

England 'not fearing anything' against India, says Curran

England will go into their T20 World Cup semi-final against India, said all-rounder Sam Curran yesterday, adding that their first job would be to silence a raucous home crowd. | P16

WORLD 8 War takes ugly turn, Oil and gas under fire

THE DAILY **tribune**

The Concept of Barakah in Ramadan: Spiritual Meaning Beyond Material Prosperity

BUSINESS 6 Indian airlines to resume limited Middle East flights

Bahrain backed by Switzerland, Serbia

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received telephone calls from Swiss President Guy Parmelin and Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic.

They expressed their countries' full solidarity with the Kingdom of Bahrain and strongly condemned the Iranian attacks on Bahraini territory.

They also reaffirmed their support for all measures taken by the Kingdom to safeguard its sovereignty, security, and stability.

HM the King affirmed that the people of Bahrain are peaceful, believing in tolerance and coexistence, and that



HM the King

the Kingdom's approach is to adhere to the path of peace and support everything that enhances security and stability in the region and the world.

He also expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation for the support of Switzerland and Serbia.

Healthcare system 'fully ready and operational'

● His Royal Highness visits Salmaniya Medical Complex

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday underscored the Kingdom of Bahrain's healthcare readiness.

He emphasised that medical services are fully operational and delivered to the highest standards, thanks to the unwavering support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. During a visit to Salmaniya



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister visits an injured patient

Medical Complex, HRH Prince Salman met with individuals injured in the recent hostile Iranian attacks, offering his sincere wishes for their swift recovery and continued health.

The visit was also attended by Her Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister

of Finance and National Economy, alongside H.E. Dr Jalila bint Al Sayyed Jawad Hassan, Minister of Health.

Priority

He stressed that safeguarding the well-being of citizens and residents remains a top govern-

ment priority.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister praised the professionalism and dedication of the medical, nursing, and administrative teams at Salmaniya Medical Complex, commending their tireless efforts in delivering high-quality care under challenging circumstances.

He also highlighted the advanced readiness of the Ministry of Health, noting the effectiveness of its emergency response plans and the seamless coordination among its teams.

"Ensuring the uninterrupted provision of medical services and enhancing the health sector's capabilities is central to the government's commitment," His Royal Highness said.

Bahrain decisive response to any aggression

P3

Supply stable

HRH Prince Salman: Bahrain prioritises smooth flow of essential goods amid regional tensions

TDT | Manama

Safeguarding market stability and ensuring the smooth flow of imports and distribution remain national priorities.

This was emphasised by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, while affirming the government's preparedness to address any developments.

During visits to several Lulu Hypermarket branches, HRH Prince Salman affirmed the Kingdom's commitment to maintaining uninterrupted availability of essential goods and services, saying: "Safeguarding market stability and the seamless flow of imports and distribution is a national priority."

Confidence

He added: "These efforts reinforce confidence among citizens and residents in the continuous availability of essential goods."

His Royal Highness was accompanied by His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, and H.E. Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce, during the visits. Juzer Rupawala,



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister visits commercial markets to ensure the availability of essential goods and services



Lulu Bahrain Director, was also present on the occasion.

HRH the Crown Prince and

Prime Minister also highlighted the importance of collaboration, stating: "Coordination between

relevant authorities and the private sector is vital to ensure food security and economic stability."

Measures

The visits, part of ongoing monitoring of regional developments following hostile Iranian attacks, reflect the Kingdom's proactive measures to maintain national stability and economic resilience under all circumstances, in line with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's directives.

His Royal Highness commended the private sector for its critical role in supporting Bahrain's development.

He praised the Ministry of Industry and Commerce for enhancing market oversight, monitoring stock levels, and coordinating distribution to protect consumer rights.

"The government is fully committed to implementing all precautions to safeguard supply chains and market stability," HRH Prince Salman affirmed, highlighting Bahrain's readiness to respond confidently to evolving regional situations.

Coordination

H.E. Fakhro noted that the Ministry has intensified coordination with public and private sector partners to ensure essential goods remain available and markets stable.

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Decisive response to any aggression

Commander-in-Chief: Bahrain fully prepared for any threat

TDI | Manama

As Iran threatened to open the "gates of hell" against the United States and Israel on the fourth day of the war, the Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) declared that the Kingdom remains fully prepared to defend its sovereignty against any aggression.

Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa said Bahrain's advanced air defence systems and highly trained forces are fully capable of safeguarding the Kingdom's skies, waters and borders. He affirmed that the BDF's modern military equipment and sophisticated combat capabilities place it on par with advanced armed forces worldwide.

He praised the BDF's air defence units for demonstrating exceptional capability in countering Iranian missile and drone attacks, describing the strikes as hostile, indiscriminate and in violation of international humanitarian law. Since the start

“
Bahrain's skies remain fully protected and that incoming missiles and drones have been intercepted before reaching their intended targets.

FIELD MARSHAL SHAIKH KHALIFA BIN AHMED AL KHALIFA



added, reflect the BDF's broader deterrent capabilities and its integrated defence coverage across land, sea and air.

Reassuring the public, he said Bahrain's skies remain fully protected, with missiles and drones intercepted before reaching their intended targets. He urged all personnel to maintain the same level of vigilance and readiness, expressing full confidence in their ability to confront all threats with resolve.

The Commander-in-Chief also expressed pride in the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and the follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and Prime Minister. He said the high combat readiness demonstrated by the BDF reflects this royal support and the unwavering commitment of its personnel to defend every part of the Kingdom's territory.

of the attacks on Saturday, February 28, he said personnel have acted with high operational efficiency and professionalism in confronting what he termed an unjustified and dangerous escalation threatening regional security and stability, and causing damage to civilian infrastructure.

The Commander-in-Chief stated that BDF forces have intercepted and destroyed the majority of missiles and drones launched towards various areas of the Kingdom, preventing greater

loss of life and property. He expressed pride in the high level of readiness and vigilance shown in protecting Bahrain's airspace, commending personnel across all units for carrying out their national duties with dedication.

He stressed that the effective performance of the defence systems sends a clear message that the Kingdom's skies are secure and that any hostile act will be met with firm and decisive action. The precision and professionalism displayed in neutralising incoming threats, he

HM King receives call from Al Azhar Grand Imam

TDI | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received a telephone call from His Eminence Professor Dr. Ahmed Al Tayyeb, Grand Imam of Al Azhar Al Sharif.

The Grand Imam condemned the Iranian attack targeting the territory of the Kingdom of Bahrain, emphasising the importance of Arab and Islamic countries' solidarity in safeguarding sovereignty, security and territorial integrity.

His Eminence commended the Kingdom's role in pro-

moting moderation, tolerance, and coexistence, wishing His Majesty and the people of Bahrain blessed returns of the holy month of Ramadan.

His Majesty the King affirmed that the people of Bahrain are peaceful and believe in tolerance and coexistence, and that the Kingdom remains committed to the path of peace and supports all that strengthens security and stability in the region and the world.

HM King Hamad expressed deep appreciation for the sincere support conveyed by the Grand Imam towards Bahrain.

Two remanded in custody for glorifying terrorist attack acts

Mohammed Darwish
TDI | Manama

Two suspects have been remanded in custody after prosecutors said they posted material praising and glorifying terrorist acts within Bahrain.

The Public Prosecution said the pair were held in pre-trial detention pending investigation, and have been referred for expedited criminal trials.

Prosecutors said the case began after the Anti-Cybercrime Directorate reported spotting

social media accounts sharing video clips of attacks on Bahrain. The report said this came in light of what the Kingdom has been facing, in terms of attacks on its territory by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the terrorist Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps

Footage

The clips, prosecutors said, included footage of strikes affecting military sites where filming is banned, along with scenes showing damage to public and private property.

BDF destroys 74 missiles and 92 drones

TDI | Manama

The General Command of the Bahrain Defense Force (BDF) announced that its air defence systems successfully destroyed 74 missiles and 92 drones, as part of the response to an ongoing Iranian terrorist aggression targeting the Kingdom of Bahrain since Saturday, February 28, 2026.

The General Command affirmed that the BDF will remain the impregnable shield against anything that might compromise the security and stability of the Kingdom or infringe upon its national sovereignty, stressing that all its defense systems are at the highest levels of readiness and constant preparedness to deal immediately and



BDF's defense systems are at the highest levels of readiness and constant preparedness to deal immediately and decisively with various threats.

decisively with various threats.

The General Command explained that the use of ballistic missiles and drones to target

civilian objects and private property constitutes a flagrant violation of the provisions of international humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations, particularly the principles of distinction and proportionality, stressing that these indiscriminate and sinful attacks pose a direct threat to regional peace and security.

It reiterated that the Kingdom reserves its legitimate right to take all necessary measures to defend its sovereignty and protect its people. Authorities urged residents to remain indoors unless necessary, exercise caution, avoid visiting affected sites, refrain from photographing military operations, and rely solely on official sources to prevent the spread of rumors.

Bahrain condemns Iranian attacks on US embassies in Saudi and Kuwait

TDI | Manama

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has strongly condemned the recent Iranian attacks on US Embassy buildings in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait, describing them as a blatant violation of international law.

The ministry emphasised that such acts contravene the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, which



guarantee full immunity for diplomatic missions, their premises, and personnel, even

during armed conflicts.

Bahrain reaffirmed its full solidarity with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, supporting measures to safeguard sovereignty, maintain security, and protect citizens and residents.

Highlighting the unity of Gulf Cooperation Council states, the ministry stressed that the security of the Gulf is indivisible and urged the international community to take action to halt attacks that threaten regional and global peace and stability.



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THE BAHRAIN SHIP REPAIRING AND ENGINEERING COMPANY B.S.C.

Invitation to Annual General Meeting

The Board of Directors of The Bahrain Ship Repairing and Engineering Co. (B.S.C.) CR No.715 is pleased to invite shareholders to attend the Company's Annual General Meeting to be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday 26 March 2026 at Al Dana Hall 2, Gulf Hotel. In the absence of quorum, a second meeting will be held on 07 April 2026, at the same time and place to discuss and approve the agenda items below. In the absence of quorum on the second date, a third meeting will be scheduled on 14 April 2026, at the same time and place. The meeting will be convened to discuss and approve the following agenda items:

Agenda for the ordinary Annual General Meeting:

1. Approval of the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 26th March 2025.
2. Discuss and approve the report of the Board of Directors about the activities of the company for the year ended 31st December 2025.
3. Review the auditors' report on the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2025.
4. Discuss and approve the company's audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2025.
5. Discuss and approve the following recommendations of the Board of Directors regarding the appropriation of profits for the year ended 31st December 2025.

- a. The Distribution of cash dividends to the shareholders @ 50% of the paid capital (50 Fils per share excluding treasury share) amounting to BD 989,622.

Cum-Dividend Date	26th March 2026
Ex-Dividend Date	30th March 2026
Record date	31st March 2026
Payment Date	14th April 2026

- b. Allocation of BD 63,490/- for Charity.
- c. Transfer of BD 1,486,510/- to Retained Earnings.

6. Approval of recommendation to allocate BD 166,000 as remuneration for the members of the Board of Directors' for year 2025. Subject to approval of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.
7. Discuss the Company's Corporate Governance Report and its compliance with the CBB and MOIC regulatory requirements for 2025.
8. To notify and approve the transactions carried out during the financial year ended 31st December 2025 with any related parties as described in note # 27 of the financial statements in line with Article 189 of the Commercial Companies Law.
9. Ratify the conduct of the members of the Board of the company and discharge them from the liability for their actions during the year ended 31st December 2025.
10. Appoint or reappoint the external auditors for the fiscal year 2026 and authorize the Board of Directors to determine their fees.
11. Any other business in accordance with Article (207) of the Commercial Companies Law.

Fawzi Ahmed Kanoo
Chairman

Important Notes to the Shareholder:

1. Shareholders are invited to get Financial Statements from Bahrain Bourse Website and proxies from the Company's Share Registrar Bahrain Clear BSC (c), Level 4, Bahrain Financial Harbour, Harbour Gate, Tel: +973 17215080, Fax: +973 172612601, P.O. Box: 3203, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, email: Agm@bahrainclear.com. While sharing the proxy thought email, the Issuer's name should be included in the subject line of the email, in order to verify identity.
2. The proxy must be deposited at least 24 hours prior to the meeting date at Bahrain Clear BSC (c) office in order to be considered valid.
3. As per Article (203) of the Commercial Companies Law, each shareholder, regardless of the number of the shares he holds, shall have the right to attend the general assembly, and he shall have a number of votes equal to the number of shares he holds in the company. Any provision or resolution to the contrary shall be null and void. A shareholder may delegate a person from among the shareholders or from non-shareholders to attend the general assembly on his behalf, if the proxy shall not be the chairman or from among the members of the board of directors or from among the Company's employees. However, this shall not prejudice the right to appoint a proxy for relatives to the first degree of relationship. This shall be by virtue of a special power of attorney evidenced in writing designated for this purpose by the company. Persons lacking capacity or under legal incapacity shall be represented by their legal representatives.
4. For any inquiries please do not hesitate to contact us on phone number: 17725300 or email: mainoffice@basrec.com.bh

MPs back urgent compensation plan for Iran attack damage



Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Parliament yesterday backed an urgent request for the government to create a scheme to aid and compensate people affected by Iranian missile attacks on Bahraini soil.

The proposal calls for a clear method to record damage, weigh losses and pay compensation fairly and quickly. It is meant to cover citizens and residents.

MP Khalid Buanaq, who submitted the request, said the goal was a fast state response when outside events cause harm to property and incomes inside Bahrain.

An accompanying memorandum says some private homes suffered partial or total damage, leaving owners with immediate repair costs and a need for support to restore their properties.

It also refers to damage to vehicles and other private possessions, arguing for a defined process to assess losses and

“The goal was a fast state response when outside events cause harm to property and incomes inside Bahrain.”

— MP KHALID BUANAQ

compensate those affected.

Memorandum

The memorandum adds that some small businesses were hit by work stoppages or damage to equipment, cutting earnings for owners and workers.

It warns of wider social and living impacts on families, mainly where the damage involves a home or a source of income, and says a formal mechanism would help deal with claims in an orderly way.

The request asks the government to treat the matter as urgent and take the steps needed to put the mechanism in place.

‘Bahrain retains right to respond’

Speaker Al Musallam: Kingdom will remain ‘a homeland of security and stability’ despite Iran strikes

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain will remain “a homeland of security and stability” despite Iranian missile and drone attacks that struck the kingdom and other Gulf states, Parliament speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam told MPs at the opening of yesterday’s sitting.

In his opening address, Al Musallam condemned the attacks, saying Iran had used ballistic missiles and drones and that the strikes hit Bahrain’s territory as well as civilian sites and private property in sister states.

The Speaker said the assaults amounted to a grave breach of international humanitarian law and posed a direct threat to regional peace and security.

He said Bahrain backed every step taken to protect its security and sovereignty, and that the kingdom “retains its full right to respond”, acting in coordination with allies and partners.

Efficiency

Al Musallam praised Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) air and missile defences for intercepting the attacks “with efficiency and vigilance”, and thanked the Ministry of Interior and other security bodies for maintaining public safety and reassuring residents.

He also credited the media system with keeping the public



— AHMED BIN SALMAN AL MUSALLAM, COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES SPEAKER

“The assaults amounted to a grave breach of international humanitarian law and posed a direct threat to regional peace and security.”

informed and said ministries and institutions had worked to keep food supplies, healthcare and other essentials secure.

The lawmaker paid tribute to national staff across what he called “Team Bahrain” for their work in different sectors.

Precaution

The Speaker praised Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa for directing institutions to take precautionary steps, strengthen security and stability, uphold the rule of law

and protect society.

He said the public had rallied behind His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and urged citizens and residents to follow official instructions, take care, avoid rumours and rely on official sources for information.

Al Musallam added that competent bodies had acted firmly against those who breach instructions, to protect the safety of all and preserve social unity.

Support

The legislator thanked sister and friendly countries for backing Bahrain and offering support, and called on the Inter-Parliamentary Union and other parliamentary bodies to condemn the attacks and take immediate action to stop them.

He said Bahrain would continue to back peace efforts, support regional and international stability and uphold good neighbourly ties and mutual respect, arguing that diplomacy and dialogue were the way to ease tensions and settle disputes.

Challenges

Bahrain had shown, he said, that it can overcome challenges through the leadership’s judgement, public unity and the readiness of state institutions.

The current moment, he added, calls for national unity so the kingdom remains “an oasis of security, peace and prosperity”.

Individuals detained for ‘threatening’ security and stability

TDT | Manama

Individuals have been identified and arrested for their involvement in committing serious violations affecting the security and stability of society since the start of the Iranian aggression targeting several sites in Bahrain.

The Ministry of Interior announced that the Anti-Cyber Crime Directorate carried out the arrest operations.

These offences include publishing videos and content expressing sympathy with this heinous attack, which constitutes betrayal of the nation and a clear violation of its values and principles.

The individuals also circulated fabricated images generated using artificial intelligence techniques, falsely depicting damage to a number of homes, and shared them through their social media accounts.

Expat killed

TDT | Manama

A Bangladeshi man has been killed in Bahrain after debris from an intercepted missile struck an industrial area.

The victim, identified as SM Tareq, died in the Salman Industrial Area, Bangladesh embassy officials said.

He was from Sandwip’s Azimpur in Chattogram district.

Shelter centres visit



The Muharraq Governor, His Excellency Salman bin Isa Bin Hindi Al Mannai, visited a number of shelter centres across the governorate to review workflow and the level of services provided, during meetings with supervisors and officials responsible for managing the facilities. The Governor commended the efforts to meet various needs and provide services, and to ensure a suitable environment that guarantees comfort and comprehensive care for residents at the centres.



For safety of all

His Highness the Southern Governor, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa, conducted an inspection visit to several shelter centres in the Southern Governorate to review their preparedness and ensure the efficiency of the procedures in place to protect safety of all. During the visit, HH the Southern Governor was briefed on workflow and approved operational plans. He commended the efforts of the security teams at the Ministry of Interior, field teams and relevant entities in strengthening the rapid response system and addressing various situations.

Customs head inspects border points for food security



H.E. Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad with customs personnel

TDT | Manama

Customs President, His Excellency Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa conducted an inspection visit to several customs entry points in the Kingdom of Bahrain to ensure the smooth flow of food supplies, essential goods, medicines, and medical equipment.

The visit, made in light of the Iranian aggression targeting several sites, also aimed to affirm full adherence to the highest standards of readiness and vigilance amid ongoing regional developments.

During the visit, Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad conveyed



The Customs President reviewed workflow procedures and clearance processes

to customs personnel the greetings and appreciation of Interior Minister, H.E. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, and his commendation of their role in advancing cus-

tom services and implementing a distinguished customs strategy.

Performance

He praised their efficiency, vigilance, advanced security awareness and high-level customs performance.

The Customs President reviewed workflow procedures and clearance processes for shipments and goods, ensuring both speed and accuracy.

He stressed the importance of intensifying efforts and strengthening coordination with relevant authorities to ensure the smooth movement of imports and exports and prevent disruptions to supply chains.

Two held over filming violation

TDT | Manama

Two individuals, aged 20 and 24, have been arrested for misusing social media platforms.

The Ministry of Interior announced that the Anti-Cybercrime Directorate at the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security carried out the arrest.

One of the suspects filmed a video expressing sympathy with the Iranian aggression, which constitutes an act against the Kingdom of Bahrain and a clear violation of its values and principles. The other filmed a video at a military site.

The two individuals published the content through their social media accounts in a manner that harms security and public order.

The Directorate stated that the necessary legal procedures are being completed in preparation for referring the two individuals to the Public Prosecution.

Unite, stay alert

MP warns against attempts to exploit regional tensions at Bahrain's expense

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

MP Waleed Al Dosari said Iran's missile attacks on Bahrain, and the war's wider impact across the Gulf, had left the kingdom facing what he called a greater national responsibility.

He urged unity at home and firm, fair law enforcement against anyone accused of trying to stir division or serve outside agendas.

The lawmaker said heightened tensions in the region were showing up across security, the economy and the media, and called for maximum alertness and cohesion inside Bahrain.

Division

Al Dosari warned against anyone seeking to exploit the moment to stir division, cast doubt on state institutions, or side with foreign agendas at the expense of Bahrain's interests.

Disagreement was protected, he said, but any act that harmed Bahrain's security, or any al-



"Protecting unity at home is a duty that allows no exceptions, and that the law must decide without overreach or laxity."

— MP WALEED AL DOSARI

legiance to another state, was "rejected in full".

He said protecting unity at home was a duty that allowed no exceptions, and that the law must decide "without overreach or laxity".

Voice

Bahrain, he added, needed to

stand as one and speak with a unifying national voice that rose above narrow interests and kept "Bahrain first, always".

"Our homeland is not an arena for settling regional scores, nor a platform for agendas that do not recognise its sovereignty and the independence of its decision-making," he said.

In the same remarks, Al Dosari thanked His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for what he described as wise leadership and clear judgement that had kept Bahrain safe and stable through "the most delicate circumstances and toughest challenges".

Foundations

He also praised His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for continued work to support development and strengthen what he described as the foundations of a strong state able to deal with regional and international developments.

"The Kingdom of Bahrain by God's grace first, then through the wisdom of its leadership, the vigilance of its men, and the awareness of its people will remain resilient against anyone who seeks to harm it," Al Dosari said, calling on the public to close ranks and "affirm in every position that our loyalty is to Bahrain alone".

Council suspends receiving visitors

TDT | Manama

The council of the sons of the late Abdulkarim bin Ahmed Al-Ansari has announced the temporary suspension of receiving visitors in light of the current regional situation and in compliance with directives issued by the Ministry of Interior.

In a statement, the council said the decision reflects its commitment to adhering to official guidelines and reinforcing public safety measures in line with approved precautionary procedures.

The sons of the late Abdulkarim bin Ahmed Al-Ansari also prayed for the continued protection of the Kingdom of Bahrain, its leadership and people, and for the preservation of security and stability.

Hopes

They further expressed hopes for safety and peace across Muslim nations.

The statement concluded with the council extending its sincere thanks and appreciation to all, expressing hope for public understanding of the decision given the prevailing circumstances.

Delivery demand soars ahead of Suhoor

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

A marked increase in the use of food delivery applications has been recorded across Bahrain in recent days, particularly during the hours preceding Suhoor.

During a field survey, The Daily Tribune observed a significant rise in the number of delivery riders operating in various areas, with activity levels escalating steadily as midnight draws near.

Restaurants that previously fulfilled orders within 15 minutes are now taking approximately 30 minutes to complete deliveries.

Establishments that once required around half an hour are seeing waiting times extend to



Delivery riders seen across the Kingdom amid rising late-night demand nearly an hour.

The increase in demand appears to be closely connected to the prevailing tense circumstances, as many residents opt to stay indoors during late-

night hours. As a result, dependence on food delivery platforms has grown significantly in the period leading up to the start of the fast.

Union supports Kingdom unity

TDT | Manama

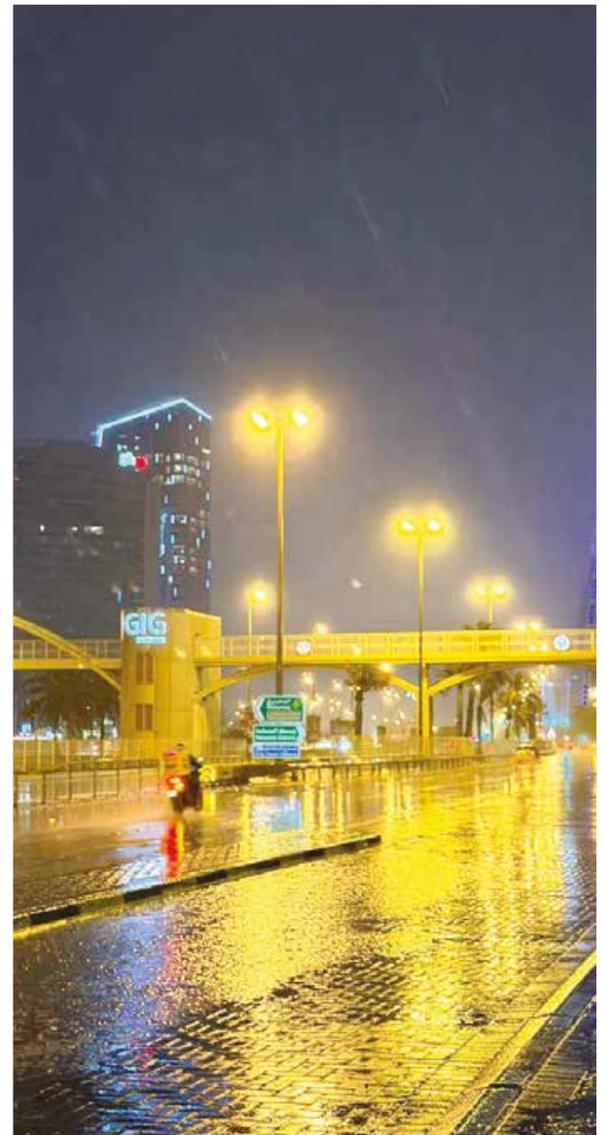
The Bahrain Free Federation of Trade Unions has stressed that national unity remains the Kingdom's strongest safeguard in the face of current challenges.

It affirmed its full support for the wise leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the backing of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The declaration came during an expanded meeting of the heads of labor unions affiliated with the Federation, chaired by the head of the Executive Council and attended by all members.

The meeting focused on recent developments, including the Iranian aggression.

Moderate to heavy rains hit Kingdom



The Kingdom of Bahrain has been experiencing continuous rainfall since noon yesterday, ranging from moderate to heavy, due to a low-pressure system affecting the region, accompanied by a cold air mass moving across the Arabian Gulf. The Meteorology Department at the Ministry of Transport and Communications warned of intermittent thunderstorms and strong gusts of wind continuing until the early hours of today, urging caution, particularly in open and marine areas. Temperatures have dropped significantly, reaching 18°C. Nights are expected to remain cold in the coming days, with scattered rain showers possible today. The cold spell is expected to peak at dawn tomorrow.

Loan deferment proposal seeks to protect small businesses and jobs

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

MPs have called for the Central Bank of Bahrain to study a temporary deferment of loan instalments for affected businesses, aiming to ease short term pressure without disrupting financial order.

The memorandum explains that some commercial establishments faced direct material loss, while others experienced slower trade and supply challenges. Yet loan instalments remain due

By considering instalment deferment, Parliament aims to protect economic momentum

on schedule.

For a small shop owner, a quieter week is manageable.

Payroll

Several unsettled weeks can strain payroll, supplier payments and household responsibilities.

Many small enterprises operate on tight margins, where even brief instability can create anxiety about continuity.

The proposal seeks a regulated and temporary approach that supports businesses while maintaining banking discipline.

It reflects confidence in the financial system's ability to respond with measured flexibility during exceptional circumstances.

Livelihoods

Behind the technical language

are real livelihoods. Employees depend on those salaries. Families depend on those businesses remaining open.

By considering instalment deferment within established frameworks, Parliament aims to protect economic momentum and ensure that temporary disruption does not turn into lasting hardship.

The focus remains steady: safeguard stability, preserve jobs and allow businesses the breathing space needed to move forward with confidence.

Indian airlines to resume limited Middle East flights

IndiGo said it would operate four return flights to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia

● Services to and from Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates remain suspended

● Indian media reported one citizen killed on a vessel off Oman

TDT | New Delhi, India

Indian airlines said yesterday that they were resuming limited commercial services to the Middle East in a bid to collect thousands of passengers stranded by war.

Millions of South Asian citizens live and work across the Middle East.

IndiGo said it would operate four return flights to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia as part of efforts to "progressively normalise" operations between the countries.

Air India Express said it would resume flights to and from the Omani capital Muscat



An IndiGo Airways aircraft prepares to land at the Mumbai airport



Stranded passengers wait outside the IndiGo airlines kiosk at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru

from Tuesday.

But services to and from Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates remain suspended, the airlines said in a statement.

Budget carrier Akasa Air said it would operate select flights to Jeddah.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken to multiple Middle East leaders, including the leaders of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, in which he thanked them for "taking care of the Indian community", in posts on social media.

Several South Asian citizens have been killed in the strikes, including at least one Nepali in Abu Dhabi and two Bangladeshis in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

Indian media reported one citizen killed on a vessel off Oman.

Modi said Monday he had also spoken to his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu, in which he "conveyed India's concerns over recent developments and emphasised the safety of civilians as a priority".

Flights to evacuate stranded travellers in Middle East



Passengers arrive after disembarking from a flight coming from Amman at Roissy-Charles de Gaulle Airport on the outskirts of Paris

● Several Emirates flights took off Tuesday morning

● Numerous Royal Jordanian flights took off and landed at Amman's airport

● Several countries have organised evacuation flights

AFP | Paris, France

Evacuation flights are set to rescue tens of thousands of travellers stranded in the Middle East even as some airlines resumed on Tuesday a limited number of scheduled flights.

The situation remains dangerous in the region, with Qatar saying it had blocked Iranian attacks on its airport, one of the major hubs in the region.

The US and Israeli attacks on Iran which began on Saturday, followed by Iranian counterattacks on Gulf states and Israel, have led the closure of the airspace of a number of countries.

That has caused the cancellation of at least 12,903 flights between Saturday and Monday, according to Cirium, an aviation data analysis firm, or about 40 percent of planned flights.

Slow resumption

On Sunday, nearly 100 percent of flights were cancelled out of the United Arab Emirates, home to the second-largest airport in the world in terms of passengers: Dubai's DXB. That fell to 93.5 percent on Monday.

DXB and Abu Dhabi's airport resumed limited operations on Monday. Several Emirates flights took off Tuesday morning, according to the Flightradar24 flight tracking website.

The aircraft immediately flew south to exit the Gulf region. The vast majority of flights in and out of DXB remain cancelled.

Only some flights by flag carrier Emirates, low-cost flydubai and Russia's Aeroflot were operating. Numerous Royal Jordanian flights took off and landed at Amman's airport, but flew via the south of the country to avoid Israeli airspace.

Flight continue in and out of Saudi Arabia and Oman, and their airspace is being used by numerous long-haul flights between Europe and Asia.

No civilian flights were circulating in the airspace above Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Libya or Qatar, however.

Evacuation flights planned

Several countries have organised evacuation flights to

repatriate their nationals.

Two evacuation flights with 200 passengers each landed in the Czech capital Prague on Tuesday morning.

"We are preparing to charter flights so that the most vulnerable people... can benefit," French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot. He said some 400,000 French nationals were located in the dozen countries affected by the conflict.

Germany had announced on Monday it would send aircraft to Saudi Arabia and Oman as soon as possible to evacuate the most vulnerable travellers.

There are around 30,000 Germans stranded in the region, according to the German Tourism Association.

Travel firm TUI said Tuesday it would begin flying home 5,000 clients stranded on two of its cruise ships in the Gulf via Dubai.

Three Indian airlines -- IndiGo, Air India Express and Akasa Air -- announced a limited number of evacuation flights to the Middle East.

Three flights evacuating Italian nationals were expected to land in Rome and Milan later Tuesday, according to the airports.

British Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper said Tuesday a UK government charter flight would bring home British nationals from Oman in the coming days. British Airways said it had scheduled a flight from Oman on Thursday.

Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares said Spain was also organising evacuation flights, and an Etihad flight carrying Spanish nationals was set to land in Madrid on Tuesday evening.

Suspended operations

Numerous airlines are continuing to suspend their flights to the Middle East, at least for the coming days, including Air France, British Airways, LOT, Norwegian and SAS.

Finnair has halted flights to Doha and Dubai until nearly the end of the month.

Egypt says can help transfer Saudi oil

AFP | Cairo, Egypt

Egypt's petroleum minister said yesterday that his country was able to transport Saudi oil to the Mediterranean, as tankers remained blocked in the Strait of Hormuz and Gulf oil infrastructure came under attack.

Egypt imports crude from Aramco via the Saudi port of Yanbu, "which enables us not just to provide for Egypt, but to receive crude from Saudi Arabia, and transfer it through Egypt's Sued port and pipeline to the Mediterranean," minister Karim Badawi said in a cabinet presser.

The Sued pipeline connects the Red Sea at Ain Sokhna, just south of the Suez Canal, with the Mediterranean west of Alexandria.



شركة البحرين للتسهيلات التجارية ش.م.ب.
BAHRAIN COMMERCIAL FACILITIES COMPANY B.S.C.

Invitation to the Ordinary General Meeting

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company B.S.C. (CR: 13444) cordially invites the shareholders to attend the Ordinary General Meeting to be held Wednesday, 25 March 2026, at 10:00 AM, in person at Al Dana Ballroom, Gulf Hotel, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. As per the provisions of the Commercial Companies Law, in the absence of a quorum on the first scheduled date of the meeting, a second meeting with the same agenda will be scheduled on Wednesday 01 April 2026 at the same time and venue; and in the absence of quorum on such second date of the meeting, a third meeting with the same agenda will be scheduled on Wednesday 08 April 2026 at the same time and venue.

Ordinary General Meeting Agenda:

- To read and approve the minutes of the last Ordinary General Meeting held on 25 March 2025.
- To review and approve the Board of Directors' Report and the financial position on the activities of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2025.
- To receive the External Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.
- To review and approve the Company's Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.
- To appropriate the net profit for the year on the recommendation of the Board of Directors as follows:
 - Distribution of cash dividends of 17% of paid-up capital at 17 Fils per share (BD 3,424,284), on the 12 of April 2026.

Event	Date
Ordinary General Meeting	25 March 2026
Cum-Dividend Date (Last day of trading with entitlement to dividends)	26 March 2026
Ex-Dividend Date (First day of trading without entitlement to dividends)	29 March 2026
Record Date (The Day on which all shareholders whose names are on the share register will be entitled to dividends)	30 March 2026
Payment Date (The Day on which the dividends will be paid to the entitled shareholders)	12 April 2026

- Allocation of BD 150,000 for the Charity and Donation Fund.
 - Transfer of BD 1,503,103 to Retained Earnings.
- To approve a proposal to pay BD 300,000 for the Board of Directors' Remuneration for 2025, after obtaining the Ministry of Industry and Commerce approval.
 - To approve the validity to issue new bonds / Sukuk up to BD 50 million. Terms and conditions shall be determined by the Board of Directors, subject to the Central Bank of Bahrain prior approval.
 - To review and approve the Company's Corporate Governance Report and its compliance with the Central Bank of Bahrain regulatory requirements for the year ended 31 December 2025.
 - To absolve the members of the Board from liability for their actions during the year ended 31 December 2025.
 - To approve the re-appointment of Ernst & Young as external auditor for 2026 and authorize the Board of Directors to determine their remuneration.
 - Launching the Islamic Window:
 - To authorize the Board of Directors to reappoint the Sharia Supervisory Board and to determine the fees in accordance with the rules and requirements of the Central Bank of Bahrain, with such authorization remaining valid for the next two years based on the existing contract.
 - Disclosure of Related Party Transactions carried out during the financial year ended 31 December 2025 as described in Note (27) of the Financial Statements in line with Article (189) of the Commercial Companies Law No. (21) of 2001.
 - To elect 5 and appoint 5 members to the Board of Directors for the next three years March 2026 - March 2029, subject to the Central Bank of Bahrain prior approval.
 - Any Other Business in accordance with Article (207) of the Commercial Companies Law No. (21) of 2001.

Abdulrahman Yusuf Fakhro
Chairperson of the Board

Important notes to the shareholders:

- To view and download the financial statements for the financial year ending on 31st December 2025, please visit the Company's website at www.bcfcbh or the Bahrain Bourse website at www.bahrainbourse.com. The meeting minutes of the last Ordinary General Meeting and the agenda are also available on the Company's website. The Annual Report of the Company will be made available in both English and Arabic by the second week of March 2026 at BCFC Headquarters in Tubli, Kingdom of Bahrain, the Share Registrar, the Company's website, and the Bahrain Bourse website.
- Shareholders whose names are registered in the share register of the Company on the date of the meeting have the right to attend the meeting in person or by written proxy to vote on their behalf. Neither the Board of Directors nor the Company's staff shall act as proxies. Proxies can be obtained from the Company's headquarters, website, or share registrar M/s. Bahrain Clear B.S.C. (Closed), located on the 4th Floor of Bahrain Financial Harbour (Harbour Gate) Building 31, Road 383, Block 305, P.O. Box 3203, Tel: 17261260 - 17108836, Fax: 17256362 - 17228061, email: registry@bahrainclear.com, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. Proxies will be available effective from Wednesday, 04 March 2026, and the confirmation/proxy form must be deposited at least 24 hours before the meeting date. The form should be submitted to agm@bahrainclear.com, and the Issuer's name should be included in the subject line of the email.
- The share registrar's registration and verification process will commence at 08:00 AM and end at 09:45 AM. For further inquiries, please send an email to registry@bahrainclear.com, contact 00973-17108786, or WhatsApp 00973-33510008.
- For any further information or inquiries, please contact the Group Corporate Secretary at 17787209, fax: 17911900, or email: jalmousawi@bcfc.bh, or address: Building 290, Road 111, Block 701 Tubli- Kingdom of Bahrain.

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Cirium estimates that the flights in the region account for around 900,000 seats per day, so the number of affected travellers could easily already be more than one million.

Several countries have organised evacuation flights to

Iran will not 'automatically' fall after Khamenei's death, shah's widow tells

Paris, France

Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei's death is "historically significant" but will not "automatically" lead to the fall of the Iranian system, the widow of the country's last

"The passing of a man -- however central he may be to the architecture of power -- does not automatically mean the end of a system"

shah told AFP in an interview yesterday. "The passing of a man -- how-

ever central he may be to the architecture of power -- does not automatically mean the

end of a system," said Farah Pahlavi, who has lived in exile in Paris since being driv-

en out of Iran in the 1979 r evolution. "What will be decisive,"

she said, was "the ability of the Iranian people to unite around a peaceful, orderly and sovereign transition to a state governed by the rule of law", which she added her son Reza Pahlavi "is in the process of preparing".

Iran war an **endurance race** between missiles and interceptors

In the first two days of the conflict, Iran launched nearly 400 missiles and around 1,000 drones

● **Interceptor missiles are also very expensive and only produced in small numbers**

● **Only 96 Thaad missiles are produced each year**

● **During the 12-day war, some 150 Thaad were fired**

AFP | Paris, France

The war in the Middle East has so far been defined by two images: Iranian drones and missiles plunging to the ground and exploding, and interceptors streaking into the skies to stop them.

In the first two days of the conflict, Iran launched nearly 400 missiles and around 1,000 drones towards the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Jordan, said Mintel World, which specialises in open-source intelligence.

That figure does not include Iran's main target, Israel.

"It's really who has a deeper magazine," said Scott Benedict, a former marine and expert at the US-based Middle East Institute.

"It's like two archers launching arrows at each other and somebody is going to run out of arrows before the other person runs out of arrows."

Top US military officer General Dan Caine told a press briefing that its integrated air and missile defence network was working "exactly as it's intended", intercepting hundreds of ballistic missiles.

Dismissing reports that the United States could run out of interceptors, President Donald Trump claimed the military has

"a virtually unlimited supply."

"Wars can be fought 'forever,' and very successfully, using just these supplies," he posted on social media.

But how long those systems can really keep operating is an open question.

'Shooting the archer'

At the end of last June's 12-day war, experts estimated that Iran had between a few hundred and nearly 2,000 missiles capable of striking Israel.

This was sepa-

rate from its stockpile of shorter-range missiles still capable of reaching Gulf countries. Iran has also used drones which, while less capable, are much cheaper to manufacture.

An Israeli security source on Saturday said Iran's ballistic missile production had been "increasing rapidly".

To fire its missiles, Iran has to use launch vehicles, most of which were destroyed in June, while those that survived are

now be-

PATRIOT AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM

American surface-to-air missile system

Capable of intercepting ballistic and cruise missiles, aircrafts, and drones

Warheads: 90 kg, high-explosive fragmentation

Range: between 96 and 160 km (with PAC-2 missiles)

Altitude: up to 24 km

Flight duration: ranging from under 9 seconds up to 3 minutes (maximum)

OPERATION

- 1 The radar detects and tracks the target
- 2 Command and control center
- 3 Missile launcher

Schematic diagram, illustrations and projections are to scale

Sources: CSIS, Critical Threats, Raytheon, US National Air and Space Museum

AFP

ing targeted by the United States and Israel.

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said the war was a case of "shooting the archer instead of the arrows".

Iran's latest missile barrages appear to be smaller than those launched in June and in October 2024, when Iran first attacked Israel.

"The low density of the Iranian salvos raises questions about Tehran's offensive capabilities," said Etienne Marcuz, a researcher at the France-based Foundation for Strategic Research.

"Are they preserving their stockpile to prolong the conflict and wear down their adversaries, or do they no longer have the capacity to launch coordinated strikes?"

Despite the smaller salvos, he said a "non-negligible number of missiles are still getting through, which might show that the defences are no longer as watertight and the Israelis know, they too will have to hold out over time" by economising their interceptors.

'Low but constant pressure'

Benedict said that the United States had enough "magazines to get to a point faster where we're in a better position than the Iranians".

Nevertheless, the attacker has a key advantage. For each ballistic missile, "at least two" interceptors need to be fired to guard against failure, said Marcuz.

Interceptor missiles are also very expensive and only produced in small numbers, despite planned production increases.

For example, only 96 Thaad missiles are produced each year and 600 of the PAC-3 MSE mu-

nications used in the Patriot system.

During the 12-day war, some 150 Thaad were fired, The Wall Street Journal reported.

"The stock is not going to last very long," said Marcuz, making it crucial for the United States and Israel to destroy Iran's launchers as soon as possible.

However, completely destroying Tehran's ballistic missile threat was unrealistic, he said.

Like the Houthis in Yemen, Iran was likely to retain a "residual capability that will maintain a low but constant pressure for years if there is no political settlement".



Many modern missile interceptors do not carry explosive warheads; instead, they rely on "hit-to-kill" technology, destroying incoming missiles through the sheer force of high-speed impact.

Some missile interceptor systems can engage multiple targets simultaneously, tracking dozens of incoming threats at once through integrated radar and command networks.



Fresh 'large scale' blasts in Tehran

AFP

Loud explosions rocked the Iranian capital yesterday, AFP journalists heard from locations in central Tehran.

Soon afterwards, the Israeli military said it had hit a high-ranking Iranian commander in the capital. It later said the air force had launched a new "large scale" wave of strikes on the capital "targeting the Iranian terror regime's infrastructure in Tehran".

Iranian media said "US and Israeli fighters" struck central Tehran and that a building of the body to elect Iran's new supreme leader, south of Tehran, had been hit.



Boys sitting on the side of a road watch as behind a tall smoke plume billows following an explosion in the Fujairah industrial zone



Israeli security forces and emergency personnel stand next to the wreckage of cars at a site struck by a projectile in Ramat Gan near Tel Aviv

Trump says 'too late' for talks

AFP

US President Donald Trump said that it was too late for talks with Iran.

"Their air defense, Air Force, Navy, and Leadership is gone. They want to talk. I said 'Too Late!'" Trump wrote in a Truth Social post, two days after saying he had agreed to talks.

China opposed

AFP

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his Israeli counterpart Gideon Saar in a phone call that "China opposes any military strikes launched by Israel and the United States against Iran," according to the Xinhua news agency.

"Force cannot truly solve problems -- instead, it will only bring new problems and severe after-effects."

Iran appeals to UN Security Council

Iran urged the United Nations Security Council to take action to stop the war.

"The United Nations Security Council has a duty... if it wishes, it can certainly act, because there is no obstacle to its action except its own will," said foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei.

Nuclear site damaged

The United Nations nuclear watchdog said the key Iranian nuclear site of Natanz suffered "recent damage", a day after Tehran said the underground uranium enrichment plant was attacked. "Based on the latest available satellite imagery, IAEA can now confirm some recent damage to entrance buildings of Iran's underground Natanz Fuel Enrichment Plant. No radiological consequence expected," the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said.

War takes ugly turn

Ukraine offers Gulf states air defence swap

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday offered US allies in the Middle East a swap of some of their air defence missiles in exchange for Kyiv's vaunted drone interceptors, to better protect them from Iranian drone attacks.

Russia has been using Iranian-designed Shahed drones throughout its four-year invasion of Ukraine, and Kyiv has developed a range of cheap and effective drone interceptors -- aerial craft designed to hit incoming attack drones mid-air -- that it says are world-leading.

At the same time, Ukraine is struggling with a shortage of PAC-3 air defence missiles -- expensive ammunition fired at incoming Russian missiles to defend Ukrainian cities and critical infrastructure.

"The number one issue is how to protect their skies. We ourselves live with this question," Zelensky said.

"Let's speak about weapons that we're short of: PAC-3 missiles -- if they give them to us, we will give them interceptors," he added.

PAC-3 missiles, he said, do not work to protect against a barrage of hundreds of Shahed drones.

Iran warns European countries against joining war: foreign ministry

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran warned European countries yesterday against joining its conflict with Israel and the United States, after Germany, Britain and France said they could take "defensive action" to destroy Iran's missile-launching capabilities.

"It would be an act of war. Any such act against Iran would be regarded as complicity with the aggressors. It would be regarded as an act of war against Iran," foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said at a press briefing when asked about the statement.

Israel first responders say 12 injured after new Iran missile barrage

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel's Magen David Adom emergency services said yesterday they were treating 12 people with injuries following the latest salvo of missiles fired from Iran.

"Medics and paramedics are providing medical treatment and evacuating to hospitals 12 injured people, including a woman of about 40 in moderate condition with blast injuries, and 11 people lightly

injured with cuts from glass shards and blast injuries," an MDA statement said.

Israeli police said officers were operating at several sites in the central and Tel Aviv districts where shrapnel had fallen. AFP footage showed security forces in high visibility vests and helmets deployed at one site. At another, a fire engine was stationed as forces sprayed non-flammable foam on the charred wreckage of cars.

NATO chief says 'widespread support' for US Iran campaign

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

NATO chief Mark Rutte said yesterday there was broad backing among US European allies for President Donald Trump's military campaign against Iran.

Washington's bombardment of Iran -- which saw supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei killed -- has unleashed air strikes across the Middle East.

"I feel widespread support in Europe. I was on the phone with many leaders over the weekend and also early this week," Rutte told journalists on a visit to North Macedonia.

"I clearly sensed that taking out the nuclear capability, taking out the ballistic missile

capability, and also Khamenei gone, this is applauded by many of my colleagues in NATO."

Rutte underlined that the NATO military alliance -- founded to protect Europe and North America -- was "not involved" in the military operations.

"But I can assure you that NATO will defend every inch of NATO territory," he said.

Saudi condemns 'unjustified' Iran attack on US embassy in Riyadh

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia condemned yesterday an overnight Iranian attack on the US embassy in Riyadh, as Tehran keeps up its retaliation campaign in the Gulf over US and Israeli strikes.

The Saudi foreign ministry in a statement expressed "its strongest condemnation and rejection of the heinous attack that targeted the US Embassy building in Riyadh", describing it as "cowardly and unjustified".

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Lebanese president says ban on Hezbollah's military activity 'irreversible'



The US embassy headquarters in Riyadh is pictured yesterday, after it was hit by drone strikes earlier.



Smoke rises from Israeli bombardment on the southern Lebanese area of Kfar Tibnit



An Israeli Air Force AH-64 Apache attack helicopter flies over at a position along the border between northern Israel and southern Lebanon



The US Embassy headquarters in Abu Dhabi



A protester wearing a mask of US President Donald Trump performs during a rally



Iranian nationals arrive in Turkey after passing through the Razi-Kapiköy border crossing in Van, north-eastern Turkey



Pieces of missiles and drones recovered after Iran's strikes are displayed during a press briefing by the UAE government held in Abu Dhabi

● Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar urged countries to cut ties with Iran, during a virtual meeting with around 60 envoys stationed in Israel.

● “The foreign minister told the ambassadors that... countries around the world must cut off their relations with (Iran),” a statement issued by Saar’s office said.

● The escalation of Middle East hostilities has displaced at least 30,000 people in Lebanon, the UN refugee agency said in Geneva.

● The Iranian Red Crescent said that more than 780 people have been killed nationwide since the US and Israeli strikes began. AFP was not in a position to verify the figure.

● A reporter and cameraman for CNN Turk were detained in Israel while shooting a live broadcast in Tel Aviv, the company and officials said.

● Lebanese president says ban on Hezbollah’s military activity ‘irreversible’

● Iran nuclear site suffered ‘recent damage’: UN nuclear agency

● Tehran’s Mehrabad airport targeted by strikes: Iranian media

● Israel strikes Islamist group’s HQ in Sidon, south Lebanon: state media

● Israel’s military said it struck Iranian industrial sites used to produce weapons, “particularly ballistic missiles”.

● Israel ordered its forces to take control of more positions inside Lebanon to create a buffer zone.

● US embassy in Lebanon says will remain closed until further notice

Oil and gas under fire

Guards general says Iran ‘will burn any ship’ trying to pass through Hormuz

AFP | Tehran, Iran

A general in Iran’s Revolutionary Guards threatened on

Monday to “burn any ship” seeking to navigate the Strait of Hormuz, a vital route for oil and gas shipments.

“We will burn any ship that tries to pass through the Strait of Hormuz,” General Sardar Jabbari said in a post on the Guards’ Telegram channel. “We

will also attack oil pipelines and will not allow a single drop of oil to leave the region. Oil price will reach \$200 in the coming days.”

Oil infrastructure hit in Gulf

AFP | Muscat, Oman

Oil infrastructure came under Iranian attack in Gulf countries yesterday, with Qatar’s state energy firm halting some production of key materials after strikes on two facilities.

Drones meanwhile struck a fuel tank in Oman and in the UAE an oil storage zone was hit by falling debris from an intercepted drone, as Iran apparently widens its targets beyond US assets.

Qatar’s state-run QatarEnergy said it would halt some downstream production of substances including urea, polymers, methanol and aluminium after Iran attacked two gas processing plants.

The announcement prompted an immediate two percent rise in the price of aluminium on the London Metal Exchange.

Iran on Monday broadened its targets in its war with the US and

Oil passes \$85 a barrel, precious metals down

Oil prices soared as the war disrupted supplies, with the crucial Strait of Hormuz effectively closed and energy infrastructure across the region hit.

The Brent North Sea crude contract, the international benchmark, jumped more than eight percent to reach \$85.12

a barrel, its highest level since July 2024.

Precious metal prices fell sharply as traders piled in with strategic bets on energy and the US dollar.

Gold, which had risen the day before, shed more than four percent to around \$5,075 an ounce

Israel to include infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, which are American allies.

Qatari foreign ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari said Tuesday that Iranian missiles had targeted Doha airport but were downed by the military.

In Oman, several drones targeted the port of Duqm on

its eastern coast on Tuesday, according to a security source quoted by the official Oman News Agency.

“The resulting damage was contained without any human casualties,” the report said.

The attack was the second on the port in three days, with the sultanate hit despite acting as a mediator between Iran and the

United States just days prior to the war.

On Sunday, a worker was injured when two drones struck the same port. One drone hit accommodation for workers, while debris from the other landed near fuel tanks, the Oman News Agency said.

They were the first attacks on the sultanate since war broke out. Oman also shot down two further drones on Tuesday, while another crashed near its Salalah port, state media said.

In the UAE, falling debris from an intercepted drone caused a fire at an oil storage and trading zone in the emirate of Fujairah, authorities said.

“No injuries were reported, the fire was brought under control and normal operations in the area have resumed,” the Fujairah Media Office said.

The UAE says it has been targeted with more than 800 drones and nearly 200 missiles

since the war erupted.

QatarEnergy, one of the world’s biggest liquefied natural gas exporters, had already on Monday suspended LNG production due to drone strikes on two of its sites.

The halt sent prices on European markets skyrocketing.

Analysts for ING bank said Tuesday’s suspension of aluminium production would place pressure on the market.

“Tensions in the Middle East are bringing back to the forefront the risks weighing on aluminium supply, given that around 8 percent of global production is concentrated in the Gulf and is heavily dependent on maritime transport through the Strait of Hormuz,” they said.

A general in Iran’s Revolutionary Guards threatened on Monday to “burn any ship” seeking to navigate the Strait of Hormuz, a vital route for oil and gas shipments.

Israel army says struck Iran’s presidential office, security council building

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

The Israeli military on Tuesday said it had carried out

air strikes on Iran’s presidential office and the National Security Council building in Tehran as part of its ongoing campaign

against the Islamic republic. “The Israeli Air Force... struck and dismantled facilities within the leadership compound of the

Iranian terrorist regime in the heart of Tehran” overnight, the military said. “During the strike on the compound, numerous

munitions were dropped on the presidential office and the building of the Supreme National Security Council,” it added.

Trump says US-UK relationship 'not like it used to be'

British politicians have been haunted by the 2003 Iraq war

● **Starmer said "does not believe in regime change from the skies"**

● **UK was considering sending a warship to the Middle East**

● **Trump said Starmer had "not been helpful"**

AFP | London, United Kingdom

President Donald Trump said the historical relationship between the United States and Britain is "not like it used to be", amid a diplomatic bust-up over US-Israeli strikes on Iran.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer -- who told parliament on Monday his government "does not believe in regime change from the skies" -- has drawn Trump's wrath by initially refusing to have any role in Wash-



ington's war with Iran. Starmer later agreed to a US request to use two British military bases for a "specific and limited defensive purpose".

But the episode angered Trump, who told British daily news-

paper The Sun: "This was the most solid relationship of all. And now we have very strong rela-

tionships with other countries in Europe", singling out France and Germany.

Starmer has cultivated a warm relationship with the unpredictable Trump, who was given an unprecedented second state visit to Britain last year.

The so-called special relationship between the World War II allies is largely built on long-standing defence cooperation and intelligence sharing.

Any potential military action in the Middle East, however, is politically sensitive in the UK following former prime minister Tony Blair's disastrous support for the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Trump's comments came as UK media reported that the government was considering sending a warship to the Middle East.

HMS Duncan could reportedly be the Type 45 destroyer sent to the region, having recently completed a training exercise on taking down drones.

'Legal basis' Trump said Starmer had "not been helpful", adding: "I never thought I'd see that. I

never thought I'd see that from the UK. We love the UK."

"It's just a much different kind of relationship... It's very sad to see that the relationship is obviously not what it was," he said in a telephone interview.

Government minister Darren Jones defended Starmer's decision to only get involved in military action where there was a "legal basis" and a "clear plan" that was in the UK's own national interest.

"That's why we were not involved in the initial strikes in Iran," he said.

"But it is also why we've consented to American air forces using our air bases and for British jets to be in the sky in order to defend British citizens who are currently in the region," he added.

He said two UK bases -- one in Gloucestershire in western England and the UK-US base

A British Royal Air Force (RAF) base in Cyprus was attacked early Monday by Iranian-made drones, one of which hit the runway, according to officials.

The base was "not being used by US bombers", Starmer said.

on Diego Garcia island in the Indian Ocean -- had now been cleared for use by the Americans.

"We all remember the mistakes of Iraq, and we have learnt those lessons," Starmer said in parliament on Monday.

A British Royal Air Force (RAF) base in Cyprus was attacked early Monday by Iranian-made

drones, one of which hit the runway, according to officials.

The base was "not being used by US bombers", Starmer said.

'Not-so special relationship'

British politicians have been haunted by the 2003 Iraq war, in which a reported 179 UK soldiers died.

An official UK inquiry into the conflict later found that Blair acted on flawed intelligence when deciding to join the war.

Evie Aspinall, director of the British Foreign Policy Group think tank, told AFP Starmer faced a "very tight diplomatic tightrope" with the US which "remains critical in the context of Ukraine and Greenland".

Richard Whitman, an expert on international relations at the University of Kent, added that Trump's remarks might herald a "new, not-so-special relationship".

The worry for London was any "spillover" on Ukraine and the possibility of Trump getting a "bee in his bonnet" about the UK. "That would be clearly disastrous for the UK," he said.

The situation might be salvaged with a "bold announcement on defence spending uplifts", said Sophia Gaston, a foreign policy research fellow at King's College London.



UN urges all sides in Middle East war to 'come to their senses'

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

The United Nations on Tuesday urged all parties to "come to their senses" and end the war in the Middle East, with fear and panic spreading across the region and beyond.

UN human rights chief Volker Turk said he was "deeply shocked" by how the conflict was affecting civilians.

"The fear, the panic, the anxiety experienced by millions of people in the Middle East and beyond is palpable -- and was entirely avoidable," his spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani told a press conference in Geneva.

"The situation is worsening and widening by the hour, playing out our worst fears."

Turk "is deeply shocked by the impacts of the widespread hostilities on civilians and civilian infrastructure since the conflict erupted on Saturday with Israel and the United States of America's attacks on Iran, Iran's response against states across the region, as well as Hezbollah's subsequent entry into the con-

- **Israeli attacks on Lebanon displace more than 58,000: authorities**
- **Trump says he 'might have forced Israel's hand' on Iran**
- **Trump says Iran was 'going to attack first'**
- **Russian top diplomat urges de-escalation in call with Iran's FM: ministry**
- **Trump says 'everything has been knocked out' in Iran**
- **EU, Gulf states to hold talks on Middle East war Thursday: officials**
- **Trump says most new Iran leaders eyed by US 'are dead'**
- **Trump says 'worst case' in Iran is new leader 'as bad' as Khamenei**
- **President Emmanuel Macron will on Tuesday speak to the nation about the war in Iran and its consequences, the Elysee said, after France vowed to protect its nationals...**

flict," she said.

Turk called on all parties to exercise maximum restraint, prevent further escalation, and take all feasible measures to protect civilians and critical infrastructure.

"Returning to the negotiating table is the one and only way to bring an end to the killing, destruction and despair," Shamdasani said.

Turk "implores all parties to come to their senses, and to end

this violence", she added.

Shamdasani said the laws of war were clear: civilians and civilian objects are protected, and all states and armed groups must abide by the law.

Iraq reduces production at key oil field after Strait of Hormuz disruption

AFP | Baghdad, Iraq

Iraq reduced production at a major oil field on Tuesday after the Strait of Hormuz was effectively closed, according to an official document and oil ministry sources.

The document, which was confirmed by two ministry sources, indicated that the operation manager at Iraq's Rumaila oil field ordered a reduction of "production and pumping... by 100 percent from" the south part of the field starting early Tuesday afternoon.

The document stated that the closure of the Strait of Hormuz caused a "shortage of tankers" in Iraq's southern ports, which led to stockpiling "reaching critical levels".

The ministry sources told AFP that Iraq will use its oil production for its own refin-

eries. BP works in partnership with the state-owned Basra Oil Company in Rumaila. The oil field there produces almost a third of Iraq's output.

Nearly a quarter of the world's seaborne oil supplies pass through the Strait of Hormuz.

Oil production has also been disrupted in Iraq's northern Kurdistan region due to the ongoing Middle East war.

A source at an oil company in Kurdistan told AFP that most foreign oil companies have "temporarily" halted production as a precautionary measure.

The Kurdistan region hosts US-led coalition troops, and its capital Erbil is home to a major US consulate complex.

Oil fields in Kurdistan have been hit several times in recent years in attacks blamed on Iran-backed groups.

Iran says 'no radioactive leak' detected at Natanz nuclear site after US-Israeli strikes

EU, Gulf states to hold talks on Middle East war Thursday

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

EU and Gulf State foreign ministers are set to hold talks by videolink on Thursday on the war in the

Middle East, officials told AFP Tuesday.

The virtual meeting, convened by EU foreign affairs chief Kaja Kallas, comes as violence has spread across the region after

the United States and Israel attacked Iran.

Oil and gas infrastructure, as well as US facilities, in the Gulf have been hit and the strategic Strait of Hormuz effec-

tively closed as Iran has struck back.

The 27-nation bloc EU has been left largely on the sidelines of the fighting to grapple with the fallout of the conflict.

So far European nations have focused mainly on evacuating nationals stranded in the region and have been nervously eyeing the impact of surging energy prices.

Brussels is also monitoring closely for any potential increase in the number of refugees fleeing the Middle East, although there are so far no signs of an exodus.

Tehran resembles ghost town as bombs rain down



A person stands on the roof of a building looking at a plume of smoke rises after a strike on the Iranian capital Tehran

● The Iranian capital is normally home to some 10 million people

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Tehran feels like a ghost town, with residents who have not fled remaining shut away in their homes for fear of new explosions from the US-Israeli bombardment.

"I'm afraid to walk in the deserted streets because bombs are still falling from the sky," said Samireh, a 33-year-old nurse, who did not want to give her family name.

The Iranian capital is normally home to some 10 million people, but in recent days "there are so few people that you'd think no one ever lived here", she added.

Powerful explosions rocked Tehran for the fourth day running on Tuesday, sending thick clouds of grey smoke into the blue sky, AFP journalists said.

"Last night, we slept on the floor with our heads protected in the middle of the apartment", as far as possible from the windows in the

bedroom and the ones in the living room, said 50-year-old Amir, "just to be safe in case the shockwaves shattered the glass".

Still, "my wife insists that we stay to see what happens", he added.

The most-affected areas are those that house the centres of power, such as ministries, courts or the headquarters of the Revolutionary Guards, which were targeted by strikes on Sunday.

Elnaz, 39, said it was "difficult" to stay safe because the raids also target police officers' homes, but "we don't know all our neighbours".

During the night from Monday to Tuesday, Israel issued calls on X for residents to evacuate the area where state broadcaster IRIB is located ahead of strikes.

But few people saw the warnings, as they did not have internet access.

Ferdowsi Square, one of the main junctions in the city centre, is now lined with buildings blown apart by explosions.

A flag of the Islamic republic has been planted in the rubble.

Nearby, a huge billboard covering an entire building displays a portrait of the late supreme

leader Ayatollah Ali Khomeini, who was killed in strikes on Saturday.

Police officers, armed security forces and armoured vehicles were stationed at main junctions, carrying out random checks on vehicles.

Meows and birdsong

The Iranian government on Saturday urged residents in Tehran to leave the city "while remaining calm", after the first Israeli and US strikes on Khomeini's residence.

"I have to stay because I'm a nurse. Otherwise I would have definitely already left the capital," said Samireh.

In the more upmarket north of Tehran, many residents appeared to have left, with the meowing of cats and birdsong replacing the usual din of traffic jams.

Trendy cafes and restaurants, which are typically lively in the evening, were closed.

Streets were deserted and most vehicles still on the road were supplying grocers and small local shops that were still open.

Customers hurried to buy fruit and queued for fresh bread. Bazaar at a standstill

Most of the shops in the Tajrish bazaar were closed. One clothes seller was desperately waiting for customers, sitting next to a T-shirt hanging up in the colours of the Iranian flag.

The bazaars should normally be buzzing with activity as Nowruz approaches at the end of the month.

The weeks leading up to the Persian new year are typically the busiest -- and most lucrative -- time of the year for shopkeepers.

It is also a festive period during which Iranians meet family and friends to try to forget the difficulties of everyday life, especially the high cost of living.

The only authorised public gatherings were organised by the authorities, such as those on Monday evening to pay tribute to Khomeini, who led Iran for nearly 37 years.

Nasim and her family will likely spend the holiday far from her hometown of Isfahan after they decided to leave the country for Turkey.

But the 35-year-old is worried about her parents who stayed in Iran, from whom she has heard "no news" at all.

Trump says will 'cut off all trade' with Spain over NATO, Iran

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump yesterday threatened to cut off trade with Spain, whose left-wing government refused to let US planes use its bases to attack Iran and objected to raising defense funding as part

of NATO.

"Spain has been terrible," Trump told reporters as he met German Chancellor Friedrich Merz.

"We're going to cut off all trade with Spain. We don't want anything to do with Spain."

UK PM says sending warship, helicopters to Cyprus

● HMS Dragon is one of the Royal Navy's six Type 45 air defence destroyers.

AFP | London, United Kingdom

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said yesterday the UK was dispatching "helicopters with counter drone capabilities" and a warship, HMS Dragon, to Cyprus as Britain continues "defensive operations" in the region.

His announcement comes after Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) Akrotiri base was struck early Monday by an Iranian-made drone, which hit the runway. Another two were intercepted.

"The UK is fully committed to the security of Cyprus and British military personnel based there," Starmer wrote on X.

"We're continuing our defensive operations and I've just spoken with the President of Cyprus to let him know that we are sending helicopters with counter drone capabilities and HMS Dragon is to be deployed to the region.

"We will always act in the interest of the UK and our allies," he added.

HMS Dragon is one of the

Royal Navy's six Type 45 air defence destroyers.

It is fitted with a Sea Viper missile system able to launch eight missiles in under 10 seconds and guide up to 16 missiles simultaneously, Britain's defence ministry said in a press release.

The ministry added that the helicopters are Wildcat helicopters equipped with Martlet missiles that can take down drones.

Britain's armed forces have helped shoot down multiple drones across the region in the past 24 hours, according to the defence ministry, including over Jordan and Qatar.

Starmer initially refused to have any role in the US-Israeli war with Iran but later agreed to a US request to use two British military bases for a "specific and limited defensive purpose".

Those bases are in Gloucestershire in western England and the UK-US Diego Garcia base in the Indian Ocean.

Starmer has insisted that the Akrotiri base is not being used by US bombers.

Monday's drone strike there caused minimal damage and no casualties, according to British officials.

The families of service personnel have been moved away from the base as a precaution.



HMS Dragon

Classifieds



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ALLDAY MARKET W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35617939 or ACCOUNTS.BAHRAIN@ALLDAYUAE.COM

Le Meridien Hotel Bahrain City Center has a vacancy for the occupation of DIRECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38885874 or ccb.government@maf.ae

Al OOLA Auto Services has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39672126 or MOHAMED.ISA750@GMAIL.COM

HAJI GALLERY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17741155 or HASAN@SOLARAREALESTATE.COM

RASHID MUHAMMAD HANIF SALOON W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33229780 or RASHIDHANIF867@GMAIL.COM

MOHIFAR JAHAN TRADING AND CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77094567 or 67FARHATJAHAN67@GMAIL.COM

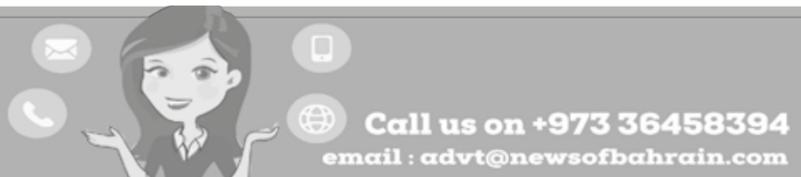
ALDOOR EXCAVATION & BUILDING CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877246 or zainabhr@aldoorbh.com

MAGNIUM ENTERPRISES CO.W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832244 or per121@alkhalidiagroup.com

PANORAMA CONTRACTING & ENGINEERING SERVI has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON ASST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17729935 or AHMED@PANORAMABH.COM

DIUF SERVICES BAHRAIN

Classifieds



VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

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THE K - HOTEL W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of THERAPIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17360000 or abbas.fardan@thekhotel.com

Security 1 One B.S.C. Closed has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSISTANT MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262262 or HR.S@EKKANOO.COM.BH

SEEMEE CLEANING SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33803636 or ITC.WLL786@GMAIL.COM

Wyndham Garden W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66316666 or mannai.hr@mannaitrading.com

Almuelem Star Excavation has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 6622888 or sadiqahs@hotmail.com

KEETA BAHRAIN W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ANALYST(OPERATIONS RESEARCH), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37105410 or mohamedmarhoon@keetainc.com

Jehlum Contracting W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JACKHAMMER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38398065 or SHABANGUJJAR3002@GMAIL.COM

POWER TECH CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39279042 or gm@powertechdevelopment.com

SUPER MASTER GARAGE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33202048 or BUSAHAIL90@GMAIL.COM

BURGER 2 GOOD has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33253626 or WAHIDZAHID8@GMAIL.COM

AL MISHRAA CONSTRUCTION EST has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(HEAVY TRUCK), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17601070 or BAGDADA_DOC@GMAIL.COM

Eastern Asphalt & Mixed Concrete Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17252078 or S.RADHI@EAMCO.BH

ALAMEER RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN AIDE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37774847 or alameer.restaurants@gmail.com

SAJID BUTT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33306786 or SAJIDBUTT666@YAHOO.COM

SKY ONE REALTY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35540992 or SALES@SKYONERE.COM

SADEQ MERZA AHMED ABDULLA has a vacancy for the occupation of FARMER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33007765 or SADIQMERZAT@GMAIL.COM

JEFF AUTO SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39953658 or jeffautobh@gmail.com

KAFAN CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33316767 or kafanconstruction@gmail.com

NEWCASTLE CONSTRUCTION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of GARDENER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17670885 or newcastle51280@gmail.com

MIRAL RESTAURANT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35340678 or badarmohammadd@gmail.com

MERCURY CONTRACTING CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17742858 or Aref@mercurygulf.com

R V GENTS SALOON W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39133187 or MUDC.BH@GMAIL.COM

UNIQUE FACILITY SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33306469 or CHIRIVELLAHARIKZ@GMAIL.COM

fast solution AC services has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17008304 or A.SAIF@W.CN

L & G REAL ESTATE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39183582 or ELVISLUSIBA@GMAIL.COM

AL JAZEERA SECURITY CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36945444 or info@ssbahrain.com

A C C NEW STAR CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33557822 or JVBSWLL@GMAIL.COM

BLUE RIBBON CAR UPHOLSTERY AND ACCESSORIES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33631966 or SARAHAMAD2009@YAHOO.COM

KABUL BUKHARI RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39555015 or REHMANKHALD99@GMAIL.COM

Al Bilad General Warehousing Company WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39659666 or sharifalsamahiji@hotmail.com

ALMOAYYED INTERIORS has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSISTANT MANAGER PROJECT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or proffice@almoayyed-cg.com

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CNL W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33888886 or HAMAD@SPECTRUMOILFIELD.COM

Havelock One Interiors WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832030 or hamida.alhubail@havelockone.com

NASS MECHANICAL CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725522 or yousif@aanass.net

BIN BAHAR INTERNATIONAL TRADING COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17233494 or ALBAHARELECTRICALCONT.2@GMAIL.COM

SOUTH GATE CONSTRUCTION AND CLEANING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77061717 or YKHALFAN@GMAIL.COM

AL MAHABA ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENTS EST has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39816922 or ALMAHABA.EST@GMAIL.COM

Secure Me W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17749697 or secure.me@live.com

Daffodils Restaurant W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17756786 or daffodils338@gmail.com

AL HAKEEM AIR CONDITIONING AND ELECTRICAL WORK SHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33941821 or HAKEEMGENTSSALON@GMAIL.COM

basheer cafeteria has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(FALAFEL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17333379 or s_hawaj@hotmail.com

Tandoori Tarka Restaurant W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33777328 or ABUAREEBATRADING@YAHOO.COM

FERRAUGLU MEDICAL W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13353553 or DRSEIRFERRAUGLU@GMAIL.COM

ALMANHAL BAHRAIN WATER FACTORY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17404435 or AMER.KHALID@BH.NESTLE-WATERS.COM

SABARI ELECTRCAL EQUIPMENT has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17343310 or SILSILAH@LIVE.COM

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occupation of EMPLOYEE(OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17273133 or SIAM7373@BATELCO.COM.BH

BAHRAIN SERVICES & MAINTENANCE COMPANY B.S.C. (CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727676 or aqeel@hasma.com.bh

Nidukki Trading Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17456218 or OPERATIONS@NIDUKKI.BH

HAYDEY SALOON has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIR DRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33668844 or ABUHANI3@GMAIL.COM

AL MUWLANI 20 FOR CLEARANCE GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77088487 or ALMAWLANI20@GMAIL.COM

Emaar Brothers Carpentry Workshop has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17601681 or ISLAMSADEQ@YAHOO.COM

DAMASCUS SALON BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17221100 or ISATHEKING2@GMAIL.COM

Saleh Abdulla Kameshki & Sons B.S.C (c) has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17250627 or admin01@kameshki.com

QUILON PAPER CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33153300 or QUILONPAPERCOMPNY@GMAIL.COM

Saleh Abdulla Kameshki & Sons B.S.C (c) has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17250627 or admin01@kameshki.com

Saleh Abdulla Kameshki & Sons B.S.C (c) has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17250627 or admin01@kameshki.com

SAFARI BUILDING EQUIPMENTS RENTAL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39184049 or SHAHIDAWAN673@GMAIL.COM

ALASALI GATE FOR PASTRIES AND SHAWARMA has a vacancy for the occupation of SHAWARMA WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34151595 or BDR543BDR@GMAIL.COM

INFOLOGIC IT SOLUTIONS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66372072 or SANTHOSHKAILAZ@GMAIL.COM

ALAMEED AUTO SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of AUTOMOBILE PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17785099 or ALAMEED_CAR@HOTMAIL.COM

NASS MECHANICAL CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725522 or yousif@aanass.net

NASS MECHANICAL CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725522 or yousif@aanass.net

INTERNATIONAL 360 SECURITY SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77999360 or FISHERMANSENSE@GMAIL.COM

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HD CARS POLISHING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36636061 or HDAUTOBH@GMAIL.COM

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COYOTE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33768106 or AQIB.1221989@GMAIL.COM

Secure Me W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17749697 or secure.me@live.com

ARABIAPEARL SERVICES CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36893090 or CHHASSANHASSAN538@GMAIL.COM

RAHEEL MOBILE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35611538 or ASD2479752@GMAIL.COM

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INDIAN CORNER TRADING BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38061060 or RABDULLA778@GMAIL.COM

PEPPER LAND CAFE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JUICE & SANDWICHES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39893138 or QASSIM.8@hotmail.com

GOLD CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17458191 or ABOOTY@HOTMAIL.COM

ALDALEEM CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17252256 or ALDALEEM@HOTMAIL.COM

OBICA W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39444437 or HASAN.A.RABIA@GMAIL.COM

POWER TECH DEVELOPMENT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39279042 or gm@powertechdevelopment.com

AL DAMAN INTERNATIONAL ELECTRONIC W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33527788 or HASSAN11043@GMAIL.COM

POWER ELECTRA INTERNATIONAL EXPORTS & CONSULTANCY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33733381 or INFO@SETUPINBAHRAIN.COM

804 SHOES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39283343 or ABDULRAZZAQMEHAR24@GMAIL.COM

GHULAM AKBAR MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35304088 or ZIDIMAHAR441@GMAIL.COM

MAAZ MAINTENANCE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66602131 or FKHANKHAN314@GMAIL.COM

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First Choice Cleaning Services Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36491411 or choicefirst82@gmail.com

ASFA DOCUMENTS CLEARANCE has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17536562 or ABDULLAFAREA82@GMAIL.COM

ALANI FOOD CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17000047 or MUDHER69@YAHOO.COM

ALJOOD GATE RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34087129 or husain.ali.naser.ali@gmail.com

BRITISH LINE FASHIONS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33345415 or A123AFTAB@HOTMAIL.COM

CLEANING LEADERS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33347766 or PERWAIZ_I@HOTMAIL.COM

CRAFTBAY CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(PAINT FINISHER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36021011 or CRAFTBAYINTERORS76@GMAIL.COM

HUZAIM BOUTIQUE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33332257 or ALBANNA-AMIRA@OUTLOOK.COM

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NADAPURAM KITCHEN W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33233383 or HELPLINEBH888@GMAIL.COM

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SAMRAT SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35518081 or SAJIDPAKISTANI111@GMAIL.COM

Wyndham Garden W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66316666 or mannai.hr@mannaitrading.com

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RAMSIS ENGINEERING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830801 or Abbas@ramsisc.com.bh

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AL-AHLIA CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17737000 or h.s.m1111@gmail.com

SIYANA INDUSTRIAL SERVICES & SIAM SCAFFOLDS- SIMPLE COMMANDITE COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of EMPLOYEE(OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17273133 or SIAM7373@BATELCO.COM.BH

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MONDELEZ BAHRAIN BISCUITS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OPERATOR(MECHANICAL MACHINERY)GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33167037 or sam.jacob@mdlz.com

NASSER ABD MOHAMMED B.S.C.(CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700888 or admin@nasserco.net

S PLAZA SUITES HOTEL W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39992285 or SAEEDRADHI52@GMAIL.COM

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ALTHAMARA RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17683393 or DANISH368@GMAIL.COM

HOMELAND PEARL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of GARDENER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39654365 or HOMELAND22@HOTMAIL.COM

REYADH HASAN MOOSA JAAFAR ALAALI has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400827 or hasanalali37@gmail.com

GATEWAY CARGO HANDLING CO BAHRAINI

PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33982271 or MUHAMMADJAVAIM65@GMAIL.COM

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SKY TOWN & SCRAP SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37044001 or TAIMOOR.MASOOD@GMAIL.COM

CAMILLE SAMSON SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CO-ORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33900911 or CAMSAMSON1234@GMAIL.COM

RAWALPINDI TRADING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33522100 or HUSNAINABBAS806@GMAIL.COM

ALFARAH RECRUITING MANPOWER has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470209 or MADAMSAMEERA61@GMAIL.COM

NASS MECHANICAL CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL FABRICATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725522 or yousif@aanass.net

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AL HOORA PALACE CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOFER(-COMPOSITION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36732150 or SATPALS-JANDU2014@GMAIL.COM

GULF ALUMINIUM ROLLING MILL B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17731000 or CAREER@GARMCO.COM

CISCO BAHRAIN W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LEADER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33664144 or mohabada@cisco.com

BHATTI CARGO SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33426988 or JAMSHEDIQBAL845@GMAIL.COM

Secure Me W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17749697 or secure.me@live.com

GOLDEN TRIANGLE SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(-MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32236745 or MIANARFANAFIQUE@GMAIL.COM

ALMOAYED WILHELMSSEN PORT SERVICES (LTD). W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17813000 or hussein.a.redha@wilhelmsen.com

HARLEEN SPECIALIZED CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33615001 or BITTUSANDHU530@GMAIL.COM

NEW TABEER W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34023408 or SAMI8883ULLAH@GMAIL.COM

AL RUMAISA SPICY CHASKA W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66347978 or rizwanasif0303@gmail.com

GOIANIA CARGO CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(HAND WRAPPING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33824747 or KIANIBRAZILIAN@GMAIL.COM

RAMADAN

Ramadan

The Concept of Barakah in Ramadan: Spiritual Meaning Beyond Material Prosperity

Understanding a Deeper Kind of Blessing

Throughout the Muslim world, Ramadan is often described as a month filled with barakah, a term commonly translated as “blessings.” Yet within Islamic tradition, barakah carries a meaning far richer than material abundance or visible success. It refers to a divine increase — a sense of spiritual fullness, peace and lasting benefit that transcends measurable gain. During Ramadan, believers seek not merely productivity or prosperity, but a transformation of the heart and a renewal of purpose grounded in faith.

Scholars explain that barakah is not defined by quantity but by impact. A small act performed sincerely may carry immense reward, while limited resources can feel sufficient when accompanied by gratitude and contentment. Ramadan, with its structured rhythm of fasting, prayer and reflection, is seen as a unique period when barakah permeates time itself, allowing moments of worship and kindness to carry multiplied significance.

Time Enriched Through Worship

One of the most commonly experienced aspects of barakah during Ramadan is the altered perception of time. Despite shorter sleep cycles and demanding schedules, many people report feeling spiritually energized and emotionally balanced throughout the month. Acts that might feel burdensome at other times — waking before dawn, extended prayers or nightly gatherings — often become sources of tranquility.

Religious teachers attribute this to the spiritual discipline encouraged during Ramadan. By reducing distractions and focusing on remembrance of God, believers experience a heightened awareness of purpose. The day becomes structured around meaningful actions, and ordinary routines acquire spiritual dimension.

The final ten nights of Ram-



Palestinian men pray inside the Dome of the Rock mosque at the al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem

adan are especially associated with barakah, particularly Laylat al-Qadr, believed to be a night whose spiritual value exceeds that of a thousand months. For many worshippers, this belief reinforces the idea that divine blessing can expand the significance of even brief moments of devotion.

Barakah in Relationships and Community

Beyond individual spirituality, barakah is also understood to manifest in relationships. Ramadan encourages reconciliation, forgiveness and generosity, strengthening family ties and social cohesion. Shared iftar meals, acts of charity and communal prayers foster a sense of unity that many communities struggle to maintain during the rest of the year.

Families often describe Ramadan as a time when homes feel more peaceful and connected. Conversations deepen, conflicts soften and hospitality becomes more intentional. In this context, barakah is experienced not as material gain but as harmony — a collective sense of well-being rooted in compassion and mutual care.

Communal generosity further amplifies this experience. As charitable giving increases, communities witness tangible improvements in the lives of those in need, reinforcing the belief that blessings multiply when shared.

Simplicity Over Excess

Paradoxically, Ramadan teaches that barakah often emerges through restraint rather than accumulation. Fasting

cultivates mindfulness about consumption, reminding individuals that fulfillment does not depend solely on abundance. Many believers find that simpler meals, reduced distractions and intentional living create a deeper sense of satisfaction.

Religious scholars frequently emphasize that barakah lies in balance — using resources responsibly while maintaining gratitude. This perspective challenges modern assumptions that success is measured primarily through material achievement, offering instead a spiritual framework centered on meaning and ethical living.

The Invisible Dimension of Prosperity

In contemporary societies marked by rapid economic growth and constant connectiv-

ity, the concept of barakah offers an alternative understanding of prosperity. It suggests that true enrichment includes clarity of

mind, peace of heart and beneficial outcomes that endure beyond immediate circumstances.

During Ramadan, this idea becomes particularly tangible. Individuals often report increased patience, generosity and emotional resilience, qualities viewed as signs of spiritual blessing rather than coincidence. The month provides a reminder that prosperity encompasses moral and spiritual well-being alongside financial stability.

Carrying Barakah Beyond Ramadan

While Ramadan is considered a peak period for experiencing barakah, Islamic teachings encourage believers to carry its lessons into daily life throughout the year. Maintaining gratitude, nurturing relationships and prioritizing ethical conduct are seen as ways to preserve the blessings cultivated during the holy month.

Ultimately, the concept of barakah reframes Ramadan as more than a ritual observance. It becomes a transformative journey in which spiritual awareness reshapes how success, happiness and fulfillment are understood. In seeking barakah, believers pursue not simply more, but better — lives enriched by purpose, compassion and enduring meaning beyond material prosperity.



Muslim devotees read the Qur'an during the Islamic holy fasting month of Ramadan at the New Memon Mosque in Karachi

Ramadan Recipe

Yemeni Bulgur Wheat Shurba (Soup)

Time: 45 mins | Yield: 4 servings

Ingredients

- 1 cup uncooked #3 coarse bulgur
- 5 cups water
- 1 small yellow onion, halved, peeled, and root end trimmed
- 1 small tomato, cored
- 4 medium garlic cloves, peeled, divided
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 3/4 teaspoons kosher salt, divided, plus more to taste
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 4 (1 1/2-ounce) sourdough bread

slices

- Chives, for garnish
- Lemon wedges, for serving

Directions

1. Place bulgur in a fine wire-mesh strainer; rinse under cold water 30 seconds. Transfer bulgur to a large saucepan; add 5 cups water, onion halves, tomato, and 2 garlic cloves. Bring to a boil over high. Boil, turning onion and tomato occasionally, until onion is translucent and just tender, 10 to 12 minutes. Remove from heat.
2. Transfer onion halves, tomato, and the 2 garlic cloves to a blender, leaving bulgur and water in pan. Secure lid on

blender and remove center piece to allow steam to escape. Place a clean towel over opening. Process until smooth, about 25 seconds. Return pureed onion mixture to pan with bulgur. Stir in tomato paste, 1 1/2 teaspoons salt, cumin, black pepper, cinnamon, ginger, and bay leaves. Bring to a gentle simmer over medium. Simmer, stirring and scraping bottom of pan occasionally to



prevent sticking, until bulgur is tender, soup thickens, and mixture resembles the consistency of por-

ridge, 12 to 15 minutes. Remove from heat. Remove and discard bay leaves. Season soup with additional salt to taste.

3. While soup cooks, preheat oven to broil with rack about 6 inches from heat. Grate remaining 2 garlic cloves to equal 1 teaspoon. Place grated garlic in a small bowl and stir in melted butter. Brush butter mixture evenly over both sides of bread slices and sprinkle evenly with remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt. Arrange bread slices on a rimmed baking sheet lined with aluminum foil. Broil in preheated oven until bread is toasted and golden brown, 2 to 3 minutes per side. Garnish soup with chives; serve with garlic bread and lemon wedges.

New rules, same old suspects as F1 **revs up** for 2026 season

Sweeping regulation changes leave teams guessing ahead of unpredictable Formula One season

● Major rule overhaul introduced

● Four teams remain main contenders

● Mercedes tipped early favourite

● Red Bull engine reliability questioned

● Russell-Verstappen rivalry intensifies

● Season begins in Melbourne

AFP | Paris

The start of any Formula One season is a game of smoke and mirrors: this one, which gets underway in Melbourne on March 8, has the added intrigue of sweeping changes that could shake up the established order.

For all the pre-season testing, the finger-pointing, the accusations of 'sandbagging' and loopholes in the new regulations, the guessing games have left us nowhere closer to predicting how the 24-race 2026 season will pan out.

Beyond the obvious, of course: the champion will come from one of four teams, the usual suspects of McLaren, Mercedes, Red Bull and Ferrari.

And that is no disrespect to the other seven teams including newcomers Cadillac and Audi.

The major overhaul to chassis and power units, designed to create more overtaking opportunities and improve the sport's eco-sustainability, have dominated the pre-season testing.

So the smoke will only begin



McLaren's British driver Lando Norris drives in the pit on the second day of the Formula One pre-season testing at the Bahrain International Circuit

to lift on the true force of each car when they take to the track at Albert Park.

Only then will we get an idea of whether McLaren's Lando Norris will be in pole position to retain the world title he won so dramatically from Max Verstappen last season.

The pit lane talk has been hanging the favourite's tag around the neck of George Russell as Mercedes are rumoured to have made the best of the rule changes.

That may depend, however, on whether they have indeed exploited a loophole in the new rules, as many are claiming, which could give them as much as 0.3 seconds per lap over their rivals.

In sport of fine margins, that is a gaping chasm.

When Verstappen grumbled publicly about the new cars in

Bahrain, describing them as "Formula E on steroids" and "anti-racing", Russell leapt to their defence.

"The guiding principles are still very much the same," said the Briton.

"You're pushing the car to the absolute limit.

"You're trying to brake as hard as possible and as late as possible, and carry as much speed through the corners."

'Reliable' Red Bull

The Russell-Verstappen dynamic is certainly one to watch.

The pair have had a number of spats going back to the Azerbaijan sprint in 2022. It picked up in 2024 with Russell accusing Verstappen of being a bully and the Dutchman describing Russell as a "backstabber".

For these last four years the Mercedes was not a match on

track for Verstappen's Red Bull but if that changes this year then the rivalry could reignite.

Questions remain about the efficiency and reliability of the new Red Bull engine which is the first that the team has developed and built itself, with some input from Ford.

Having said that, the four-time world champion's father Jos Verstappen, who is not renowned for holding back, called it "promising".

"I am satisfied with what is happening, especially when we look at the engine," he said.

"It is powerful and reliable. During the first race, we will see where it really stands."

Russell and Verstappen will also face stiff competition from their young teammates, 19-year-old Kimi Antonelli and 21-year-old Isack Hadjar.

"If the car is capable of win-



Red Bull Racing's French driver Isack Hadjar drives on the third day of the Formula One pre-season testing at the Bahrain International Circuit



Max Verstappen described the new cars as "Formula E on steroids" and "anti-racing" after testing in Bahrain, while George Russell leapt to their defence, setting up a potential off-track rivalry if Mercedes is competitive

ning, then I will win races," the ambitious Hadjar, promoted from Racing Bulls, told AFP.

If the Mercedes engine has capitalised on a loophole, which will be closed mid-season, then it should also assist Norris and his teammate Oscar Piastri whose McLarens use the same power units.

"The biggest challenge at the minute is battery management and knowing how to utilise that

in the best way," said Norris.

"You have a very powerful battery that doesn't last very long, so (it's) knowing when to use it, how much energy and power you use, and how to split that across the lap."

Ferrari are the last of the Big Four and after some pretty thin years they will be looking to Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton to do more than make up the numbers.

Hamilton is 41 now and suffered a miserable debut season with the Italians last year when he failed to make a single Grand Prix podium.

His body language suggested he might be on the verge of quitting but the new regulations appear to have given him a new energy to chase that record eighth world championship title once more.

"I'm re-set and refreshed," he posted on social media after pre-season testing.

"I'm not going anywhere, so stick with me. For a moment, I forgot who I was but... you're not going to see that mindset again.

"I know what needs to be done. This is going to be one hell of a season.

A rough guide to F1 rule changes for 2026

The 2026 Formula One season has been flagged up as revolutionary because of the sweeping changes to chassis and power unit regulations, designed to create more overtaking opportunities and improve the sport's eco-sustainability.

Four-time world champion Max Verstappen has already said the new cars are "not fun to drive" while Lando Norris, the man who took his crown last season, stirred the pot by saying they were fun before reversing at speed by remarking they were "certainly not the purest form of racing".

But what does that mean? How different will 2026 be to 2025 when McLaren ran away with the constructors' title with Red Bull, Mercedes and Ferrari choking on their fumes?

Here we look at the main changes:

The cars

The cars will look noticeably different to the 2025 models, notably the



Adrian Newey-designed 'pelican-nose' Aston Martin. Overall, they are 30kg lighter and 20cm shorter and 10cm more narrow. The wheelbase has been shortened which should make them more nippy through corners.

Tyres

Pirelli's 18-inch wheel size, introduced in 2022, will remain. But the width of the front tyres will be reduced by 25mm and the rears by 30mm, which will cut drag.

Wings

Changes aplenty here but the big one is the introduction of active aero which allows cars to adjust the angle of both front and rear wing elements depending on where they are on track. This, again, should cut drag and boost top speed.

The sons of DRS

The drag reduction system (DRS) is no more. In its place come two ae-

ro-mode systems which will both help the driver find speed.

- 'Z-mode' opens elements on the front and rear wings to increase downforce and speed through corners.

- 'X-mode' reduces drag to maximise straight-line speed.

There is also a manual 'Overtake' mode, which the drivers access through the boost button when they are one second behind the car ahead, allowing them to unlock extra energy.

There is a risk to this strategy, though, as it could leave them vulnerable to being re-overtaken on the next straight as they try to recover the electrical energy.

Power units

The power units, of which the engine is the predominant factor, are set to deliver an almost 300 per cent increase in electric power. There will also be an even split between internal combustion engine and electric power,

giving cars three times more electric braking power.

The FIA is moving to close down a loophole which Audi, Honda and Ferrari believe Mercedes have found to use thermal expansion and materials technology to exceed the mandated compression ratio - something that could gain them as much of 0.3 seconds per lap.

If they start the season with the advantage, however, it will not just benefit Mercedes as they also supply Alpine, Williams... and McLaren.

Fuel

No matter who runs away with the title no one is likely to be choking on fumes, as fuel in every car will be 100 per cent sustainable, meaning no new fossil carbon will be burnt.

Fuel will instead be derived from carbon that came from non-food sources, general waste or from carbon captured from the atmosphere.

Bahrain sports set to resume

TDT | Manama

After a nationwide pause in sporting activity, Bahrain's national federations are preparing to resume competitions in football, handball, volleyball, and basketball over the coming weeks. All matches will take place without spectators, ensuring the safety of players, officials, and staff while allowing the domestic sporting calendar to continue.

The pause followed recent regional hostilities, including drone and missile strikes that impacted key facilities in the kingdom. Despite these disruptions, federations have now coordinated a cautious return to domestic competitions.

In football, attention turns first to the King's Cup, where Al Khalidiya and Muharraq had already secured semi-final

spots before the suspension. The remaining quarter-final ties — Al Ahli vs. Al Ettifaq and Bahrain Club vs. Riffa —

are now scheduled for March 7, with the Nasser bin Hamad Premier League set to restart on March 12.

Handball competitions will follow, with the Khalid bin Hamad League confirmed to resume after the pause. Volleyball matches are scheduled to restart from March 6, and basketball tournaments, including the tenth edition of the Khalifa bin Salman Cup, are also preparing to resume with updated schedules.

Federations will release detailed timetables and protocols in the coming days, covering match procedures and safety measures. By phasing the return carefully and enforcing strict no-spectator rules, Bahrain aims to restart domestic competitions responsibly, balancing continuity with protection for all involved.



Victorious target podium in Italy



Antonio Tiberi

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Victorious have arrived in Italy to begin their annual Italian racing block, which includes Strade Bianche, Tirreno-Adriatico, and culminates with Milano-Sanremo. The 2026 campaign begins with the Trofeo Laigueglia (1.Pro) today, marking the team's return to the race for the first time since 2021.

The 192 km Trofeo Laigueglia, now in its 63rd edition, combines classic tradition with new challenges. Riders will start in Albenga before finishing, as always, in Laigueglia. The route introduces key features this year, including the iconic Cipressa climb and a 12.6 km stretch along the Cycling Riviera - Ciclovía Riviera dei Fiori. The decisive moments are expected on the final circuit, where competitors will face the Colla Micheri climb multiple times before concluding on Corso Badarò, returning to the course after several years.

With leaders Antonio Tiberi and Santiago Buitrago, Bahrain Victorious aims for a top-three finish, ideally placing two rid-

ers in the top ten, and hopes to see their names inscribed on Laigueglia's celebrated "muretto" wall.

Sports Director Gorazd Štangelj said: "We're happy to return to racing on the roads of Liguria. Antonio has started the season strongly in the UAE, and Santiago comes in after racing in Australia and the Colombian National Championships. The rest of the team will focus on protecting them and bringing them safely to the final circuit. The key climb repeats three times, and winning will require either a strong solo move or the speed to out-sprint a reduced group."

All other riders will compete in Trofeo Laigueglia for the first time. Several arrive in strong form after recent races in France, including Roman Ermakov, Rainer Kepplinger, and young Development Team rider Kasper Borremans, while Oliver Stockwell replaced Jakob Omrzel in Sunday's race.

Bahrain Victorious begins the Italian block with confidence, aiming to make an early impact on one of the season's most prestigious European circuits.

England 'not fearing anything' against India, says Curran

AFP | Mumbai

England will go into their T20 World Cup semi-final against India with no fear, said all-rounder Sam Curran yesterday, adding that their first job would be to silence a raucous home crowd.

England will take on the favourites and hosts in front of 35,000 fiercely partisan fans in Mumbai on Thursday, with a place in the final against South Africa or New Zealand at stake.

The noise will be deafening at times in the cauldron-like confines of the Wankhede Stadium.

But Curran said that because he and many of his England teammates -- such as Will Jacks at Mumbai Indians -- play in the Indian Premier League (IPL), they will not be fazed.

"It's an experience as a young cricketer you dream of -- playing India in the semi-final of a World Cup," left-arm seamer Curran told reporters.

Curran was in the international wilderness a year ago but forced his way back into the England squad with eye-catching performances in T20 franchise leagues, including the IPL.

"India are a quality side but we've played a lot of cricket here. We know how to play on these grounds and we know what to expect," he said.

"The IPL, no question, has helped a lot. Having played in the ground many times, there's not many unknowns."



England's Tom Banton (2R) and Sam Curran (R) take a water break during a match (file photo)

England experienced a hostile crowd at the Wankhede in their first match of the tournament when they beat Nepal in a final-ball thriller.

It was Curran who bowled the nerveless final "death" over, conceding just five runs when Nepal needed 10, to stave off an embarrassing defeat.

He then repeated the feat against Italy and has contributed with the bat from number six, scoring 149 runs so far with a best of 43 not out.

"We're not fearing anything and I'm sure both teams are re-

ally excited by the challenge," Curran said, adding England could judge how well they were playing by the volume of the fans.

"If the crowd are silent, England are probably going to be doing well. That's our positive way of looking at it," said Curran.

It is the third T20 World Cup in a row that England will have played India in the semi-finals and each time the winners went on to lift the trophy.

In 2022, England crushed India by 10 wickets in Adelaide

and went on to beat Pakistan in the Melbourne final.

Two years ago India won in Guyana by a similarly dominant 68 runs before downing South Africa in Barbados.

South Africa face New Zealand in the first semi-final on Wednesday. The final will take place on Sunday in Ahmedabad.

"I guess this is what the last four or five weeks have been building for," said Curran.

"And hopefully we can take one more step towards the final."

Liverpool-bound defender Jacquet to undergo shoulder surgery

AFP | Rennes

Centre-back Jeremy Jacquet, who will join Liverpool from Rennes at the end of the season, needs surgery on a shoulder injury he suffered last month, the Ligue 1 club an-



Jeremy Jacquet

nounced yesterday.

The 20-year-old was injured during a defeat to Lens on February 7.

"Following medical examinations, surgery has been scheduled in the coming days," Rennes said in a short statement.

Rennes did not specify when he would be able to return.

Liverpool reached an agreement to sign the France Under-21 international during the January transfer window for a reported 70 million euros (\$81.28 million).

Guardiola says Premier League teams must adapt to set-piece threat

AFP | London

Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola said teams must adapt to deal with set pieces after Liverpool manager Arne Slot spoke about how they were sucking some of the "joy" out of the Premier League.

Arsenal have been labelled "Set Piece FC" as a result of their prowess from dead ball situations and other sides are learning from their playbook.

Speaking yesterday, on the eve of title-chasing City's match against relegation-threatened Nottingham Forest, Guardiola said clubs had no choice but to learn to deal with the growing threat.

"It's part of the dynamics and you can complain (but) you have to adapt and it's part of the game," he said.

The Spaniard, renowned for his fluid, possession-based football, said "in some aspects" he agreed with Slot, but explained that one of the fascinating aspects of football was



Pep Guardiola

the range of different styles.

"Football has not been played in one way since the it has been created," he said. "So the football played in England is different from Spain, it's different in Italy, it's different and that's nice."

"That's why the Champions League is nice, different ways, even in that country every manager plays in a different way."

"So it's nice, that's why it's so attractive. How boring would it be if all the managers and all the leagues played in the same way?"