

'Vessel Diversions'
 Tensions appear to be rising in the Strait of Hormuz amid increased U.S. maritime activity and vessel monitoring in the Arabian Sea. | P6

US approves \$8.6bn arms deals for Gulf allies under emergency powers

THE DAILY tribune



Title race tightens as the league picture takes shape in Matchweek 20

Banking sector pledges to keep financial services running smoothly at all times



Media is not just a voice, but a force that strengthens unity, safeguards achievements and shapes a peaceful future.

DR. ABDULLATIF BIN RASHID AL ZAYANI IS THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Media Builds Peace

Uphold professionalism, integrity, and support peacebuilding

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued a message marking World Press Freedom Day, reaffirming Bahrain's commitment to responsible press freedom and freedom of expression as cornerstones of constitutional governance and democratic development.

In his message, the King extended appreciation to journalists and media professionals, stressing that free and responsible journalism remains a vital pillar of modern societies and a reflection of their vitality and conscience.

He noted that this year's UNESCO theme, "Shaping a Future of Rights," highlights the role of ethical and objective journalism in promoting peace, describing the media as a key force in building stability when guided by professionalism and integrity.

His Majesty also highlighted Bahrain's national unity and social cohesion, noting the country's inclusive society that brings together diverse communities in both prosperity and adversity. He reaffirmed Bahrain's



HM the King



HRH Prince Salman

consistent approach based on good neighbourliness, cooperation, and balanced diplomacy.

Referring to recent regional developments, the King commended the readiness of Bahrain's armed forces and security institutions, and expressed pride in the unity and loyalty of the Bahraini people, describing them as a strong pillar of national defence.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force reaffirmed the military's loyalty to HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, praising his leadership and stressing that national unity and security are "non-negotiable priorities."

In a message addressed to the King, the defence leadership expressed "deep loyalty and allegiance," describing the mon-

arch's recent guidance to the media as a "historic moment" that reflects a clear national doctrine placing the homeland above all considerations.

The statement highlighted the importance of strong national cohesion in safeguarding Bahrain's stability and development, and warned against any attempts to undermine the country's security or sovereignty.

Press Earns Royal Praise

TDT | Manama

Dr. Ramzan bin Abdulla Al Noaimi, Minister of Information, said the continued development and elevated status of Bahrain's press reflect the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and his firm support for responsible press freedom.

He also highlighted the backing of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin



Dr. Ramzan bin Abdulla Al Noaimi

Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, noting his efforts to empower national media professionals and enhance their role in development through key initiatives and programmes.

Dr. Al Nuaimi was commenting on the King's message on World Press Freedom Day, which this year carries the theme "Shaping a Future of Peace".

GCC Stands With Bahrain



Jassim Mohammed Al-Budaiwi

TDT | Manama

GCC Secretary-General Jassim Mohammed Al-Budaiwi affirmed the Gulf Cooperation Council's full support for Bahrain in all measures taken to protect its security and stability.

He stressed that Bahrain's security remains a top priority for GCC states, highlighting their united stance in facing threats.

UAE Voices Support

TDT | Manama

Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, reaffirmed his country's full support for the sovereign measures taken by Bahrain to safeguard its security, sovereignty, and national achievements.

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Oath Breach

Expulsion Motion Filed Against Three MPs

Request under consideration in line with parliamentary procedures

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Thirty MPs have submitted a formal request to the Speaker seeking the expulsion of three fellow MPs over statements made during a parliamentary debate on amendments to the judiciary law.

The MPs named in the request are Abdulnabi Salman Nasser, Mamdouh Abbas Al Saleh, and Mehdi Abdulaziz Al Shuwaikh.

The signatories allege that the three MPs breached their constitutional oath and lost the trust required to continue in office following remarks made during the parliamentary session on 28 May 2026, which discussed Decree-Law No. 13 of 2024 amending Article 7 of the Judicial Authority Law (Decree-Law No. 42 of 2002).

According to the request, the



Mehdi Abdulaziz Al Shuwaikh



Abdulnabi Salman Nasser



Mamdouh Abbas Al Saleh



Lawmakers in session

three MPs criticised state measures taken against individuals accused of glorifying Iranian attacks on Bahrain, including the revocation of citizenship in certain cases. The signatories

argue that these remarks questioned the legitimacy of such measures and contributed to the rejection of the draft law.

The MPs behind the motion further claim that the state-

ments caused public anger and undermined national unity, while also contradicting directives attributed to the leadership regarding safeguarding national security.

The request cites Article 78 of the Constitution, which outlines the oath of MPs, and Article 99, which allows for the withdrawal of membership if a member loses trust or violates parliamentary duties. It also refers to Article 191(b) of the parliamentary bylaws, which provides for disciplinary measures, including removal from membership.

While acknowledging an apology later issued by the three MPs, the signatories said it was insufficient and maintained that resignation would have been the appropriate course of action.

The request has been submitted by Mohammed Salman Al Ahmed, Hamad Farooq Al Doy, Jameel Mulla Hassan, Bader Al Tamimi, Mohammed Al Ballooshi, Ali Saqr Al Dosari, Abdullah Al Rumaihi, Mohammed Al Olaiwi, Abdulla Al Dhaen, and Mohammed Al Rifai.



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Media Drives National Progress

Journalists lauded for promoting Bahrain's achievements globally

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Chairman of the Shura Council, said the progress and professionalism of the Bahraini press reflect the vision of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Marking World Press Freedom Day, he highlighted the role of a free and responsible media as a key partner in national development, supported by royal directives promoting openness, transparency, and freedom of expression.

Al Saleh praised journalists for strengthening national identity and showcasing Bahrain's achievements globally, while commending government support led by Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa in empowering media institutions and talent.

He reaffirmed that continued support for the press will enhance its role in advancing the Kingdom of Bahrain's development and progress.



The unwavering commitment of media professionals to truth, responsibility, and national progress is truly admirable.

ALI BIN SALEH AL SALEH
ALI BIN SALEH AL SALEH

Defends Nation

On the occasion of Bahraini Press Day and World Press Freedom Day, the Shura Council praised the national press for



Shura Council

its key role in supporting the Kingdom's development and strengthening social cohesion.

The Council said the media serves as the first line of defence in raising public awareness, highlighting its responsibility to deliver accurate reporting and counter misinformation that could affect national security and stability.

It commended Bahraini journalists for their dedication to defending the country's image locally and internationally, and for their professional response to attempts that target national unity and achievements.

The Council also highlighted the progress of Bahrain's media sector, noting its adaptation to digital transformation, including the use of artificial intelligence and advanced visual content production.

Reaffirming its support for journalists, the Council stated that responsible media remains essential for protecting the nation and promoting its positive image globally.

Journalists Day Supported

TDT | Manama

FinMark Communications announced its support for World Press Freedom Day and Bahraini Press Day celebrations, organised by the Bahrain Journalists Association with support from Motivate and hosted at Seef Mall.

On the occasion, Zahraa Taher, Managing Director and Co-Founder of FinMark Communications, said the company is pleased to support initiatives that recognise Bahraini media and its contribution to society.

She noted that FinMark has consistently marked the occasion since 2002, highlighting the importance of media work and its continued influence.

Taher also expressed appreciation to the Bahrain Journalists Association for its efforts in organising the event, and to



Zahraa Taher, Managing Director and Co-Founder of FinMark Communications

Motivate for its support in facilitating the celebration. She invited media professionals to attend the gathering on Sunday, May 3, at 6:30pm at Seef Mall.

FinMark Communications further emphasised the importance of strengthening cooperation between the private sector and media institutions to support a dynamic media landscape aligned with national development.

Youth Empowerment Drive Expands

AI Focus in Lamea 6

TDT | Manama

Youth Affairs Minister Rawan Najeeb Tawfeeq announced the launch of the sixth edition of the national youth development initiative "Lamea," which aims to strengthen youth empowerment and nurture future leaders.

The programme reflects the vision of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, which places Bahraini youth at the centre of national development as a key driver of the future.



The programme evolves through continuous assessment, ensuring it delivers impact while expanding partnerships with leading institutions."

MINISTER RAWAN NAJEEB TAWFEEQI

Tawfiqi said the new edition introduces an upgraded format aligned with evolving global trends, including more advanced challenges and a stronger focus on modern technologies and future skills.

The programme will also expand its scope to include institutional governance concepts and broader applications of artificial intelligence, while linking aca-

demic knowledge with practical training through modern methodologies.

Since its launch in 2021, the programme has attracted around 2,260 applicants through its first five editions, producing a pool of young Bahraini talents who have demonstrated excellence across various sectors.

The initiative aims to

identify high-potential youth through merit-based selection and develop their capabilities via advanced training programmes that simulate real-world challenges, ensuring a steady pipeline of skilled national talent.

Registration for the sixth edition opened on Saturday and will run until May 17 via the programme's official website.

Unity First Line of Defence

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Remarks by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa highlight a firm national stance against aggression and betrayal, reinforcing the importance of unity in safeguarding Bahrain's security and sovereignty, a municipal leader said.

Sayed Shubar Ibrahim Al Wadaei, Chairman of the Northern Municipal Council, said the King's message serves as a clear call for collective responsibility, stressing that national unity is essential in confronting challenges facing



Sayed Shubar Ibrahim Al Wadaei

the Kingdom. He described Bahrain's sovereignty as a "red line" that cannot be compromised, urging citizens to stand together with the leadership to protect the country's stability.

Productivity and innovation on Workers' Day



Shaikh Khalid bin Hamood Al Khalifa, Governor of Capital Governorate, described International Workers' Day as a milestone renewing appreciation for labour. He stressed workforce development, skills, and opportunity expansion to boost competitiveness and sustainable growth. On a visit to Ibrahim Khalil Kano Training Centre, he praised workers and Bahraini youth.



English Week at New Millennium School

The New Millennium School, Bahrain marked English Week from April 26 to 29, 2026, with vibrant student participation across all grades under the theme "Connect, Create & Communicate."

Loyalty Over All

TDT | Manama

A senior official at the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club, Yusuf Osama Buhijji, said that the content of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's media remarks reflects a firm national approach focused on protecting Bahrain's security and preserving its achievements.

Buhijji, who is also Acting CEO of the club, said the royal message demonstrates a clear and decisive vision in addressing challenges, stressing that safeguarding Bahrain's stability is a shared national responsibility that requires unity, loyalty, and commitment to the



Yusuf Osama Buhijji

leadership. He added that the King's remarks reinforce national constants, strengthen citizen unity, and reject any actions threatening the Kingdom's security or sovereignty, emphasizing that the nation's interest remains above all considerations.

Development Pillars



The Governor of the Northern Governorate, Hassan bin Abdullah Al Madani, called workers in Bahrain a "fundamental pillar" of the country's comprehensive development drive, praising their role in national growth and productivity. In a statement marking International Workers' Day, Al Madani extended his congratulations to workers.

Families Moved Safely

Affected residents moved to Madinat Salman as repairs continue in Sitra

● Residents praise swift government response

● No families left in makeshift shelters

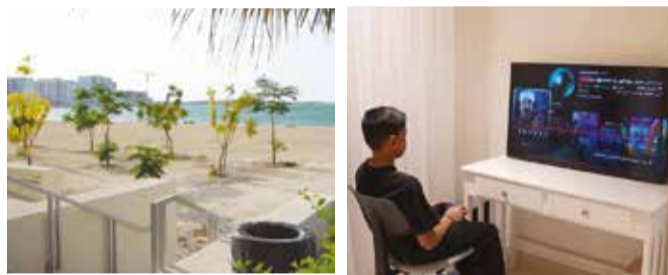
● Community unity highlighted during recovery efforts

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Families whose homes were damaged in the recent attack on Sitra have been relocated to temporary seafront flats in Madinat Salman, as repair work continues on affected properties.

The Ministry of Housing provided the units as part of emergency support measures, offering residents fully serviced apartments with parking and coastal views until their homes are restored. Residents say the move has eased the impact of displacement, with many describing the accommodation as a significant improvement over temporary shelter conditions.

Several residents expressed gratitude for the swift response, highlighting the sense of safe-



ty and reassurance provided. One resident praised the leadership of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the efforts of government teams that responded on the ground following the incident.

Others noted that author-

ities acted quickly to assess damage and arrange alternative housing, ensuring families were not left in makeshift conditions. Residents described the flats as spacious and well-equipped, with access to essential services.



Some families have begun adapting to their new surroundings; the seafront location offers opportunities for leisure activities such as walking and fishing. One resident said he shared images of the area with relatives abroad, describing it as one of the best temporary housing arrangements provided.

Officials said the relocation is temporary and part of ongoing efforts to support affected communities while reconstruction work in Sitra is completed.

Motorcycle Licences Double Since 2018

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Motorcycle driving licences in Bahrain rose from 2,387 in 2018 to 5,350 in 2025, the highest number recorded across the eight years covered by figures from the General Directorate of Traffic.

The data, published through Bahrain's Open Data Portal, covers private, public and motorcycle licences issued between 2018 and 2025.



Private licences stayed far ahead of the other two groups each year, while public licences remained the smallest category.

Private licences stood at 56,125 in 2018, before falling to 53,892 in 2019 and 40,430 in 2020. The number then rose to 42,385 in 2021 and 43,409 in 2022, dipped to 41,796 in 2023, and moved up again to 42,054

in 2024 and 44,433 in 2025.

Motorcycle licences moved unevenly at first, then climbed more sharply in the later years. They rose from 2,387 in 2018 to 2,433 in 2019 and 2,512 in 2020, before slipping to 2,380 in 2021. They then jumped to 4,044 in 2022, fell to 3,584 in 2023, rose to 3,986 in 2024 and reached 5,350 in 2025.

Public licences stayed low throughout the same span. The figure fell from 342 in 2018 to 245 in 2019 and 118 in 2020, before rising to 166 in

2021. It reached 158 in 2022, 226 in 2023, 275 in 2024 and 254 in 2025.

The figures point to a wide gap between the three licence types. Private licences made up the largest share of those issued each year. Motorcycle licences ended the period well above their 2018 level, while public licences remained in the low hundreds.

Combat Drug Threats

Authorities Unveil New Prevention Strategy

An awareness drive aimed at strengthening community protection against drug abuse was launched at Country Mall in the Northern Governorate, in the presence of Governor Hassan Abdullah Al Madani.

The exhibition, organised by the governorate in cooperation with the Drug Control Directorate at the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science and the "Together" programme for combating violence and addiction, focuses on highlighting the health, psychological, and social dangers of drug use.

Al Madani said the initiative supports broader community



safety efforts and aligns with the governorate's Healthy Cities Programme in partnership with the World Health Organization, underlining the role of collective action in protecting youth and preventing addiction.

The event included interactive awareness tools such as a virtual reality experience

demonstrating the impact of drugs, as well as educational electronic games designed to build decision-making skills among young people. It also featured awareness materials from the Criminal Information Section and introduced the "Recovery" programme under the national anti-drug strategy.

Family's Crash Payout Raised to BD20,270

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A family whose son was injured in a road crash has had its court award raised to BD20,270 after an appeals medical panel assessed his permanent disability at 30pc instead of 20pc.

The Civil Appeals Court changed the earlier ruling and ordered the driver and her insurer to pay the sum jointly. The award now includes BD18,000 for the injured son, BD1,000 for his father, BD1,000 for his siblings, and BD270 in treatment costs.

The court also ordered the driver and the insurance company to pay the medical panel

fees, court costs and lawyers' fees.

Lawyer Maryam Al Shaikh, acting for the injured son's father and family, said the case followed a road crash caused by the driver, whose car was insured by the second defendant.

She said the driver had failed to drive with due care and attention before hitting the claimant. The father then filed an urgent application asking for a medical panel to assess the injury.

The first medical report assessed the son's permanent disability at 20pc. The family said the crash had left them with financial loss and psychological harm.

A final criminal judgment was later issued against the driver. The family then filed a civil claim against the driver and insurer, asking for BD18,000 for the injured son, statutory interest, BD1,500 for the father, BD1,500 for the siblings to be divided equally, and BD270 in treatment costs.

The court of first instance awarded BD15,000 to the father as his son's legal guardian. It also awarded BD770 to the father personally and BD600 to be divided among the injured son's three siblings.

It further ordered the driver and insurer to pay statutory interest, lawyers' fees and the medical panel fee.

Resilience Amid Challenges

● Focus on education, health, AI, and human capital

● Non-oil sector exceeds 86% of GDP (2025).

● Aligned with Vision 2030 and Vision 2050. recovery efforts

TDT | Manama

Bahrain delivered its key messages ahead of its third Voluntary National Review on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reaffirming its commitment to accelerating progress toward the 2030 Agenda.

Minister of Sustainable Development and Chief Executive of the Economic Development Board, Noor bint Ali Alkhulaif, said Bahrain remains firmly committed to achieving the 17 SDGs under the comprehensive development path led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and guided by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

She said the Kingdom continues to advance through flexible and integrated policies, investment in human capital, infrastructure development, and



strategic partnerships, while also working on Bahrain Economic Vision 2050 to ensure long-term sustainability and alignment with global changes.

The key messages highlighted Bahrain's response to unlawful Iranian attacks targeting civilians and critical infrastructure, stressing that priority was given to protecting citizens and residents, maintaining health-care services, and safeguarding national achievements in line with the principle of leaving no one behind.

They also outlined national progress across key sectors, particularly education and health, including curriculum development, expanded digital and creative learning, and training programmes in modern fields such as artificial intelligence to enhance workforce competitiveness.

In healthcare, Bahrain's efforts in precision medicine were highlighted, including the use of AI and genome sequencing to reduce genetic and chronic diseases.

The statement also emphasized environmental protec-



- Presentation will be at the UN in New York in July 2026.
- Focus: education, health, AI, and human capital.
- Non-oil sector exceeds 86% of GDP (2025).
- Aligned with Vision 2030 and Vision 2050.

tion, cultural preservation, and national identity as pillars of sustainable development, alongside continued economic diversification efforts under Bahrain Economic Vision 2030. Non-oil sectors now account for more than 86% of GDP based on preliminary 2025 figures.

The submission serves as a preparatory step for Bahrain's presentation of its third Voluntary National Review at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York in July.

Security Not Open to Bargaining

Lawmakers stress unity and national sovereignty

● “Red line” with no room for bargaining or compromise.

● Unity, national loyalty, and accountability

● Public trust tied to protecting national interests.

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

MPs backed remarks by HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, stressing that national security and sovereignty are “not open to bargaining” following recent tensions linked to Iran.

Lawmakers said the King’s speech set firm red lines on protecting the country, warn-

ing that any cooperation with external threats would face legal action. They described the message as reinforcing unity, loyalty and the rule of law. MPs also underlined Parliament’s

responsibility to uphold national interests and avoid conduct that harms public trust, calling representation a “public duty, not a privilege.”

They praised the leader-

ship of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, as well as the armed forces and security agencies, for their response and efforts to safeguard the country.



“The King spoke clearly about the nation’s challenges and everyone’s duty.”

MARYAM AL SAYEGH, MP



“Unity at home is the strongest guarantee of security and stability.”

JALAL KADHEM, MP



“Parliamentary duty is a public trust, not a privilege.”

HISHAM AL AWADHI, MP

Betrayal of nation ‘unacceptable’

Bahrain’s Housing and Urban Planning Minister said the remarks of the country’s leadership underscore a firm commitment to national stability and sustainable development, while stressing that betrayal of the nation constitutes an unacceptable breach of national values.

Minister Amina bint Ahmed Al Romaihi said the statements of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa reflect a “clear national vision” aimed at safeguarding security, preserving development gains and strengthening social cohesion.

She said the King’s remarks demonstrate a “deep awareness of current challenges” while reaffirming Bahrain’s policy of protecting its achievements and reinforcing unity between leadership and citizens.

Al Romaihi added that any justification or tolerance of actions that undermine national security amounts to a violation of responsibility and loyalty to the country.

She noted that the government’s approach, under the directives of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, focuses on translating royal guidance into practical policies that reinforce



“Bahrain remains committed to safeguarding national stability, strengthening unity and advancing sustainable development while protecting the nation’s achievements and security.”

stability and ensure the continuity of development.

The minister said Bahrain’s stability during the current era reflects the strength of its national institutions and its ability to safeguard achievements while balancing security requirements with development goals.

Sports Clubs Face KPI-Linked Funding



Parliament is set to debate proposals to tighten governance in sports clubs and federations, linking funding to performance while preserving their independence.

A committee report recommends clearer accountability, measurable targets and improved training for board members to raise standards across the sector. It also backs drafting a new sports law to replace the current framework, which officials say is outdated and too broad.

The General Sports Authority said it is preparing a governance charter and new rules, including performance-based funding and stricter oversight of private sports academies.

Clubs and federations have broadly supported the move, calling for transparent reporting, annual assessments and stronger financial controls, while urging a gradual rollout to help smaller organisations adapt.

Lawmakers are expected to review the proposal in the coming sessions.

Stronger Rights for Bahraini Athletes

As Parliament reviewed the state of sports clubs and federations, lawmakers heard calls to strengthen job security, education support and social protection for athletes.

During committee hearings, participants urged authorities to treat athletes not only as competitors but as workers with long-term careers, highlighting gaps in employment rights, university access and legal protections.

A key concern raised was the lack of coverage for athletes under Bahrain’s Social Insurance Law, alongside calls to expand professional contracts and formalise sporting leave policies.

Stakeholders said national team players often face difficulties securing time off from employers, affecting both their careers and Bahrain’s participation in international events. The

issue extends to coaches, administrators and technical staff involved in overseas competitions.

Education support also featured prominently, with proposals for university scholarships and flexible study arrangements to help athletes balance sport and academics.

Officials pointed to ongoing efforts to improve sports infrastructure, including neighbourhood pitch projects and plans to allocate space for facilities in future developments. Meanwhile, reforms to professionalise sports clubs — including converting them into companies — are under way to provide more stable environments for athletes.

Lawmakers were told that athlete welfare requires a co-ordinated approach, linking employment rights, education, infrastructure and governance reforms to ensure sustainable sporting careers

Reaffirms rejection of external interference

Minister of Oil and Environment and special climate envoy Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak bin Dainah said that remarks by HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa underscored the kingdom’s “national constants” and reaffirmed that the homeland is a trust carried by all its citizens.

Dr. bin Dainah said the King’s media remarks clearly reinforced state sovereignty, the protection of national security and stability, and the principle that loyalty to the nation overrides all other considerations.

He added that the message carried “firm and clear” signals reflecting the depth of Bahrain’s leadership approach in addressing regional challenges, stressing that pivotal moments distinguish genuine national be-



longing from attempts at doubt or betrayal.

The minister also highlighted the King’s affirmation of the readiness and vigilance of Bahrain’s armed forces, describing it as evidence of the state’s steadfast policy in safeguarding sovereignty and deterring external interference.

He said the call for national unity against external threats and interference reflected a decisive stance that betrayal of the nation is unacceptable under any justification.

Parliament Urges Better Jobs for Bahrainis

Bahrainis should be the first choice for jobs and training, Parliament said, marking International Workers’ Day with a call for better work openings for young people.

The Council said labour policy must put citizens first while keeping laws and oversight in step with the needs of the jobs market.

In a statement, Parliament thanked workers across all fields and sectors for their part in Bahrain’s growth, output and public life.

It said their work had helped the country’s building and development under His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, with the follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Parliament said it would sup-



port efforts to create quality jobs for young Bahrainis and make citizens the preferred choice in hiring and training.

It also called for stronger laws, closer parliamentary oversight and better schemes to meet the needs of the labour market as it changes.

The Council praised the gov-

ernment’s work with the private sector and its handling of unemployment and jobseekers.

It said workers’ rights must be protected, their gains preserved and their role in the economy recognised.

Workers, it said, remained one of the main pillars of Bahrain’s economy across all sectors.

Disability Sport Seeks Stronger Backing

Disability and grassroots sports sectors are calling for stronger support, warning that future success depends on clearer talent pathways, trained coaches and better media access.

A parliamentary committee report, based on meetings with federations, clubs and journalists, highlighted gaps in athlete development — from school-level discovery to elite competition — particularly for disabled and deaf players, as well as women and youth.

Sports bodies stressed the need for early talent identification, specialised training, family support and improved transport, noting that logistical barriers often prevent athletes from reaching training.

Federations also called for



fair evaluation systems, more competitions, and better-trained staff able to work with athletes’ specific needs. Journalists, meanwhile, urged improved communication and transparency from clubs and federations.

The report concluded that stronger links between schools, clubs and national teams are essential to ensure young talent is not lost, as Bahrain looks to build a sustainable pipeline for future sporting success.

Stability fuels growth

Manama

Nabeel Khalid Kanoo, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, affirmed that the directives of His Majesty Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa reflect a firm national stance aimed at safeguarding the security and stability of the Kingdom of Bahrain and preserving its national unity against all threats targeting the nation and its achievements.

He noted that His Majesty's emphasis on the importance of national unity, strengthening awareness of responsibility, and standing united behind the kingdom and its wise leadership represents a well-established approach that places Bahrain's security and stability at the forefront of priorities. He also highlighted His Royal Highness Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's, continuous follow-up to implement the Royal directives



Nabeel Khalid Kanoo, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry

and translate them into initiatives and policies that support national security, stability, and sustainable development.

Kanoo explained that Bahrain's security and stability are the fundamental pillars of economic development, continued growth, investor confidence,

and a strong business environment. He stressed that the Bahraini private sector stands firmly in support of all national efforts and measures aimed at protecting the nation and preserving its stability and unity.

He added that the Chamber fully supports all efforts that

reinforce security and stability and confront anything that may threaten national security or undermine unity and cohesion, thereby preserving Bahrain's achievements and enhancing its position as a regional model of stability and development.

Kanoo also praised the national foundations established by His Majesty the King, which have strengthened Bahrain's regional and international standing, as well as the ongoing efforts led by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister to drive economic development and improve government performance. He emphasized that Bahrain's strength will always lie in the unity of its people and their solidarity with their wise leadership.

He concluded by praying to Almighty God to protect the Kingdom of Bahrain, its leadership, and its people, and to grant it continued security, stability, and prosperity.

Unity secures future

Manama

Khalid Ali Al Ameen, a member of the Bahrain Economic Development Board, underscored that national unity under the leadership of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa remains a key pillar in strengthening security and stability in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Al Ameen said the cohesion between leadership and citizens reflects a high level of national awareness and a shared commitment to safeguarding the country's achievements while advancing comprehensive development. He noted that unity is essential in addressing security challenges and reinforcing national sovereignty, particularly amid ongoing regional changes.

He added that Bahrain continues to maintain a balanced approach between security and development, supporting economic initiatives and enhancing the investment climate to ensure sustainable stability and create opportunities



Development and security go hand in hand under wise leadership

KHALID ALI AL AMEEN, MEMBER-BAHRAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

for future generations.

Al Ameen concluded that strong solidarity between the leadership and the people will remain the foundation for continued progress and prosperity, enabling the nation to confront challenges with a responsible national spirit.

Spirit Airlines begins 'wind-down', cancels all flights



Spirit Airlines jets sit on the tarmac as operations ceased for the company at Logan Airport in Boston, Massachusetts

AFP | Washington

Low-cost US carrier Spirit Airlines said yesterday that all of its flights have been cancelled as it started an "orderly wind-down of operations," citing spiking fuel prices in recent weeks as a key factor.

The troubled carrier, which was looking to emerge from its second bankruptcy in a year, announced it was ceasing operations after a potential White House bailout fell through.

Spirit Airlines' parent company, Spirit Aviation Holdings, said in an early yesterday press release that it has "started an orderly wind-down of operations, effective immediately."

"All Spirit flights have been cancelled, and Spirit Guests should not go to the airport," said the company.

US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy scrambled to defend the Trump administration's position as a rescue plan that was said to be in the works never materialized.

"The President was like a dog on a bone trying to figure out a way to keep Spirit afloat," Duffy said in a morning press conference at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey.

"In the end, this was a creditor issue. Again, they have the final say of whether they want to do a deal with the government," he said. "But also from



the government's perspective, we oftentimes don't have a half a billion dollars laying around in a spare account that we can put into a bailout of an airline."

Spirit, which launched over 30 years ago with its bargain no-frills offering that put pressure on larger airlines, was the ninth-largest US carrier by passenger count as of December 2025, according to the Department of Transportation.

The company's webpage displayed a message telling guests that "customer service is no longer available." The airline said it will process refunds for purchased flights.

Jet fuel prices have more than doubled since the conflict with Iran began in February, prompting major US airlines to lower their profit forecasts, trim back on capacity growth plans or both.

Banking sector pledges full support to leadership

Manama

The Bahrain Banks Association has stressed that the Kingdom's security, stability, and sovereignty remain firm national constants, underscoring unified support from the banking sector behind the country's leadership.

In a statement, the association said remarks by HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa clearly reflect a steadfast national approach, affirming that safeguarding Bahrain's security and protecting its sovereignty are non-negotiable priorities. It added that the Kingdom is addressing challenges with a firm strategy, particularly in light of what it described as Iranian aggression targeting national security.

Chairman Yasser Al-Sharifi said the King's statements highlight the importance of unity across all segments of society, noting that any actions under-



mining national security or loyalty to the Kingdom are unacceptable and cannot be justified.

He reaffirmed the banking sector's full support for the leadership's position, stressing its continued commitment to strengthening the national economy and maintaining financial stability under the supervision of the Central Bank of Bahrain. He added that the



sector remains dedicated to ensuring uninterrupted financial services and system efficiency under all circumstances.

Al-Sharifi emphasized that Bahrain's strength lies in the unity of its people and their alignment with the leadership, renewing loyalty to the King and support for the directives of Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa in safeguarding national security

and advancing development.

Chief Executive Officer Zeba Majid Askari described the King's remarks as firm and reflective of a national stance that places the country's interests above all else. She said citizenship represents a binding commitment that must not be compromised.

Askari added that the King's condemnation of Iranian aggression demonstrates a clear approach to protecting national sovereignty, highlighting that public awareness and responsibility among Bahrainis remain key pillars in confronting challenges.

She concluded by reaffirming the banking sector's resilience and readiness to support economic stability, ensuring the continuity of financial services while renewing full loyalty to the Kingdom's leadership and its vision for sustained growth and prosperity.

Korean Air bans roosters on US-Philippine routes amid cockfighting outcry

AFP | Manila

Animal rights advocates were crowing yesterday after Korean Air banned transporting roosters on flights from the United States to the Philippines, which has a huge cockfighting industry.

Filipinos wager tens of millions of dollars daily by some industry estimates as they watch two roosters armed with metal spurs fight to the death in clashes that can end in less than a minute.

The United States is an important source of roosters for these fights, according to activists as well as local breeder Eduardo Eugenio, who told AFP shutting



down US imports would have a "huge impact".

The South Korean carrier

said in a statement yesterday that it had "suspended the transportation of roost-

ers of all ages on routes from the United States to the Philippines".

"Korean Air is committed to the lawful and safe transport of live animals, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations," it added.

US campaigner Animal Welfare Action said Korean Air was "in our estimation, the biggest global air carrier of illegally trafficked fighting birds".

The company did not specifically mention cockfighting roosters in its statement, but animal rights groups said the ban was the result of their campaigning against what they describe as a cruel sport.

Israel says two Gaza flotilla activists brought in for questioning



AFP | Jerusalem

Two activists who participated in a Gaza-bound aid flotilla have been brought to Israel for questioning, the foreign ministry said yesterday, after the vessels were intercepted by Israeli forces.

The flotilla of more than 50 vessels had set sail from ports in France, Spain and Italy with the aim of breaking an Israeli blockade of Gaza and bringing supplies to the devastated Palestinian territory.

They were intercepted by Israeli forces overnight Wednesday to Thursday.

Israel said it had removed around 175 activists from the flotilla, but organisers accused Israeli personnel of "kidnapping" 211 people.

Two of the activists, Saif Abu Keshek, from Spain, and Thiago Avila, a Brazilian, were in Israel and would "be transferred for questioning by law enforcement authorities", the foreign ministry said on X.

Illegal rave draws 20,000 to 'dangerous' military site in France

AFP | Paris

Around 20,000 partygoers gathered yesterday for an illegal rave at a military site in France, defying warnings about the risk of unexploded ordnance and possible blasts.

The rave near the town of Bourges in central France kicked off on Friday and organisers expect as many as 30,000 people from France and neighbouring countries to arrive at the peak of the event this weekend.

"Despite its illegal nature, the government has mobilised to ensure the safety of this event and limit any disturbances, particularly for nearby residents," the prefecture said in a statement.

Speaking to AFP, Philippe Le Moing Surzur, the top regional official, said the site was "extremely dangerous due to the unexploded ordnance it may contain."



US soldiers stand in front of military tanks at the United States Army military training base in Grafenwoehr, southern Germany (file photo)

NATO seeks details as US slashes Germany troops

Washington's troop cut and tariffs strain ties with Europe amid security concerns

● **US to withdraw 5,000 troops from Germany**

● **Trump-Merz tensions escalate**

● **EU faces new auto tariffs**

AFP | Washington

NATO said yesterday it was working with the United States to understand Washington's decision to withdraw 5,000 troops from Germany as a rift in transatlantic ties deepens over the Middle East war.

The Pentagon's announcement of the troop withdrawal follows a spat between US President Don-

ald Trump and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, who said on Monday Iran was "humiliating" Washington at the negotiating table. Trump fired back by saying that Merz "doesn't know what he's talking about."

It also came as Trump announced that tariffs on cars and trucks from the European Union will increase to 25 percent next week over accusations that the bloc did not comply with a trade deal signed last summer.

Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said on Friday the withdrawal of around 5,000 troops from Germany was expected "to be completed over the next six to twelve months."

"This decision follows a thorough review of the Department's force posture in Europe and is in recognition of theater require-

ments and conditions on the ground," Parnell said in a statement.

There were 36,436 active-duty US troops in NATO ally Germany as of December 31, 2025, compared to 12,662 in Italy and 3,814 in Spain.

German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius said yesterday the US troop withdrawal "from Europe and also from Germany was to be expected."

NATO said it was "working with the U.S. to understand the details of their decision on force posture in Germany."

"This adjustment underscores the need for Europe to continue to invest more in defense and take on a greater share of the responsibility for our shared security," NATO spokeswoman Allison Hart wrote on X.

36,436

US troops were stationed in Germany as of late 2025 before the planned withdrawal

'Why shouldn't I?'

Trump has made a number of threats to slash US troop numbers in Germany and other European allies during both his terms in office, saying he wants Europe to take on greater responsibility for its defense rather than depending on Washington. He now appears determined to

punish allies who have failed to back the Middle East war or contribute to a peacekeeping force in the crucial Strait of Hormuz waterway, which Tehran's forces have effectively closed.

Trump also accused German automakers such as Mercedes-Benz and BMW of ripping off Americans, saying on Friday that Germany and "other European nations have not adhered to our trade deal."

Germany would likely be hit hard by a sharp vehicle tariff because it is responsible for a significant portion of EU auto exports.

Such tariffs would impose "enormous costs on the German and European automobile industry," the head of Germany's VDA lobby group for the sector, Hildegard Mueller, said in a statement.

Trump says US Navy acting like 'pirates' during Iran blockade

AFP | Washington

President Donald Trump said on Friday the US Navy was acting "like pirates" as he described an operation seizing a ship amid the tit-for-tat American blockade of Iranian ports.

"We... land on top of it and we took over the ship. We took over the cargo, took over the oil. It's a very profitable business," Trump said at a rally in Florida.

"We're like pirates," he added to cheers from the crowd. "We're sort of like pirates. But we're not playing games."

Trump's comparison of US



US forces patrolling the Arabian Sea near the Iranian-flagged cargo ship Touska

naval activity to piracy comes as legal experts raise alarms about Iran's blockade of the vital Strait of Hormuz and its plans to charge a fee for ships passing through it.

Tehran effectively closed the waterway -- a key route for oil and gas shipments -- after the start of the US-Israeli air campaign against Iran on February 28.

The United States announced a blockade of Iranian ports last month after peace talks in Pakistan failed to achieve a breakthrough.

The US Central Command,

responsible for US forces in the Middle East, said it has redirected 45 vessels to "ensure compliance" with its blockade as of Friday.

Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth told reporters in April that the blockade will last "as long as it takes," while top US military officer General Dan Caine said it "applies to all ships, regardless of nationality, heading into or from Iranian ports."

Meanwhile Iran has vowed to maintain its chokehold on the strait as long as Washington continues to blockade its ports.

1791

Constitution of May 3 is proclaimed by the Great Sejm (Parliament) of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the first modern constitution in Europe

1808

Day depicted by Spanish painter Francisco Goya in his "The Third of May," which he paints in 1814

1926

Britain's Trade Union Congress calls for the country's first-ever general strike, begins at 1 minute to midnight in support of striking coal miners and lasts 9 days



1937

Margaret Mitchell wins the Pulitzer Prize for her novel "Gone with the Wind"

Oil tanker hijacked off Yemen, diverted towards Somalia: Yemen coast guard

AFP | Dubai

Unidentified attackers hijacked an oil tanker yesterday off the coast of Yemen in the Gulf of Aden and directed it towards Somalia, the Yemeni coast guard said.

According to the agency, the tanker EUREKA was seized off Yemen's Shabwa province by a group who "boarded, took control of it, then steered it... in the direction of the Somali coast".

The coast guard, which is affiliated with Yemen's inter-

nationally recognised government, vowed to investigate the attack.

"The location of the tanker has been determined, and work is under way to monitor it and take the necessary measures in an attempt to recover it and ensure the safety of its crew," it said, without identifying the crew's numbers or nationality.

According to the website Marine Traffic, the EUREKA is a Togolese-flagged oil products tanker that was reported to

have been in the UAE port of Fujairah in late March.

Piracy was rampant off the coast of Somalia in the 2000s, peaking in 2011 with hundreds of attacks, but was significantly reduced by international naval deployments and new tactics by commercial shipping.

But in recent weeks attacks have increased again, according to a report by the European Union naval mission deployed off the shores of the troubled east African country.

Iran military official says renewed war with US 'likely'

US dissatisfaction with proposal fuels fears of war resumption

● Trump rejects latest proposal

● Talks stalled since April 8

● Iran inflation surges past 50 percent

AFP | Washington

A senior Iranian military officer said yesterday that renewed fighting with the US was "likely", hours after President Donald Trump said he was not satisfied with an Iranian negotiating proposal.

Iran delivered the new draft to mediator Pakistan on Thursday evening, state media reported, without detailing its contents.

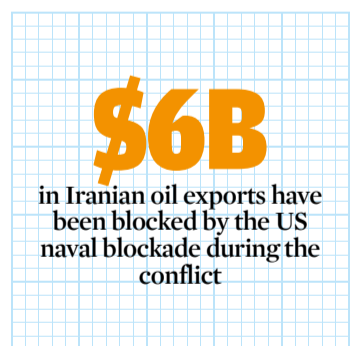
The war, launched by the United States and Israel in late February, has been on hold since April 8, with one failed round of peace talks having taken place in Pakistan since then.

"At this moment I'm not satisfied with what they're offering," Trump told reporters, blaming stalled talks on "tremendous discord" within Iran's leadership.

"Do we want to go and just blast the hell out of them and finish them forever -- or do we want to try and make a deal?" he



Employees of Basra Oil Company, work at the Nahr Bin Umar Oil and Gas Field on the outskirts of the southern Iraqi city of Basra



added, saying he would "prefer not" to take the first option "on a human basis".

Yesterday morning, Mohammad Jafar Asadi, a senior figure in the Iranian military's central command, said "a renewed con-

flict between Iran and the United States is likely", in quotes published by Iran's Fars news agency.

He questioned US commitment to agreements.

Rising tensions

Iran's judiciary chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei said on Friday that the country remained open to negotiations, but said it would not accept imposed terms.

The White House has declined to provide details on the latest Iranian proposal, but news site Axios reported that US envoy Steve Witkoff had submitted amendments to a previous one putting Tehran's nuclear programme back on the negotiating table.

The changes reportedly include demands that Iran not move enriched uranium from bombed sites or resume activity there during talks.

News of the Iranian proposal briefly pushed oil prices down nearly five percent, though they remain about 50 percent above pre-war levels amid the ongoing restrictions on the Strait of Hormuz.

Despite the ceasefire in the Gulf, fighting has continued in Lebanon, where Israel has carried out deadly strikes despite a separate truce with the Iran-backed armed group Hezbollah.

Iran says 'ball in US court', but ready for talks or war

AFP | Tehran

Iran said Saturday that it was up to the United States whether to pursue a negotiated settlement or to return to open war, but that Tehran was ready for either outcome.

"Now the ball is in the United States' court to choose the path of diplomacy or the con-

tinuation of a confrontational approach," deputy foreign minister Kazem Gharibabadi told diplomats in Tehran, according to state broadcaster IRIB.

"Iran, with the aim of securing its national interests and security, is prepared for both paths," he said.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Building respect and dignity into the workplace



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

Bahrain has long distinguished itself as a regional pioneer in labour reform, consistently prioritising the dignity and mobility of its diverse workforce. Its track record is defined by a series of 'firsts' that have fundamentally reshaped the employer-employee dynamic in the Gulf.

Central to this progress was Bahrain's landmark decision to dismantle the restrictive traditional sponsorship system. By granting foreign employees the right to change jobs without their employer's consent, the Kingdom became the first in the region to institutionalise the freedom of movement. This shift transitioned the labour market towards a contract-based system, empowering workers and reducing the risk of exploitation.

The government's commitment to human rights is further evidenced by its proactive collaboration with civil society. It enabled the establishment of the Migrant Workers Protection Society (MWPS), a key partner in advocating for expatriate welfare. Building on this, the government launched the Expatriates' Protection Center, a dedicated mechanism providing immediate intervention for victims of abuse or workplace injustice. Furthermore, Bahrain's inclusive approach extends to organised labour; expatriate workers are legally permitted to join, contest elections, and hold leadership positions within labour unions, ensuring their voices are heard at the highest levels of advocacy.

This framework aligns seamlessly with Bahrain's commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those championing decent work and reduced inequalities. By upholding diversity and inclusivity, the Kingdom transforms these time-honoured values into a modern economic strength, ensuring every individual, regardless of origin, contributes to a thriving, equitable society.

As we mark this Labour Day this May, Bahrain is looking towards the future of the 21st-century workplace. The entry of a tech-savvy younger workforce, coupled with the rapid integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI), presents both challenges and opportunities. The Kingdom is currently setting new goals to ensure labour laws remain agile—balancing technological efficiency with the protection of human workers. By focusing on upskilling and digital literacy, Bahrain aims to maintain its status as a progressive hub where innovation and workers' rights coexist seamlessly.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counter-terrorism)

Truth-tellers at risk, warns UN

TDT | Agencies

Journalists are increasingly under threat worldwide, with many facing violence, censorship and legal harassment as they report on those in power, a statement marking World Press Freedom Day said yesterday.

The message highlighted that media workers are often among the first victims in times of conflict and crisis, as well as in environments where scrutiny is resisted. In recent years, the number of journalists killed—frequently in targeted attacks—has risen sharply, it said.

It added that around 85 percent of crimes against journalists go uninvestigated and unpunished, underscoring what it described as an "unacceptable" level of impunity.

Beyond physical threats, the statement pointed to growing pressures from economic challenges, technological disruption and the deliberate spread of misinformation, all of which are straining press freedom globally.

"When access to reliable information erodes, mistrust takes root, public debate is distorted, and social cohesion weakens," the statement said, warning that undermining journalism makes crises harder to prevent and resolve.

Reaffirming the role of a free press as a cornerstone of democracy, it stressed that press freedom is essential for protecting human rights, achieving sustainable development and maintaining peace.

The statement called for stronger protections for journalists and renewed global efforts to ensure that truth and those who report it are safeguarded.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Mercosur is an economic trading bloc worth more than \$4 trillion. Today, I spoke with President @JMilei about recent progress toward the Canada-Mercosur trade deal, and how Canada and Argentina can deepen our partnership in mining, energy, and defence.

@MarkJCarney

02



Great work by @OIGUSDA and @SecRollins to go after the rampant fraud in our SNAP programs that the Biden Admin let surge. SNAP benefits should be used by Americans who need help buying food, not by fraudsters with enough cash to buy Bentleys and Ferraris.

@JDVance

03



Typhoon Sinlaku has hit Micronesia, damaging critical infrastructure and affecting over 34,000 people. I've allocated \$1M from the UN's Global Emergency Fund CERF for urgent life-saving aid - including water, shelter and essential support.

@UNReliefChief

04



From the @UN to the lunar South Pole, Artemis is about more than just footprints. It's about the economic benefits of space and the partnerships rooted in American leadership like the Artemis Accords that make it possible.

@USAmbUN

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

\$8.6 billion in US arms exports

US fast-tracks major arms packages for Gulf allies

The administration of US President Donald Trump has approved more than \$8.6 billion in arms sales to key Middle Eastern allies, using emergency powers to bypass congressional review, the State Department said Friday.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio determined that an “emergency” situation required immediate action, allowing the administration to waive the standard process in which Congress can review and potentially block major foreign military sales.

The package includes multiple defence agreements across the region. Qatar will receive the largest share, a \$4.01 billion deal for Patriot air and missile defence support services intended to strengthen its defensive capabilities.

Kuwait has been cleared to purchase an integrated battle command system valued at



\$2.5 billion, aimed at improving coordination across its military operations.

Additional approvals include \$992.4 million in Advanced Precision Kill Weapon Systems (APKWS) for Israel, and \$147.6

million worth of similar systems for the United Arab Emirates.

US officials said the sales reflect Washington’s commitment to reinforcing the defence capabilities of regional allies amid ongoing geopolitical tensions.

However, the use of emergency authority is expected to trigger scrutiny in Congress, where lawmakers may question both the scale of the deals and the decision to bypass legislative oversight.

Dubai–Seychelles Connectivity Talks



The President of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority and senior aviation leaders welcomed the President of the Republic of Seychelles, Dr. Patrick Herminie, to Dubai for talks focused on strengthening air connectivity and economic cooperation.

The meeting, also attended by Seychelles Ambassador to the UAE Gervais Moumou and UAE Ambassador to Seychelles Ahmed Saeed Al Neyadi, underscored the strategic importance of aviation links in supporting tourism, trade and long-term economic resilience for island nations.

Officials highlighted the long-standing role of Emirates Airline & Group in connecting Seychelles to global markets, with flights to Mahé

first launched in 2005. They reaffirmed commitment to expanding connectivity through Dubai, working alongside Air Seychelles and Tourism Seychelles to diversify source markets and support sustainable growth.

The discussions come as Seychelles continues to prioritise aviation and tourism as key pillars of its economic strategy.

“Enhanced Dubai–Seychelles air connectivity will support tourism, trade and sustainable economic growth.”

Kuwait Defence Minister highlights officer training standards



Kuwait Defence Minister Shaikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah inspected the military culture examination for candidates applying to the 2027–2028 Command and Staff Courses at the Mubarak Al-Abdullah Joint Command and Staff College.

During the visit, the minister reviewed organisational and administrative arrangements in place to

ensure the smooth conduct of the assessments. He was also briefed on the evaluation mechanisms and the criteria used in selecting candidates.

Shaikh Abdullah stressed the importance of such examinations in preparing and qualifying future military leaders, and in enhancing the overall efficiency and readiness of armed forces personnel.

UAE records 6,014 traffic accidents in a year

Light vehicles accounted for the largest share of traffic accidents in the UAE last year, according to data released by the Ministry of Interior, highlighting ongoing road safety concerns in the country.

A total of 3,834 accidents involved light vehicles, significantly higher than any other category. Motorcycles ranked second with 1,224 incidents, while heavy trucks were linked to 325 accidents.

Smaller but notable figures were recorded across other transport modes. Bicycles were involved in 158 accidents, heavy buses in 131, and electric scooters in 120 cases. Light buses accounted for 115 incidents, followed by e-bikes with 62. Vehicles of unknown type were involved in 31 accidents, while heavy and light mechanical



equipment were linked to 13 and one incident respectively, according to figures reported by Al Khaleej newspaper.

In total, the UAE recorded 6,014 traffic accidents during the year. Collisions between vehicles made up the majority with 4,085 cases, while 1,102 involved pedestrians and 800 were rollovers. A further 27 incidents were classified under other categories.

Authorities identified sudden swerving as the leading cause,

responsible for 1,074 accidents. Driver distraction followed with 948 cases, while failing to maintain a safe distance caused 849 incidents. Negligence and lack of attention contributed to 661 accidents.

The Ministry of Interior said it had identified up to 160 contributing factors to road accidents, including failure to yield to pedestrians, unsafe overtaking, running red lights, excessive speed relative to road conditions, and tyre blowouts.

Pakistan, Kuwait discuss regional stability

Pakistan’s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a phone call with Kuwait’s Foreign Minister Shaikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to discuss regional developments and their broader economic implications, officials said.

During the conversation, Dar underscored Pakistan’s continued efforts to promote constructive engagement and diplomacy aimed at supporting peace and stability in the region

and beyond.

Kuwait’s Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah commended Pakistan’s diplomatic efforts, describing them as sincere initiatives contributing to lasting peace and security for the

wider Muslim world and the international community.

Both sides reaffirmed the longstanding fraternal relations between Pakistan and Kuwait and agreed to maintain close coordination on issues of mutual interest.



Care and Recovery

DUBAI

Her Excellency Dalal Saeed Al Shamsi, Assistant Undersecretary for the Labour Protection Sector, conducted an inspection visit to Rashid Hospital on International Workers’ Day to check on workers and review their health conditions.

The visit was part of the ministry’s efforts to support and care for workers, reflecting what officials described as a humanitarian approach that prioritises human safety and dignity.

Authorities extended wishes for the workers’ speedy recovery and safe return to their duties, while also marking International Workers’ Day with messages of appreciation for the labour force.



Sea Hawk Maintenance



U.S. Navy Sailors conduct routine maintenance on MH-60 Sea Hawk helicopters aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). The MH-60 is U.S. Navy’s primary shipboard helicopter and operates from destroyers, amphibious ships, and carriers in the region.



“Life teaches me that responsibility is a trust.

A leader who is concerned only with his own personal success is not trustworthy.

A leader who does not care about the success of other leaders in the nation is not trustworthy.

Selfishness in public service is a betrayal of that trust, because the nation is indivisible.

True responsibility is to carry the burden of the entire nation — all of it — so that you are not a burden upon it.”

— Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai

Classifieds



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Ipswich seal Premier League return

McKenna achieves third promotion as Wrexham fall short

● Ipswich beat QPR 3-0

● Promotion secured with second place

● Millwall settle for play-offs

● Wrexham miss out on top six

AFP | London

Ipswich secured an immediate return to the Premier League as they beat QPR 3-0 yesterday to hold off the challenge of Millwall as Hollywood-backed Wrexham missed out on the play-offs.

The Tractor Boys had the destiny of second place in the Championship in their own hands and two goals in the opening 10 minutes from George Hirst and Jaden Philogene allowed the party to start early at Portman Road.

Kasey McAteer rounded off victory five minutes from time as Ipswich join Coventry in the top flight next season.

Ipswich struggled last season on their return to the Premier League for the first time in 22 years, but will hope that experience serves them better for the challenge ahead.

Despite winning just four of



Dara O'Shea of Ipswich Town lifts the Sky Bet Championship runners up trophy

their 38 league games last season, the club have been rewarded for keeping faith with Kieran McKenna.

The former Manchester United assistant boss has now led the club to three promotions in four campaigns.

"This has probably been the hardest one, if I'm honest, so it means an awful lot," said McKenna.

"We've had to try and rebuild this team under difficult circumstances and you know everyone's stuck at it. I think we deserve to be where we are today."



Ipswich's cruise to victory spoiled Millwall's hopes of promotion back to the top flight for the first time since 1990.

The Lions did their job by

beating Oxford 2-0 to secure third place and will meet Hull for the first leg of their play-off semi-final on Friday.

Wrexham were denied the shot at a fourth consecutive promotion under the ownership of Hollywood actors Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney in agonising fashion.

The Welsh side were held 2-2 at home by Middlesbrough, allowing Hull to leapfrog them into sixth thanks to a 2-1 win over Norwich.

Southampton are the favourites to also bounce straight back

YOU KNOW WHAT

Sheffield Wednesday ended the season on zero points after an 18-point deduction but celebrated a takeover by US consortium Arise Capital Partners that avoided a further 15-point penalty

to the top tier in the play-offs after a 19-game unbeaten league run.

A 3-1 win over Preston lifted the Saints up to fourth and secured home advantage for the second leg of their play-off semi-final against Middlesbrough.

Derby's hopes of climbing into the top six were dashed by a 2-1 home defeat to Sheffield United.

Sheffield Wednesday's relegation to the third tier was confirmed way back in February, but there was double cause for celebration for the Owls in the final day.

They beat West Brom 2-1 to win for the first time since September and end the season on zero points after an 18-point deduction.

Real Madrid's Carvajal suffers toe fracture



Dani Carvajal

AFP | Madrid

Real Madrid defender Dani Carvajal will miss the Clasico on May 10 after suffering a toe fracture, his club said yesterday.

The veteran right-back is set to miss the next two weeks according to Spanish media and could return for the club's final game of the season against Athletic Bilbao.

Real Madrid, second, are 11 points behind league leaders Barcelona who could clinch La Liga this weekend with a win at Osasuna, if Los Blancos drop points at Espanyol on Sunday.

Carvajal will be out for the Clasico clash at Barca next Sunday, which may be his last as a Madrid player.

The defender, who has won six Champions League titles and four La Liga titles with Madrid, is out of contract at the end of the season.

The 34-year-old had hoped to form part of Spain's World Cup squad this summer but after an injury-hit season his chances were already slim before his latest setback.

Joy for Norris in Miami as McLaren end Mercedes run

AFP | Miami

World champion Lando Norris beamed in the Florida sunshine Friday after steering his upgraded McLaren to pole position for yesterday's sprint race at the Miami Grand Prix.

The 26-year-old Briton made the most of the extensive upgrades on his car to outpace Mercedes' Italian teenager Kimi Antonelli, at 19 the youngest man to lead the drivers' championship in F1 history, and end Mercedes' early season domination.

"I've always loved Miami, both on and off the track," said Norris, who claimed his maiden F1 triumph at the compact circuit built around the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens in 2024. "And this is a good result for us, but still only at the beginning of the weekend."

"There's still a long way to go,



British driver Lando Norris steers his upgraded McLaren

but it's nice to kick off by doing this. We've got a lot of new upgrades on the car and it is nice to feel some grip again -- and nice to reward the guys and girls who have put a lot of work into this."

Asked if he felt this indicated that the defending constructors' champions had regained the

initiative from McLaren, Norris was cautious.

"It's so tough to know because every track is different. We've known that this track has always been good to us, but we knew that what we were bringing was hopefully going to be a good step so it's nice that our estimations have proved to be correct."

There's still a long way to go, but it's nice to kick off by doing this. We've got a lot of new upgrades on the car and it is nice to feel some grip again -- and nice to reward the guys and girls who have put a lot of work into this

LANDO NORRIS

"The team deserve that... Since the first lap today, I felt very comfortable and I thought I had a bit of rear grip, so it is good to start with pole."

McLaren team-mate Oscar Piastri, who won last year's race, was a close third ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, four-time Max Verstappen of Red Bull and early season leader George Russell of Mercedes.

Leclerc offers hope to Ferrari fans in Miami

AFP | Miami

Charles Leclerc offered Ferrari fans a message of hope on Friday after the Italian team were outpaced by McLaren's world champion Lando Norris in qualifying for yesterday's sprint race at the Miami Grand Prix.

Leclerc, who was fastest earlier in practice, qualified fourth behind both McLarens and Mercedes' teenage world championship leader Kimi Antonelli.

"We struggled with tires today in the heat," Leclerc said. "On mediums, we were working very well, but it was not such a nice feeling on the softs, so we



Ferrari's Monegasque driver Charles Leclerc races during Sprint qualifying

have to look at that. "We know that we're stronger in race pace but we have work to do in qualifying."

"I'm sure we have the pace to get back to the front in the race and we just have to see if we can find a way to overtake."

Leclerc added that he was impressed by the big improvement in McLaren with their extensive upgrades package.

"Our upgrades are fine, but it's just that everybody has brought upgrades here," he said.

"We kind of expected this situation where Mercedes is probably still the car to beat, but McLaren made a big step forward."

West Ham defeat gives Spurs hope

Brentford victory reshapes relegation and European qualification battles

● Spurs still in relegation zone

● West Ham lose 3-0 to Brentford

● Brentford boost European hopes

● Newcastle end losing streak

AFP | London

West Ham's 3-0 defeat at Brentford offered Tottenham a lifeline in the battle for Premier League survival yesterday.

Spurs remain in the relegation zone, two points from safety, but can move out of the bottom three with victory at Aston Villa on Sunday after the Hammers succumbed to just their third defeat in 11 league games.

Brentford boosted their chances of European qualification for the first time with a first win in eight matches.

Konstantinos Mavropanos



Brentford's Danish midfielder #24 Mikkel Damsgaard jumps to head the ball with West Ham United's Czech midfielder #28 Tomas Soucek

was left to rue his luck in two key first-half incidents.

The Greek defender was unfortunate not to be awarded a free-kick as he turned the ball

into his own net to open the scoring.

Mavropanos thought he had made amends moments later with a bullet header, but was

ruled marginally offside by a VAR review.

Brentford had another call go in their favour early in the second half when Dango Ouattara



Mavropanos had goal disallowed by VAR seconds after own-goal opened Brentford scoring

22

goals have been scored by Brentford's Igor Thiago this season

won a penalty and Igor Thiago coolly converted his 22nd Premier League goal of the season.

Mikkel Damsgaard's strike rounded off a damaging day for West Ham, who face title-chasing Arsenal next weekend.

Brentford move up to sixth, which could be enough to secure Champions League qualification.

Newcastle eased any lingering fears of being drawn into the relegation battle with a 3-1 win over Brighton to end a five-game losing streak.

William Osula and Dan Burn scored in the opening 24 minutes as Newcastle edged up to

13th.

Jack Hinshelwood pulled a goal back, but defeat could prove costly to Brighton's European ambitions as having started the weekend in sixth, they could end it outside the top half.

Harvey Barnes rounded off the scoring in stoppage time to bring some relief to the under-fire Eddie Howe.

Sunderland's bid for Europe was also dented by a 1-1 draw at bottom-of-the-table Wolves.

Nordi Mukiele put the Black Cats in front early on, but Sunderland played for over an hour a man down after a red card for Dan Ballard.

Santiago Bueno levelled but Wolves could not muster just a fourth league win of the season.

Struggling Nantes deepen Marseille's woes in Ligue 1

TDT | Manama

Marseille's troubled season in Ligue 1 continued with a comprehensive 3-0 de-

feat away to Nantes yesterday which is a further blow to their prospects of Champions League qualification but gives their opponents' renewed hope of

avoiding relegation. Ignatius Ganago, Remy Cabella and Matthis Abline all scored in the space of nine minutes early in the second half at the

Stade de la Beaujoire as Nantes claimed a first win in nine matches and just a fifth victory all season -- but their second against Marseille.

Arsenal Send Title Message With Fulham Win



Gyökeres celebrates with Gabriel after finding the net

TDT | Manama

Arsenal moved six points clear at the top of the Premier League with a 3-0 win over Fulham at the Emirates Stadium yesterday. Manchester City, who are neck and neck with them in the title race, still have two games in hand and face Everton away tomorrow at 10pm Bahrain time, keeping the pressure firmly on the Gunners.

Arsenal took the lead in the 9th minute when Viktor Gyökeres finished from close range after Bukayo Saka drove into the box and cut the ball back. The second goal arrived in the 40th minute, with Gyökeres turning provider as he slipped Saka through to calmly slot past the goalkeeper. Just before half-time, Arsenal struck again as Gyökeres headed home from a Leandro Trossard cross to complete a dominant first-half display.

The home side's intensity remained high throughout the opening 45 minutes, with Ebere Eze and Trossard heavily involved as Arsenal repeatedly stretched Fulham's defence.

Fulham showed more resistance after the interval, but Mikel Arteta's side managed the game comfortably. David Raya was rarely tested as the visitors struggled to create clear chances.

Gyökeres came close to completing a hatrick late on, denied by Bernd Leno, while Riccardo Calafiori also struck the crossbar, but the scoreline remained unchanged.

Despite a quieter second half, Arsenal saw out the win professionally to strengthen their position in the title race and build momentum ahead of a crucial week, with a Champions League semi-final second leg against Atlético Madrid coming up next.

Historic Awali cricket clash ends in dramatic tie

TDT | Manama

The historic Awali Cricket Club's annual President vs Captain match ended in a dramatic tie, marking another chapter in a 90-year tradition that began in 1935.

Played in a 30-over format, the contest between the President's XI and the Captain's XI delivered a closely fought encounter filled with competitive cricket and strong team performances, finishing level after the final delivery.

The President's XI was led by Kumar Nair, while Jigar Brahabhatt captained the opposing side. Both teams traded momentum throughout the match, which officials described as a "perfect reflection" of balanced competition within the club.

"This historic match is part of Bahrain cricket's legacy," Nair said. "Today's tied result shows its fierce competitiveness, and that is exactly the spirit that has kept this tradition alive for nine decades."

The match drew several former Awali players and club veterans, underscoring the deep-rooted community behind one of Bahrain's oldest cricket institutions. Among those present were Raman, Deepak Nair, Ahmed Ismail, Kushal, Neeraj Mukhiya, Stanly Fernandes, and Hemanta Bora.

Prachur Shukla officiated the match, and both sides praised the standard of umpiring and the spirit in which the game



was played.

Founded in 1935, Awali Cricket Club remains one of the Gulf's oldest cricket clubs, with its an-

nual President vs Captain fixture considered a cornerstone of its sporting calendar.

The 2025 edition, ending in a

tie, was widely seen as a fitting symbol of continuity, balance, and tradition in Bahrain's cricketing landscape.

Dar Kulaib, Bani Jamra Advance in Crown Prince's Cup



Celebration from Dar Kulaib players after a set win

TDT | Manama

Dar Kulaib and Bani Jamra booked their places in the semi-finals of the 2025-26 His Royal Highness the Crown Prince's Cup after contrasting victories at the Isa Bin Rashid Volleyball Arena yesterday.

Dar Kulaib were in ruthless form, sweeping A'ali 3-0 (25-12, 25-16, 25-17) in a comfortable display from start to finish. The defending league champions controlled every set, reinforcing their status as one of the main contenders for the title.

Bani Jamra, meanwhile, survived a dramatic five-set battle against Nabih Saleh, edging a 3-2 win (25-23, 24-26, 21-25, 25-23, 15-9). After trading momentum throughout the match, they held their nerve in the decider to seal a hard-fought victory.

The remaining semi-final spots will be decided today,

with Muharraq facing Al Tadamun at 7pm and Al Ahli taking on Al Najma at 8:30pm, both at the Isa Bin Rashid Volleyball Arena.

The tournament features all 14 Bahrain Volleyball Association teams, with both reigning Crown Prince's Cup holders Muharraq and league champions Dar Kulaib still in contention.

Muharraq begin their title defence against an in-form Tadamun side, who recently impressed with a straight-sets win over Busaiteen (25-21, 25-17, 25-18). Al Ahli reached the last eight with a 3-0 win over Al Shabab (25-16, 25-15, 25-20), while Al Najma defeated Al Dair (25-18, 25-19, 25-17), setting up a balanced quarter-final clash.

The semi-final lineup will be completed after tonight's double-header, with the final four set to resume the knockout stage on Wednesday. The final is scheduled for Saturday.

Al Ittifaq, East Riffa Earn Promotion



Al Ittifaq's players line up before a match

TDT | Manama

Al Ittifaq and East Riffa Club have both secured promotion to the Nasser bin Hamad Premier League for the 2026-2027 season following a thrilling conclusion to the Bahrain First Division campaign.

Al Ittifaq finished top of the table on 47 points after a dramatic 3-2 win over Al Hala, sealed by a stoppage-time strike from Abdulghafour Mahri. The match swung repeatedly throughout the night. Mahri opened the scoring in the 15th minute before Mohammed Fikri levelled almost immediately. Ahmed Kouri restored Al Ittifaq's lead early in the second half, but Al Hala refused to fade, with Fikri striking again in the 82nd minute to make it 2-2. Just when it looked like points would be

shared, Mahri delivered again in the 91st minute to complete his brace and confirm promotion as champions.

Their season also featured a strong cup run, including a penalty shootout defeat to Al Ahli in the King's Cup quarter-finals, underlining their competitiveness against top-tier opposition.

Meanwhile, East Riffa secured their return to the Premier League in equally decisive fashion, finishing second on 46 points after a 1-1 draw with Manama. Needing only a point to guarantee promotion, they held firm under pressure to complete their comeback to the top flight following relegation in the 2024-25 season. Their return also restores one of Bahrain football's most anticipated fixtures, the Riffa Derby against Al Riffa SC, back to the Premier League stage.

Al Khaldiya on verge of third league crown

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

The Nasser bin Hamad Premier League enters a decisive phase today with Matchweek 20, as the season edges closer to its conclusion. Only two rounds remain after this, and the picture is still far from settled. The title race is tight at the top, while the fight to avoid relegation and the playoff zone unfolds across the bottom half.

The round kicks off with two matches today, both at 7 PM. At Khalifa Sports City, league leaders Al Khaldiya face Budaiya. In just a few seasons since their 2020 formation, Al Khaldiya are already in position to chase a third league title, sitting top on 48 points and just two ahead of second-placed Muharraq. The margin at the top leaves no room for error, with next week's meeting between the two sides shaping up as a potential title decider.

Al Khaldiya won the reverse fixture 1-0 in January, an edge that may prove important if the teams finish level on points, as head-to-head record is the primary tiebreaker. If still inseparable, goal difference would apply, where Muharraq currently hold a +10 advantage.

Meanwhile, Budaiya sits ninth with 21 points and occupies the relegation playoff zone, where the ninth- and 10th-placed teams must face First Division opposition to preserve their top-flight status.

Elsewhere, Bahrain Club will take on Al Malkiya at Bahrain National Stadium. Bahrain Club have already been relegated after last week's results and sit bottom on 7 points; their fate is sealed. Al Malkiya are fourth



Al Khaldiya players celebrate a goal in a previous round

on 30 points and aiming to consolidate a strong top-half finish.

Tomorrow, attention shifts back to Khalifa Sports City, where Al Najma meet Muharraq at 7 PM. Al Najma are 10th and in the relegation playoff zone, but a win could lift them as high as eighth depending on other results. Muharraq, second on 46 points, continue their pursuit of a record-extending 36th title after a crucial 1-0 win over Budaiya last week.

Also at 7 PM at Bahrain National Stadium, Al Hidd meet

A'ali. Hidd are sixth on 24 points, just one behind fifth-placed A'ali on 25, with both sides looking to improve their standing in the table.

The round concludes on Tuesday with two more fixtures. At Khalifa Sports City, Riffa take on Al Shabab Club at 7 PM. Riffa remain third after a thrilling 3-2 win over Al Ahli and appear set to finish in that position. Al Shabab are 11th on 14 points and could be relegated this round if they lose and Al Najma avoid defeat.

At the same time, Sitra Club face Al Ahli Club at Bahrain National Stadium. Al Ahli are seventh on 23 points, while Sitra are eighth on 21, just above the relegation playoff line.

Alongside the league action, the individual honours battle adds another layer of intrigue. Muharraq's Edimar Ribeiro da Costa leads the Golden Boot standings on 12 goals, just one ahead of Al Khaldiya's Joel Beya, while Al Ahli's Abdulla Al Hashash remains in contention on 10.

Second-string Bayern held by Heidenheim before PSG clash

AFP | Berlin

A heavily-rotated Bayern Munich were held to a 3-3 draw at home by last-placed Heidenheim yesterday, days out from their return Champions League semi-final against Paris Saint-Germain.

Bayern made seven changes to the side who lost 5-4 in a wild first leg in the French capital on Tuesday and were down 2-0 in the first half to goals from Budu Zivzivadze and Eren Dinkci.

Bayern roared back from a 3-0 deficit to win 4-3 last week at Mainz and this time round Leon Goretzka scored twice to level things up with half an hour remaining.

Zivzivadze scored again to put Heidenheim back in front



Bayern Munich's Leon Goretzka (C) scores his team's second goal

but substitute Michael Olise scored in the 10th minute of stoppage time to snatch a point for the hosts.

Coach Vincent Kompany once

again named a heavily changed line-up, leaving seven starters from Tuesday's match including Harry Kane, Olise, Joshua Kimmich and Luis Diaz on the

bench.

With Heidenheim needing a win to have any chance of beating the drop, the visitors started frantically, pinning Bayern back with a series of corners.

Heidenheim broke through after 22 minutes when Zivzivadze turned the ball off the post and in from a corner.

Dinkci added another nine minutes later, storming into the box and taking a touch on a Marnon Busch pass to round Bayern goalkeeper Jonas Urbig and tap home.

Bayern were below their best but pulled a goal back before half-time from a set-piece. With dead ball specialists Kimmich and Olise cooling their heels on the bench, Goretzka unleashed a dipping shot into the top right corner.