

**Egypt edge Australia on penalties to reach World Cup last 16**

Hossam Abdelmaguid scored the winning penalty as Egypt made history by beating a dogged Australia 4-2 on penalties to reach the World Cup last 16 on Friday. | P12

WORLD 6 El Nino set to be 'strong', UN warns

# THE DAILY tribune

SATURDAY  
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220 FILS  
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Portugal advance in World Cup thanks to last-gasp Ramos winner

11 SPORTS

BUSINESS 5 Stocks mostly rise as beatdown tech stocks enjoy bounce

## Bahrain hails enduring US partnership on Independence Day

TDT | Manama

Bahrain reaffirmed its strong strategic partnership with the United States as the Kingdom's leadership extended Independence Day greetings to President Donald Trump and the American people.

The United States marks its Independence Day on July 4, commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the birth of

the nation as an independent state.

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa sent a cable of congratulations to President Donald Trump, praising the longstanding ties between Bahrain and the United States and their continued growth across political, economic, security and development sectors.

His Majesty expressed confidence that bilateral relations would continue to deepen with-



in the framework of the strategic partnership between the two countries in a manner that

serves the aspirations and interests of both peoples.

His Royal Highness Prince

Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, also sent a congratulatory cable to President Trump on the occasion.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister additionally sent a similar cable to JD Va

"On July 4 it's going to be approximately 107 degrees (41C) out, and I'm going to go and I'm going to make a really long speech -- just to show that I can do anything," he said Wednesday.

day. nce.

Meanwhile, President Donald Trump kicks off America's 250th birthday weekend yesterday with a trip to a landmark upon which many suspect he would like to see his own face carved in rock -- Mount Rushmore.

On the eve of Independence Day, Trump will give a speech beneath the giant granite heads of four of his legendary predecessors at the national monument in South Dakota.

**Bahrain condemns Damascus terror bombing**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has strongly condemned the terrorist bombing that targeted a café near the Palace of Justice in Damascus, killing and injuring several civilians.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs denounced the attack, which involved an explosive device and struck the Syrian capital on Friday.

The ministry expressed Bahrain's deepest condolences to the government and people of Syria, as well as to the families of the victims, and wished those injured a speedy recovery.

**Bahraini short film 'Seed' wins Golden Palm**

TDT | Manama

Bahraini short film "Seed" directed by Salman Yousif has achieved a new milestone, winning the Golden Palm Award for Best Gulf Narrative Short Film at the 12th Saudi Film Festival, further highlighting the growing presence of Bahraini cinema in regional film platforms.

The film was among the most notable entries at the festival, drawing attention from both audiences and critics for its distinctive cinematic approach.



# Strikes deliberate patience running out

US Ambassador Waltz delivers stark warning to Tehran

TDT | Manama

Iran's attacks on Gulf neighbours were not accidents of war but calculated strikes designed to inflict maximum civilian and economic damage, US Ambassador Mike Waltz told the United Nations Security Council, delivering a stark warning that Washington's patience with Tehran was running out.

Speaking during an emergency Security Council meeting on Iranian strikes against Bahrain and Kuwait, Waltz accused Tehran of deliberately targeting hospitals, airports, energy facilities and other civilian infrastructure across the Gulf.

The US envoy, who recently visited Bahrain, the UAE and other countries affected by the attacks, said the strikes were "deliberate, well planned and malicious" rather than random acts of war.

Waltz said he had visited facilities belonging to Bahrain



**KEY TAKEAWAYS**

**DELIBERATE STRIKES**  
Iran's attacks on Gulf neighbours were not accidents of war but calculated strikes designed to inflict maximum civilian and economic damage.

**TARGETED CIVILIANS & FIRST RESPONDERS**  
Fire suppression systems and emergency responders were targeted before attacks on hospitals, airports, energy facilities and civilian infrastructure.

**THE POSSIBILITY OF A POSITIVE FUTURE FOR THE IRANIAN PEOPLE REMAINS ON THE TABLE, BUT PRESIDENT TRUMP'S PATIENCE IS NOT UNLIMITED.**

- MIKE WALTZ  
US AMBASSADOR TO THE UN

Petroleum Company, where he alleged Iranian forces first targeted fire suppression systems and emergency responders before striking fuel infrastructure

in an attempt to maximise destruction and casualties.

He claimed that attacks on fuel tanks and nearby chemical storage sites could have trig-

gered catastrophic explosions capable of killing thousands of civilians.

The ambassador also accused Iran of threatening global trade by disrupting shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and targeting commercial vessels transiting regional waters.

"Iran cannot hold the world's economy hostage," Waltz said, warning that any prolonged disruption to the strategic waterway would hurt developing countries dependent on food, fertiliser and energy imports.

Despite diplomatic efforts and repeated calls for de-escalation, Waltz said Iran had continued attacks on civilian infrastructure and commercial shipping, actions he described as violations of international law and Security Council resolutions. "The possibility of a positive future for the Iranian people remains on the table, but President Trump's patience is not unlimited," Waltz said.

**AJet launches direct Bahrain-Trabzon flights**



TDT | Manama

Travellers from Bahrain can now fly directly to the Turkish city of Trabzon as AJet launched its new nonstop service linking the Kingdom to the popular Black Sea destination.

The new route was officially inaugurated on 3 July, with the Turkish carrier operating two weekly flights between Bahrain and Trabzon.

**Royal Team Ready for Samorin Challenge**



His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa attended the veterinary examination ahead of the Samorin International Endurance Race in Slovakia.

Shaikh Nasser is preparing to lead the Royal Team in the prestigious 160km international endurance race.

The event will also feature his children's participation. Her Highness Shaikha Sheema bint Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa will compete in the 100km international race, while His Highness Shaikh Hamad bin Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa will take part in the 120km international open race.

Celebrating 250 years of American independence



p2

From towering landmarks to iconic cityscapes, Bahrain was awash in red, white and blue on Friday evening as the Kingdom joined celebrations marking 250 years of American independence. (Captured by Anchal Bensiger)

220 fils (includes VAT)



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# The Bond That Built a Bridge

Bahrain Landmarks Light Up Red, White and Blue as US Marks 250 Years

● **Ambassador Hallett hails a deepening alliance forged in shared defence, diplomacy and history**

**Ashen Tharaka**  
TDT | Manama

Iconic landmarks across Bahrain were illuminated in the colours of the American flag on Friday evening as the United States Embassy hosted a celebration marking the 250th anniversary of American independence.

US Ambassador Stephanie Hallett said the lighting joined a global moment, noting that the Pyramids of Giza, Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro and the Eiffel Tower in Paris were also bathed in red, white and blue in tribute to the occasion.

Allies on every front

Ambassador Hallett pointed to a series of high-level engagements in recent weeks as proof



“  
US and Bahraini forces stood shoulder to shoulder in the defence of the kingdom—something we are very proud of.”

AMBASSADOR STEPHANIE HALLETT

“  
The bond between our peoples began 130 years ago, and perhaps that is what we are marking most of all today”

SHAIKH ABDULLAH BIN ALI BIN KHALIFA AL KHALIFA



Zayani for their leadership of the bilateral relationship.

people-to-people ties

Reflecting on the relationship's foundations, Ambassador Hallett traced it back to the first American missionaries who arrived in Bahrain during the era of Issa Al Kabir, bringing medical and educational services that became part of the fabric of Bahraini society.

Shaikh Abdullah bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Director General of Bilateral Relations at the Bahrain Foreign Ministry, attended the celebration and praised the depth of a relationship spanning politics, defence, security and the economy. He offered Bahrain's congratulations to Ambassador Hallett on the milestone event.

The Ambassador invites Bahrainis to join Americans in celebrating the values of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—ideals she said must continually be defended, not merely declared.

of the partnership's strength: a visit by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the arrival of US Central Command chief Admiral Brad Cooper, a joint session at the UN Security Council addressing Iranian aggression in the region, and a trip to Washington by His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

She extended particular thanks to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, HRH Crown Prince Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and Foreign Minister Dr Abdullatif Al



## Paperwork slashed as Bahrain upgrades 93 services

TDT | Manama

Applying for government services in Bahrain is becoming faster and easier after authorities revamped 93 services across 18 government entities in less than six months, slashing paperwork, reducing waiting times and simplifying procedures.

The upgrades, rolled out between January 15 and July 2, form part of Bahrain's wider drive to modernise public services, accelerate digital transformation and improve customer experience for citizens and residents.

### Fully digitised

Under the initiative, all 93 services were fully digitised, achieving a 100 per cent electronic transformation rate and eliminating the need for paper-based applications.

Authorities said processing times for the upgraded services were reduced by at least 25 per cent, while application procedures were streamlined to a maximum of four steps.

The reforms also cut the number of supporting documents required by at least half and reduced by 50 per cent the

number of pages users must navigate to complete transactions online.

Several major public services benefited from the changes.

The General Organization for Social Insurance shortened the time needed to issue pension continuation certificates for retirees and eligible beneficiaries, while the Electricity and Water Authority accelerated the review process for new water connection requests.

Meanwhile, the Labour Market Regulatory Authority simplified procedures for obtaining recruitment agency licences, making applications quicker and more efficient.

In another key digital upgrade, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning introduced Electronic Key 2.0, enabling users to obtain official government letters online for connecting newly allocated housing units to electricity and water services.

Authorities said the changes reflect Bahrain's continued efforts to modernise government operations, improve efficiency and deliver faster, simpler and more accessible services through digital innovation.

## Foreign Minister leads Bahrain's diplomatic push in New York

TDT | Manama

Bahrain intensified its diplomatic engagement at the United Nations this week, rallying international support for regional security, strengthening strategic partnerships and advancing cooperation with countries across the globe.

On the sidelines of United Nations Security Council sessions in New York, Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani held a series of high-level meetings focused on regional stability, international cooperation and multilateral diplomacy.

In talks with Mike Waltz at the US Permanent Mission, Dr Al Zayani welcomed Washington's strong support for Bahrain following recent Iranian attacks targeting civilian infrastructure and residential areas in the Kingdom.

The minister thanked Waltz for his condemnation of the strikes and his recent visit to Bahrain, describing discussions between the two sides as an important step in further strengthening the strategic partnership between Manama and Washington.

Both sides also reviewed efforts to advance US-Iran negotiations aimed at achieving a comprehensive peace agree-



Foreign Minister Al Zayani and Ambassador Waltz



Foreign Minister meets Therese Kayikwamba Wagner



Foreign Minister meets Rebeca Grynspan Mayufis

ment, safeguarding freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz and preserving regional stability and global economic interests.

Dr Al Zayani also met with Rebeca Grynspan Mayufis, where discussions focused on bilateral relations between Bahrain and Costa Rica and oppor-

tunities to expand cooperation across a range of sectors.

Grynspan outlined her vision for the role of UN Secretary-General as part of her campaign for the organisation's top post, while the Bahraini minister conveyed his best wishes for her candidacy and stressed the importance of the position in promoting international peace, security and sustainable development.

In a separate meeting, Dr Al Zayani held talks with Therese Kayikwamba Wagner following the Democratic Republic of the Congo's assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the current session.

The two ministers discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations and enhance cooperation during the period of concurrent membership on the council, while also exchanging views on regional developments and efforts to restore maritime security and freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.

The meetings underscored Bahrain's growing diplomatic role at the United Nations and its continued efforts to build international partnerships in support of regional peace, stability and global cooperation.

## New push for smoother custody and visitation procedures

**Rehab Mohammad**  
TDT | Manama

Children involved in custody and visitation cases could benefit from a more supportive and child-friendly process as Bahrain's Public Prosecution and Ministry of Social Development work to strengthen the implementation of family court rulings.

Officials from both sides met at the Abdullah bin Yusuf Fakhro Social Centre to review procedures governing court-ordered child visitation and custody ar-



rangements and explore ways to improve coordination between the two entities.

The visit was led by Noora Jamal Al Maalla, Head of the Family and Child Prosecution, alongside a delegation from the Public Prosecution, and was attended by social welfare and family guidance officials from the ministry.

During the visit, officials reviewed the mechanisms used to implement Sharia court rulings relating to visitation rights and custody, including arrangements

for handing over and receiving children in a manner designed to minimise stress and ensure smooth implementation.

The delegation toured the centre's facilities and was briefed on procedures followed for supervised and unsupervised visits, both within the centre and externally.

Specialists explained how children are prepared psychologically and socially before visits take place, with support continuing throughout the process and observations docu-

mented afterwards to safeguard their welfare. Officials said the measures help create a safe and stable environment that prioritises the child's emotional and social well-being during family disputes.

Al Maalla praised the efforts of social specialists working at the centre and stressed that continued cooperation between relevant authorities was essential to improving the implementation of court rulings while ensuring the best interests of children remain the overriding priority.

# Mosquito menace brews in Hamad Town drain

Hasan Barakat  
TDT | Manama

Mosquito breeding fears have triggered calls for urgent action over a neglected drainage channel in Hamad Town where stagnant water and waste have accumulated for years.

Northern Municipal Council member Abdulla Al Qobaisi, who represents the Ninth Constituency, warned that the deteriorating condition of the rain-water drainage channel and water discharge site poses growing health and environmental risks to nearby residents.

He said stagnant water and blocked waterways had created ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes, insects and rodents, raising concerns about potential health hazards for families living in the area.

The concerns surfaced during a field inspection conducted by



Blocked drainage channels clogged with vegetation and dumped waste are seen during a field inspection in Hamad Town.

Al Qobaisi alongside representatives from the Health Ministry and the Supreme Council for Environment. He noted that officials from the Works Ministry and the Northern Municipality did not attend despite receiving official invitations.

The inspection found large amounts of rubbish and waste inside the drainage channel, as well as dense vegetation and overgrown trees obstructing water flow and contributing to prolonged water stagnation. Representatives from the



Health Ministry and the Supreme Council for Environment warned of the environmental and health consequences of leaving the site in its current state and stressed the need to accelerate cleaning and maintenance work.

Al Qobaisi said the problem had persisted for several years and called for a comprehensive, long-term plan to maintain rain-water drainage channels across the Ninth Constituency.

He also urged stronger coordination among government

agencies to speed up remedial work and prevent the issue from recurring.

"The competent authorities must take the necessary steps to resolve this issue permanently," Al Qobaisi said, adding that a sustainable solution would protect public health, preserve the environment and improve residents' quality of life.



**Mosquitoes are considered the deadliest animals in the world due to the diseases they spread.**

## Kingdom breaks into world's top 6 for digital connectivity



TDT | Manama

Bahrain has climbed to sixth place globally in digital connectivity rankings, reinforcing its status as one of the world's leading telecommunications and technology hubs.

The Kingdom rose three places in the 2026 ICT Development Index (IDI) issued by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), securing sixth spot among 159 countries with an overall score of 98 per cent.

Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecom-

munications, said the achievement reflects Bahrain's steady progress under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the government's strategic vision led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to position the Kingdom among the world's leading nations in telecommunications and information and communications technology.

He said the improved ranking highlights the success of national efforts to expand digital infrastructure and enhance telecommunications services through close cooperation be-

tween government agencies and the contributions of Bahraini talent.

According to the minister, these initiatives have helped Bahrain deliver high-quality telecommunications and internet services, increase fixed and mobile broadband subscriptions, and expand access to digital services across the Kingdom.

The latest ranking underscores Bahrain's commitment to digital transformation and continued investment in advanced infrastructure to support innovation, economic growth and world-class digital services.

## Women powering Bahrain's global voice

● Panel discussion highlights the achievements of Bahraini women diplomats

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the role of women in diplomacy and international affairs as it celebrated the growing contributions of Bahraini women on the global stage.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs marked the International Day of Women in Diplomacy with a panel discussion highlighting the achievements of Bahraini women diplomats and the Kingdom's efforts to promote women in leadership positions.

The event was attended by Ambassador Dr. Yousef Abdulkarim Buecheeri, Director General of Legal Affairs and Human Rights and Chairman of the Equal Opportunities and Gender Balance Committee at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, alongside senior ministry officials, representatives of the Supreme Council for Women, the



Dr. Yousef Abdulkarim Buecheeri

United Nations Development Programme in Bahrain, and women diplomats from Gulf and Arab embassies accredited to the Kingdom.

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Dr. Buecheeri attributed the progress made by Bahraini women in diplomacy to the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and the efforts of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, President of the Supreme Council for Women, in advancing equal opportunities and expanding women's participation in national development.

He praised the growing role of Bahraini women diplomats,

particularly members of the Kingdom's delegation to the United Nations Security Council in New York, saying their presence reflects Bahrain's commitment to merit, competence and equal opportunity.

The event featured discussions on the experiences of Bahraini women in diplomacy and multilateral engagement and their role in strengthening Bahrain's international presence.

The programme included a recorded address by Ambassador Nancy Abdulla Jamal, Deputy Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations in New York, and a panel discussion involving Ambassador Rana Mohammed Hasan, Director of the Information Systems Directorate, Jehan Al Murbati, Senior Programme Officer at the United Nations Development Programme in Bahrain, and Hatem Abdulhamid Hatem, Chief of the Organisations Sector.

Participants stressed the importance of further strengthening women's participation in diplomacy and international cooperation while recognising Bahrain's continued efforts to promote gender balance across all sectors.



## BTEA closes tourism office for violating customer contracts

TDT | Manama

Authorities have closed a tourism office for breaching contractual obligations to customers as Bahrain steps up oversight of the sector and consumer protection measures.

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) said the office was shut after inspections uncovered violations related to the failure to



fulfil contractual commitments to clients.

In a statement issued on Friday, the authority said the necessary administrative measures had been taken in accordance with regulations governing tourism activities in the Kingdom.

BTEA said the action forms part of its ongoing efforts to regulate the tourism sector, maintain high service standards and

Inspections uncovered violations related to the failure to fulfil contractual commitments to clients

ensure tourism offices comply with approved laws, regulations and operational requirements.

The authority reaffirmed its commitment to protecting cus-

tomers' rights and strengthening oversight of tourism offices and related establishments to promote professional and contractual compliance.

It added that the enhanced regulatory measures are intended to improve the quality, reliability and transparency of tourism services, reinforce customer confidence and support the sustainable growth of Bahrain's tourism sector.

# Private autism experts may join public system

To cut waiting times and give families faster access to specialist support

● **Rising demand driving longer waiting lists**

● **Families struggling with private care costs**

● **Public centres to tap local expertise**

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

Families of children with autism could gain faster access to specialist care under a proposal to bring experienced Bahraini experts from private centres into government-run services.

The plan, put forward by MP Maryam Al Dhaen, calls for the Social Development Ministry to contract Bahraini specialists al-

ready working in private autism centres to provide their services at the ministry's Comprehensive Disability Complex.

The idea is to create a one-stop centre where people with autism registered with the ministry can receive care, education and behavioural support without families having to move between different providers.

According to the proposal, private autism centres in Bahrain have built up highly trained Bahraini teams with years of hands-on experience in the field. Bringing this expertise into the public sector, it says, would help strengthen services and improve the quality of support available through government facilities.

The move could also ease the financial pressure on families who struggle to afford private treatment while reducing waiting times for services at the Comprehen-

sive Disability Complex.

Ms Al Dhaen said support offered through the complex should go beyond care alone and include education programmes delivered under the supervision of the Education Ministry and in line with Bahrain's approved curriculum.

The proposal stresses the importance of early intervention for autism, warning that delays in specialist support can affect development and make inclusion more difficult later in life.

With demand for public

services continuing to rise and waiting lists growing, the proposal argues that drawing on Bahraini expertise already available in the private sector could provide quicker access to support while strengthening services within the public system.



Representative image

Maryam Al Dhaen, MP

## Green light for Galali's new community park

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

Residents of Galali are a step closer to getting a new family park after tenders were issued for the long-awaited Wahat Muharraaq Garden project in Block 255.

The Tender Board announced the project, submitted by the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, paving the way for construction work to begin on the community space that has been in the pipeline since 2020.

Approved and designed during the previous municipal council term, the project has now entered the bidding stage after years of planning and follow-up efforts.

The park is envisioned as a family-friendly destination combining recreation, sports and green open spaces. Plans include a children's playground, a multi-purpose football pitch, shaded seating



areas, a central plaza, a decorative fountain, walkways, landscaped gardens and extensive tree planting.

The project will also feature a service building with toilets, a kiosk, a pump room, a water tank, a comprehensive irrigation system, lighting, perimeter fencing, entrances and parking spaces.

Tender documents will remain available until July 12, while bids must be submitted by July 26.

Construction is expected to take four months once work

begins. The tender carries a document fee of BD50, an initial bond of BD1,000 and a bid validity period of 180 days.

He said the scheme was the result of continuous efforts since its approval in 2020 and would provide residents with a modern public space bringing together leisure, sports and greenery.

"It will serve the people of Galali and Block 255 by offering a complete family destination that enhances quality of life and expands community facilities for citizens and residents alike," he said.

**Saleh Buhazaa, vice-chairman of Muharraaq Municipal Council**



## From maths teacher to ISB's longest-serving principal

**Neethu V**  
TDT | Manama

After more than 40 years in education, outgoing Indian School Bahrain (ISB) Principal V.R. Palaniswamy says retirement marks not the end of learning, but the start of a new chapter.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Tribune, Palaniswamy reflected on his 25-year journey at ISB, where he rose from mathematics teacher to become the school's longest-serving principal, having also served as Head of Department and Vice Principal.

Before joining ISB in 2001, he spent 15 years teaching in Chennai, India. Over the course of his career, he received the CBSE



V.R. Palaniswamy

V.R. Palaniswamy being recognised with the CBSE National Teacher Award

National Teacher Award and the National Award to Teachers presented by the President of India.

Palaniswamy said some of his greatest lessons came from his students.

"I truly believe the child is the father of man. The smiling faces of children reminded me to stay curious, hopeful and humble," he said.

Having witnessed four dec-

ades of change in classrooms, he pointed to the shift from teacher-led instruction to child-centred learning.

Under his leadership, ISB adopted smart classrooms, digital learning tools and innovative teaching methods while strengthening its global outlook through UNESCO programmes.

"By adapting while preserving our values, we ensured our stu-

dents remained future-ready," he said. While proud of ISB's achievements, including its "Good" rating from the Bahrain Education and Training Quality Authority, Palaniswamy said the real measure of success was the impact on students.

"I hope people remember me as someone who always placed students at the heart of every decision," he said.

As he prepares to step down, Palaniswamy said he will miss his daily interactions with students the most and urged educators to lead with sincerity, integrity and humility.

Looking ahead, he plans to remain active in education through mentoring, student support and other educational initiatives.

### FROM THE COURT

**Rehab Mohammed**  
TDT | Manama

## Court tells Ethiopian woman: Your marriage to a US citizen is valid



Lawyer Ammar Al-Taranjah

An Ethiopian woman has won a legal battle to have her marriage officially recognised after Bahrain's Supreme Administrative Court ruled in her favour following the death of her American husband in the United States.

The court ordered the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments to issue an official certificate confirming the validity of the marriage.

According to the woman's lawyer, Ammar Al-Taranjah, the couple were married at St Christopher's Cathedral in Manama in a church ceremony recognised under Bahrain's laws governing non-Muslim marriages. However,

after her husband's passing in the United States, her request for an official marriage certificate was rejected, prompting her to take the matter to court.

In its ruling, the court found that the marriage had been conducted in full compliance with Bahrain's legal framework for non-Muslim unions and was also consistent with California family law, which recognises marriages lawfully performed abroad. Concluding that the union did not violate Bahrain's public order, the court directed the ministry to issue an official certificate validating the church marriage, bringing the woman's years-long effort for recognition to a successful close.

## Five years in jail for BD12,000 banking scam

A man who pocketed more than BD12,000 through an online banking scam will spend five years behind bars after an appeals court upheld his conviction and ordered his deportation upon release.

The court also imposed a BD10,000 fine, handed down an additional one-month jail term, and ordered the confiscation of the mobile phone used in the crime.

Court records showed that the defendant, acting with an unidentified accomplice, tricked a man in his fifties into entering his bank card details through a fake online rewards and complaints process. The deception allowed the

fraudsters to gain access to the victim's account and siphon off BD12,756.

Investigators found that the defendant activated a banking application linked to the victim's account and received BD10,000 through six separate transfers on the day of the fraud.

Authorities further discovered that part of the stolen funds was spent using credit cards, while another portion was transferred to a cryptocurrency platform.

The conviction was backed by technical and financial evidence, including bank transaction records and phone communications linking the defendant to the scheme.

## Invalid power of attorney sinks fraud appeal

A fraud convict has exhausted his legal options after the Court of Cassation dismissed his final appeal on procedural grounds, leaving his prison sentence, fine and deportation order intact.

The court ruled that the cassation challenge was inadmissible because the lawyer who filed it lacked the necessary legal authority due to an invalid power of attorney.

The defendant had been convicted of forging a docu-

ment falsely attributed to a bank and using it to deceive a victim into handing over money.

He was sentenced to two years in prison, fined BD1,000, ordered to be deported after completing his sentence, and the forged document was confiscated.

The conviction and penalties had already been upheld during earlier appeal proceedings. With the final appeal rejected, the judgment has become definitive, bringing the case to a close.

## China says Japan-India cooperation 'should not target' Beijing

AFP | Beijing, China

China said yesterday that cooperation between India and Japan "should not target" Beijing, after the leaders of the other two countries agreed to work more closely on critical minerals.

The strategic commodities, which are used in everything from electric vehicles and smartphones to jet engines and guided missiles, featured prominently during talks between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japan's Sanae Takaichi in New Delhi on Thursday.

Asked about the meeting, China's foreign ministry said countries should work to "foster understanding and trust".

"Cooperation between nations... should not target or harm the interests of third parties, let alone serve as a pretext for forming exclusive cliques or stoking confrontation," spokesperson Guo Jiakun told a news conference.

The relationship between Beijing and Tokyo has become more turbulent since

## EU chief warns China 'dialogue has to deliver' on trade imbalances

Cork, Ireland

The EU's upcoming trade talks with China have to deliver results, European Commission head Ursula von der Leyen warned Friday, as the bloc weighs action to address its trade imbalances with Beijing.

Her remarks came after talks this week between top European and Chinese trade officials, following which the EU's trade commissioner Maros Sefcovic said Brussels wanted "tangible results" by October from its discussions with Beijing.

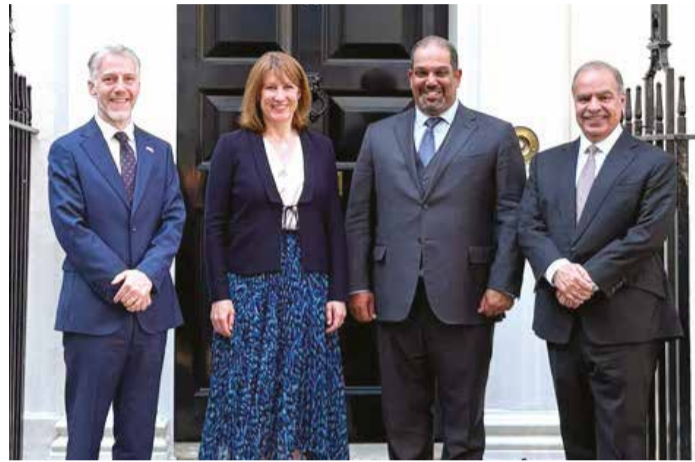
The European Union must continue its dialogue with China, von der Leyen said during a visit to Cork city as Ireland kicked off its six-month presidency of the bloc.

"But the dialogue also has to deliver," von der Leyen told reporters.

# Bahrain, UK Deepen Strategic Economic Partnership

Minister of Finance and National Economy, Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, reaffirmed the strength of Bahrain's longstanding partnership with the United Kingdom during a meeting with UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves in London on Friday.

Shaikh Salman said the close bilateral relations between Bahrain and the UK are built on a strong foundation of cooperation and a distinguished strategic partnership across various sectors. He noted that the relationship continues to receive mutual support and attention from both countries, advancing cooperation to broader levels



that serve their shared goals and aspirations.

The meeting was attended

by Bahrain's Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, and

the United Kingdom's Ambassador to Bahrain, Alastair Long.

During the discussions, the two sides reviewed the historic ties between Bahrain and the UK and explored ways to further strengthen financial, economic and investment cooperation. Shaikh Salman highlighted the importance of building on the progress achieved through existing collaboration and expanding partnerships to deliver greater prosperity and mutual benefits for both nations and their peoples.

The meeting also included an exchange of views on the latest developments and trends in the global economy.

## India approves buying \$5.46 billion in military equipment



AFP | New Delhi, India

India approved yesterday the purchase of a range of military equipment for its defence forces worth \$5.46 billion, including missiles, electronic warfare systems and Kamikaze drones.

The acquisition was approved "in-principle" by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) comprising top military officers and headed by the defence minister, according to a government statement.

The statement said the estimated cost of the deal would be about 520 billion rupees (\$5.46 billion).

It did not specify the period over which the acquisitions would be made or whether the systems approved for purchase will be imported or domestically produced.

The deal included the purchase of anti-drone and electronic warfare systems, medium range surface-to-air and portable anti-tank missiles and a "Jet Based Kamikaze Drone System" for the Indian army, the government said.

The DAC also approved the procurement of new naval mines, shipborne drones and a testing facility for strengthening maritime defence and boosting surveillance capabilities. India also planned to purchase a high-altitude unmanned aircraft platform for the air force, to be used for intelligence gathering and remote sensing.

New Delhi's current defence budget is \$85 billion.

In December, New Delhi began ordering at least 75 ships and submarines, most of them built domestically.

Top officials earlier this year approved the purchase of \$39 billion worth of defence equipment, including Rafale jets from France.

# Stocks mostly rise as beaten-down tech stocks enjoy bounce

### Key figures around 1530

London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.3% at 10,679.03 points (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.4% at 8,508.07 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX:	▲ 0.8% at 25,779.31 (close)
Seoul - Kospi:	▲ 5.8% at 8,088.34 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 1.5% at 69,744.07 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▲ 1.3% at 23,350.03 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 0.4% at 4,043.64 (close)
New York - Dow:	Closed for public holiday
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 161.29 yen from 161.12 yen
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.1442 from \$1.1429
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.3355 from \$1.3345
Euro/pound:	▲ at 85.68 pence from 85.65 pence
Brent North Sea Crude:	▲ at \$71.82 a barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▼ 0.2% at \$68.53 a barrel

Asian and European stock markets mostly rose yesterday as tech firms rebounded and investors reacted to the receding prospects of higher US borrowing costs.

With US markets closed in observance of the Independence Day holiday, Thursday's sizeable miss on US jobs creation -- which reduced the likelihood of a Federal Reserve interest-rate hike -- continued to drive trading.

Earlier in the week, the yen fell a 40-year low versus the dollar on prospects of US rate hikes, but has since recovered some ground.

"A mixture of relief post the payrolls data, a reversal of the sell-off in the chip stocks and more volatility in the yen are the main narratives," noted Kathleen Brooks, research director at XTB trading group.

Investors welcomed key data Thursday showing the US economy added fewer than half the jobs forecast in June, while figures for the previous two months were revised down.

The readings suggested the labour market was not as strong as thought, and hands the Fed some breathing room to hold off from hiking rates, boosting global markets.

Speculation had grown since the central bank's June policy meeting that it would announce a rate increase this year because of elevated inflation and after new Fed boss Kevin Warsh said price stability was his key goal.

Against such a backdrop, the likelihood of a US rate hike before the end of the year remains, according to some analysts.

"The US labour market today is not strong enough to instigate rate hikes but importantly is no longer a handbrake or imped-

iment to hikes," said Rodrigo Catril, analyst at National Australia Bank.

Concerns about surging valuations for technology companies amid a race for all things AI continued to dominate sentiment.

Seoul's Kospi stocks index closed up 5.8% Friday -- having tanked by about 20% from its June 19 record high -- boosted by strong rallies in technology firms SK Hynix and Samsung.

Tokyo climbed more than 1%, along with Hong Kong, Manila, Bangkok and Jakarta.

European indices rose, benefiting from the changed US interest rate outlook as well as a search for value.

"Lower US rate expectations ease pressure on global borrowing costs and reduce the risk of capital flowing away from Europe toward higher-yielding US assets," said Trade Nation analyst David Morrison.

He added that European indices are less exposed to AI stocks and that "the stocks within them trade on much lower P/E multiples than those typically seen over in the US."

The price to earnings (P/E) ratio -- the price of a share in multiples of its earnings per share, provides a comparative measure of how much investors are willing to pay for each dollar or euro of earnings.

Oil prices steadied as markets tracked developments in the US-Iran talks and traffic flows through the Strait of Hormuz.



The world's first publicly traded company was the Dutch East India Company in 1602, giving birth to the modern stock market.

# Mercedes demos set stage for wave of Gwerman auto protests

AFP | Frankfurt, Germany

Thousands of workers demonstrated outside Mercedes-Benz factories in Germany Friday over the premium carmaker's cost-saving plans, kicking off an expected wave of protests in the country's crisis-wracked auto industry.

German carmakers are battling fierce Chinese competition, US tariffs and weak demand in key markets, with a string of job cuts and other austerity measures announced in recent times.

Organised with the powerful



IG Metall union, thousands of workers rallied outside several Mercedes plants, from the southern city of Sindelfingen -- outside Stuttgart -- to Bremen in the north.

"While shareholders benefit more than handsomely, employees are supposed to sacrifice their contractually guaranteed rights," said IG Metall boss Christiane Benner at a protest in Duesseldorf.

"This is how you squander the future and trust."

They were protesting against

proposed measures including unpaid increases in weekly working hours and cuts to benefits, according to IG Metall.

Over 33,000 workers took part in the protests nationwide, according to the union. Mercedes said almost 16,000 people had taken part in demonstrations at six of its sites. Mercedes, whose profits halved last year, told AFP that it had launched a savings drive because "structural costs in Germany -- particularly labour costs -- are not competitive by international standards".



The roots of Mercedes-Benz go back to 1886, when Carl Benz patented what is widely regarded as the world's first automobile.

## At least 40 dead after bus falls into ravine in western Pakistan



Rescuers search near the wreckage of the bus

AFP | Quetta

An overloaded bus veered off a road and fell more than 20 meters into a ravine in western Pakistan, killing at least 40 people, officials said.

The chief minister of Balochistan province where the accident took place had ordered an inquiry, according to his spokesman, and Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in a statement expressed grief over the passenger casualties.

"A passenger bus traveling from Quetta to Peshawar plunged into a deep ravine in the mountainous Dana Sar area... 40 people have been confirmed dead and 11 others injured," said Sanaullah Sherani, the head of the emergency center in Zhob district near where the incident took place.

Sherani said the injured passengers had been taken to hospital, three of them in critical condition.

"The bus fell approximately 70 to 80 feet into the ravine," Sherani added.

"As the accident occurred in a rugged mountainous area, rescue teams faced significant difficulties during the initial phase of the operation," he said.

## Death toll from bomb blast at Damascus cafe rises to 10

AFP | Damascus

Syria's health ministry said yesterday the death toll from a bomb attack at a Damascus cafe the previous day had risen to 10, with 21 people wounded.

The bombing – the deadliest since a suicide attack on a church last year – was not immediately claimed.

It took place near the capital's Palace of Justice, a key government building, sparking scenes of panic in the busy area.

Authorities said it was caused by an explosive device planted at the scene. The homemade bomb weighed about one kilogram and was packed with metal fragments. The health ministry had previously said nine people were killed and 20 wounded.

## India, Japan sign AI, defence and energy deals after Modi-Takaichi summit



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) looks on as Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi before their meeting at the Hyderabad House

TDT | Agencies

India and Japan signed a series of deals on Thursday to deepen cooperation in artificial intelligence, critical minerals, energy and defence following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Sanae Takaichi at the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit in New Delhi. The measures aim to bolster economic security and cement one of Asia's key strategic relationships as geopolitical competition intensifies across the Indo-Pacific.

Artificial intelligence emerged as a central pillar of the new partnership, with both leaders pledging to combine Japan's strengths in advanced manufacturing and precision engineering with India's large software industry and expanding digital economy. Officials said the goal is to accelerate AI innovation and industrial applications, positioning the two countries as trusted players in critical technologies.

The summit also produced agreement on a joint roadmap for economic security, reflecting shared concern over supply chain resilience in sectors such as semiconductors, critical minerals and advanced manufacturing. Since the COVID-19 pandemic and amid rising geopolitical tensions, both governments have sought to cut vulnerabilities linked to concentrated supply

chains and to secure essential resources for strategic industries.

On defence, New Delhi and Tokyo announced their first joint defence co-development project, a symbolic but significant step in expanding military cooperation that has grown steadily over the past decade through exercises and maritime coordination. As fellow members of the Quad grouping with the United States and Australia, both countries say closer defence and technology collaboration is vital to maintaining stability in the Indo-Pacific.

Energy ties were reinforced through the launch of an India-Japan Bio-Gas Initiative that envisages 1,000 bio-gas and organic fertilizer plants across India. The project is intended to help diversify India's energy mix, boost rural energy access and reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels, while supporting environmental sustainability and the green transition.

Japan remains one of India's largest investors and development partners, backing projects such as the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail corridor and expanding its footprint in banking, manufacturing and technology. Bilateral trade reached about 27.5 billion dollars in the 2025/26 fiscal year, with Japanese investment rising despite global economic uncertainty.

# El Nino set to be 'strong', UN warns

Phenomenon expected to strengthen between July and September

● WMO warns of extremes

● Heatwave risks expected worldwide

● Pacific temperatures rising sharply

● Impacts felt into 2027

AFP | Geneva

El Nino is here and will quickly develop into a strong event between July and September, fuelling the likelihood of extreme weather, the United Nations' climate agency warned yesterday.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said the climate phenomenon would rapidly gain strength, as it warned countries to brace for impact.

El Nino warms surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, bringing worldwide changes in winds, pressure and rainfall patterns.

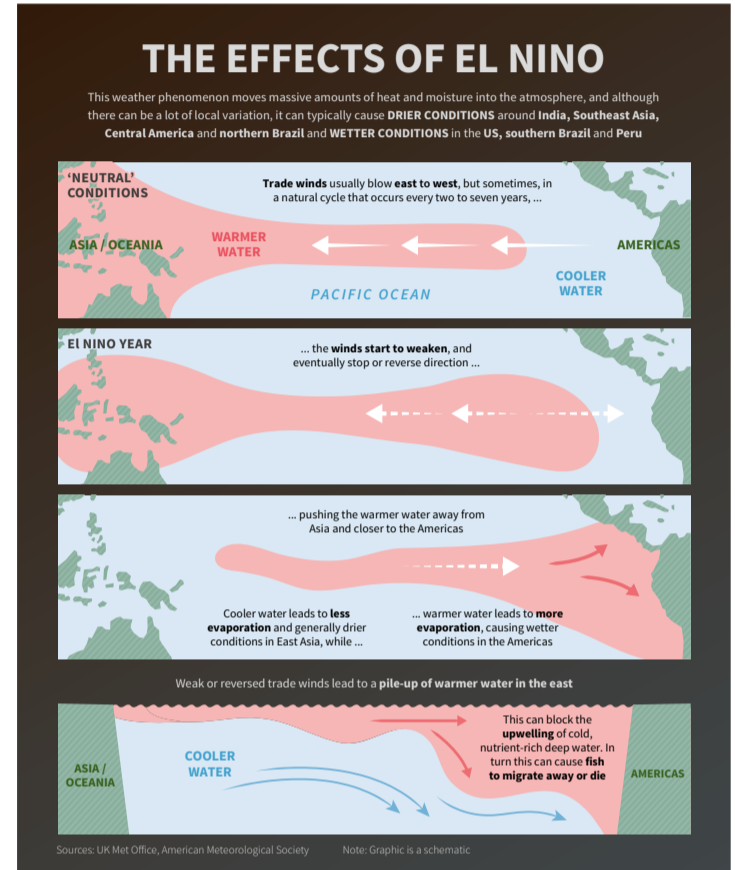
It typically takes place every two to seven years and lasts around nine to 12 months.

Conditions oscillate between El Nino and its opposite La Nina, with neutral conditions in between.

The WMO's monthly Global Seasonal Climate Update points towards "a rapid development into a strong El Nino event during July-September".

The UN agency classifies El Nino events as weak, moderate, strong or very strong, meaning it is set to reach the third-highest level out of four.

"El Nino conditions have developed in the tropical Pacific and are forecast to strengthen rapidly over the coming months, increasing the likelihood of... extreme weather events in many parts of the world," the WMO said.



Heatwave risks

WMO climate scientist Alvaro Silva told a press conference that since last month, "we have much more confidence that strong El Nino conditions are developing in the equatorial Pacific".

He said the WMO may issue an update in the coming months, "for example, if we have forecasts suggesting this will be a really strong El Nino".

The Geneva-based agency said forecasts produced by global climate centres, using different models, indicate a consistent and significant warming of ocean temperatures across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific.

"Seasonal-average sea-surface temperature anomalies expected to exceed 2C in key monitoring

regions," it said.

"El Nino is expected to continue strengthening during the Northern Hemisphere autumn, with its influence extending across many regions of the globe."

The last El Nino contributed to making 2023 the second-hottest year on record and 2024 the all-time high at around 1.55C above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average. While El Nino usually peaks between November and February, the resulting spike in temperatures typically comes later.

"The impacts of El Nino will be felt in different regions until the end of the year and beyond, also during 2027," underlined Silva.

The WMO said it was stepping up early warning support to help guide preparedness, especially in climate-sensitive sectors like agriculture and health.

## Was EU lawmaker probing Pegasus spyware hacked with it?

AFP | Brussels

EU lawmakers voiced outrage yesterday over a report that a former Greek MEP's phone was hacked using Pegasus spyware -- while he was serving on a parliamentary inquiry into the surveillance tool.

The University of Toronto's Citizen Lab found that Stelios Kouloglou's phone was infected with Pegasus in 2022 and 2023, as the left-wing lawmaker sat as a substitute on the European Parliament committee investigating the spyware's use in Europe.

The researchers said they had "high confidence" in their findings but could not say who was behind the alleged espionage, while noting that Pegasus, developed by Israeli firm NSO

Group, had been sold to several governments.

The report issued yesterday sparked a wave of indignant re-

actions at the European Parliament in Brussels.

Belgian Green lawmaker Saskia Bricmont said she was "shocked", urging the European Commission to "take binding measures to ban the illegal use of spyware in Europe."

The Left group called for "strong measures" against spyware, arguing that little has been done in Europe to date, while the centrist Renew group said it was "very concerned".

An investigative journalist and EU lawmaker until 2024, Kouloglou contacted Citizen Lab himself in May to have his phone examined.

Questioned about the claim, the European Parliament said its services "constantly monitor cybersecurity threats as well as potential cyberattacks against its working environment".

1776

US Congress proclaims the Declaration of Independence and independence from Great Britain

1785

Geologist James Hutton publicly reads an abstract of his theory of uniformitarianism for the first time at a meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh

1803

The Louisiana Purchase is announced to the American people by President Thomas Jefferson

1934



Hungarian physicist Leó Szilárd patents the chain-reaction design for the atomic bomb

# Trump heads for Mount Rushmore as US turns 250

Anniversary festivities heavily feature Trump's political brand



An American flag flies at the visitor's center at Mount Rushmore National Monument

- Campaign-style rally planned.
- Nation remains politically divided
- Anniversary sparks mixed reactions

AFP | Washington

President Donald Trump kicked off America's 250th birthday weekend yesterday with a trip to a landmark upon which many suspect he would like to see his own face carved in rock -- Mount Rushmore.

On the eve of Independence Day, Trump was set to give a speech beneath the giant granite heads of four of his legendary predecessors at the national monument in South Dakota. It's a fitting image for a president who views himself as being one of the greats himself, and who has at every stage tried to turn the United States' big anniversary into a celebration of himself.

Republican Trump's supporters have even introduced legislation to have his likeness chiseled beside those of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt.

On July 4 itself, Trump will hold a huge campaign-style political rally on the National Mall in the capital Washington, along with flyovers by military

jets and what he has billed as the world's biggest fireworks display.

For Trump -- the billionaire former reality TV star who became the consummate political showman -- taking center stage is in his blood.

"Trump likes the spotlight, and I think he's trying to take the spotlight," Peter Loge, director of George Washington University's School of Media, said.

## 'Really long speech'

But America under Trump is deeply divided at what should be a time of national unity.

Trump's approval ratings are near historic lows, fuelled largely by the war in Iran and the cost of living. His Democratic opponents have castigated him over his immigration policies, family wealth and attempts to extend presidential power.

His attempts to stamp his political brand on America's 250th anniversary have, meanwhile, not always gone to plan.

A Trump-linked organization called Freedom 250 has taken control of many of the festivities from the bipartisan America250 group, leading many people to stay away from key events.

A "Great American State

**61%** of Americans believe the United States is currently failing to live up to the foundational ideals stated within the Declaration of Independence

Fair" in the capital designed as a celebration of the country's birthday has drawn sparse crowds and widespread mockery for its empty booths.

In June, Trump held a widely criticized Ultimate Fighting Championship cage fight on the White House lawn during which one fighter shouted the false claim that former first lady Michelle Obama "is a man."

A dangerous heat wave is even expected to sweep across Washington and much of the US throughout the anniversary weekend, when several football World Cup knockout matches are also being played.

"On July 4 it's going to be approximately 107 degrees (41C) out, and I'm going to go and I'm going to make a really long speech -- just to show that I can do anything," Trump said on Wednesday.

## 'Great holiday'

The mood largely reflects the country's own.

"The Fourth of July really is a moment of freedom, but I have to be honest, in these political times, it hasn't been as exciting to me over the last few years," Amy Kimaara, a 49-year-old special education teacher wearing a Team USA jersey and a star-spangled banner knot to tie her ponytail, told AFP in Los Angeles.

As it marks two-and-a-half centuries of triumphs and tragedies, slavery and freedom, civil war and world wars, surveys show the nation is pessimistic about the chances of realizing the "American Dream."



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Faced with the current global challenges, the EU must accelerate its reforms, complete the single market, simplify its rules, mobilize investments, and strengthen its partnerships. A stronger, more autonomous, and more competitive EU is our best response.

@eucopresident

02



The devastating earthquakes in Venezuela have upended the lives of hundreds of thousands of children. UNICEF is responding with safe water, hygiene supplies, medicine, nutrition and protection services, including child-friendly spaces for children to play and help them recover.

@unicefchief

03



Donald Trump is declining across every front, but the power he still wields is real, and dangerous. We must remain vigilant.

@GavinNewsom

04



Getting ready for an incredible Fourth of July at @USUN . Happy 250th! #freedom250

@USAmbUN

## Land of Liberty: Looking Back into 250 years



JOEL INDRUPATI

It took almost five weeks, for the news to travel across the Atlantic. But when the British learnt in August that, on 4 July 1776, the Americans had declared independence from the British monarchy, there was hardly anything they could do -- to quell a rebellion that had now escalated into a powerful movement.

Vexed with taxes, 13 British colonies in North America had formally transformed their colonies into states and declared themselves as independent from Britain.

And it was too late for the British, who couldn't afford a war then, to realize how serious the American Revolution had become for their vast empire, which spanned the world.

As the USA celebrates 250 years of its declaration of independence, it might be pertinent for us to look at the history behind the day.

the next 200 years, migrants and migrants' descendants from Europe were already populating the continents of both, North and South Americas. And by 1700s, there were 13 British colonies on the eastern coast of North America. The French, the Spaniards, and the Dutch were then controlling other parts of the continent.

In 1701, a man called William Penn wrote a 'Charter of Privileges' for the residents of his colony, Pennsylvania, which was formed when King Charles II of England granted a royal land charter.

So forward-thinking was Penn that he had envisioned a colony that permitted religious freedom, the consent and participation of the governed, and had clear laws pertaining to property rights, including those of Native Americans.

While the charter recognized the authority of the British King and Parliament over the colony, it also provided for the creation of a local governing body that would propose and execute the laws.

In fact, in 1751, it was in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of this charter that the Pennsylvania Assembly ordered a special 'bell' to be made. And this bell had, a century later, become a potent symbol for liberty during the movement for the abolition of slavery, and became known as the 'Liberty Bell'.

The significance of 'Boston Tea Party' towards US independence also cannot be understated.

In the 1760s, Britain was deep in debt. And British Parliament imposed a series of taxes on American colonists.

According to history.com, "The Stamp Act of 1765 taxed colonists on virtually every piece of printed paper they used, from playing cards and business licenses to newspapers and legal documents. And the Townshend Acts of 1767 went a step further, taxing essentials such as paint, paper, glass, lead and tea".

The Tea Act of 1773 then, took the cake! Frustrated and angry at Britain for imposing "taxation without representation," protestors got onto ships docked in Boston, and dumped 342 chests of British tea into the harbour. The tea that British East India Company prided in trading around the world went down the sea.

Angered at the Boston Tea Party, British Parliament imposed more coercive laws.

And the colonies got together, declared freedom, and called themselves the United States.

Interestingly, only 12 of the 13 states signed the declaration on 4 July. New York signed it only on 19 July.

Since then, with 'abolition of slavery', 'voting rights for women', 'ending of colour-segregation', and 'voting rights to African Americans', USA has come a long way.

And the nation continues to strive to guarantee its people -- as promised in the Declaration of Independence -- certain unalienable rights, among which are "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

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

**British General Charles Cornwallis surrendered to US General George Washington during the 'Siege of Yorktown' in 1781. Britain then sent Cornwallis to India, appointing him as the Governor-General and commander-in-chief. He died in 1805, and lies buried in Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh, India**

Indigenous populations had been living in the Americas long before European explorers made their way across the Atlantic. The Native Americans were called Red Indians simply because the great explorer Christopher Columbus -- who found the sea route from Europe to North America, in 1492 -- thought he had somehow reached his destination, India.

The place Columbus first landed is, in fact, in the current-day Bahamas, in the Caribbean; the region is now called the 'West Indies' because he had missed the 'real East India' by thousands of kilometres.

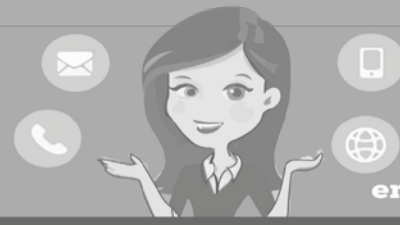
Anyway, long story short, within

### USA in 250 years

- Established the world's longest-lasting constitutional democracy
- Built the world's largest and most innovative economy
- Led scientific and technological innovation
- Defended and shaped the post-1945 international order
- Expanded civil rights and individual freedoms

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

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KHALID TRANSPORT EST. has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17785830 or Khalid@abulfatih.com

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FOOD INNOVATION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33771107 or HR.FOODINNOVATION@FAKHRO.COM

KENTUCKY has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36051050 or ssaleh@AMERICANA-FOOD.COM

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AHMED MANSOOR ALAALI has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL FABRICATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17265555 or adeel.hameed@al-aali.com

AHMED MANSOOR ALAALI has a vacancy for the occupation of MATERIAL INSPECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17265555 or adeel.hameed@al-aali.com

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URBASER BAHRAIN CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17534342 or sajjlnath@urbaser.com

BAKSH MECHANICAL FABRICATION WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of FABRICATOR(FIBERGLASS RODUCTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39856355 or FAMEBUSINESS-SERVICES@GMAIL.COM

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MANTRAC BAHRAIN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17503000 or AMARTIN@MANTRAC-GROUP.COM

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

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SAYED MAHDI SALMAN HASAN NASER has a vacancy for the occupation of GARDENER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39446755 or HOMECARTBH@GMAIL.COM

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high clean laundry has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39909951 or M.BUCHEERY@HOTMAIL.COM

PAKIZA CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35139604 or AESHA.Y000@GMAIL.COM

ALSHAIMA FUEL TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(HEAVY TRUCK), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39460655 or H-ALFARDAN@LIVE.COM

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superior quality trading co. w.l.l has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33306935 or accounts@superiortransportbh.com

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## region

### Qatar Reaffirms Commitment to Global Counter-Terrorism Efforts at UN Week

National Committee for Countering Terrorism holds high-level meetings with UN officials to strengthen cooperation and capacity-building

The State of Qatar, represented by its National Committee for Countering Terrorism, participated in the United Nations Week against Terrorism, held in New York, United States, from June 26 to July 2, 2026.

On the sidelines of the event, the Qatari delegation held separate meetings with Ms. Natalia Grizman, Executive Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), and Mr. Alexander Zwief, Acting Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), along with several senior officials from the office.

The discussions focused on reviewing the existing cooperation between Qatar and both the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate. The two sides explored ways to enhance coordination in counter-terrorism initiatives, strengthen capacity-building efforts, and expand collaboration in areas of mutual



interest. They also exchanged views on a range of regional and international issues related to combating terrorism.

Qatar's participation in the UN Week against Terrorism underscores its continued commitment to supporting international efforts to combat terrorism and violent extremism. It also reflects the country's dedication to strengthening its

strategic partnership with the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

Through its engagement, Qatar aims to further develop national counter-terrorism capabilities, promote the exchange of expertise, and benefit from international best practices, reinforcing global cooperation in addressing evolving security challenges.

### UAE and Chile Eye Stronger Investment

The United Arab Emirates and Chile have reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing bilateral trade and investment relations during an official visit to Santiago by Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Foreign Trade.

Dr. Al Zeyoudi was received by Chilean President José Antonio Kast at the Presidential Palace in the presence of Mohammed Al Neyadi. During the meeting, Al Zeyoudi conveyed the greetings and congratulations of UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President and Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and Vice President Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan on President Kast's assumption of office.

President Kast welcomed the delegation and expressed appreciation for the strong relationship between the two countries, reaffirming Chile's



for businesses and investors. As part of the UAE Trade Days initiative, Al Zeyoudi led a high-level delegation of government officials and business leaders. The delegation held meetings with senior Chilean officials and private-sector representatives to explore avenues for deeper economic cooperation and increased investment flows.

commitment to expanding cooperation, particularly in trade and investment. He also praised the UAE's efforts in promoting peace, tolerance, dialogue and international cooperation.

Discussions focused on strengthening collaboration in key sectors, including trade, investment, renewable energy, agriculture, technology, mining and infrastructure. Both sides emphasized the importance of building on the growing momentum in economic relations and creating new opportunities

The visit also featured a business roundtable bringing together investors and business leaders from both countries to discuss partnerships and trade opportunities.

Al Zeyoudi reaffirmed the UAE's commitment to strengthening its strategic partnership with Chile, noting that the UAE-Chile Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) provides a strong platform for expanding economic cooperation and supporting sustainable growth in both nations.

### Kuwait Urges Firm UN Action on Iran

Calls attacks on Kuwait and Bahrain a violation of international law

Kuwait has urged the United Nations Security Council to take a firm stance against repeated Iranian attacks targeting its territory, airspace, civilian infrastructure, and the Kingdom of Bahrain, describing them as violations of international law and state sovereignty.

Addressing an emergency Security Council session, Kuwait's Chargé d'Affaires to the UN, Faisal Al-Enezi, said Kuwait holds Iran fully responsible while reaffirming that the country will not allow its territory, airspace, or waters to be used for hostile actions against any state.

Al-Enezi noted that recent missile and drone attacks threatened civilian facilities



and vital infrastructure, but the preparedness of Kuwait's armed forces helped prevent greater losses.

He also expressed Kuwait's full solidarity with Bahrain, stressing that the security of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states is indi-

visible. Calling for accountability, Al-Enezi urged the Security Council to condemn the attacks and prevent further escalation, while reaffirming Kuwait's support for dialogue, diplomacy, and peaceful solutions to regional tensions.

## Bahrain U20s prepare for Asian qualifiers



**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's under-20 football team will hold training camps in Muscat and Doha and play eight friendly matches as it readies itself for the Asian Cup qualifiers due to be held in Bahrain from August 30 to September 6.

The young Reds are preparing for Group D of the qualifying round for the AFC Under-20 Asian Cup China 2027, with national coach Ali Amer seeking to lead the side to the finals.

As part of the build-up, Bahrain will face Palestine, Oman, Bangladesh and Qatar in a run of warm-up matches aimed at sharpening the squad before the home qualifiers.

The team has been car-

rying out intensive training under the coaching staff, with the programme built around match practice, fitness work and tactical drills.

The Bahrain Football Association had also been working on plans for an overseas camp as part of the wider preparations, with the aim of giving the players stronger match rhythm before the qualifying campaign begins.

The coaching team hopes the camps and friendlies will give the squad the needed balance of physical readiness, match sharpness and tactical discipline ahead of the decisive stage.

Bahrain will host the Group D matches as it seeks a place at the continental finals in China in 2027.

## Endrick says versatility could help Brazil against Norway



Brazil's forwards #19 Endrick, #10 Neymar and midfielder #20 Lucas Paqueta take their jackets off before a match (file photo)

AFP | Basking Ridge

Brazil forward Endrick highlighted his versatility on Thursday as a potential asset against Norway should Carlo Ancelotti turn to him in their World Cup last-16 encounter.

The Real Madrid attacker is one of the leading candidates to replace the injured Lucas Paqueta, who had started alongside Casemiro and Bruno Guimaraes in midfield before suffering a hamstring injury.

Including Endrick in the line-up on Sunday would likely require a change to the three-man midfield system Brazil have used throughout the tournament, although Ancelotti has indicated he is open to change.

"At Lyon, I helped the team a lot playing as a number nine. I could play on the right wing and I could also play as a false nine," said the 19-year-old, who spent the second half of last season on loan in France.

"The coach knows my qualities and characteristics very well because we spent a year together at Real Madrid. He was always watching me and

understanding how I could help the team."

"It's no different here -- they know how I can contribute," he added.

Endrick replaced Paqueta at half-time of Brazil's hard-fought 2-1 victory over Japan in the previous round in Houston.

The five-time world champions finished that match with four attackers and two midfielders, a shape that could be used again against Erling Haaland's Norway if Ancelotti opts for a more aggressive approach.

"He (Ancelotti) isn't afraid, he does what he thinks and things happen. It's like God is watching over him, he's enlightened. Everything the guy does ends up happening," said Endrick.

"All of us players are following the coach's plan, I think it's about keeping on like this."

Norway hold the rare distinction of never having lost to Brazil, with two wins and two draws from their four previous meetings, including a memorable 2-1 victory over the Selecao in the group stage of the 1998 World Cup.

# Historic NBA G League Call for Bahrain

First Bahraini and GCC player chosen in the NBA G League International Player Draft

TDT Manama

Bahraini basketball player Muzamil Amir has made history by becoming the first Bahraini and the first player from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) selected in the 2026 NBA G League International Player Draft, marking a major milestone for Bahraini and Gulf basketball.

Amir was selected eighth overall by the San Diego Clippers before being immediately traded to the Texas Legends, the NBA G League affiliate of the Dallas Mavericks. The move represents a landmark achievement for Bahrain, opening new opportunities for the Kingdom's basketball talent on the international stage.

The historic selection reflects Bahrain's continued commitment to investing in and developing national talent. It also



highlights the vision led by His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth

Affairs, whose initiatives focus on supporting Bahraini youth, nurturing sporting talent, and creating pathways for athletes to compete professionally at the

highest levels.

Amir described the achievement as the result of years of support, guidance, and encouragement from Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad. He expressed his sincere gratitude for the confidence placed in him throughout his sporting journey, saying the milestone would not have been possible without that backing.

He pledged to continue working hard to justify the trust placed in him and to proudly represent Bahrain on the world stage.

The achievement carries added significance because the NBA G League serves as the primary pathway to the NBA, with league players closely monitored by NBA scouts. Amir's selection is widely regarded as a historic moment that places Bahraini and Gulf basketball firmly on the global basketball map.

## Roba Al Amri Wins Silver in Discus Throw

TDT | Manama

Roba Al Amri of Bahrain's national team secured the silver medal in the women's F55 discus throw at the Olo-mouc World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026, continuing her strong performances in the competition.

Competing on the second day



of the event, Al Amri achieved a best throw of 22.98 meters, finishing second among a strong field of international athletes. The result adds another achievement to Bahrain's para athletics record, highlighting her consistent form and competitive presence on the global stage.

## France's Barcola expecting physical Paraguay clash at World Cup

AFP | Waltham

France forward Bradley Barcola warned on Thursday that Paraguay would bring a physical approach when the sides meet in the World Cup last 16 in Philadelphia.

Didier Deschamps' free-scoring side have won all four games at the tournament so far and will start as overwhelming favourites against Paraguay on Saturday.

Barcola, though, said Paraguay's shock win over Germany on penalties in the last 32 showed France have to be ready to grind it out, with scorching temperatures expected for the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

"It's a team that defends a lot. They're going to dish out a lot of knocks," Barcola told reporters. "But they are also a footballing team. We saw that against Germany."

Asked about the defensive tactics Paraguay are likely to employ, Barcola said he was not concerned, pointing to similar experiences in Ligue 1 with Paris Saint-Germain.

"We know it's going to be difficult, but personally I'm start-



France's forward #12 Bradley Barcola

### World Cup Schedule (Round of 16)

Today		
Time	Match	Venue
08:00 PM	Canada vs Morocco	Houston Stadium
Tomorrow		
12:00 AM	Paraguay vs France	Philadelphia Stadium
11:00 PM	Brazil vs Norway	New York New Jersey Stadium

(All games in Bahrain time)

ing to get used to it in Ligue 1. We'll have to find alternatives,"

he said. Defender Jules Kounde also

cautioned against underestimating Paraguay, describing them as a difficult opponent capable of hurting teams on the counter-attack.

"They are a tenacious team," Kounde said. "They also have the qualities to play, build from the back and take advantage of counter-attacks. They have players who can do that."

"We're expecting a difficult match and we'll have to be strong and impose our game."

France head into the knockout clash as one of the tournament's most prolific team, having scored 13 goals. Kylian Mbappe has six of those, while Ousmane Dembele has netted four. Barcola bagged his second of the World Cup in Tuesday's 3-0 win over Sweden.

Barcola said the team's attacking players were thriving on their freedom and understanding on the pitch.

"We play like we're back in the neighbourhood. We take the ball, we pretty much do what we want, we don't overthink it, and that's how it works," he said.

Kounde said the bond between France's attacking players had been a key factor behind their impressive form.

# Portugal advance in World Cup thanks to last-gasp Ramos winner

Ronaldo score his first knockout-phase World Cup goal in a 1-1 classic before Ramos struck late

- Portugal beat Croatia late
- Ronaldo converted penalty
- Gvardiol goal ruled offside
- Portugal face Spain next

AFP | Toronto

Substitute Goncalo Ramos's headed goal edged Portugal into the last 16 of the World Cup after Croatia were dramatically denied an equalizer by VAR.

Ramos settled a classic World Cup game when he connected with a superb pass from Rafael Leao in the fourth minute of stoppage time to snuff out a Croatia team which had created the lion's share of the chances in sapping heat in Toronto.

Croatia thought they had snatched a goal in the dying seconds of extra time, but Josko Gvardiol's goal was chalked off for offside.

The Croatians were left stunned by the decision, and their fans began hurling rubbish on the pitch.



Portugal's forward #07 Cristiano Ronaldo scores his team's first goal

In the seconds before Gvardiol's disallowed goal, the Portuguese bench and coach Roberto Martinez were growing increasingly livid, begging match officials for the final whistle.

Cristiano Ronaldo played his role in the victory, stroking home a penalty that cancelled out Ivan Perisic's opener.

It was Ronaldo's first ever goal in the knockout phase of the World Cup, and it made him the

oldest scorer in that phase in the tournament's history.

His remarkable international career will now have another chapter when Portugal face Spain in Dallas on Monday.

After the match, Ronaldo shared a long exchange with Croatian legend Luka Modric, one of football's all-time greats, whose World Cup career has almost certainly ended with the defeat.

The match marked the first time that two outfield players aged over 40 took to the same pitch in a World Cup.

At the end, the Portugal players also paid tribute to late teammate Diogo Jota, who was killed in a car crash a year ago, by holding up his number 21 shirt.

## Ronaldo penalty

After a lacklustre first half, Croatian veteran Perisic stunned



**Cristiano Ronaldo and Luka Modric became the first two outfield players aged over 40 to share the pitch in a World Cup match**

the Portuguese by slotting the ball under the advancing Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa in the 53rd minute.

Within minutes, Ronaldo had the ball in the net after controlling a long pass, but his effort was disallowed for offside.

But Portugal got level when Renato Veiga was grabbed by Croatia's Nikola Vlasic in the penalty area and after a VAR check, the referee pointed to the spot.

Ronaldo stepped up to convert the penalty with ease, hitting the ball straight down the middle of the goal and pumping his fists with joy afterwards, triggering deafening cheers in the Toronto stadium.

In a pulsating game, Manchester City forward Mateo Kovacic's

low shot was pushed onto a post by 'keeper Costa's fingertips.

Still Croatia pushed and Peta Susic had the ball in the net but the assistant referee's flag was up for a clear offside.

Ronaldo was withdrawn in the 81st minute to allow Ruben Neves to come on.

The sellout crowd of 43,000 erupted with appreciation as Ronaldo went off -- unsure in the moment if he would appear again at in World Cup.

Croatia continued to create more chances than their opponents and Mario Pasalic came so close to winning the game with a header at the far post, but it bounced just wide.

But when Ramos connected, the net bulged and Portugal were through.

While the crowd tilted towards Portugal, the sizeable and vocal Croatian contingent smothered the stadium with booes every time Ronaldo touched the ball.

Tens of thousands of people with Portuguese lineage live in and around Toronto and Ronaldo's presence in the city also sparked waves of enthusiasm -- and chaos on a major highway a day before the match.

A multi-lane expressway was forced to close earlier when hundreds of fans lined the shoulder hoping to get a glimpse of the passing Portuguese team bus.

## 'I was just missing a goal,' says Spain's Yamal

AFP | Los Angeles

Spain star Lamine Yamal said she was delighted with his team's performance in their 3-0 win in the World Cup last 32 against Austria -- but admitted he would have liked to score.

"I was just missing a goal or an assist," said the 18-year-old Barcelona sensation, who was named man of the match.

"But as long as we win and advance to the next round, that's what matters," he told journalists in Los Angeles.

Pressed by one reporter on why he seemed glum after a World Cup knockout win, Yamal insisted he was happy inside, even if he didn't show it outwardly.

"I really am happy. That match is over, and now we have to think about the next one," he said.

"I'm very grateful for the affection shown to me in every stadium. It helps me step onto the pitch more motivated," he added.

Yamal, who will turn 19 on July 13, reiterated that his dream is to be a World Cup winner at the final in New Jersey on July 19.

"There's nothing better than the World Cup," he said.

"When a kid dreams about football, they dream of playing in the World Cup. I want to advance through the rounds and win with Spain."



Spain's forward #19 Lamine Yamal kicks the ball

He added: "We aren't afraid of any team. We are Spain. We have to prove it on the pitch."

Yamal did briefly break into a smile when one journalist showed him a video of his three-year-old brother celebrating the victory in the Los Angeles stands.

"It moves me to see my brother, my mother and my friends happy... My brother is like a son to me. I adore him," he said.

The comfortable win Thursday was also a fourth straight clean sheet for Spain, who are yet to concede a goal at this World Cup.

"Today we came close to perfection from the 20th minute

**"When a kid dreams about football, they dream of playing in the World Cup. I want to advance through the rounds and win with Spain. We aren't afraid of any team. We are Spain. We have to prove it on the pitch"**

LAMINE YAMAL

until the end of the match," said goalkeeper Unai Simon.

"We have to keep maintain-

ing that level to keep advancing through the stages," he said.

Asked whether he would prefer to face Portugal or Croatia in the round of 16 in Dallas on Monday, Simon declined to pick.

"Whenever we've played against either Portugal or Spain, they've made things incredibly difficult for us -- in general play, in pressing and in set pieces," he said.

"Both teams have players with spectacular set-piece delivery -- I wouldn't want to face either of them," he admitted.

Portugal and Croatia were meeting in the round of 32 later on Thursday.

## Switzerland beat Algeria 2-0 to move into last 16



Johan Manzambi of Switzerland is challenged by Aissa Mandi of Algeria

AFP | Vancouver

Switzerland moved into the last 16 of the World Cup with a controlled 2-0 win against Algeria.

The effervescent Johan Manzambi created the first goal in Vancouver, surging down the left wing before crossing for Breel Embolo to tap in.

Dan Ndoye slotted in the second within a minute of the restart after half-time, controlling Rafik Belghali's weak clearance and shooting through a crowd of players.

Algeria 'keeper Luca Zidane was unable to get a strong enough hand to the ball on a

**5**  
African teams including Algeria have been eliminated at the last-32 stage

bitterly disappointing night for the north Africans.

Algeria join Ivory Coast, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal and South Africa as African teams to be knocked out so far at the last-32 stage. Only Morocco have progressed.

# Egypt edge Australia on penalties to reach **World Cup last 16**

**H**ossam Abdelmaguid scored the winning penalty as Egypt made history by beating a dogged Australia 4-2 on penalties to reach the World Cup last 16 on Friday.

A tense affair in which Egypt and their off-colour captain Mohamed Salah wasted the better chances, ended 1-1 after 120 minutes in Texas.

Lionel Messi's Argentina loom next for Egypt, as long as the reigning champions avoid a massive upset against tournament debutants Cape Verde in their last-32 encounter.

The Pharaohs will celebrate anyway having reached this stage of a World Cup for the first time ever.

Australia coach Tony Popovic threw on experienced goalkeeper Mathew Ryan for the penalty shootout in a last-gasp gamble.

Shooting towards the Egypt fans and with whistles raining down, defender Harry Souttar blazed the first penalty over to put the Socceroos on the immediate backfoot.

The next five players all scored, including Salah with the coolest of penalties, before 18-year-old Australia defender Lucas Herrington hit the bar.

Abdelmaguid kept his nerve to send Egypt through, leaving Salah in tears of joy and breaking Australia hearts.

Emam Ashour had given seven-time African champions Egypt the lead from a header after 13 minutes at the air-con-



Egypt's players celebrate after winning the match



Egypt's goalkeeper #23 Mostafa Shoubir (L) and Egypt's midfielder #08 Emam Ashour celebrate after winning the match

ditioned home of the Dallas Cowboys.

The early goal put the onus on

a shot-shy Australia who scored only twice in the group phase to attack in front of a crowd of

70,000.

With Salah mostly ineffective following injury in Egypt's last game, the Socceroos equalised 10 minutes after half-time when Mohamed Hany headed into his own net.

Both sides sensed history, neither having won a knockout game before at a men's World Cup, and they went to extra time after some late Egypt pressure.

With nothing to divide them they went to penalties. Egypt finished normal time the stronger and Salah fired well over early in extra time on his weaker right foot, with penalties looking increasingly inevitable.

Salah, though, proved more reliable in the shootout as Egypt triumphed.

## Neymar unhappy with World Cup role but 'respectful', says Ancelotti



Brazil's forward #10 Neymar warms up

AFP | Basking Ridge

**B**razil coach Carlo Ancelotti said Neymar is unhappy he has had such a limited role at the World Cup but has handled the situation professionally and remains a positive influence within the squad.

The country's all-time leading goalscorer has made just one substitute appearance at his fourth World Cup, playing the final 14 minutes of Brazil's 3-0 win over Scotland in the group stage.

Neymar, 34, is again likely to be on the bench for Sunday's last-16 match against Norway at MetLife Stadium.

"He's not satisfied, but he's behaving very well. He's training very well. Neymar is very respectful, kind, and loved by his teammates," Ancelotti told Brazilian newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo in an interview published yesterday.

"He's an important figure

in the team because he has quality and he's a very humble person. I'm very happy with him. And, obviously, he wants to play, like he always has."

Neymar arrived at the tournament with a right calf injury. Ancelotti insisted that Neymar is now capable of playing a full match, easing doubts over the fitness of the former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain star.

"The important thing is that he can play. No one knows how long he will play. He has the experience to manage his minutes in the game and the tempo. When I see that the team needs him, I'll put him on (the pitch)," said the Italian.

Brazil have never beaten Norway, drawing two and losing two of their four previous meetings. They have also not defeated a European side in a World Cup knockout match since winning the tournament in 2002.

## Allegri replaces Conte as Napoli manager



Massimiliano Allegri (L) and Antonio Conte

AFP | Rome

**M**assimiliano Allegri will replace Antonio Conte as Napoli manager, the Serie A club announced on yesterday.

"Napoli welcomes Massimiliano Allegri as manager of the first team," it said in a statement, adding that the 58-year-old had signed a three-year contract lasting until 2029.

Allegri previously coached Juventus (2014-19, 2021-24) and AC Milan (2010-14, 2025-26). Milan sacked him after the team missed out on next season's Champions League.

Since the end of the season,

nine of the 20 Serie A teams have changed coaches, including Napoli, AC Milan, which hired the Portuguese Ruben Amorim, Atalanta Bergamo (Maurizio Sarri), and Fiorentina (Fabio Grosso).

Conte, who guided Napoli to the Serie A title in the 2024/25 campaign, has been touted as the favourite to take over as Italy coach.

The former Italy international previously coached the national side between 2014 and 2016, taking them to the Euro 2016 quarterfinals where they lost on penalties to Germany.

# Hamilton edges Antonelli for Silverstone sprint pole

● Antonelli finishes close behind

● Verstappen places third in qualifying

AFP | Silverstone

**L**ewis Hamilton seized pole position for Saturday's Sprint at the British Grand Prix, edging rookie Mercedes driver Kimi Antonelli by just 0.011 seconds in a tense qualifying shootout at Silverstone yesterday.

Briton Lewis Hamilton, driving for Ferrari, clocked a best lap of 1 minute 28.376 seconds in SQ3 to secure top spot on home soil, narrowly beating Antonelli's 1:28.387 as Red Bull's Max Verstappen took third ahead of Charles Leclerc's Ferrari. George Russell lined up fifth, just ahead of McLaren pair Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri, with Isack Hadjar, Liam Lawson and Arvid Lindblad completing the top 10 for Saturday's 17-lap Sprint.

Hamilton had signalled his



Ferrari's British driver Lewis Hamilton celebrates his pole position after the sprint qualifying session

intentions early, topping the lone practice session and then leading SQ1 and SQ2 before delivering under pressure in the final one-lap dash on soft tyres. Norris and Piastri brief-

ly held provisional pole in SQ3 before Antonelli moved ahead, only for Hamilton to electrify the home crowd by finding the decisive margin on his final effort. Russell, struggling for

# 0.011

seconds was the incredibly narrow margin by which Lewis Hamilton edged out rookie Kimi Antonelli to secure the top spot on the grid

pace throughout the afternoon, salvaged fifth but ended more than three tenths off his teammate's benchmark.

Alpine's Pierre Gasly missed out on SQ3 by less than a tenth, heading the Audi duo Gabriel Bortoletto and Nico Hulkenberg, while Franco Colapinto took 14th ahead of Williams drivers Carlos Sainz and Alex Albon. Haas's Oliver Bearman was the first to be eliminated in SQ1, falling short of progression by just 0.010 seconds, as Esteban Ocon, Sergio Perez, Valtteri Bottas, Fernando Alonso and Lance Stroll also dropped out, the Aston Martins more than 3.6 seconds off Hamilton's early pace.