the Champions League for the first time.



Arsenal players celebrate the opening goal scored by Arsenal's Swedish forward #14 Viktor Gyokeres during Champions League match against Atletico Madrid

Arteta was furious as penalty decisions did not go his side's way in a 1-1 semi-final, first leg draw away to Atletico Madrid on Wednesday, meaning Arsenal still have plenty of work to do in Tuesday's second leg to reach the final.

"I think we have enough fuel in the tank, we are planning to

win the Premier League," he added.

"We are exactly where we wanted to be, four games to go, now let's go.

"We need to face each situation in any context to achieve our goal. What happened the other night was extremely disappointing, but we need to make

it at home now."

Arteta, though, stressed his players are fully focused on beating Fulham rather than the return leg against Atletico.

"Focus on Fulham and hunger. Hunger to compete, hunger to play, hunger to win. Hunger to be closer to achieve our dream," he said.



Despite being a vital attacking component for the team, Kai Havertz has been sidelined for nearly eight months, forcing Arteta to reinvent his forward line during the most critical juncture of the season

Kai Havertz and Jurrien Timber will again be missing through injury, but Arteta hailed his side's ability to overcome injury problems throughout the campaign.

"We are talking about one of the most important attacking players that we have and he has been out for seven or eight months," Arteta said of Germany forward Havertz.

"He hasn't been the only one, unfortunately, regarding players that we have missed through injury. We have shown an incredible capacity to overcome these scenarios."

Bahrain Finish Strong at Arab Youth Meet



Action from Stade Olympique de Radès in Tunis, Tunisia.

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's national athletics team delivered an impressive performance at the 21st Arab Youth Athletics Championships in Tunisia, finishing third overall with five gold and three silver medals.

The competition ran from April 26 to 30 and brought together more than 200 athletes from 15 Arab nations. Bahrain remained competitive across multiple events throughout the meet as Morocco topped the standings and Egypt secured second place.

Rehana Ghroba stood out in the sprint events, first taking

gold in the women's 100m with a time of 11.55 seconds before winning the 200m shortly after, completing a sprint double that reflected both control and acceleration across both distances.

The women's 400m added further strength to Bahrain's track presence, with Aisha Abdullah running to gold in 53.69 seconds, closely followed by Soufiane Abdulghani in 53.85 seconds, resulting in a tightly matched one-two finish for the team.

That rhythm carried into the 4x400m relay, where Bahrain maintained composure throughout the exchanges and closed strongly to secure gold in 3:41.88.

Gulf Champions Look to Defend Their Crown

TDT | Manama

Bahrain will enter the 27th Arabian Gulf Cup as reigning champions, with the group-stage draw taking place on 19 May in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where the opening fixtures for the region's national teams will be confirmed.

The draw will be held at Culture Square in the Arts Centre building within the Red Sea International Film Festival complex. It marks the first step toward a tournament scheduled to be staged in Jeddah from 23 September to 6 October, with all Gulf nations expected to participate.

Bahrain's national team arrives as defending champions after winning the 26th edition. They beat Oman 2-1 in the final in Kuwait on 4 January 2025 to claim their second Arabian Gulf Cup title, following their first success in 2019. That triumph was built on disciplined performances throughout the tournament, with Croatian head coach Dragan Talaji overseeing a structured and consistent campaign.



Bahrain's national football team celebrate winning the Gulf Cup last year

Since then, his side have found results harder to come by on the international stage. In the FIFA World Cup 2026 Asian qualifiers, they were eliminated after a 2-0 home defeat to Saudi Arabia last June. They finished fifth in Group C behind Japan, Saudi Arabia and Australia,

missing out on a playoff spot despite a competitive showing.

Their struggles continued later in the year at the 2025 Arab Cup, where they exited at the group stage. Bahrain finished third in their group with three points, recording defeats to Algeria (5-1) and Iraq (2-1), along-

side a 3-1 win over Sudan.

In preparation for the upcoming Arabian Gulf Cup, Bahrain have since focused on a series of international friendlies aimed at building match sharpness, including an upcoming fixture against Georgia on 5 June in Tbilisi.