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Bahrain Voices Strong Support for Kuwait

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, held a phone call with Kuwait's Crown Prince, His Highness Shaikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, reaffirming the deep brotherly bond between the two Gulf nations.

HRH Prince Salman expressed Bahrain's strongest condemnation of ongoing Iranian terrorist attacks targeting Kuwait, including missile and drone



strikes on Kuwait International Airport, civilian infrastructure, and diplomatic missions. He

reaffirmed Bahrain's full solidarity with Kuwait and its complete support for all legitimate

measures Kuwait is taking to protect its sovereignty, security, and citizens. He also offered heartfelt condolences over lives lost in the attacks, wishing the injured a swift recovery.

Both sides reaffirmed the depth of Bahraini-Kuwaiti relations, stressing the importance of continued coordination on shared interests and reviewing the latest regional and international developments.

Kuwait's Crown Prince expressed his deep gratitude for the call, describing it as a reflection of true Gulf unity.

Dangerous Animals Law

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa ratified and issued Law (23) of 2026, which regulates the possession, trade, and breeding of dangerous animals, following approval by the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives. The Prime Minister and ministers will implement the law within their respective mandates. It will come into force the day after its publication in the Official Gazette.

Defence Forces Ready

The Bahrain Defence Force confirmed that all military units remain at the highest level of readiness to protect the country, announcing that its air defence systems intercepted missiles and drones targeting civilian sites in Bahrain yesterday.

The BDF urged the public to remain cautious and avoid approaching any unfamiliar or suspicious objects that may result from the attacks, warning that such debris should be reported immediately to authorities.

Condemnation of Attacks

The Muslim Council of Elders, chaired by Grand Imam of Al Azhar Dr. Ahmed Al Tayeb, has strongly condemned the Iranian missile and drone attacks targeting Bahrain and Kuwait, including a strike on Kuwait International Airport that caused casualties and significant damage. The Council reaffirmed its rejection of such acts as violations of international law and expressed full solidarity with both countries, calling on the international community to help end the attacks and safeguard regional stability.



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UNDER FIRE

Iran Strikes Bahrain and Kuwait as Gulf War Enters Day 97

Repeated violations, a shattered ceasefire, and a region on the edge

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Intercepts Missiles – Again

On June 3, Bahrain's Defence Force announced it had intercepted and destroyed three ballistic missiles and several drones targeting civilian areas in the Kingdom. Iran's Revolutionary Guard fired a barrage of missiles and drones at both Kuwait and Bahrain as a continuation of Iran's "programmed hostile approach" against Gulf civilians.

Kuwait Airport in Flames

The most devastating strike hit close to home for travellers. Iran fired 13 ballistic missiles and 17 drones in a dawn attack on Kuwait, striking Terminal 1 at Kuwait International Airport and injuring 63 people – among them airport staff and passengers. Injuries included fractures, head injuries, amputations, and smoke inhalation. Kuwait's Prime Minister Shaikh Ahmad Abdullah Al Ahmad Al Sabah personally visited the terminal to assess the damage and was briefed on the casualties.

Kuwait's Foreign Ministry condemned what it called "brutal and ongoing Iranian attacks on civilian and vital facilities" and said Kuwait reserves its full right to take appropriate measures in response.



His Highness the Prime Minister inspects Kuwait International Airport's Terminal 1



Defence Minister Shaikh Abdullah Al-Sabah visits the injured

Diplomats Expelled

Kuwait moved swiftly on the diplomatic front. It summoned Iran's chargé d'affaires and declared two Iranian diplomats persona non grata, ordering them to leave within 24 hours. Kuwait also flatly rejected Iran's claim that its territory was used to launch strikes against Iran, calling the allegations "baseless and without evidence."

Bahrain Stands with Kuwait

Bahrain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a strong condemnation, describing the attacks as a "dangerous escalation" and a "flagrant violation" of Kuwait's sovereignty and



An officer carries debris believed to be from a Shahed drone



international law – including UN Security Council Resolution 2817. Bahrain expressed full solidarity with Kuwait and praised the effectiveness of Kuwaiti air defences. **(Read More on Page 13)**

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Social Housing Takes Centre Stage at Infrastructure Meeting

Committee praises foundation stone laying for 24 housing units

TDI | Manama

Bahrain reaffirmed its focus on expanding social housing and strengthening urban development, as Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa chaired the 305th meeting of the Ministerial Committee for Development and Infrastructure Projects.

A key highlight of the meeting was the progress of housing initiatives aimed at providing more residential options for citizens. The committee praised the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning following the laying of the foundation stone for a project to construct 24 housing units in Salman City under the Government Land Development Rights Programme.

Officials stressed that partnerships between the public and private sectors remain essential for accelerating social housing projects and supporting the kingdom's wider housing strategy through innovative and diversified solutions.

The meeting also reviewed a number of infrastructure and urban development projects across Bahrain. The committee welcomed the opening of Sheikh Abdullah bin Salman bin Khalifa



Al Khalifa Road in Riffa, linking Al Muaskar Road with Al Hunainiyah Road. Members commended the Ministry of Works and all participating authorities for successfully delivering the project to high standards.

In another development, the committee praised the opening

of Village Park in Block 551 in the Northern Governorate by the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture. The project forms part of ongoing efforts to increase green spaces and improve recreational facilities for residents across Bahrain.

During the meeting, the Deputy

Prime Minister instructed the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture to extend procedures for relocating scrap-related businesses from Al Mazra'a to the new site in Hafeera, Block 959, ensuring businesses have sufficient time to complete the transition without disrupting operations.

Sewerage project reaches 52% completion



TDI | Manama

Ministry of Works conducted a site inspection of a major sewerage infrastructure project covering residential blocks 447, 431 and 435 in Al Qadam and Jibla Habshi, as part of ongoing efforts to upgrade public utilities across the Kingdom.

The visit was led by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Works, Engineer Shaikh Meshal

Al-Khalifa, accompanied by Assistant Undersecretary for Sewerage Engineering, Engineer Fathi Abdullah Al Fara.

Officials said the visit forms part of regular field inspections of strategic infrastructure projects aimed at reviewing progress on the ground and ensuring work remains on schedule in line with approved timelines.

The delegation assessed the project's overall progress and reviewed ongoing construction ac-



tivities at multiple sites within the development area.

According to the Ministry, the project includes the construction of a pumping station as well as the development of main sewerage pipelines using open-cut excavation methods and trenching techniques.

It also involves installing secondary sewer lines and constructing inspection chambers designed to serve approximately 414 properties in the area. Officials confirmed that the project has reached 52% completion.

Bahrain Raises Iran Concerns During Meeting With Russian Envoy



TDI | Manama

Foreign Minister Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani met Russian ambassador to Bahrain, Dr Alexey Skosyrev, in Manama to discuss bilateral relations and regional security developments.

The meeting, held at the Foreign Ministry headquarters, reviewed the growing cooperation and friendship between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Russian Federation across several sectors. Both sides also explored ways to further strengthen bilateral ties and expand cooperation in areas serving the shared interests of the two countries.

Regional developments were also discussed during the talks, including continuing Iranian attacks targeting the kingdom and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, as described by Bahrain.

The discussions additionally addressed the implications of Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz to maritime navigation, alongside ongoing efforts to reduce regional tensions and maintain security and stability across the Gulf.

The two sides also reviewed prospects for joint coordination and cooperation at the United Nations Security Council, where both Bahrain and Russia hold membership.

New Azerbaijani ambassador begins diplomatic mission



TDI | Manama

Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani received a copy of the credentials of Azerbaijan's newly appointed ambassador to the Kingdom.

The meeting took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the capital, Manama.

The ambassador, Javdan bin Ridwan Huseynov, formally

presented his credentials as part of the standard diplomatic procedure before beginning his duties in Bahrain.

During the meeting, Dr. Al Zayani welcomed the incoming ambassador and wished him success in his new role. He reiterated Bahrain's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations with Azerbaijan and expanding cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Strategic Communication Training



Dr. Shaikha Rana bint Isa Al Khalifa, Director General of the Institute of Public Administration (IPA), inaugurated the second cohort of the Executive Programme in Government Communication in Manama. Ahmed Khaled Al Araifi, CEO of the National Communication Centre (NCC), attended the opening ceremony. She said government communication is a strategic tool for supporting public policy, enhancing transparency, and showcasing national achievements. Both sides highlighted the importance of investing in national talent and adopting modern technologies, including artificial intelligence, to strengthen the effectiveness and impact of government messaging.

Diplomatic National Celebration



Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani attended the Italian Embassy's reception in Manama marking Italy's National Day. He conveyed greetings from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister to Italy's leadership. He highlighted the strong Bahrain-Italy relations, built on mutual respect and cooperation, and reaffirmed shared commitments to peace, stability, and international law.

Healthcare Review



Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force, received Lieutenant General Dr. Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, President of the Supreme Council of Health, in Manama. The Commander-in-Chief praised the SCH's efforts to advance healthcare services and develop medical institutions in line with national leadership directives to serve citizens and residents.

Bahrain Takes Iran to the UN Over Drone Attack on GPIC

Kingdom files 13th official letter to UN Security Council over April drone attack



TDI | Manama

Bahrain has formally notified both the UN Secretary-General and the Security Council President over Iran's April 5, 2026 drone attack on the Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) — its 13th official letter on Iranian aggression.

The letter condemns the strike as a direct violation of Bahrain's sovereignty, international law, and UN Security Council Resolution 2817, which had already demanded Iran halt all such attacks.

The drone struck GPIC's ammonia tank. Bahrain warned the attack could have caused a catastrophic chemical disaster spreading across several kilometres, threatening thousands of residents. A disaster was averted only through swift precautionary measures, including emptying the tank in advance.

As a safety precaution, residents within two kilometres of the facility were temporarily evacuated and later returned home after full repairs were completed on May 14.

Bahrain holds Iran fully responsible for all resulting damage — covering material losses, production disruption, and broader economic harm — and

reserves its right to self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter, along with the right to seek full compensation through all available legal channels.

The letter further stated that the attack is a clear violation of international humanitarian law, including the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution as set out in the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.

15 arrested in link to IRGC proxies in Iran



TDI | Manama

The Ministry of Interior arrested 15 individuals identified as field operatives working on behalf of Iran's Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) in a major security operation announced yesterday.

Targeting Youth, Sowing Discord

The suspects are accused

of carrying out incitement directives aimed at influencing citizens—particularly young people—pushing them toward illegal activities. Authorities say the network operated through social infiltration tactics, planting cells to execute the agendas of unlawful organisations.

Under Surveillance All Along

The Ministry confirmed the suspects had been under continuous monitoring prior to

their arrest. Legal proceedings are now underway, while investigations continue to identify all individuals connected to the network.

Zero Tolerance Pledge

The Ministry reaffirmed its commitment to protecting national security and social stability, stressing it will confront anyone attempting to undermine civil peace or sow division within Bahraini society.

Bahraini Hiring Priority Before Parliament

TDI | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Three major constitutional amendments — focusing on employment priority, free healthcare, and housing — are set to be reviewed in the next parliamentary session in Bahrain.

One key proposal, submitted by MP Abdulwahid Qarata and backed by 23 MPs, seeks to amend Article 13 of the Constitution to give Bahrainis priority in job opportunities. The change would also link employment and fair working conditions to citizens' academic and professional qualifications.

The proposal, approved by the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee and referred to Parliament's Bureau, aims to strengthen the state's responsibility in addressing labour market challenges, including unemployment and job competition.

Mr Qarata said the amendment is designed to ensure fairer access to work for citizens and reinforce social and economic stability.

A second proposal would guarantee free healthcare for all citizens by revising Article 8. It would place a constitutional duty on the state to provide comprehensive



Abdulwahid Qarata, MP

healthcare services, including prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. The amendment has already cleared committee-level approval.

The explanatory note argues that universal free healthcare would improve public health outcomes and reduce long-term costs on the state by encouraging early treatment and prevention.

The third amendment concerns housing. It would revise Article 9 to state that the state shall work to provide housing for citizens, strengthening constitutional protections for the right to housing. The proposal is still under review by the parliamentary committee.

Together, the three amendments aim to expand constitutional guarantees related to employment, health, and housing for Bahraini citizens.

Government Urges Rethink of Renewable Energy Bill



Shura Council

TDI | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

The government has asked the Shura Council to rethink a draft renewable energy law, saying its main rules already exist and that a new stand-alone law could muddy the running of Bahrain's power sector.

The bill, drawn from a Shura Council proposal, would regulate power produced from renewable sources, link generation units to the electricity distribution network, widen the use of clean energy, cut consumption and curb carbon emissions.

In its memorandum, the government said the proposal overlaps with a 2017 ministerial decision regulating the connection of renewable energy units to the Electricity and Water Authority's distribution network.

That decision, it said, already deals with connection procedures, technical and adminis-

trative rules, the duties of each side, service charges, network safety, measuring output and exporting surplus power to the grid.

The government said renewable energy was a fast-moving field better handled through flexible decisions and by-laws, rather than a separate statute that might have to be changed again and again as technology, network rules and pricing methods shift.

It also pointed to another bill before Parliament on the electricity and water sector, including power production, warning that a separate renewable energy law could create parallel rules and blur powers.

A proposed customs exemption also drew concern. The bill would exempt all renewable energy systems, devices, equipment and inputs from customs duties. The government said this may clash with the GCC customs union, which applies a common tariff and does not allow each member state to grant exemptions on its own.

Feed-in tariffs and any duty

to buy renewable electricity could also carry costs for the power system and the state budget, the memorandum said. Such steps, it added, should be tested through economic and technical studies before being written into law.

The government also said the draft blurs the split between the ministry and the authority. The ministry would handle policy, strategy, yearly connection limits and technical rules, while the authority would manage connection terms, agreements and oversight of producers.

That split, the memorandum said, could lead in practice to doubled decision-making or uncertainty over who is answerable for what.

It also said the draft does not spell out enough rules on who can qualify or be licensed as a producer. Without clear technical and financial tests, the government warned, unfit operators could enter the field, with possible risks to the electricity network and consumers.

CONCERNS RAISED OVER DRAFT RENEWABLE ENERGY LAW

- Unclear funding for grid upgrades as producer capacity increases
- Weak provisions on data governance and digital platform protection
- The bill includes 21 articles on the renewable energy framework and grid rules
- Establishes electronic platform and requires prior connection approval
- Defines producer duties, complaints system, and fines up to BD10,000
- Government supports renewable energy goals under Bahrain Vision 2030
- Calls for stronger legal alignment and avoidance of duplication
- Shura Council asked to review and revise the draft law

No more fuel runs: Relief for Zallaq fishermen

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

For years, fishermen in Zallaq have had to make long trips just to refuel their boats—a routine that could soon end. A dedicated boat fuel station at Zallaq harbour is nearing completion and is expected to open within days, offering a long-awaited solution for those who rely on the sea for their livelihood.

Southern Municipal Council member Hamad Al Zaabi, representing the Ninth Constituency, said the project is technically complete and awaits final procedures before becoming operational. He described the station as a much-needed addition to marine services along Bahrain's western coast, serving fishing boats, leisure vessels, and sea-goers.

Until now, fishermen have



been forced to travel to distant fuel stations, including Awali, often transporting large quantities of fuel over long distances. Al Zaabi said the new facility will not only reduce costs and save time but also improve safety by limiting the need to transport fuel in unsuitable

containers — a practice that can pose serious risks in the event of leaks or accidents.

The project is also expected to boost fishing activity and support marine movement in the western region, addressing a demand fishermen have raised for years.

Karbabad coast next to Bahrain Fort set for development under approved plan



Conceptual image of the project

A major coastal area next to Bahrain Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is set for development after the Capital Trustees Board approved a new plan for the Karbabad coast.

The proposal, submitted by Municipal Council member Abdulhasan Hasan Abbas, was endorsed during the council session and covers the government-owned plot adjacent to the historic site.

The project aims to enhance the coastal environment through landscaping, seating areas and solar-powered lighting, which will improve the visitor experience while preserving the site's cultural and historical identity.

Authorities stressed that all work will comply with conditions set by the Tourism Ministry and the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, ensuring the site's visual integrity remains protected.

Officials said the project aims to support tourism, encourage social and recreational activities, meet residents' needs, preserve the site's historical significance, and contribute to the broader development of Bahrain's coastal areas.

The decision was approved unanimously, reflecting strong institutional backing for the project.

Capital Municipality Handles Over 600 Rain Reports During Heavy Downpour

Council members commended the rapid response efforts as teams worked around the clock to clear flooded areas.

TDT | Manama
Ghadeer Alkumaish

The Capital Municipality responded to more than 600 rain-related reports during the heavy rainfall that affected Bahrain, launching an extensive operation to remove water accumulation and minimise disruptions across affected areas.

Despite remote working arrangements implemented during the weather event, municipality teams remained fully operational, receiving reports through telephone calls, WhatsApp and the operations room to ensure a swift response to residents' concerns.

Capital Municipality engineer Yousif Albanna said response teams were mobilised immedi-

ately to deal with water accumulation in public spaces and residential areas, with crews working continuously throughout the rainfall period.

The operation was aimed at maintaining public safety, improving accessibility and reducing the impact of flooding on residents and road users in the affected communities.

A total of 16 pumps, 20 water tankers and 14 employees were deployed as part of the emergency response effort. Teams removed 3,267 tanker loads of rainwater and drained approximately 420 open areas. The most affected locations were Sitra, Al Daih and Sanad.

Engineer Yousif added that municipality crews also removed overgrown grass and vegetation



in several locations to prevent mosquito breeding and reduce potential health risks following the rainfall.

The municipality continues to

enhance its preparedness and response capabilities to deal with future weather events, building on the experience and expertise of its field teams, many of whom have between 15 and 20 years of service.

The President and members of the Capital Municipality Council expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the municipality and its field teams in responding to the heavy rainfall and addressing public reports. Capital Municipality Council member

Engineer Hoda Farag said that response times have become noticeably faster compared to previous years, reflecting ongoing improvements in the quality and efficiency of municipal services.



Your Summer Starts Here : The Ultimate Guide to Dining, Drinks and Entertainment at Hilton Bahrain

As summer heats up in Bahrain, so does the city's social scene—and a few places offer as many ways to dine, unwind, and celebrate as Hilton Bahrain. From rooftop brunches and themed dining nights to laid-back café moments and vibrant entertainment, the hotel has become a one-stop destination for memorable summer experiences.

Perched on the 44th floor, CLAW BBQ Bahrain is where summer evenings come alive. With panoramic views of Bahrain's skyline, the venue combines bold American flavors with a lively atmosphere and a calendar packed with weekly experiences. Guests can enjoy Happy Hour from opening until 8:00 PM, Saturday through Thursday, with selected beverages starting from just BHD 2.

Mondays are reserved for Ladies Night, where ladies can enjoy complimentary drinks, ex-



clusive discounts, and sharing platters from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM. Taco lovers can head to CLAW every Tuesday from 6:00 PM until midnight for unlimited tacos and margaritas for BHD 16, while Wednesdays bring "Wednesday Madness," featuring two hours of unlimited selected beverages for BHD 12.5 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

The venue's popular Friday Brunch runs from 12:30 PM to

4:00 PM, with packages starting from BHD 24, followed by an after-party Happy Hour until 6:00 PM. Hospitality professionals can also look forward to Sunday Hangover Diaries, offering two hours of unlimited selected beverages for BHD 12.5 from 4:00 PM onwards.

For guests seeking a culinary journey, Origin Kitchen & Culture offers experiences from morning through evening. Start



the day with the restaurant's breakfast buffet, available Sunday to Friday from 6:30 AM to 11:00 AM and until 11:30 AM on Saturdays, priced at BHD 13 net.

As evening arrives, the restaurant transforms into a destination for themed dining. Every Wednesday from 7:00 PM to 10:30 PM, Pan Asian Night invites guests to explore the diverse flavors of Asia, complete with live karaoke from 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM. The experience is available



for BHD 26 with soft beverages. Seafood enthusiasts can indulge in Seafood Night every Thursday from 7:00 PM to 10:30 PM, priced at BHD 30 with soft beverages.

For those looking to relax after a busy day, Cocoluna Lounge offers an elegant setting to socialize and unwind. Open from 5:00 PM to midnight Sunday through Wednesday and from noon un-

til midnight Thursday through Saturday, the lounge provides a stylish backdrop for summer gatherings.

Meanwhile, Society Club continues to energize Bahrain's nightlife scene with its popular Afro Night experiences, bringing together music lovers and partygoers in a vibrant atmosphere.

Guests seeking a quieter escape can visit Lamar Café & Lounge, open daily from 7:00 AM until midnight. Whether it's a morning coffee, a casual meeting, or an evening catch-up, Lamar offers a welcoming space to enjoy the season at a slower pace.

This summer, Hilton Bahrain invites guests to discover a collection of experiences designed for every taste and occasion. Whether you're planning a rooftop brunch with friends, a midweek dining adventure, or a relaxed café visit, Hilton Bahrain offers countless ways to make the season one to remember.

Bahrain Calls for Stronger Laws to Boost Women in Politics

Building Gender-Sensitive Parliaments is No Longer Optional

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

Bahrain's voice rang clear at one of the world's most important gatherings on women's political rights. MP Mohammed Al-Rifai, representing the Bahrain Parliamentary Division, used his address at the 2026 Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians in Belgrade, Serbia, to call on nations to do more—through laws, policies, and parliamentary cooperation—to bring women fully into political life and decision-making.

Speaking during the fifth session of the conference, held from June 1 to 4 under the theme "Gender-Sensitive Parliaments Promote Societies Free from Stereotypes," Al-Rifai argued that parliaments must go beyond passing laws. They must also use their oversight authority and public influence to reshape how societies think about gender, leadership, and equal representation.



resentation.

Al-Rifai highlighted the tangible progress Bahrain has made under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Crown Prince and Prime Minister His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. Women today actively serve in both the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives, occupy seats on key committees, and hold leadership positions.

Most notably, Bahrain made

history when a woman served as Speaker of the Council of Representatives during the Fifth Legislative Term—a milestone that speaks louder than any policy statement.

He also called on parliaments globally to share knowledge and expertise, stressing that no country needs to solve this challenge alone. Building inclusive legislative institutions, he said, is a shared international responsibility that benefits every society.



"Sustainable development cannot be achieved without a genuine and balanced partnership between women and men"

- MP MOHAMMED AL-RIFAI

Shura Council Finance Committee Completes a Packed Legislative Season

Shura Council Financial and Economic Committee wrapped up one of its most productive sessions on record, delivering 30 reports, reviewing 22 legislative items, and issuing 8 financial and economic opinions — all in a single session.

Chaired by H.E. Khalid Hussain Al Maskati, the committee held 27 meetings throughout the fourth session of the sixth legislative term, working through a wide-ranging legislative agenda that touched nearly every corner of Bahrain's economy.

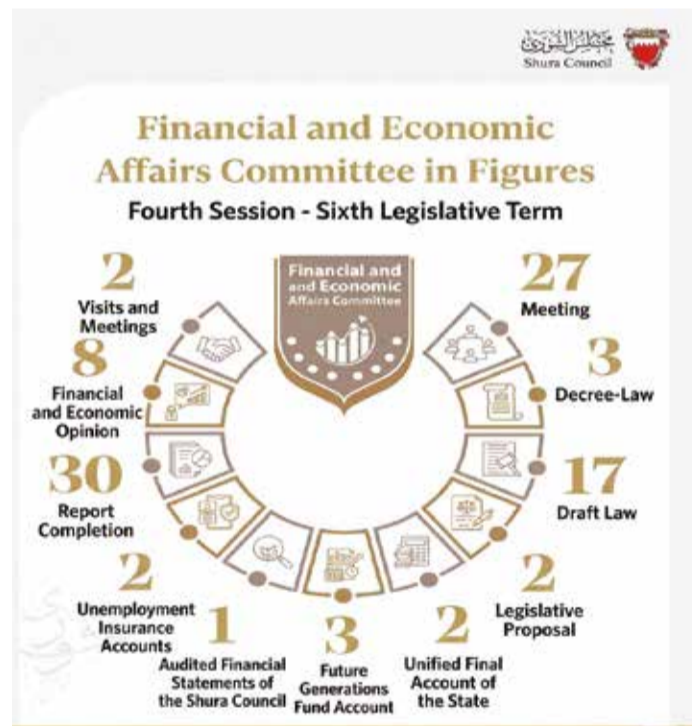
Among the 22 legislative items reviewed were three decrees by law covering the Central Bank of Bahrain, the Commercial Companies Law, and the concession agreement for the Jubail and Pre-Khuff formations at Bahrain Field. The committee also scrutinised 17 draft laws spanning secured transactions, pension and retirement



H.E. Mr. Khalid Hussain Al Maskati

regulations, social insurance, consumer protection, industrial zones, private education, external auditors, the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the unified GCC excise tax framework.

On the financial accountability side, the committee examined public accounts for multiple fiscal years — including the consolidated state final accounts, the Future Generations Reserve Fund, the Unemployment Insurance Fund, and the Shura Council's own audited financial statements. Budget execution



reports and transfers between budgetary accounts were also reviewed, reflecting a thorough approach to financial oversight.

LMRA Launches Faster Digital Service for Labour Supply Licences

TDT | Manama

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) has launched a revamped digital service for issuing labour supply agency licences, aimed at cutting processing times and simplifying procedures as part of Bahrain's wider government service reforms.

The updated system introduces a two-stage process covering initial approval and final licence issuance. The licence allows agencies to supply workers to

third parties for a set period or for specific tasks without direct supervision from the supplier.

According to LMRA, the processing time has been reduced from 20 working days to 15, while service level agreements have been shortened by at least 25 per cent. The application process has also been streamlined to a maximum of four steps, with standardised information now available across official platforms.

Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Arabi, Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Services and Business at the



LMRA, said the initiative reflects the authority's focus on digital transformation and improving service efficiency.

He said the redesigned service is intended to make procedures easier for businesses while supporting Bahrain's broader efforts to enhance the competitiveness of the labour market.

Al-Arabi added that the reforms aim to reduce both time and effort for service users while improving the system's overall efficiency.

The initiative forms part of a wider government programme to modernise public services, with more than 1,300 services documented and over 800 upgraded across various sectors.

Learning Gets a Digital Boost

Teacher's Digital Platform Makes Science More Engaging for 500 Students



TDT | Manama
Neethu V.

More than 500 students have benefited from a digital platform created by science teacher Hussein Jaafar Abdulaali at Awal Primary Intermediate Boys School, turning classroom learning into a more interactive and rewarding experience.

The platform supports science lessons through a points-based system that encourages students to participate in class, complete homework, maintain positive behaviour and take part in educational projects and initiatives.

Students earn points for their achievements and move through different levels, creating a friendly sense of competition. Those with the highest scores are recognised for their efforts.

Abdulaali said the idea was developed to boost students' motivation and make learning more enjoyable. Since its launch during the 2023-2024 academic year, the platform has helped increase engagement inside the classroom.

"The student collects points through classroom participation, positive behaviour, homework and educational initia-



The initiative is part of the Ministry of Education's Digital Empowerment in Education Programme, which aims to strengthen digital skills and encourage innovation in government schools across Bahrain.

tives," he said. "As they earn more points, they progress to higher levels, while top performers are celebrated."

The platform also includes an online store where students can redeem rewards, as well as a space to showcase their projects and initiatives, encouraging creativity and innovation.

Built using programming languages including PHP, HTML, CSS and JavaScript, the platform also incorporates artificial intelligence tools to help improve coding and enhance its features. Cybersecurity measures have been integrated to ensure a safe digital environment for users.

Verdict Delayed in Mother-Son Arson Case

79-year-old mother insists on pursuing the case despite reconciliation attempts

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

The court postponed its verdict until June 15 in the case of a 48-year-old man accused of setting fire to his mother's home, after reconciliation efforts were firmly rejected by the 79-year-old victim.

During proceedings, the court attempted to settle the dispute amicably, but the mother insisted on continuing the case and pursuing a final ruling.

The incident dates back to April 9, 2026, when a fire broke out in the ground-floor living room of the shared family home. Civil Defence reports indicated significant damage and suggested the blaze was likely intentional.

In her testimony, the mother told the court that her son, who suffers from drug addiction, had threatened to burn the house after a dispute ear-

lier that day. She said she had earlier taken him to settle a phone bill despite financial difficulties, and later advised him to find work and avoid trouble, which allegedly triggered his anger.

She further stated that he returned home, repeated the threats, and prevented her from entering the house. Concerned for her granddaughter who was inside, she went to file a police complaint.

While at the police station, a neighbour informed her that a fire had broken out. She returned with officers to find the living room ablaze, though the fire was brought under control before Civil Defence teams arrived.

The mother estimated the damage at around BD 500, including repairs and damaged furniture.

The court will announce its verdict at the next hearing on June 15.

UAE, Bahrain Boost Financial Partnership

Bahraini delegation briefed on UAE Central Bank's digital transformation



The Governor of the Central Bank of the UAE, Khaled Mohamed Balama, received his Bahraini counterpart, Khalid Ibrahim Humaidan, Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), at the Central Bank's headquarters in Abu Dhabi.

The two governors discussed ways to strengthen their strategic partnership, improve banking coordination, share expertise, and advance financial innovation—all aimed at supporting economic growth, trade, and investment between the two nations.

The Bahraini delegation toured the UAE Central Bank's key departments, gaining first-hand insight into its digital

transformation initiatives, financial infrastructure development, and best practices in financial stability.

The Governor of the Central Bank of the UAE described the meeting as a reflection of the deep ties between the UAE and Bahrain, calling it "a vital platform to develop financial and monetary coordination frameworks that support stability and boost trade and investment."

Khalid Ibrahim Humaidan, Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), echoed the sentiment, saying the visit embodies the brotherly bonds between both nations and their shared commitment to mutual prosperity.

Hormuz Blockade 'Threatens World Peace'

Shipping Industry Faces Uncertainty Amid Gulf Maritime Disputes

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Closing or restricting the Strait of Hormuz would breach international law and strike at world peace, legal expert and Shura Council member Ali Al Aradi has warned, saying the waterway does not fall under the rule of any one state.

He said any bid to block ships, levy charges or impose selective curbs in the strait would run against the rules on transit passage under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Al Aradi said the issue went well beyond the Arabian Gulf, as nearly 20pc of world energy supplies pass through Hormuz, making freedom of passage there a matter for the wider world rather than the coastal states alone.

"The Strait of Hormuz is an international waterway subject to the principle of transit passage," he said. "It is not subject to the sovereignty of any single state, and no state may obstruct or restrict navigation through it."

He said the recent rise in tension around the strait had placed international law under



Ali Al Aradi, Shura Council member

a stern test, with attempts to impose a new reality in one of the world's busiest sea lanes raising deep legal and political questions.

The core point, he added, lay in the legal standing of a strait as opposed to a canal. A strait is a natural waterway linking two larger bodies of water, such as Hormuz or Bab Al Mandab. A canal, by contrast, is a man-made route built to ease shipping.

That split shapes the law. In-

ternational straits fall under the rules of the Law of the Sea Convention, which lays down the rights and duties of coastal states. Canals are mainly subject to the sovereignty of the state that built them, though their use can be curbed by treaty. He cited the Suez Canal, governed by the 1888 Convention, as an example of a man-made route whose closure or disruption is still bound by international undertakings.

Al Aradi said the Law of the Sea Convention also draws a clear line between innocent passage through a territorial sea and transit passage through an international strait. Territorial seas run 12 nautical miles from a state's coast, where the coastal state has room to regulate passage within the law.

Transit passage is different. In straits used for international navigation, ships, aircraft and submarines have the right to pass without added conditions. He said Hormuz, about 50 kilometres wide at its narrowest point, falls under that rule.

Any demand for money from ships crossing Hormuz, or any selective curbs on passage,



International law on maritime disputes can escalate from documentation to legal action through courts like the ICJ and ITLOS.

would be a clear breach of international law, he said. Such conduct could also be classed as economic coercion because of its direct bearing on world supply chains and energy markets.

He argued that unlawful toll-taking and the obstruction of shipping could, in some readings, also fall within the wider idea of piracy under international law.

KPMG and Anthropic sign global alliance powered by Claude

Exclusive alliance embeds Claude Cowork in KPMG's global client delivery platform starting with new capabilities for Tax & Legal clients.

● Anthropic names KPMG as a preferred consultant for Private Equity

● KPMG's 276,000+ global workforce provided access to Claude.



KPMG and Anthropic today announced a global alliance, bringing Anthropic's frontier AI directly into KPMG's client delivery platform. The alliance will initially focus on tax clients and private equity firms, enabling clients to build agentic workflows in real time to help drive better outcomes. KPMG will also embed Claude into its PE-focused product offerings, and the two organizations will co-develop new Claude-powered products for portfolio companies.

"At KPMG, we're innovating and redefining how work gets done," said Bill Thomas, Global Chairman and CEO,

KPMG International. "This global alliance with Anthropic reflects our shared commitment to responsible AI, prioritizing security, trust, and governance as KPMG firms scale these capabilities to our clients and people around the world."

"KPMG works in industries where accuracy, accountability, and trust aren't optional, and they're applying the same standard to AI. They're rolling Claude out to 276,000 people across the

business and using it for client work in tax and private equity. They're also bringing it into cybersecurity, where it helps find and fix vulnerabilities. That's what a firm-wide commitment to AI looks like, and we're proud to be the partner they chose," said Daniela Amodei, Co-founder and President of Anthropic.

"AI is transforming the way organizations operate, innovate, and create value. Our global alliance with Anthropic reflects KPMG's

continued commitment to helping clients harness the power of AI responsibly, securely, and with confidence. By combining Anthropic's advanced AI capabilities with KPMG's industry experience and trusted approach, we are enabling businesses to accelerate innovation, enhance decision making, and unlock new opportunities for growth across industries," said Jamal Fakhro, Managing partner, KPMG Bahrain.

The alliance brings together Anthropic's frontier AI, KPMG professionals' domain experience, and a shared commitment to security and trust in AI.

● **Claude Cowork and Managed Agents are integrated into KPMG's global technology platform**, built on Microsoft Azure, combining KPMG insights, proprietary tools, and client data in one environment. KPMG professionals already use the platform to build AI tools that support client delivery. With Claude integrated, professionals and clients

can work with AI directly within the platform, enabling new capabilities and real time innovation.

● **Value creation for Private Equity (PE) clients.** KPMG will be a preferred consultant for deploying Anthropic AI capabilities to PE clients, helping portfolio companies responsibly use Anthropic AI and agents to drive productivity gains and create new AI-driven products and services.

● **Modernizing work with Claude.** KPMG's 276,000 global workforce will have access to Anthropic's Claude suite of AI capabilities, building on the successful adoption of Claude across KPMG's Advisory, AI and Data Labs and enterprise support teams in the U.S. over the last two years. As part of the strategic alliance, KPMG and Anthropic will help shared clients reimagine their business functions and co-develop AI-enabled product offerings that will solve client challenges in ways that

were previously not possible. For example, the new portfolio of offerings for PE clients includes KPMG Blaze, which can embed Claude Code to help clients accelerate IT modernization, cut development lifecycles and enable faster delivery of AI-enabled technology systems.

"Our alliance with Anthropic brings together advanced AI capabilities and deep industry experience to help clients transform with confidence, strengthen operational efficiency, and responsibly accelerate innovation across their businesses. We are excited to take the power of this alliance to solve real client challenges through the use of AI" said Manav Prakash, Partner – Head of Management Consulting, KPMG Bahrain

Across the alliance, KPMG and Anthropic will embed cybersecurity, risk, and AI assurance into how AI systems and tools are designed and operated, with teams finding and fixing vulnerabilities and protecting critical systems. All work is guided by the KPMG Trusted AI framework.

Bahrain Bourse Signs Pledge of Allegiance to His Majesty the King

In line with its commitment to the values of loyalty and national belonging, Bahrain Bourse (BHB), a licensed exchange regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain, participated in signing the Pledge of Allegiance to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain. This participation reflects Bahrain Bourse's steadfast pride in the Kingdom's wise leadership and reaffirms its commitment to playing an active role in advancing the Kingdom's development and driving sustainable growth and progress across Bahrain.

The pledge was signed by Mr. Yusef Al-Yusef, Chairman of Bahrain Bourse, and Shaikh Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Bourse, alongside members of the executive management team and employees of Bahrain Bourse and Bahrain Clear.

Mr. Yusef Al-Yusef, Chairman of Bahrain Bourse, stated, "The Pledge of Allegiance reflects

the deep sense of national belonging shared by Bahrain Bourse and its employees. We are proud to reaffirm our support for His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the Kingdom's leadership, and we remain committed to contributing to Bahrain's continued development and success."



Shaikh Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Bourse, added, "This pledge represents a sincere expression of appreciation for His Majesty the King and the Kingdom's leadership. We take pride in our role in supporting Bahrain's economic development through the continuous development of the capital market."

The signing of the

pledge underscores the strong bond between Bahrain's institutions and its leadership, and reflects the dedication of Bahrain Bourse employees to the Kingdom's future.

This initiative also reaffirms Bahrain Bourse's commitment to supporting the Kingdom's aspirations under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and with the support and guidance of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Bahrain Chamber Welcomes Enhanced MSME Classification

The Bahrain Chamber welcomed the Cabinet's approval, during its regular weekly meeting chaired by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, of a draft resolution introducing an updated classification framework for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The new framework broadens the scope of support available to businesses and aligns with international standards, reflecting Bahrain's ongoing commitment to strengthening this vital sector's contribution to the national economy.

The Chamber emphasized that the revised classification criteria will enhance the effectiveness of policies and support programs by enabling the development of more targeted initiatives that address the evolving needs of enterprises at different stages of growth. This will help businesses expand, improve resilience, and enhance their competitiveness.

The Chamber noted that MSMEs represent approximately 93.4% of Bahrain's



active commercial registrations, totaling nearly 85,700 businesses, and provide employment opportunities for more than 47,000 Bahrainis. These figures underscore the sector's significant role in driving economic growth, innovation, and entrepreneurship, and highlight the importance of maintaining a supportive regulatory and

legislative environment.

The Chamber noted that aligning the MSME classification framework with international standards will expand access to financing and support programs, strengthen integration into value chains, and enhance productivity. It also highlighted the establishment of its SME Support Depart-

ment to address business needs and improve private sector competitiveness. The Chamber commended the continued support of His Majesty the King and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, which has reinforced the sector's role in driving economic development and sustainable growth in Bahrain.

Zain Bahrain Announces the third Winner of "Zain Mega Contest 7"



Zain Bahrain proudly announced the first two winners of its highly anticipated Zain Mega Contest Season 7, which runs until 9 June 2026. The lucky winner, Abdulhusain Ali H.Ali, received a brand-new Audi Q2, marking an exciting start to this season's grand prizes.

Zain Bahrain customers have the chance to win 4 Audi Q2 cars and travel vouchers worth BD 18,000. By subscribing to the Zain Mega Contest for only 0.250 BHD per day, participants can answer five daily questions and receive 100MB of free data.

Subscribe today for a chance to win amazing prizes by visiting contest.bh.zain.com or by dialing *200#.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

**DON'T WALK IN FRONT OF ME... I MAY NOT FOLLOW
DON'T WALK BEHIND ME... I MAY NOT LEAD
WALK BESIDE ME... JUST BE MY FRIEND**
ALBERT CAMUS

When the world flips over



A man walks past the 'Upside Down House', an attraction located on the Promenade in central Blackpool, north-west England.

Netanyahu downplays row with Trump

● **Netanyahu downplayed the dispute in an interview with US television channel CNBC**

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu downplayed yesterday a row with US President Donald Trump, saying they both were aligned on the goal of disarming Hezbollah in order to achieve peace between Israel and Lebanon.

Netanyahu downplayed the dispute in an interview with US television channel CNBC, saying he and Trump were on the same page when it came to tackling Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

Hezbollah "is an Iranian proxy that puts all the citizens of Lebanon at gunpoint and uses Lebanon as a platform to launch terror missiles into our cities, to launch killer drones against our civilians", Netanyahu said in the interview.

"And so if we want to save

Lebanon, if we want to get a Lebanese-Israeli peace, as I do, we have to disarm Hezbollah and we have to demilitarise Lebanon. And I know that this is a goal that the president and I share, and that's what we have to do."

Netanyahu told his CNBC interviewer that he and Trump had always "found a way" to move forward, declining to elaborate on the details of their conversation.

"We have so many agreements, we agree on the main things," he said.

"You have these tactical disagreements. We always find a way to work them out, and we do so as great friends. We can disagree in the morning, and by the afternoon, we have common action," he said.

When asked whether his relationship with Trump had changed, Netanyahu said: "No".

"This has been a great relationship, because he's been the greatest friend that Israel has ever had in the White House," he said.

"He respects me. I respect him. We always find a way to work out our differences."

Rubio brushes off Trump mental acuity concerns as 'absurd'

● **Rubio was shown several video clips where Trump, 79, is seen with his eyes apparently closed while Rubio spoke beside him**

AFP | Washington, United States

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio yesterday brushed off suggestions that President Donald Trump was regularly dozing off during Cabinet meetings, as questions persist over the health of the oldest US president ever inaugurated.

Testifying during a congressional hearing, Rubio was shown several video clips where Trump, 79, is seen with his eyes apparently closed while Rubio spoke beside him.

"I don't even know how to respond to that, other than to

tell you that it's absurd and ridiculous," Rubio told the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

"You may not like his policies, you may not like the decisions he's made. But I assure you, this is not a president that sleeps or is cognitively impaired in any way, shape, or form," Rubio added. "And in fact is incredibly active, much more so in many cases than much younger people that are around him. Those are facts."

Rubio defended Trump, saying the US leader works non-stop and gets very little sleep.

"I talk to him at all hours of the day and night. He works inhumane hours," Rubio said.

Trump's doctors declared him to be in "excellent health," after his latest check-up last week, but advised him to lose weight.

Trump has maintained a lighter public schedule in recent months than he did at the start of his second term.

X
TOP 3 TWEETS
01

El Niño is arriving on our doorstep in the coming months with 90% certainty. The world must treat it as the urgent climate warning it is. The only effective response is #ClimateAction equal to the crisis - ending the addiction to fossil fuels, accelerating the shift to renewables, protecting the most vulnerable, and delivering early warning systems for all.
@antonioguterres

02

Cabinet approval for a one-time support mechanism to ensure greater stability in ATF prices for Indian airlines will help maintain affordable air connectivity, support airline operations and reduce the burden on passengers. It will also strengthen connectivity to Tier-II and Tier-III cities, support tourism and employment.
@narendramodi

03

Today, a @WHO team, alongside @MinSanterDC responders, visited Kigonzi camp in Bunia, which hosts internally displaced people.

The #Ebola response in Ituri operates within a severe humanitarian crisis. The latest @UNOCHA figures show that 980,000 people are displaced across the province, compounding vulnerabilities as teams respond to the outbreak.

What our teams assessed today was good community leadership and high awareness of Ebola risks.
@DrTedros

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

'Like to meet' Khamenei

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump said Wednesday he hopes to meet Iran's supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei, as Washington and Tehran accuse each other of violating an increasingly fragile ceasefire.

Mojtaba Khamenei, 56, is thought to have been wounded in US-Israeli strikes that killed his father, Ali Khamenei, and has not been seen in public since he was named his successor.

"I would like to meet him, and we probably will meet at

"I'm not hearing he's doing great. If you believe the stories, he's missing a lot of different parts. They say he is giving approval"

some point, depending on how it all works out," the US president told the New York Post's "Pod Force One" podcast.

Trump added that Khamenei was "involved, absolutely"

when asked about the Iranian cleric's health.

"I'm not hearing he's doing great," Trump said. "If you believe the stories, he's missing a lot of different parts."

"They say he is giving approval," he added.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told a Congressional panel on Tuesday that Mojtaba Khamenei is alive and increasingly active.

"I think there are indications out there that he is increasingly engaging at some level," Rubio told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Trump admits using foul language with Netanyahu

Israeli media have rejected the account of the conversation



● **Trump unleashed the profane tirade over Israel's threats to bomb the Lebanese capital Beirut**

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump has confirmed a tense exchange with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in which he reportedly berated his close ally with expletives.

In an interview published Wednesday in the New York Post, Trump was asked about the conversation he had with

Netanyahu over the phone on Monday.

"You said, 'Are you f--- crazy? What are you f--- doing? I helped you stay out of jail.' Is that true? Did you speak to him in those terms?" the interviewer asked.

"I did," Trump responded. "I was a little bit perturbed at his constantly fighting with Lebanon."

"I said, 'Bibi, we gotta stop this.'"

Trump went on to say he had a "very good relationship" with Netanyahu. "We've done well together... I like Bibi a lot."

Trump unleashed the profane tirade over Israel's threats to bomb the Lebanese capital Beirut, fearing it would under-

mine talks with Tehran to end the war in the Middle East, the Axios news outlet and ABC News reported.

The exchange underscored the shaky ties between two right-wing allies who started the war by launching an attack on Iran in late February that spread to Israel striking Lebanon.

Israeli media have rejected the account of the conversation.

A White House official referred AFP to Trump's Truth Social posts from Monday in which he thanked Netanyahu for what he said was an agreement to pull troops back from Beirut. Iran had reportedly halted peace talks because of Israel's attacks on Lebanon.

1760

The Great Upheaval: New England planters arrive in Nova Scotia, Canada, to claim land taken from the Acadians

1940

British complete the "Miracle of Dunkirk" by evacuating 338,226 Allied troops from France via a flotilla of over 800 vessels, including Royal Navy destroyers, merchant marine boats, fishing boats, pleasure craft, and even lifeboats



1989

Eastern Europe's first partially free elections in 40 years are held in Poland, Solidarity Party comes to power

2023

Ukrainian counteroffensive begins with increased fighting in the east and south of the country

New Delhi hotel blaze kills 21, including foreigners



Forensics team members take photographs of the site following a fire that broke out at a hotel in New Delhi

Several of those killed were foreigners, mainly from Central Asia and Africa

Some 47 guests were in the hotel when the fire broke out

The blaze was eventually brought under control with the help of eight fire engines

AFP | New Delhi, India

A fire ripped through a hotel in New Delhi yesterday, killing at least 21 people, many of them foreign nationals, police and local media said.

The fire broke out in the morning at Flourish Stay, a bed-and-breakfast in a congested neighbourhood in the south of the city, Delhi Police said in a statement.

"It is with profound sorrow that 21 persons have been de-

clared dead in this tragic incident," police said.

Several of those killed were foreigners, mainly from Central Asia and Africa, the Press Trust of India news agency reported, quoting unnamed officials.

Many of them had come to the city for medical treatment, according to local media reports.

Authorities said more than 40 people were taken to hospitals for treatment.

Eight were in a critical condition, according to a statement by a nearby hospital.

Indian television channels showed flames leaping from the building and thick plumes of black smoke rising into the sky.

Some 47 guests were in the hotel when the fire broke out, local lawmaker Satish Upadhyay told reporters.

Locals rushed to the site, as firefighters worked to douse the blaze and ambulances arrived to transport the injured.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called the deaths "tragic".

"My condolences to those who have lost their loved ones,"

his office said in a statement.

'Jumped from the building'

Some reports suggested the hotel had just one door for entry and exit and lacked proper ventilation.

"An inquiry will be conducted, and anyone who has broken norms and is responsible will be immediately arrested," Upadhyay said.

Some people trapped on the upper floors of the building jumped onto mattresses laid out by on the street outside, said eyewitnesses.

"We got mattresses from a nearby bedding shop because people needed to be rescued," Mohammad Anees, a local resident, told AFP.

"Once the mattresses were laid out, five women jumped from the building and landed safely on them."

The blaze was eventually brought under control with the help of eight fire engines, police said.

The cause of the fire, one of the deadliest blazes in the Indian capital in recent years, was not immediately clear.

Rubio hopeful for action plan on Israel-Lebanon

Washington, United States

US Secretary Marco Rubio voiced hope yesterday that the latest round of talks in Washington between Israel and Lebanon will produce a security roadmap, despite Israel and Hezbollah's continuing hostilities.

Israeli and Lebanese envoys meeting Wednesday for the fourth round of direct talks in the US capital "hopefully today will... produce a joint statement and an action plan on the track for security in that country, independent from Hezbollah," Rubio told a congressional panel. The negotiations come days after US President Donald Trump said the two countries had pledged to de-escalate.

Sri Lanka care home fire kills five: police

Colombo, Sri Lanka

A fire swept through an elder care home in Sri Lanka yesterday, killing at least five residents, police said, with six others missing. Firefighters called to the facility in Batagoda, south of the capital Colombo, found the charred remains of the five dead. Police said rescuers and locals were able to evacuate 44 residents from the facility, which was completely destroyed in the blaze.

Several people were hospitalised for smoke inhalation.

"We have called forensic teams to investigate the cause of the fire," a police officer at the scene told reporters.

Fire accidents are rare in Sri Lanka. Four people were killed in a gas station fire in April last year.

Netanyahu says Iran 'playing with fire'

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

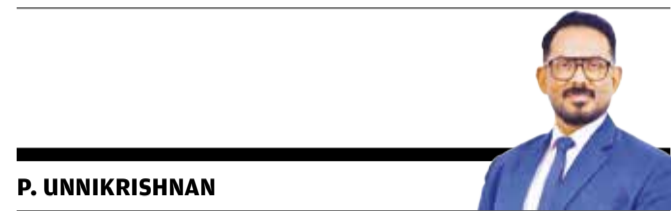
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday that Iran was "playing with fire" after the Islamic republic carried out an attack on Kuwait.

"Iran surely knows what the (US) president has said, that if necessary, there'll be a full-scale return to military action," Netanyahu said in an interview with US channel CNBC when asked if there was still a ceasefire following recent attacks on Kuwait and Bahrain.

"You know, it's the president's decision. Israel is ready and the US forces are ready. I think Iran should take that into account. I think they are taking it into account but they're playing with fire, that's clear."

U-TURN WITH UK

Why Are We Still Trapped in an Uneven Calendar?



P. UNNIKRISHNAN

"What is the date today?" someone asked. "It is 03rd June," I replied.

"No, I mean what day?" I checked my phone and said, "Wednesday." That small office conversation made me think. Why do some months have 31 days, some 30, and February only 28? Why should salaries, holidays, school terms, business targets and accounting cycles be built around such an uneven system?

January has 31 days. February has 28. March has 31. April has 30. The pattern is confusing, and most of us simply accept it because the whole world accepts it.

But what if life could be simpler?

Imagine a calendar with 13 months, each having exactly 28 days.

That means: 13 months × 28 days = 364 days

Each month would have exactly four weeks. The first day of every month could always fall on the same weekday. If the 1st is Monday, then the 7th would always be Sunday, the 14th would be Sunday, the 21st would be Sunday, and the 28th would be Sunday. Every month would follow the same pattern.

Planning would become beautifully simple.

Schools could create equal terms and timetables. Companies could manage equal salary cycles. Banks could make monthly comparisons more easily. Businesses would have the same number of working days and weekends every month. Families could remember birthdays and anniversaries more easily.

Even birthdays would become more meaningful. Many people remember the date they were born, but not the day. In a 13-month calendar, if someone was born on a Thursday, their birthday would fall on a Thursday every year. There is something charming about that. A person born on Thursday would always celebrate on Thursday.

Of course, there is one issue. A year is not exactly 364 days. It is about 365.2422 days. That extra fraction is the reason we have leap years. If we ignore it, over many centuries, summer and winter would slowly shift to different parts of the calendar.

But the solution is not impossible. After 13 months of 28 days, we would have one extra day in a normal year. That day could be celebrated as a special global holiday — perhaps a Happy Year Day — outside the regular months and weeks.

For example:

Month 13, Day 28

Then: Happy New Year's Day

Then: New Year begins

In a leap year, we could add one more special day.

The present calendar may have been created long before electricity, computers, smartphones and artificial intelligence. Yet, even with all our technology and innovation, we remain hooked to this old structure. It is like running modern life on an ancient operating system.

The real problem is not mathematics. The real problem is habit. When the world gets used to something, we stop questioning it. We accept it because everyone else accepts it. We rarely ask whether the system is logical, fair or efficient.

Changing the calendar would not be easy. Governments, companies, banks, schools, airlines, software systems and religious institutions would all have to adjust. The world's entire backend, from payroll to passports, is connected to the calendar.

But that does not mean we should never ask the question. If a system is confusing, unequal and outdated, should we continue using it forever simply because we inherited it? Or should we at least have the courage to imagine something better?

A calendar with 13 equal months may sound like a dream today. But many ideas that once sounded impossible later became normal.

Sometimes, progress begins with a simple question:

Why are we still doing it this way?

(P. Unnikrishnan is the Chairperson and Managing Director of the Daily Tribune.)

Vance, Rubio fuel 2028 White House buzz

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump thinks the two Republicans most likely to jockey to succeed him would make an unbeatable ticket if they run together, he told an interviewer yesterday.

Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio are both widely seen as strong contenders to run for the 2028 Republican presidential nomination -- and as rivals.

"I like them both. I like them together," Trump said on the New York Post podcast "Pod Force One," adding: "I don't know how you beat them if they're together."

The two men would have to agree to it but "they get along really well," Trump

mused.

He did not venture to say who should be at the top of the ticket.

Neither



man has officially declared his intention to run, and Rubio, 54, has publicly said that the vice president is a friend and insisted that he would not run in 2028 if Vance is a candidate.

Recent polls suggest that Vance and Rubio are nearly tied among Republican voters.

Last month, Rubio attracted buzz for confidently handling a White House press briefing, fielding questions on Iran, Cuba and China with a relaxed style and dashes of humor -- and little of the invective that Trump often unleashes in his briefing room appearances.

France, Britain extend 'one in, one out' migration deal

AFP | Paris, France

France and Britain have extended a "one-in, one-out" migrant swap deal until the start of October, a French minister said yesterday.

The scheme came into force in September last year and enables the UK to deport some of the migrants who are deemed not to have a right to stay after landing on its shores.

In return, Britain accepts an equal number of migrants from France who are likely to have their asylum claim granted, giving priority to nationalities most vulnerable to smugglers and those with ties to the UK.

"It has been decided with our British partner to extend this agreement until October 1, 2026," France's minister delegate for Europe, Emmanuel Haddad, told a parliamentary committee.

"As of May 1, there had been 606 readmissions t

Trump to attend upcoming NATO summit in Turkey

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump will attend the NATO summit in Turkey in July, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said yesterday, amid lingering questions about Washington's commitment to the security alliance.

"The President himself will be attending the next NATO meeting of heads of state, where all these points will be made clear," Rubio told the House Foreign Affairs Committee, referring to the July 7-8 conference in Ankara. "We're still in NATO, but NATO needs significant changes."

Rubio described the summit as "probably the most important meeting in NATO's history."

OECD cuts 2026 global growth forecasts over Mideast war fallout

AFP | Paris, France

The war in the Middle East has dented economic growth prospects worldwide, with a more severe shock likely if no effective ceasefire is agreed before 2027, the OECD warned Wednesday.

Global economic growth is now forecast to slip to 2.8% for 2026 if Gulf exports of oil and gas return to pre-conflict levels in the third quarter, the group of 38 industrialised countries said in its quarterly update.

Previously the OECD had forecast full-year global growth of 2.9%.

But if the Mideast war continues into next year, however, global growth could slow to 2.1%, the OECD said -- well below the average annual growth of 3.4% seen from 2013 to 2019, before the Covid pandemic.

"The longer the disruptions last, the larger the economic and social costs become," the group's chief economist Stefano Scarpetta said in the report.

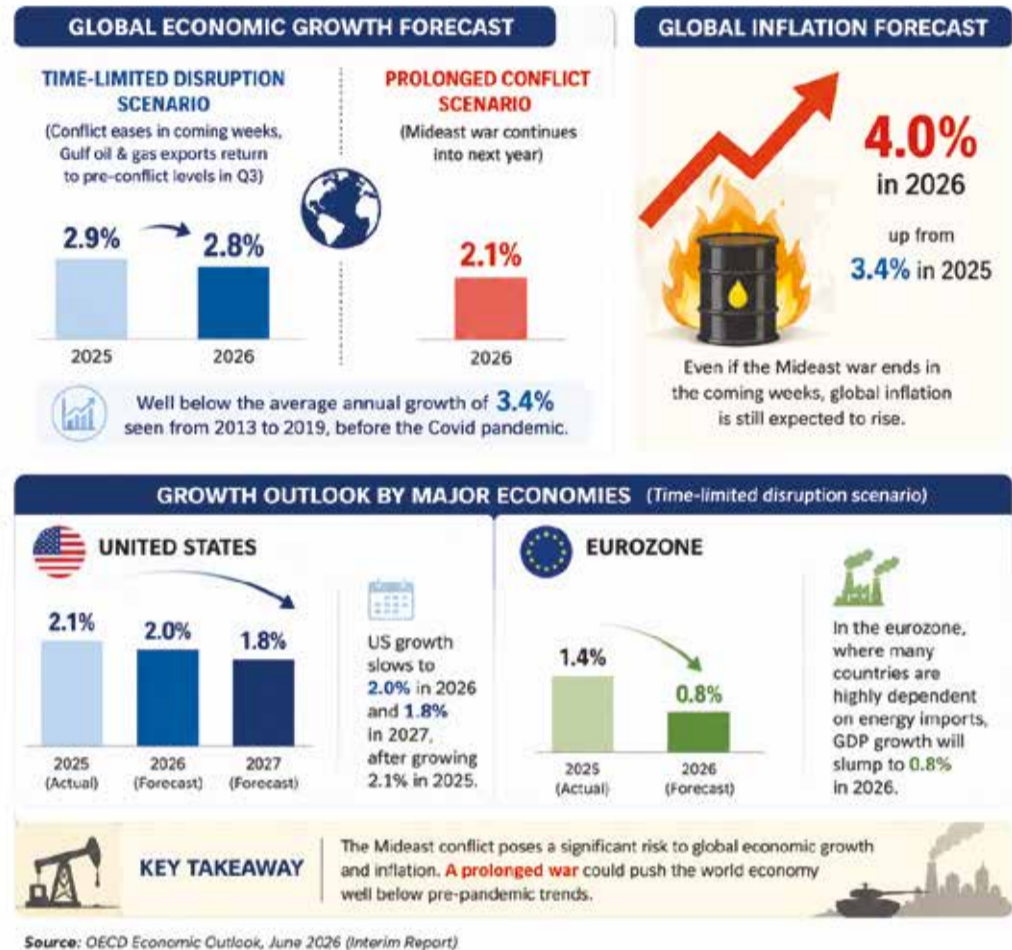
Many countries would risk falling into recession, he noted, and a drop in investment spending -- "including in energy-intensive AI" -- would likely push up unemployment.

Sustained high prices for energy as well as fertiliser and other key products from hydrocarbon production in the Gulf would weigh especially hard on developing countries that have "higher shares of energy and food in household consumption".

Even if the war sparked by US and Israeli strikes on Iran in late February ends in the coming

OECD FORECAST: GLOBAL GROWTH AT RISK

Mideast conflict could drag global economy well below pre-pandemic levels



weeks, the OECD forecast global inflation rising to 4.0% this year from 3.4% in 2025.

In this "time-limited disruption scenario", the group ex-

pects US growth to slow to 2.0% this year and 1.8% in 2027, after growing 2.1% last year.

In the eurozone, where many countries are highly dependent

on energy imports, GDP growth will slump to 0.8% this year after 1.4% last year, assuming a Mideast ceasefire is secured in the coming weeks.

South Korea's ruling party heads for local election sweep

AFP | Seoul, South Korea

South Korea's ruling Democratic Party is poised to dominate local elections held yesterday, leading in all but three

metropolitan races, official data shows.

The Democratic Party was leading in 13 of 16 metropolitan mayoral and gubernatorial races -- including Seoul -- as of early

Thursday with 52 percent of ballots counted, according to data from the National Election Commission.

The elections were widely seen as an early test of Pres-

ident Lee Jae Myung's first year in office. He took over after months of political upheaval triggered by his predecessor's declaration of martial law.

Microsoft unveils AI models in push for independence from OpenAI

● Microsoft, the first company to have invested massively in OpenAI

FP | San Francisco, United States

Microsoft on Tuesday unveiled its own cutting-edge artificial intelligence models in San Francisco -- a crucial step toward reducing its dependence on OpenAI, the creator of ChatGPT.

Microsoft, the first company to have invested massively in OpenAI, has for several years been seeking to reduce its reliance on its Sam Altman-led partner.

It renegotiated their alliance last year and retains only a non-exclusive license on its technology until 2032.

But Microsoft chief Satya

Nadella has been saying it for years: he refuses to end up like IBM, the computing giant that backed the rise of Microsoft before being supplanted by the upstart company in the 1980s.

"It's important that we are self-sustaining and are not taking huge dependencies, as this is a very fast-moving, highly fluctuating environment," Sophie Lebrecht, who joined the group's AI team in March, said during a press visit to its Silicon Valley campus.

At its annual developer conference, Microsoft Build, the group unveiled MAI-Thinking-1, its first "reasoning" model -- AI systems that break down problems step-by-step before responding, similar to offerings from OpenAI, Google or Anthropic.

Microsoft says it built the model "from scratch" with "no distillation" of rival models -- a common shortcut that involves copying a competitor's outputs

to train a new system more cheaply and quickly.

The tool, still limited to a select group of customers, arrives roughly a year and a half behind pioneers such as OpenAI and Google.

Microsoft also unveiled other in-house models for generating images, transcribing audio, creating synthetic voices and coding. Joining the broader Silicon Valley craze, the group aims to ride the wave of so-called "agentic" AI, which has moved the technology beyond a simple chatbot to one that acts on your behalf.

From 'virus' to feature

It unveiled Microsoft Scout, an "always-on" assistant -- for preparing meetings, managing schedules and drafting emails -- based on OpenClaw, the open-source software whose global popularity launched this wave in late 2025.

Nadella at the time called it

"a virus," with Silicon Valley alarmed by online security incidents triggered by the autonomous agents.

Less than a year later, Open-

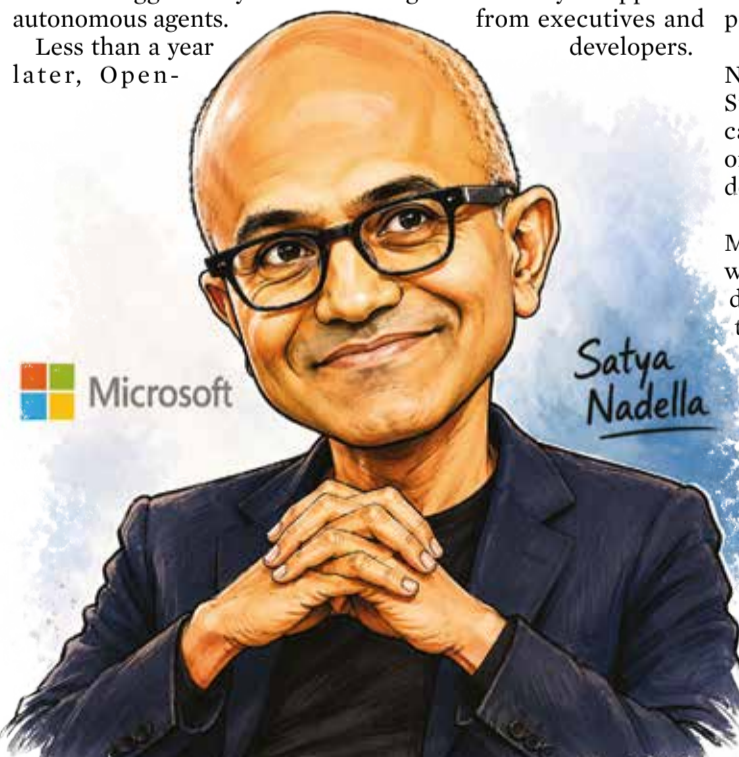
Claw's Austrian creator, Peter Steinberger, took the Microsoft stage on Tuesday to applause from executives and developers.

Last month, Google unveiled its own autonomous agent, Gemini Spark, reserved for its premium US subscribers.

Microsoft also announced a Nvidia-powered mini-PC, the Surface RTX Spark Dev Box, capable of running AI models offline, as well as an AI platform dedicated to scientific research.

For bringing AI into the home, Microsoft unveiled its hardware bet: an ecosystem of Android-based devices designed to interact by voice with AI agents, without opening applications as on a computer or smartphone.

On stage, the company showed two prototypes: a desk speaker with a screen that recognizes you by face, displays your tasks for the day and can double as a computer once plugged into a monitor; and a wearable badge for conversing with your AI agent, developed with Qualcomm.



Germany fails to gain seat on UN Security Council

United Nations, United States

Germany failed yesterday for the first time to secure a seat on the UN Security Council, with Portugal and Austria receiving more votes for the two Western European spots starting in 2027.

The UN Security Council has 15 members: five permanent (the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom) and 10 elected for staggered two-year terms, with seats allocated for different world regions.

In secret ballots cast by the General Assembly for the European seats, Portugal and Austria received 134 and 131 votes respectively, while Germany received 104.

Three die in British navy helicopter crash

London, United Kingdom

Three members of Britain's navy died in a helicopter crash in southwest England yesterday, the Ministry of Defence said in a statement.

The trio were onboard a Merlin Mk4 helicopter during a training exercise just before 4:00 am (0300 GMT) when it came down near Sourton village, in the county of Devon.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer described the deaths as "utterly tragic".

"My thoughts are with the families, friends and loved ones of the three members of the Royal Navy who sadly lost their lives this morning," he said.

Head of the navy General Gwyn Jones said an investigation had been launched into the cause of the crash.

Hundreds flee as South Africa anti-migrant mobs go door-to-door

Deaths are linked to protests by fringe groups that accuse undocumented foreign nationals of crime

- Ghana has already flown home 300 of its citizens, with hundreds more due to leave this weekend

- Mostly nationals of Malawi and Mozambique, many told AFP they had fled their homes at the weekend and spent nights in the mountains and bush

- Mozambique also said around 300 of its citizens fled back across the border

AFP | Gansbaai, South Africa

Hundreds of foreigners fearing for their lives have taken shelter in community halls on South Africa's south coast, saying mobs of locals were going door-to-door telling them to leave the country.

Mostly nationals of Malawi and Mozambique, many told AFP they had fled their homes at the weekend and spent nights in the mountains and bush, before making their way to the small-town community centres.



Immigrants carrying their belongings walk on a street in Stanford, about 120km from Cape Town, after they were threatened in the communities in which they live.

"They said 'you are a foreigner, you don't belong in South Africa, so you must go'," Mozambican Thomas Vincent Baloyi told AFP in Gansbaai, around 110 kilometres (70 miles) southeast of Cape Town.

"I said, 'no, I got documents to be here in South Africa'. They didn't want to know," said Baloyi, who has been in the country for nearly 16 years working in construction and gardening.

"They just chased us away like dogs... that is unfair because, actually, I'm a human being," the 32-year-old said. "We just stayed in the bush until six in the morning."

Weeks of mostly small protests across South Africa against illegal foreign nationals exploded into violence at the weekend in the town of Mossel Bay, 250 kilometres up the coast, where 55 shacks were torched.

The South African police said two people from Mozambique were killed "during activities associated with antiforeigner demonstrations".

They rejected a statement by the Mozambique government that five of its citizens were killed as a "direct consequence of the xenophobic attacks".

Mozambique also said around 300 of its citizens fled back

across the border on Saturday and hundreds more would follow. The deaths are the first linked to a new wave of anti-migrant protests by fringe groups that accuse undocumented foreign nationals of crime and taking scarce jobs and resources away from locals.

After one anti-illegal migrant group set a June 30 deadline for undocumented migrants to go home, small bands of people brandishing whips, sticks, wooden clubs and sometimes axes are reported to have taken to the streets in various places to reinforce the ultimatum.

Ghana has already flown

home 300 of its citizens, with hundreds more due to leave this weekend, and Nigeria has also announced emergency repatriation flights.

'Dragged out'

"They were dragging people out of their houses... whether you are legal or illegal, they say they don't want any foreign nationals in the township," local councillor Msa Nomatiti told AFP.

Locals turned on foreigners in an informal settlement in Gansbaai on Monday, he said, alleging some of the groups going door-to-door to search for foreign nationals were accompanied by the police.

More than 500 people had fled their homes Monday, he said.

By late Tuesday, small groups could still be seen walking out of informal settlements in the area, hauling their belongings in the dark night and soft rain as they made their way to places of safety. "Some of them lost their passports because of the beatings and being dragged out of their houses," Nomatiti said. Government officials were sent to help with documentation and voluntary repatriations.

Around 50 people huddled over large buckets of food at the tiny Gansbaai mosque, which was crammed with people and belongings, sharing one toilet

and a single tap.

'Better to go home alive'

In the small coastal town of Kleinmond, 40 kilometres closer to Cape Town, nearly 100 foreigners, most of them Malawian, sought shelter at a local community hall.

Large bags of clothing and blankets lined the walls and chairs were the only furniture. Volunteers served warm meals and donations from local residents trickled in.

Landlords told non-South Africans on Saturday to leave immediately as locals were going door-to-door in search of foreign nationals, Malawian Michael Markson told AFP.

"So we came out in the night hours, we went to the bush. There's a mountain up there, we slept there," said the 31-year-old, his eyes bloodshot.

"They're taking pangas... dangerous tools. They can hunt someone," he said.

In the town of Stanford less than 20 kilometres inland, another Malawian national, Talibo Mbewe, said he had been sheltering at the community hall for two days.

"The thieves, they have already taken all our stuff at home, so we don't have anything. But it's better to go home without anything than to lose our lives," he said.



Around 4 million immigrants

Estimates suggest South Africa hosts about 4 million immigrants, many of them from neighbouring countries such as Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Lesotho and Malawi.

South Africa's unemployment rate remains above 30%, leading some citizens to blame migrants for job shortages and pressure on public services.

Anti-immigrant violence has erupted periodically since 2008, when attacks killed dozens of people and displaced thousands. Similar incidents occurred in 2015, 2019 and again in 2026.

In 2026, several African countries warned their citizens in South Africa to remain cautious following anti-migrant attacks and protests. Some governments organised repatriation flights for their nationals.

Venezuela's Rodriguez arrives in India

- Her five-day visit comes as India, the world's third-largest oil importer, ramps up purchases of Venezuelan crude.

- Rodriguez would meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi today.

AFP | New Delhi, India



Venezuela's interim President Delcy Rodriguez

Venezuela's interim President Delcy Rodriguez arrived in New Delhi yesterday to deepen cooperation between the oil exporter and India, the world's most populous nation.

Her five-day visit comes as India, the world's third-largest oil importer, ramps up purchases of Venezuelan crude to offset supply disruptions linked to war in the Middle East.

Speaking after landing in New Delhi, Rodriguez said she expected to hold "very fruitful" discussions.

"We are going to have a very

productive agenda, and I hope to discuss areas of cooperation that can help address the most pressing needs of the Venezuelan people," she said, speaking on Venezuelan television.

New Delhi's foreign ministry said Rodriguez, who was given a red carpet welcome, would meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday.

Ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal said in a statement that "the visit will further deepen India-Venezuela ties."

Rodriguez has led Venezuela, which accounts for around 17% of global crude reserves, since January, when US forces captured former socialist president Nicolas Maduro.

Rodriguez was originally scheduled to be in New Delhi this week to participate in a summit on the conservation of big cat species.

But the conference was postponed to ensure the participation of African nations grappling with an Ebola outbreak.

Enriched uranium key issue in Iran talks, no deal yet: Rubio

- "We're no longer conducting sustained strikes inside of Iran to degrade their military, because Epic Fury is over," Rubio told the panel

AFP | Washington, United States

The fate of Iran's highly enriched uranium stockpiles is at the center of talks with Washington, and Tehran has not yet agreed to a peace deal, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said yesterday.

Washington insists that Iran must turn over its near-weapons-grade enriched uranium, agree to curb its nuclear activities and re-open the Strait of Hormuz for any peace agreement to take hold.

"I think now, in some of the papers that have been exchanged back and forth, it's



U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrives to testify

clearly addressed, but we...still don't have final sign off from their system as of this morning," Rubio told the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

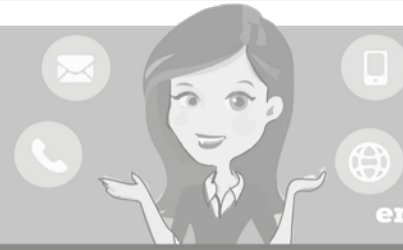
Rubio also doubled down on his assertion that the war in Iran was over, even as Iran attacked Kuwait's airport, killing one and wounding 63 people on Wednesday, in a significant escalation.

"We're no longer conducting sustained strikes inside of Iran to degrade their military, be-

cause Epic Fury is over," Rubio told the panel, asserting that the United States has scored a victory.

"We define victory as destroying their defense industrial base, significantly reducing the number of missile launchers that they possess, significantly reducing their stockpile of drones," Rubio said. "And we achieved all those, in addition to destroying what they had left of an air force and wiping out their entire conventional navy."

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Kuwait Under Attack

One Dead, 63 Wounded in Iranian Missile and Drone Strike Airport hit, hospitals on emergency footing as Kuwait's armed forces intercept ballistic missiles and drones

Kuwait came under a coordinated Iranian assault in the early hours of Wednesday, when the country's armed forces intercepted 13 ballistic missiles and engaged 17 hostile drones over Kuwaiti airspace. The projectiles were tracked across several residential areas, with debris falling in multiple locations.

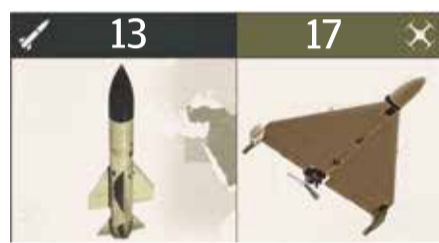
The strike targeted civilian and vital infrastructure, with Kuwait International Airport's passenger Terminal 1 among the facilities hit, suffering significant structural and material damage.

The Human Toll

The attack claimed one life—an Indian expatriate—and left 63 people injured, seven of them in critical condition requiring major emergency surgery. Kuwait's Ministry of Health activated a comprehensive emergency response from the first hours of the



Extensive damage at Kuwait International Airport's T1 building following Iran's missile and drone strike overnight.



assault, mobilising medical, nursing and technical teams across

the country's healthcare facilities.

Seven major emergency operations were performed for those requiring urgent intervention. Hospitals, emergency departments and ambulance services were placed on heightened alert, operating under enhanced



Defence Minister visits people injured in Iranian attack on Kuwait Airport

Military Response

The Kuwait Armed Forces confirmed they are monitoring the situation in full coordination with relevant state authorities, operating at complete readiness to respond to any further developments. Defence Ministry spokesman Brigadier General Saud Abdulaziz Al-Otaibi confirmed the military is taking all necessary measures to preserve national security and stability.

Authorities have urged citizens and residents not to approach, photograph, or share images and video footage of affected sites or missile debris on social media, citing public safety concerns. The public has been advised to follow official channels exclusively for updates.

Kuwait has extended its condolences to the family of the Indian expatriate killed in the attack and wishes all the injured a swift recovery.

Qatar Condemns Iranian Strikes on Civilian Targets in Kuwait and Bahrain



The State of Qatar strongly condemned Iranian attacks on civilian targets in Kuwait and Bahrain, warning that the strikes represented a serious breach of international law and threatened regional stability.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the attacks targeted civilian infrastructure in both Gulf states, including Kuwait International Airport, where several facilities were reportedly damaged and people injured.

Doha described the attacks as "a grave violation" of the sovereignty of Kuwait and Bahrain, adding that they also breached the 1949 Geneva Conventions, their Additional Protocols, and broader principles of international humanitarian law.

The statement stressed that civilians and civilian infrastructure must not be targeted during armed conflicts, while also condemning what it called indiscriminate attacks.

Qatar completely rejected attacks on civilian facilities and vital infrastructure, warning that continued escalation could have serious consequences for regional and global security.

The Foreign Ministry called for efforts to reduce tensions and restore stability across the region.

Doha also reaffirmed its full solidarity with Kuwait and Bahrain, expressing support for any measures taken by the two countries to safeguard their sovereignty and national security.

Kuwait Arrests Man for Filming Air Defence Response



Kuwait's Ministry of Interior says it has arrested a social media user accused of filming and publishing videos showing the country's air defence systems responding to incoming missiles.

In a statement, the ministry said the arrest resulted from ongoing monitoring of content shared on social media platforms. Officials said the videos

included footage of air defence operations and defensive response measures, which authorities described as a violation harming public interest and national security requirements.

The ministry added that investigations showed the individual used a mobile phone to film while driving, causing a traffic accident. Authorities said the act breached traffic laws and other regulations in force in the

country.

Officials stressed that publishing or circulating images and videos related to military and security sites, defence operations, or field readiness measures was considered irresponsible behaviour that could undermine public safety.

The ministry said strict legal action would be taken against anyone found violating the rules.

UAE Adviser Calls for Unified Gulf Response to Iran Attacks

Dr. Anwar Mohammed Gargash, diplomatic adviser to the UAE President, called for a united Gulf response to what he described as repeated Iranian aggression against Bahrain and Kuwait, warning that the security of GCC countries is closely linked.

In a post published on X, Gargash said Gulf Cooperation Council states must adopt a firm and cohesive position against regional threats, stressing that no member state should be left to confront attacks alone.

"In light of the repeated Iranian aggression against our sister states, Kuwait and Bahrain, there must be a firm, unified and cohesive GCC position," Gargash said.

He added that the Gulf's security and interests are interconnected, saying any threat against one GCC country should



be viewed as a threat against the wider region.

"It is unacceptable for any GCC state to be left to face targeting alone, while the security of the GCC countries is interconnected, their interests are shared, and their destiny is one," he said.

Gargash also warned that the attacks go beyond individual countries and represent a broader challenge to regional stability.

"This aggression does not target one country alone; it targets all of us," he added.

Jordan Denounces 'Blatant' Iranian Strikes

Jordan condemned the Iranian attacks targeting civilian and vital facilities in Bahrain and Kuwait, describing them as "brutal" and a serious violation of international law and regional sovereignty.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Jordan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Affairs said the attacks on the "sisterly Kingdom of Bahrain" and the "sisterly State of Kuwait"—including strikes aimed at Kuwait International Airport—posed a direct threat to

the security and stability of both Gulf nations.

The ministry described the attacks as "a flagrant violation" of Bahrain's and Kuwait's sovereignty and "a blatant breach of international law and the United

Nations Charter".

Jordan reaffirmed its "absolute solidarity" with Bahrain and Kuwait, supporting all measures taken by the two countries to safeguard their sovereignty, security and the safety of citizens and residents.

The statement also expressed condolences to Kuwait following reports that one person was killed in the attacks. Jordan conveyed its sympathies to the Kuwaiti government and people and wished those injured a swift recovery.



GCC Warns Iranian Actions Threaten Regional

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has strongly condemned Iranian aggression against Bahrain and Kuwait, warning that the attacks threaten the security and stability of the wider region.

In a statement issued from Riyadh, GCC Secretary General Jassem Mohamed Al-Budaiwi denounced the attacks as a "dangerous and unprecedented escalation", accusing Iran of pursuing hostile policies aimed at undermining the sovereignty and security of Gulf states.

Mr Al-Budaiwi said the attacks targeted civilian facilities, infrastructure, headquarters and diplomatic missions, describing them as "cowardly attacks" that violated international law and norms.

He added that the continued attacks reflected Iran's insistence on pursuing policies that threaten regional and international peace and stability.

The GCC chief also called for a firm international response, saying the situation required decisive action to halt what he described as dangerous aggres-

sive practices.

Mr Al-Budaiwi stressed that the security of Bahrain and Kuwait forms an integral part of the collective security of the GCC states. He said member states stood united in support of both countries and backed all measures taken to protect their sovereignty, territorial integrity and national security.



US Disables Oil Tanker Bound for Iran During Gulf Operations

The United States says its forces successfully intercepted multiple Iranian ballistic missiles and drones launched across the Middle East on 3 June, while also carrying out retaliatory self-defence strikes against Iranian military targets.

According to the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), Iran fired several ballistic missiles towards neighbouring Gulf countries, although none reached their intended targets. Two missiles aimed at Kuwait reportedly fell short or broke apart mid-flight, while three missiles launched towards Bahrain were intercepted by joint American and Bahraini air defence systems.

CENTCOM also said American forces destroyed three one-



A Botswana-flagged oil tanker was disabled by U.S. forces while attempting to sail towards an Iranian port in the Arabian Gulf.

way attack drones launched by Iran towards civilian vessels navigating regional waters. The drones were intercepted before reaching their targets.

In response to the attacks, US forces carried out what CENTCOM described as self-defence strikes on an Iranian military ground control station located on Qeshm Island, near the Strait of Hormuz.

The US military stated that

no American personnel were injured during the operations and said forces in the region remain on high alert despite the ongoing ceasefire with Iran.

Separately, CENTCOM announced that US forces had disabled an oil tanker attempting to

travel towards an Iranian port in the Arabian Gulf.

The vessel, identified as the Botswana-flagged M/T Lexie, was reportedly intercepted while sailing towards Kharg Island. CENTCOM said the ship's crew ignored repeated warnings and failed to comply with instructions issued by US naval forces over a 24-hour period.

Exclusive

Al Wedaei: Our desire to win decided the final

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Barbar's Sayed Ammar Al Wedaei described his side's championship-winning campaign as a product of belief, unity, and the ability to turn difficult moments into momentum. He spoke after their 28-26 win over Al Ahli in the 2025-26 Khalid bin Hamad Bahrain Handball League final at the Khalifa Sports City Arena on Tuesday night.

The final was closely contested from start to finish, with neither side able to build a comfortable lead. Both teams traded goals throughout a tense, physical encounter, with momentum shifting repeatedly as defensive pressure and fast transitions defined the match. Barbar, however, stayed composed in the

closing stages and delivered a late push that ultimately separated the teams and secured their seventh league title, their first since the 2018-19 season.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Al Wedaei said the difference came down not only to tactics, but to mentality.

"As a group, our desire to win was stronger than that of Al Ahli's," he said. "We believed in ourselves at every stage of the match and throughout the season, and that shared determination made the difference when it mattered most."

Al Wedaei also highlighted that Barbar's season was shaped as much by what happened off the court as on it, pointing in particular to key breaks during the campaign that could have disrupted their rhythm.

Instead, he said, those inter-



Al Wedaei and HH Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa during medal presentation

ruptions became a turning point. "The breaks we had during the campaign were very important," he explained. "We chose to use them positively to improve ourselves as a group. They did not affect us negatively. Instead, they helped us come back stronger each time."

Barbar's progress through the season reflected that growth. After finishing fourth in the regular season and entering the knockout stages as underdogs, they raised their level in the most decisive moments. They produced a major upset against defending champions Al Najma in the semi-finals before edging past Al Ahli in a tense final that was decided in the closing minutes.

Behind that rise, Al Wedaei emphasized the importance of internal chemistry and growing

trust within the squad.

"At the beginning of the journey with my teammates, we worked on building confidence in each other, both individually and collectively," he said. "Over time, we developed a strong connection, and that trust gave us extra motivation in every match."

He also credited the supporters for playing a meaningful role in the team's momentum throughout the season.

"We also built a strong connection with the fans," he added. "That support gave us extra motivation and helped push us in key moments."

For Barbar, the victory marked the culmination of a season defined by belief under pressure, with the final once again showing how fine margins decide championships.

BRAVE CF 106 full card revealed for historic return to Slovenia

Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation™ (BRAVE CF), the world's fastest-growing and most global mixed martial arts organization, returns to Slovenia with thunderous intent as it stages BRAVE CF 106 in partnership with World Freefight Challenge on Saturday, June 6, at Hala Tivoli in Ljubljana.

A charged atmosphere is expected as the upcoming premium live event assembles a stacked lineup headlined by two World Championship bouts, positioning the event as a decisive chapter in the promotion's ongoing international expansion.

The Slovene capital is set to transform into a battleground where divisional kings are challenged, rivalries intensify, and emerging contenders seize their moment under the spotlight.

The main event brings heavy-



weight gold into focus as reigning BRAVE CF Heavyweight World Champion Pavel "The Experiment" Dailidko steps inside the cage to defend his crown against top-ranked challenger Miha Frlic.

In the co-headliner, unfinished business takes center stage when Erko "The Bounty Hunter" Jun puts the BRAVE CF Light Heavyweight World Title on the line against No. 3-ranked contender Mohamed "L'Ambiance" Said Maalem in a highly anticipated rematch.

Beyond the marquee encounters, eight additional matchups round out the fight card, putting the spotlight on a diverse mix of talent from Slovenia and across Europe — further reinforcing the event's scope and competitive depth.

BRAVE CF 106 will be aired worldwide. Viewers are advised to check local listings for broadcast details and timing

Hojlund makes permanent move to Napoli from Man Utd

AFP | Rome

Denmark forward Rasmus Hojlund has completed a permanent move to Napoli, the Italian club announced yesterday, following his loan spell from Manchester United last season.

The 23-year-old scored 16 goals in 44 matches as Napoli finished second in Serie A, after failing to settle in two seasons in England.

Reports claim Napoli have spent €44 million to sign Hojlund. United paid Atalanta almost €80 million for him in 2023.

"SSC Napoli announce the conditions have been met for the permanent acquisition of... Rasmus Hojlund from Manchester United," Napoli said in a statement.

Napoli are without a coach after Antonio Conte's departure at the end of the season.



Rasmus Hojlund

Italian media are reporting that ex-AC Milan boss Massimiliano Allegri is the frontrunner for the job.

Hojlund scored 26 goals in 95 appearances for United but struggled during the 2024-25 season after a promising debut campaign at Old Trafford.

"Everyone at the club would like to wish Rasmus all the very best for the future," United said in a statement.

Sabalenka crumbles to French Open quarter-final defeat by Shnaider

AFP | Paris

Aryna Sabalenka's bid for a first French Open title was left in tatters as she fell apart in a bizarre defeat by Russian 25th seed Diana Shnaider in the quarter-finals yesterday.

The world number one led by a set and a double-break before exiting the tournament in a blaze of unforced errors, collapsing to a 3-6, 7-5, 6-0 loss in blustery conditions on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Shnaider will face Polish qualifier Maja Chwalinska in the semi-finals on Thursday, with Marta Kostyuk or Mirra Andreeva awaiting the winner in Sunday's final.

"Well honestly I'm speechless, I'm super happy. Obviously tough conditions with the wind," said the 22-year-old Shnaider after beating a top-10 player for only the second time in her career.

"First time playing Aryna so definitely a lot of nerves and I feel the first set was trying to



Aryna Sabalenka leaves the court after losing against Diana Shnaider



adjust to her game."

Sabalenka was the only Grand Slam champion left in either the men's or women's singles draws at Roland Garros, but belied that status by making a whopping 57 unforced errors.

Shnaider was playing in her first major quarter-final, but now finds herself a strong fa-

vourite to reach the final heading into her last-four tie against world number 114 and fellow left-hander Chwalinska.

"Definitely super happy I managed to finish on a good note rather than start on a good note. Definitely a special tournament for me here," added the Russian.

"It's going to be a lefty battle so I'm looking forward (to the semi-final)."

Sabalenka's scarcely believable defeat was reminiscent of the way she threw away a strong position in last year's final against Coco Gauff.

The Belarusian was playing in a 14th consecutive Grand Slam quarter-final but failed to become the first woman to make seven straight major semis since Serena Williams.

Increasingly frustrated Sabalenka

The top seed raced into a 5-1 lead and eventually sealed the opener on her third set point after initially failing to serve it out. The second set followed a sim-

ilar pattern at first, as Sabalenka moved 4-1 in front with a double-break before throwing away her next service game.

Sabalenka became increasingly frustrated as she gifted Shnaider three break points to level at 4-4.

After some animated remonstrating with her box, she recomposed herself enough to hold.

But the 28-year-old's game continued to come apart, as a string of dreadful unforced errors allowed Shnaider to break again and tie up the set at 5-5, with Sabalenka left to gesticulate wildly towards her coaching staff.

Shnaider could not believe her luck as Sabalenka dumped successive forehands into the bottom of the net to finish off the set and send the match into a decider.

The Russian grew in confidence and moved 2-0 up in the third as Sabalenka sprayed eight unforced errors around Chatrier in the space of two games.

Formula One ace Leclerc extends contract with 'second family' Ferrari



Ferrari's Monegasque driver Charles Leclerc arrives ahead of a practice session for the 2026 Formula 1 Grand Prix du Canada at Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve in Montreal (file photo)

AFP | Paris

Charles Leclerc has agreed a multi-year extension with his "second family" Ferrari days out from his home Monaco Grand Prix, the Formula One team announced yesterday.

The 28-year-old has been with Ferrari since 2019, winning eight Grand Prix -- his last victory was in 2024 -- with his highest finish in the world championship being runner-up to Max Verstappen in 2022.

"Scuderia Ferrari HP announces the renewal of its agreement with Charles Leclerc, who will continue to wear the team's colours for the coming seasons of the Formula 1 World Championship," read a Ferrari statement on their website.

Leclerc, who sits in third position in this year's title race, just three points ahead of team-mate Lewis Hamilton, said that he was ecstatic to continue his dream drive with Ferrari.

"It's the team I've loved and dreamt of being part of since I was a child, and after all these years it has become a second family," he said.

"Together we've shared incredible moments and some tougher ones, but I believe in this team more than ever, and I'm deeply grateful that

"It's the team I've loved and dreamt of being part of since I was a child, and after all these years it has become a second family"

CHARLES LECLERC

we will keep pushing side by side toward our shared goal of bringing the World Championship back to Maranello.

"Being a Ferrari driver is a dream, but it's also a responsibility I never take for granted."

Ferrari lauded their "second-most capped Formula 1 driver and (who) also ranks second for pole positions, behind only Michael Schumacher".

"This renewal feels like something very natural for us," said team principal Fred Vasseur.

"Over these seasons we have seen him grow, to become not only one of the strongest drivers in Formula 1, but also a person who is completely at one with the team and everything Ferrari represents.

"We appreciate his talent, we love his determination and the way he approaches every day with the people in the Scuderia, both on and off the track."

Yavi takes on star-studded field in Rome 5,000m

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Olympic and former world champion Winfred Yavi is set to take on a world-class women's 5,000m field today at the Golden Gala Pietro Mennea in Rome, one of the standout meetings on the 2026 Wanda Diamond League circuit.

The race takes place at the iconic Stadio Olimpico and forms part of the fifth stop of the Diamond League season, a series that gathers the sport's top-ranked athletes competing across the globe for points that lead toward qualification for the season-ending final and the Diamond Trophy.

This year's Rome meeting once again underlines its status as one of athletics' most prestigious stages, featuring more than 40 Olympic and World gold medallists and over 80 global championship medallists.

Yavi, who primarily competes in the 3,000m steeplechase, steps up in distance for a rare 5,000m appearance, where she will line up against a deep and high-quality field of 23 athletes. Among the leading contenders are Italy's Nadia Battocletti, world number three over the



Winfred Yavi in training ahead of Diamond League race

distance, alongside a strong Ethiopian group including Medina Eisa, Aleshign Baweke, Fantaye Belayneh and Likina Amebaw, all ranked inside the world's top 10.

For the Bahraini star, this race represents her second appearance of the outdoor season. She opened her 2026 campaign at the Xiamen Diamond League meeting in China over a week

ago, producing a strong performance in the 3,000m steeplechase where she went sub-nine minutes to finish runner-up.

Today also marks her first 5,000m outing of the season. Yavi enters the race with a personal best of 14:41.99, which stands as the Bahraini national record, highlighting her ability to compete at a high level in the longer flat distance despite her primary focus remaining the steeplechase.

The Diamond League operates on a points-based system across its series of meetings, with athletes accumulating standings points to secure qualification for the final, where the prestigious Diamond Trophy is awarded to event winners at the end of the season.

While Yavi's long-term focus remains the barriers and water jumps, this race offers both a tactical test and a valuable opportunity to measure herself against one of the strongest distance fields assembled so far this season.

With elite competition assembled in Rome and form building early in the year, Yavi's performance will be closely watched as she continues her Diamond League campaign on the international stage.

Israel detains Palestinian national football player

AFP | Ramallah



Rand Halawani

Israeli authorities yesterday

extended the detention of a player on the Palestinian women's national football team after she was summoned for questioning in Jerusalem, Palestinian officials reported.

The Palestinian Football Association (PFA) denounced the prolonged detention of 20-year-old Rand Halawani, who was arrested on Tuesday evening.

In a statement, it said Halawani's arrest and that of a for-

governorate for Jerusalem, an Israeli court extended Halawani's detention until Friday.

Israel's military also arrested former national football player Natalie Abu Diyeh, a student at Birzeit University, as well as three other young Palestinian women in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday.

The military said in a statement that the four women were suspected of "promoting terrorist activities and additional terrorist-related activities."

Birzeit University denounced

the arrests as part of Israel's "systematic policies targeting Palestinian education and students' right to continue their academic journey."

Bishop Imad Haddad of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, to which Natalie Abu Diyeh belonged, called for her release.

"We are deeply shocked and horrified by this news, as well as by the news that her family does not yet know where she has been taken," Haddad said in a statement on Tuesday.

Exclusive

Royal Guard boxer Limbu set for SAS charity showdown

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahraini Royal Guard boxer Prakash Limbu is set to step into the ring tomorrow as part of the annual SAS Charity Boxing event, renewing a unique sporting link between the Royal Guard Special Forces (RGSF) and the British Special Air Service (SAS).

The event marks the second consecutive year that the Bahraini and British elite military units have come together for the charity showcase, continuing a relationship that extends beyond military cooperation and into the sporting arena.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Limbu's coach, English-

man Tony Davis, said the fighter is relishing the opportunity to represent the Royal Guard on a prestigious stage.

"As a dedicated boxer, Prakash takes immense pride in representing the Royal Guard," Davis said. "He is fully focused and eager to face a high-calibre opponent on such a prestigious stage, bringing his trademark 100 percent effort to the ring."

Limbu will compete in the 65kg division against the British Army's current number one-ranked boxer in the weight class, presenting one of the toughest tests of his career.

To prepare for the challenge, Davis revealed that training has been tailored specifically to the opponent's style.

"To prepare for his opponent's specific style, Prakash has been sparring with the exceptionally tall Abdullah Alabdullah, pushing him to adapt and sharpen his attacking strategy," he explained.

The annual event has become a notable fixture in military boxing circles and follows a long history of competitive meetings involving the Royal Guard and British military teams, including the Royal Rumble series and multiple British Army versus Royal Guard contests.

Davis, who has previously been involved with the event as both a coach and official, highlighted its wider significance beyond the action inside the ring.

"Having previously been involved with this event as both an Army coach and an official, I know firsthand how special it is," he said. "It plays a vital role in strengthening the bond between the Royal Guard and the SAS."

"When the final bell rings this Friday, everyone involved, from the boxers to the spectators, will be a winner for taking part in this incredible annual SAS Charity Boxing Event. Of course, seeing Prakash get his hand raised would make the night truly unforgettable."

Last year's event saw Hamza Zrire secure a memorable victory for the Royal Guard, and Limbu will now aim to continue that success when he enters the ring tomorrow.



Coach Davis accompanies boxer Prakash Limbu during his walkout at a local boxing event

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