

# Leadership Driven Impact

RHF 2025 Annual Report highlights welfare growth

- 10,857 orphans and widows were supported in 2025
- 180 programs and events benefited 6,878 participants
- 490 people received family counseling services

TDI | Manama

The Royal Humanitarian Foundation has released its 2025 Annual Report, showcasing a year of expanded humanitarian services, social welfare initiatives, and community empowerment programs across Bahrain.

The report highlights key achievements in orphan and widow sponsorship, healthcare support, education, and economic empowerment, reflecting the Foundation's ongoing commitment to improving the quality of life for beneficiaries.

### Accomplishments

Acting Assistant Secretary-General of the Foundation, Eng. Ibrahim Delhan Al Doseri, said the accomplishments re-



A heartwarming moment as His Majesty King Hamad connects with beneficiary children from the programme.

corded in 2025 reflect the strong support provided by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain and Honorary President of the Foundation, as well as the continuous backing of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

He also praised the strategic leadership of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Founda-

tion's Board of Trustees, noting that these efforts align with Bahrain's vision of investing in people and empowering communities.

### Sponsorship

The report shows that 10,857 orphans and widows were under sponsorship during 2025, while the total number of beneficiaries since the Foundation's establishment reached 31,794. It also recorded the distribution of 2,458 school bags, the implementation of 180 programs and events benefiting 6,878 participants, and



His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa shares a smile with children

academic support provided to 76 students through scholarships and grants.

In the area of social services, 490 individuals benefited from family counseling programs, while 4,480 received various forms of humanitarian assistance, including medical aid, living support, marriage assistance, debt relief, and educational help.

### Focus

Healthcare initiatives remained a key focus, with the Foundation providing 86 insulin pumps for children and carrying out 16 cochlear implant surgeries, alongside broader medical services supporting hundreds of beneficiaries. Under its economic empowerment initiatives, the "Natij Khair Bahrain Center" produced 2,765 items and conducted 25 training programs for



Humanitarian aid prepared by the Royal Humanitarian Foundation is delivering humanitarian aid to crisis-affected regions, including the Gaza Strip, to support vulnerable communities as part of ongoing relief efforts.

397 participants. The center also prepared more than 20,450 Iftar meals during Ramadan, supporting productive families and promoting financial independence.

### Classification

The report further noted that the Foundation achieved the Gold Category classification under the Government Service Centers Evaluation Program and received several local and international awards in innovation

and humanitarian work. It also expanded its outreach through 55 partnerships with various organizations.

Beyond Bahrain, the Foundation continued its international relief efforts, delivering humanitarian aid to several crisis-affected regions, including the Gaza Strip. It also strengthened its media and awareness initiatives by highlighting success stories and promoting humanitarian values.

## Eight drones shot down

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The National Communication Center said Bahrain Defence Force air defenses intercepted and destroyed eight drones targeting Bahrain over the past 24 hours. It added that air defenses have intercepted a total of 188 missiles and 453 drones since the start of the attacks, remaining fully ready to protect the Kingdom.

220 fils (includes VAT)



## Fast Response Saves Lives

# Civil Defence Handles Sitra Drone Debris Fallout

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Residents of Sitra described moments of shock and destruction after debris from intercepted drones fell in the area on April 4, damaging homes, vehicles, and surrounding property.

"People were at home with their families, feeling safe, and suddenly everything changed. 'Smok was everywhere and didn't clear easily,' the resident told Al Ayam, describing the scene as chaotic and difficult to process.

Another resident reported serious structural damage to a house, stating that parts of the building were destroyed. "The wall was broken and the roof



A heartwarming moment as His Majesty King Hamad connects with beneficiary children from the programme.

collapsed. Luckily, no children were inside. If anyone had been there, they could have been seriously hurt," the witness added, noting that nearby homes and cars were also affected.

Despite the damage, residents in Sitra also praised the swift and professional response of Civil Defence and relevant authorities. They commended

the rapid action taken to save lives and ensure safety, noting that emergency teams quickly transported and assisted affected individuals and managed the situation with effective coordination. Many said Bahrain's forces appeared well-prepared for such incidents and acknowledged their efficient handling of the aftermath.



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# Sitra Hit by Falling Drone Debris Four Injured, Homes Damaged

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Four Bahraini citizens sustained minor injuries and several homes in Sitra were damaged early Saturday morning following falling shrapnel from intercepted Iranian drones, the Ministry of Interior (MOI) confirmed.

The incident occurred in the early hours of April 4, when Bahrain's air defense systems successfully intercepted and destroyed hostile drones. Debris from the interception fell over residential areas in Sitra, causing limited property damage.



Chief of Public Security Lt. Gen. Tariq bin Hassan Al Hassan and Capital Governor Shaikh Khalid bin Hamood Al Khalifa visited affected homes in Sitra after falling shrapnel caused minor damage.



Emergency teams, including Civil Defence and the National Ambulance Service, were immediately dispatched to the site. Authorities confirmed that all injuries were minor and that those affected are receiving full medical care.

**Visit**

Later in the day, Chief of Public Security Lt. Gen. Tariq bin Hassan Al Hassan, accompanied by Capital Governor Shaikh Khalid bin Hamood Al Khalifa,

conducted an inspection visit to the affected homes. The officials reassured residents and reviewed ongoing response efforts.

Lt. Gen. Al Hassan stressed that Bahrain remains resilient in the face of such incidents, highlighting the Kingdom's readiness to safeguard lives and property. He noted that His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa is closely monitoring the situation and has directed that comprehensive support be extended to those affected.

He further underscored the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, prioritizing the safety of citizens and ensuring the provision of all necessary assistance.

**Response**

The Chief of Public Security added that Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin

Abdullah Al Khalifa is closely overseeing the response, ensuring all resources are mobilized to support affected residents, including shelter arrangements and coordination with relevant authorities.

Officials reaffirmed that security and emergency agencies continue to operate at a high level of readiness, maintaining rapid response capabilities to address any developments.



All injuries were minor and those affected are receiving full medical care.

# Peace Call

Ending conflicts requires dialogue and international cooperation

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Bahrain reiterated that promoting human conscience and advancing a culture of peace remain central to its foreign policy, as the Kingdom marked the International Day of Conscience.

Foreign Minister, His Excellency Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, said Bahrain's diplomatic approach continues to be guided by the leadership of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the directives of HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. He noted that the United Nations' recognition of the International Day of Conscience, observed annually to-



H.E. Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani

day, reflects the success of a Bahraini diplomatic initiative and highlights growing global emphasis on conscience-driven values in resolving disputes and promoting tolerance.

Minister Al Zayani stressed that embedding these values in international relations is es-

sential to reducing tensions, addressing the root causes of conflict, and prioritizing dialogue and negotiation over escalation.

He also urged the international community to uphold the principles of peace and stability, calling for an end to what he described as unlawful Iranian actions targeting Bahrain, GCC states, and Jordan. He said these concerns are supported by international legal frameworks, citing UN Security Council Resolution 2817 and a unanimous UN Human Rights Council resolution, both of which he said reflect broad global backing for Bahrain's position and condemn violations of international law and good-neighbourly relations.

## Bahrain Stresses Peace and Conscience on International Day

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The Chairman of the Shura Council, Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, said that the Kingdom of Bahrain continues to uphold peace, tolerance, and coexist-

ence as core national principles, highlighting the importance of strengthening human conscience in confronting global challenges.

In a statement marking the International Day of Con-

science, observed on April 5 following a Bahraini initiative later endorsed by the United Nations, Al Saleh said the occasion reflects a universal humanitarian message promoting dialogue.

**JustFact**

Headlines screamed that 12 tonnes of KitKat bar truckloads just vanished.

Dear Readers,  
We found nothing so far. Our reporters searched. Double-checked. Triple-checked. Still no evidence. We are still searching. So, until there's proof, we decided NOT TO PUBLISH. Because you trust us with 236 million views and we are not about to break that for clicks.

NEWS OF Bahrain  
Have Only Verified Facts, Without Break

# Textile Market Hit by Fabric Shortages and Shipping Delays

Shop owners report fewer customers

Ghadeer Alkumaish  
TDT | Manama

**T**extile market is facing disruption as delayed fabric shipments impact availability and customer demand. Materials that once arrived every 10 to 20 days are now taking up to one to one and a half months, creating challenges for local businesses.

The slowdown reflects broader global shipping challenges, with local shop owners experiencing reduced customer turnout and limited stock. The situation affects daily operations and raises concerns about the market's short-term future.

"Compared to last year, sales are about 50% lower. Before Ramadan, we had some customers, but it is not the same as before," said Vijay Shevkani, manager of Vanita, who has been working in the fabric market for more than 30 years.

## Challenges

In an exclusive interview with



Vijay Shevkani, fabric vendor with 30+ years of experience

shifted significantly. "Customers are not taking any new material. They only come for special needs, sometimes asking for just half a meter or one meter of lining," he said.

"Our fabrics come from India, China, and Indonesia. The main port is in Dubai, and from there the shipment comes to Bahrain," he noted.

The Daily Tribune, Shevkani highlighted the growing challenges facing the sector, noting that customer behavior has



Many businesses are now adjusting by limiting stock and focusing on essential customer needs.

## Delays

Shipping delays have worsened in recent months.

"The fabric takes time to arrive now about one month because once the truck is full, they send it. Before, we were receiving our materials every 10 days. Now it takes one to one and a half months," he said. "Since the beginning of this unstable period, we have received only one or two shipments."

Sales have been heavily affected, particularly during Ramadan. "From the beginning of Ramadan, sales have dropped. Even regular clients are coming less frequently," he added.

## Change

"There is no change in prices. We can't increase them yet, though in the future they might rise if shipping takes longer or fuel prices go up," Shevkani said.

The delays come amid wider global shipping disruptions, impacting not only the textile sector but also other industries dependent on imports. Many businesses are now adjusting by limiting stock and focusing on essential customer needs. While the market continues to face uncertainty, Shevkani remains cautiously optimistic. "We will not close. Day by day it is getting a little better. We hope customers will come back as the situation improves," he said.

## Early Morning Crash Damages Family Home Wall in Hamad Town

Rehab Mohammad  
TDT | Manama

**A** Bahraini family in Hamad Town (Al-Laozi) was left shaken early Wednesday morning after a car crashed into their property, destroying part of their outer wall.

The incident occurred around 5:15 a.m. on April 1, when a 19-year-old driver reportedly lost control of his vehicle near the residential area and slammed into the home's boundary wall. The impact was strong enough to bring down the wall completely, scattering debris across the yard.

Despite the crash's severity,



The aftermath of the crash

no injuries were reported inside the household. The family and rushed outside to find significant damage to their property.

## Cyber Fraud Targeting U.S. Firm Ends in Jail Terms and Fines

Rehab Mohammad  
TDT | Manama

**T**he First High Criminal Court of Appeals in Bahrain has upheld sentences of five years in prison for the first defendant and eight years for the second defendant, along with fines of BHD 100,000 each, in a cyber fraud and money laundering case involving a U.S. company.

The court also ordered the confiscation of USD 99,283.23 (approx. BHD 37,330) linked to the crime, following an appeal by the Public Prosecution.

## Scam

The case involved a phishing scam targeting a company in the United States, where the first defendant posed as a bank employee and sent a fraudulent link to steal banking credentials.

Around USD 197,000 (approx. BHD 74,000) was transferred, with nearly half later recovered through banking

**BD37,330**  
Amount  
confiscated by  
court for link to  
the crime.

intervention.

Investigations by the Ministry of Interior revealed that USD 97,943.46 (approx. BHD 36,830) entered the first defendant's account and was subsequently moved through multiple transfers and with-

drawals to conceal its origin.

## Account

A further transfer of USD 99,283.23 (approx. BHD 37,330) to the defendant's wife's account was frozen and returned before use.

Authorities stated the first defendant used his technical background and acted under instructions from an accomplice abroad, involving his wife's account without her knowledge.

The court ruled that the first defendant played a central role in the fraud, while the second defendant assisted in the laundering operation.



## Two Years in Prison for Reckless Driving Death Case

Rehab Mohammad  
TDT | Manama

**A** man in his 30s received a two-year prison sentence from the High Criminal Court after being found guilty of causing a fatal traffic accident that also left several others injured.

The court allowed bail of 500 Bahraini dinars to suspend the

execution of the sentence.

The case dates back to an early morning incident on a public road, when a disabled vehicle had stopped in the emergency lane due to a flat tyre. Another car had pulled over ahead of it to offer assistance, while pedestrians were also present at the scene.

According to case details, the defendant suddenly veered into

the emergency lane without taking proper precautions. His vehicle first collided with the stopped cars and struck pedestrians who were assisting at the scene. The impact caused serious consequences, with one pedestrian trapped between vehicles and others injured.

The defendant's car continued moving after the initial collision,

hitting another vehicle carrying passengers before spinning several times and eventually stopping against the direction of traffic.

One pedestrian died at the scene, while another person sustained injuries.

The Public Prosecution charged the defendant with causing death and injury due to

negligence, as well as reckless driving, crossing the yellow line, and endangering the lives of road users. He was also held responsible for damage to both public and private property.

Investigations revealed that the accident occurred around 4:20 a.m. The defendant admitted he was driving at a speed between 80 and 100 km/h and was

distracted while watching another vehicle in a different lane. He said he attempted to change lanes, glanced at his side mirror, and then heard a loud impact before losing control of the vehicle.

He further stated that the airbags deployed during the crash and that he only realized the full extent of the incident after the vehicle came to a stop.

# Shura Council Reviews Mandatory Graduate Training for Major Firms

● Measure designed to improve employability

Rehab Mohammad  
TDT | Manama

The Shura Council convenes today for its 25th session of the fourth legislative term to review a draft law requiring major companies to provide training opportunities for university graduates, alongside proposed amendments to the Commercial Companies Law.

The draft amendment to the Vocational Training Law seeks to introduce a binding requirement for large businesses to offer structured training programmes for university graduates.

The measure is designed to



improve employability, enhance practical skills, and strengthen alignment between higher ed-

ucation outcomes and private sector needs.

Parliament's Services Com-

mittee endorsed the proposal in principle, recommending further refinements to ensure



The initiative aims to close the gap between academic qualifications and labour market demands, while supporting the development of a more competitive national workforce.

clearer wording and flexible implementation.

It said the initiative aims to close the gap between academic qualifications and labour market demands, while supporting the development of a more competitive national workforce.

### Proposal

The committee stressed that the proposal is intended

to complement job creation efforts rather than replace them, highlighting its role in preparing graduates for real-world employment opportunities through practical experience.

It also noted that the amendment introduces a specific legal obligation for companies to train graduates, strengthening the current framework, which only contains a general provision.

## Employee on Trial Over Forged MP Signature

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

A routine administrative process took an unexpected turn. A staff member assigned to assist an MP found herself at the center of a serious legal case after a document meant to end her secondment raised questions.

The form, submitted through official channels, appeared valid at first glance—complete with what looked like the MP's signature. But when the MP was later contacted for confirmation, he denied ever approving or signing it. An investigation followed, tracing the document back to the office email system, which the employee had access to during that period.

### Emails

As details emerged, witnesses spoke of emails sent days earlier asking about the procedure to end secondments, and of an office phone that had remained with the employee during that time. Concerns deepened when it was revealed that messages linked to the process had been deleted.

The employee admitted to filling out the form but insisted she had not forged the signature, claiming the

A forensic expert later confirmed the signature had been imitated by someone else, though it could not be conclusively proven who wrote it.

MP himself had submitted it. However, a forensic expert later confirmed the signature had been imitated by someone else, though it could not be conclusively proven who wrote it.

### Case

Now before the High Criminal Court, the case has moved to its final stage. What began as a simple administrative step has turned into a complex legal question of trust, responsibility, and authenticity.

# 'Beyond Insulin'

Supporting Young Diabetes Patients Through Crisis and Anxiety

Neethu V  
TDT | Manama

A recent awareness discussion involving parents of children living with diabetes and Dr. Maryam Al Hajri, Vice President of the Bahrain Diabetes Society, has underscored the growing importance of psychological support for young patients during crises marked by fear, anxiety, and stress.

The discussion reflects Bahrain's increasing focus on holistic diabetes care, where emotional wellbeing is now seen as a core component of effective disease management, particularly during emergencies and periods of instability.

### Crises

Experts highlight that major crises such as wars, natural disasters, displacement, and family disruptions can have profound and lasting effects on children. These experiences may trigger trauma, anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), with impacts that extend well beyond emotional distress.

Specialists note that children exposed to such conditions



Flashback to the Shurooq camps organised by the Bahrain Diabetes Society supporting children with diabetes.

often experience noticeable changes in behaviour, physical health, learning ability, and social development. Regressive behaviours may appear, including increased dependence on parents, thumb sucking, or bedwetting, alongside symptoms such as frequent crying, withdrawal, social isolation, or occasional aggression.

The physical consequences of stress are also evident, with many children reporting headaches, stomach aches, and sleep disturbances such as nightmares or night-time panic episodes. Psychologically, they may develop persistent fear,

heightened anxiety, and a reduced sense of safety, increasing the risk of long-term emotional difficulties.

Cognitive and academic challenges are also commonly observed, including difficulty concentrating, reduced learning capacity, and disrupted schooling due to displacement or unstable environments. Socially, children may struggle with trust, interaction, and adapting to unfamiliar settings.

The Bahrain Diabetes Society has been actively working to address both the medical and psychological needs of children with diabetes under the guid-



Dr. Maryam Al-Hajri

ance of Dr. Mariam Al Hajri. The society emphasises that calm reassurance, emotional support, and physical comfort can significantly reduce anxiety during crises. It also highlights the importance of open, age-appropriate communication to help children express fears, along with simple relaxation techniques such as deep, slow breathing.

### Stability

Regular monitoring and timely rechecking of blood sugar levels are also encouraged to maintain stability and provide reassurance for both children and parents. Maintaining consistent daily routines and encouraging light physical activity are further recommended as effective coping strategies.

## Disruptive drivers arrested



Authorities arrested several drivers and seized their vehicles for 60 days for causing disturbances, spreading panic among citizens and residents, and disrupting public order. Legal steps were taken.

## Home bound



A total of 244 Filipinos, along with their dependents, have been successfully repatriated from Bahrain. This marks the fourth batch of returnees, who arrived safely at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 on April 3, 2026, via Gulf Air Flight 0154, after departing from Dammam, Saudi Arabia amid the ongoing crisis in the Middle East.

# 5-Month Salary Bonus, Overseas Trips Mark Joyalukkas Employee Celebration

TDT | Manama

The Joyalukkas Group, a leading global jewellery retail brand, honoured employees who have been integral to its growth over the past two decades. A total of 222 employees who have completed over 20 years of service were felicitated at the 'Jewels of Joy' ceremony held in Thrissur.

The event was inaugurated by Joy Alukkas, Chairman and Managing Director of the Joyalukkas Group. He stated that the programme was organised as a gesture of gratitude towards employees who have made significant contributions at every stage of the company's growth.

Since the opening of its first store in 1988, the remarkable journey of the Joyalukkas Group has been made possible by the dedication and hard work of its workforce of over 11,500 employees.

He further added that the company has earned the distinction of being one of the most



Joyalukkas Group Chairman and Managing Director, Joy Alukkas, inaugurates the felicitation ceremony honouring employees who have completed two decades of dedicated service. Jolly Joyalukkas, Director, Joyalukkas Group; John Paul, CEO- International Operations, Joyalukkas Jewellery; Executive Directors Antony Jose and Thomas Mathew; and Directors Soniya John Paul, Mary Antony, and Elsa Joy Alukkas were also seen

trusted global jewellery brands, thanks to the commitment of its employees. As part of the recognition, the 222 employees will

receive a bonus equivalent to five months' salary, along with an international trip with their spouses. The Joyalukkas Group

currently operates across several countries including India, the USA, the UK, the UAE, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia,

Kuwait, Singapore, Malaysia, and Australia.

The Group is also preparing to expand into new markets,

with plans to open showrooms in Hong Kong, Bangkok, Canada, New Zealand, and more regions across North India.

## Bill to Expand Bahrain Tax Data Exchange

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

A government-drafted bill before Parliament would bring Bahrain into updated global rules on the automatic exchange of financial account information, adding new reporting on digital assets and extra checks on reportable accounts.

The draft was sent to Parliament under Decree No. 15 of 2026, with a recommendation that it go to the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee for study.

In practice, the bill would let Bahrain join an annex to the multilateral agreement between competent authorities on the automatic exchange of financial account information, adding to the tax data shared with other jurisdictions.

The explanatory note says the move is linked to the rise of digital assets and to changes



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

made in 2023 to the Common Reporting Standard, prepared by the OECD in line with G20 direction. Those changes widened the rules to cover digital assets and added further reporting and due diligence duties.

For banks and other reporting institutions, the annex adds

more items to the information exchanged on reportable accounts. These include if a valid self-certification has been obtained from each account holder, the type of account, if it is an older account or a new one, if it is shared, and how many joint holders it has.

It also covers reportable persons linked to entities holding accounts. In some cases, it requires the role through which a person holds an ownership interest in an investment entity arranged as a legal arrangement to be recorded as well.

Bahrain had already joined the

main multilateral agreement under Law No. 14 of 2018. This bill deals with the extra reporting items added through the 2023 changes, rather than the main agreement itself.

The note says the annex becomes part of the main agreement for the competent author-

ities that sign it. For Bahrain, the competent authority is the Minister of Finance and National Economy, or a person authorised by him, under Law No. 13 of 2018.

The annex also requires updated notices to be sent to the Secretariat of the OECD co-ordinating body when it is signed, or soon after. Those notices must say either that Bahrain has passed the laws needed to apply the 2023 changes, with the relevant dates, or that it has not yet done so and is asking to keep sending information during a limited transition period without applying, or completing, the added reporting and due diligence steps.

If Bahrain asks for such a transition period, it would also have to name the other jurisdictions whose competent authorities agree to accept that arrangement and keep receiving the information during that time.

## Five EU nations urge tax on energy firms' windfall profits

AFP | Madrid, Spain

Spain and four other European Union nations have called for a tax on windfall profits of energy companies in response to rising fuel prices due to the Middle East war, Spanish Economy Minister Carlos Cuerdo said yesterday.

The request was made in a letter addressed to EU Climate Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra and signed by Cuerdo along with the finance ministers of Austria, Germany, Italy and Portugal, he said in a post on X.

Cuerdo said such a meas-

ure would "ease the burden on consumers and taxpayers".

In their letter, dated Friday, the ministers added that the tax "would also send a clear message that those who profit from the consequences of the war must do their part to ease the burden on the general public", according to a copy posted by Cuerdo.

Oil and gas prices have surged since US-Israeli strikes on Iran began on February 28, resulting in Iran effectively blocking the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz and damage being done to Gulf energy infrastructure.

## India-flagged LPG tanker crosses Strait of Hormuz

● It was the "seventh India-bound LPG tanker" to cross the Strait of Hormuz since the Middle East war began.

AFP | Mumbai, India

An Indian-flagged tanker carrying LPG has safely passed through the Strait of Hormuz, India's government said yesterday.

The shipping ministry confirmed yesterday that LPG carrier Green Sanvi had passed through the chokepoint.

"Green Sanvi has safely transited the Strait of Hormuz, carrying 46,650 MT of LPG cargo with 25 seafarers on board," a statement said, without giving further details of its final destination.

It said 17 Indian-flagged vessels, carrying 460 Indian crew, "remain in the western Persian Gulf region".

Data from ship tracking company Marine Traffic's website confirmed that the Green Sanvi was an Indian-flagged tanker.

Public broadcaster All India Radio said it was the "seventh India-bound LPG tanker" to cross the Strait of Hormuz since the Middle East war began.

India's petroleum and natural

gas ministry also said on Saturday that Indian refiners were buying crude oil from Iran and other nations to help deal with the global energy crisis.

"Amid Middle East supply disruptions, Indian refiners have secured their crude oil requirements, including from Iran," it said in a post on X, adding that there was "no payment hurdle for Iranian crude imports".

The ministry also confirmed that an LPG vessel carrying around "44 TMT Iranian LPG" was berthed and "currently discharging" at the southwestern Indian port of Mangalore.

The Indian government has imposed tighter controls over

natural and cooking gas following import disruptions, prioritising supply towards households and limiting the amount available for industrial use.



India imports about 60% of its LPG needs and has been grappling with a gas crunch over the past month.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

MOVE NOT UNLESS YOU SEE AN ADVANTAGE; USE NOT YOUR TROOPS UNLESS THERE IS SOMETHING TO BE GAINED; FIGHT NOT UNLESS THE POSITION IS CRITICAL. SUN TZU, THE ART OF WAR

BY INVITATION

Echoes of the past – The Gulf War playbook for today’s markets



JONATHAN LIANG CFA

Tensions had been building. Military assets were being amassed across the Middle East. Despite ongoing diplomatic talks, the US launched a swift air campaign, destroying key air defences and command-and-control centres. Oil prices surged on the outbreak of hostilities.

While, to most, this would be reminiscent of the ongoing Middle East conflict, I am, of course, referring to Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990.

History doesn’t repeat itself, but it often rhymes. There are parallels between 1990 and today that may prove instructive for the economy and markets as we try to gauge the path forward.

First, the US economy. In the run-up to the 1990 Gulf War – roughly from 1987 through March 1990 – growth was solid, with job creation averaging about 200,000 per month. Yet credit availability was starting to tighten, even as household debt-to-income ratios climbed to multi-year highs, particularly among lower-income households. Against this backdrop, the Fed met in March 1990 at one of its regular FOMC meetings. By then, nonfarm payrolls were decelerating and barely positive. Hostilities in the Middle East were underway, and oil prices were expected to push inflation higher. Weighing the risk of higher inflation against a cooling labour market, the Fed chose to hold rates steady.

Oil prices soon spiked – soaring from about USD 17 per barrel to nearly USD 40. The shock helped tip the US economy into recession, with unemployment rising from around 5% in March 1990 to 7.3% by the end of 1991. Despite the jump in headline inflation, the Fed ultimately ‘looked through’ the supply-driven price shock and slashed rates aggressively from late 1990 through 1992. Ten-year Treasury yields tumbled from roughly 9% to 6.6% by the end of 1992.

Fast forward to today. Our base case is that the US will avoid recession and achieve a soft landing as the Middle East conflict moves towards some form of resolution in the coming weeks. As in 1990, a brief conflict can produce a transitory, oil-driven inflation bump. We expect the Fed to look through a temporary price spike and refocus on a decelerating labour market once large-scale hostilities end. Policymakers are likely to stay on hold at least through the first half of the year, but if the US labour market continues to soften, cuts could come into play in the second half.

There is, of course, a meaningful risk that the conflict drags on – we assign a 30% probability to a prolonged confrontation. In that scenario, the Fed may temporarily sound more hawkish to guard against inflation expectations, but eventually, it would likely need to support a weakening economy as recession risks mount.

The parallels between the 1990 Gulf War and the present-day Middle East conflict are striking and hard to ignore. Ultimately, history remains our best guide for navigating an uncertain future.

(Jonathan Liang, CFA, is Chief Investment Officer for Fixed Income and FX at Standard Chartered’s Wealth Solutions unit. 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)

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Peacekeepers wounded

Indonesia slammed as “unacceptable” an explosion that wounded three of its UN peacekeepers in Lebanon, just days after three other Indonesians were killed in separate incidents.

Missiles fired at Israel

The Israeli army said its air defences responded to missiles fired from Iran, which medics reported wounded one person. Israel’s emergency services said a 45-year-old man was treated for minor injuries from glass shrapnel in the central city of Bnei Brak.

Iran says Iraq shipping free to cross Strait of Hormuz

Iran says Iraq shipping free to cross Strait of Hormuz

Artemis astronauts more than halfway to Moon, putting Earth in rearview

AFP | Houston, United States

The Artemis 2 astronauts have passed the halfway point between Earth and the Moon on Saturday as they sped toward a planned lunar flyby, with NASA releasing initial images of Earth taken from inside the Orion spacecraft.

Astronaut Christina Koch said the crew had a collective “expression of joy” upon being told of the milestone, which was hit around two days, five hours and 24 minutes after the spacecraft blasted off from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

“We can see the Moon out of the docking hatch right now, it is a beautiful sight,” Koch said around 11 pm (0400 GMT) Friday, according to the space agency’s official live broadcast.

NASA’s online dashboard showed early Saturday that the Orion spacecraft carrying the astronauts was more than 229,000 kilometres (142,000 miles) from Earth.

The space agency earlier released images from Orion that included a full portrait of Earth, featuring its deep blue oceans and billowing clouds.



the four Artemis II crew members (L-R) Canadian Space Agency (CSA) astronaut Jeremy Hansen, Artemis II mission specialist, NASA astronaut Reid Wiseman, Artemis II commander, Christina Koch, Artemis II mission specialist and Victor Glover, Artemis II pilot as they head to orbit the Moon for the first time in more than half a century.

After a flurry of high-stakes activity including a dramatic blast-off and an engine firing that catapulted them on their historic trajectory to circle the Moon, the four astronauts aboard were able to catch their breath, even as they continued to perform a variety of equipment checks and tests.

“There has been a tremendous amount of disbelief for me, it’s

just so extraordinary,” said Canadian Jeremy Hansen during a Q&A session with press late Thursday.

“I really like it up here,” said Hansen, on his first ever journey to space. “The views are extraordinary.”

“It’s really fun to be floating around” in zero gravity, he added. “It just makes me feel like a little kid.”

Trump sets 48-hour deadline

Israeli military said it had struck more than 3,500 targets across Lebanon since the latest round of fighting with Hezbollah began

AFP | Washington, United States

President Donald Trump said yesterday that Tehran had 48 hours left to cut a deal or face “all Hell”, as US and Iranian forces scrambled to find a downed American airman.

Trump’s latest threat came

after a strike near an Iranian nuclear power plant prompted evacuations, and as Tehran announced fresh attacks and the Israeli military said it had detected another missile launch from Yemen.

The economic strikes are also going the other way. An Israeli or US strike on a petrochemical

hub in the southwest of Iran killed five people, according to the deputy governor of Khuzestan province.

“Remember when I gave Iran ten days to MAKE A DEAL OR OPEN UP THE HORMUZ STRAIT,” Trump wrote on Truth Social, referring to an ultimatum issued on March 26.

“Time is running out -- 48 hours before all Hell will reign (sic) down on them.”

Images posted on social media and verified by AFP TV showed Iranian police firing at a US helicopter in southwestern Iran as US forces searched for the airman.

Russia evacuates 198 workers from Iran nuclear plant amid airstrike

AFP | Washington

A strike near Iran’s Bushehr nuclear plant yesterday killed a guard and led Russia, which partly constructed the facility and helps operate it, to announce it was evacuating 198 workers and to condemn the strike as “an evil deed”. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned that continued attacks on the plant on the southern coast could eventually lead to radioactive fallout that would “end life in GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) capitals, not Tehran”.



This video grab taken from UGC images posted on social media show a US aircraft, followed by two helicopters, flying over the town of Zaras in the southern Iran’s Khuzestan province

Israeli forces destroy 17 UN peacekeeper cameras in south Lebanon

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Israeli forces destroyed 17 surveillance cameras linked to the United Nations peacekeepers’ main headquarters in southern Lebanon in 24 hours, a UN security official told AFP on Saturday. Since the start of the Israel-Hezbollah war on March 2, the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has been caught in the crossfire in the country’s south, with Hezbollah launching attacks on Israel and its troops, and Israeli forces pushing into border towns.

1242

Battle on the Ice: Russian Prince of Novgorod Alexander Nevsky defeats the Teutonic Knights on the frozen Lake Peipus between Estonia and Russia

1722

Dutch navigator Jacob Roggeveen is the first European to discover Easter Island, also known as Rapa Nui, in the southeastern Pacific Ocean



1847 1879

First civic public park, Birkenhead Park, designed by Joseph Paxton, opens in Birkenhead, England

Chile declares war on Bolivia and Peru, starting the War of the Pacific

## Italian PM in UAE on final leg of Gulf trip

● In Abu Dhabi, she was received by President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

● Meloni arrived in Qatar from Saudi Arabia

AFP | Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates



Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni (C) walking upon arrival at the Doha International Airport in Doha

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni arrived in the United Arab Emirates yesterday on the third and final leg of a trip that also took her to Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

In Abu Dhabi, she was received by President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Meloni's office said their talks focused on the Middle East war and the conditions required to end it, "starting with the need to guarantee freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz".

In Doha earlier in the day, she met Qatari leader Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to discuss the energy crisis sparked by the ongoing conflict.

Meloni's office said she and the Qatari emir "tackled energy issues... and discussed possible

measures to mitigate the shocks suffered".

She also said Italy was ready to "contribute to the rehabilitation of Qatari energy infrastructure, which is essential to energy security on a global scale".

Meloni arrived in Qatar from Saudi Arabia, where she met de facto leader Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The Qatari emir's palace said in a statement that both leaders expressed the need to "prioritise diplomacy in order to contain the current crisis in

the Middle East".

The aim of Meloni's Gulf trip "is to strengthen relations with these countries and repeat Italy's support against Iranian attacks", a Rome government source told AFP on Friday, adding that the region was a "crucial source of oil and gas for Italy".

The source said Meloni was the first leader of a European Union or NATO country to travel to the Gulf since the war broke out on February 28 with a wave of US-Israeli attacks that killed Iran's supreme leader.

# Warns 'all hell breaks loose'

"Remember when I gave Iran ten days to MAKE A DEAL or OPEN UP THE HORMUZ STRAIT," Trump wrote on Truth Social, referring to an ultimatum issued on March 26. "Time is running out -- 48 hours before all Hell will reign (sic) down on them."



## US satellite imagery firm announces blackout on Middle East war pics

AFP | Paris, France

US satellite imagery company Planet Labs said yesterday it will stop publishing high-resolution aerial pictures of the area involved in the Middle East war, following a request from President Donald Trump's government.

Planet said the US government had asked satellite imagery providers to implement an "indefinite withhold of imagery".

"Effective retroactively from March 9, 2026, Planet is moving to a managed access model, extending the publication delay



Israeli mounted police intervene during a protest by left-wing activists against the ongoing war with Iran at HaBima Square in Tel Aviv

for all new imagery within the designated AOI (area of interest), and releasing imagery on a case-by-case basis and for urgent, mission-critical requirements or in the public interest," the company said in a message to clients received by AFP.

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TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Landmines, explosive remnants of war & improvised explosive devices do not disappear when the fighting is over. They kill thousands each year & injure many more. On #MineAwareness-Day, let's eradicate the threat posed by these weapons - so everyone can live in safety.

@antonioguterres

02

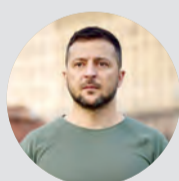


Happy Easter to everyone celebrating. May your homes be filled with hope, health, and above all, peace.

@DrTedros



03



During a meeting with President of Türkiye @RTERdogan in Istanbul, we discussed bilateral relations between our countries, as well as the situation in Europe and the Middle East.

@ZelenskyyUa

04



In May last year, the Vizhinjam International Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport was dedicated to the nation. This will place Keralam in an important position on the maritime map.

@narendramodi

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

### CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## Giving Back... From Words to Action



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

In defining moments of a nation's history, it is not words that are tested, but actions. Patriotism is not measured by what is said, but by what is done.

The recent meeting of His Excellency General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior, with the legislative authority underscored the gravity of the current phase—describing it as unprecedented. His message was clear: safeguarding Bahrain is not a choice, but a duty. This is a moment of unity, solidarity, and, above all, a time to give back to the nation.

This raises a critical question: what does giving back truly mean?

Bahrain has long provided a supportive economic environment—offering investment opportunities, logistical and financial support, and flexible frameworks that enabled significant business success. Yet today's circumstances prompt a legitimate question: after years of benefiting from the nation's prosperity, is it time to give back?

No one denies the complexities and costs of doing business, nor is success begrudged. However, what we face today is not merely an economic discussion, but a national test. Amid circulating accounts—hopefully not widespread—of excessive profit margins, the question remains: can national interest take precedence over profit maximization at such a critical time?

Meanwhile, the government, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, continues to work tirelessly to maintain market stability and meet citizens' needs. This comes under the close guidance of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, whose direct oversight reflects a steadfast commitment to prioritizing the well-being of the people.

Yet economic realities, particularly disruptions in supply chains, may exceed regulatory controls. At that point, the question shifts: will the private sector step forward?

Will businesses accept reduced margins for the greater good? Will patriotism translate into decisions?

From another perspective, as financial institutions continue to promote multi-million prize campaigns, one must ask: is the nation not more deserving of such rewards today? While the financial sector's contributions are appreciated, this moment calls for initiatives that create tangible impact.

Similarly, the newly elected board of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry carries a heightened responsibility to deliver meaningful and timely initiatives.

This is a defining moment—one that tests sincerity and conscience. Patriotism is not a slogan, but a commitment proven in times of need.

In times of challenge, the question is not what the nation has given... but what its people have given in return.

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

No one denies the complexities and costs of doing business, nor is success begrudged. However, what we face today is not merely an economic discussion, but a national test. Amid circulating accounts—hopefully not widespread—of excessive profit margins, the question remains: can national interest take precedence over profit maximization at such a critical time?

## WHO warns after attacks on Kuwait desalination plants



**T**edros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, has warned about attacks on desalination plants in Kuwait, saying they threaten essential public services.

He said two facilities were affected, including the West Doha plant on 29 March, where one worker was killed and infrastructure was damaged. Water supply, however, has not been interrupted.

Tedros stressed that desalination plants are vital for public health and urged all parties to show restraint and follow international humanitarian law.

## Dubai sends 22.3 tonnes of medical aid to Gaza



Under the directives of HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Humanitarian has transported a vital medical aid shipment for the World Health Organization destined for Gaza.

The shipment includes 22.3 metric tonnes of essential medical supplies aimed at strengthening emergency healthcare services and supporting urgent medical needs on the ground.

According to officials, the aid package is expected to benefit approximately 110,000 people, addressing critical shortages in hospitals and medical facilities facing increasing pressure amid the ongoing humanitarian situation.

# Qatar Amir, Italy PM Discuss Middle East Crisis



**H**H the Amir, Shaikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, held talks with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Saturday at Lusail Palace, focusing on key regional and international developments. At the start of the meeting, the Amir welcomed the Italian Prime Minister and expressed his appreciation for Italy's position, praising the strong ties between the two friendly nations.

Discussions centered on the evolving situation in the Middle East, where both leaders

emphasized the urgent need to de-escalate tensions. They highlighted the importance of political dialogue and diplomatic solutions as the most effective means to address the ongoing crisis and mitigate its impact on global energy markets and supply chains, while ensuring regional energy security.

The meeting also covered bilateral relations, with both sides exploring opportunities to strengthen cooperation across multiple sectors, particularly in the fields of economy and energy.



The leaders discussed key regional and global developments, with a focus on the Middle East. Both stressed the urgent need to de-escalate tensions through dialogue and diplomacy.

## Dubai Records Nearly 48,000 Property Deals

**D**ubai's real estate market kicked off 2026 with a powerful surge in activity, recording 47,996 property transactions worth AED 176.7 billion in the first quarter of the year.

According to analysis by fām Properties, the market saw a 5.5% year-on-year rise in transaction volume and a 23.4% jump in total value, reflecting sustained momentum across both off-plan and ready property segments.

Off-plan properties continued to dominate the market, accounting for around 70% of total sales volume and 71% of value, driven by ongoing launches from major developers. In March alone, the segment recorded more than 10,300 deals worth AED 31.2



billion.

Apartments led overall activity with 36,428 sales worth AED 75.2 billion, while villa transactions also posted strong growth, rising 17.9% year-on-year in volume. Commercial real estate emerged as a stand-

out performer, surging 69.1% in value to AED 10.2 billion.

Plots and mortgage activity also recorded gains, with mortgage transactions rising 7.5% to 11,829 deals and total mortgage value climbing sharply to AED 59.8 billion.

## Saudi-Italian Talks Focus on Stability, Trade, and Energy Markets



**S**audi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Mohammed bin Salman, held talks on Friday in Jeddah with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, focusing on strengthening bilateral relations and expanding cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed areas of mutual interest and discussed opportunities to deepen economic, political, and strategic ties.

The discussions also addressed recent regional developments and the consequences of ongoing military escalation, particularly its effects on international shipping routes, global energy security, and the wider world economy.

Both leaders emphasized the importance of continued coordination and joint efforts to reinforce regional stability and security amid rising geopolitical tensions.

## Congo reaffirms support for UAE amid regional tensions



**A**bu Dhabi hosted high-level talks as the President of the UAE, Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, received the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Félix Tshisekedi, during his working visit to the United Arab Emirates.

The meeting highlighted growing cooperation between the two nations, with both leaders reviewing opportunities to deepen ties in trade, investment, and development. Discussions focused on advancing collaboration in line with the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, aimed at supporting mutual

growth and development goals.

Regional and international developments were also addressed, with an emphasis on their impact on security and stability. President Tshisekedi strongly condemned continued attacks targeting civilians and infrastructure in the UAE and other countries in the region, describing them as violations of international law and sovereignty. He reiterated his country's solidarity with the UAE and its support for measures taken to safeguard national security and protect citizens.

## UN, GCC Discuss Rising Gulf Tensions in New York

**T**he Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Jassim Mohammed Al-Budaiwi, held talks with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, in New York, focusing on recent Iranian attacks targeting member states of the Gulf bloc and the escalating security situation in the region.

During the meeting, both sides discussed the implications of what the GCC described as "serious and hostile Iranian attacks" against its member states, warning that the continued escalation poses a direct threat to both



regional and international peace and stability.

Al-Budaiwi expressed appreciation for Guterres' supportive stance toward GCC countries amid the developments, stressing that Gulf states have consistently sought to establish normal and stable relations with Iran. However, he noted that they were "taken by surprise" by what he described as repeated violations of sovereignty and international law.

The two officials emphasized the urgent need to immediately halt all hostile actions and de-escalate tensions across the region.

# Classifieds

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# Bahrain Leads Diplomatic Drive at UN Over Strait of Hormuz

TDT | Manama

**H**is Excellency Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, held a meeting at Bahrain's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York with GCC Permanent Representatives and Jordan's envoy to the UN, in the presence of UAE Minister of State Lana Nusseibeh.

The meeting reviewed diplomatic efforts at the UN Security Council regarding a draft resolution submitted by Bahrain on behalf of GCC states and Jordan, aimed at protecting navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.

Dr. Al Zayani expressed ap-



His Excellency Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs

preciation for the coordinated diplomatic efforts and high-

Dr. Al Zayani expressed appreciation for the coordinated diplomatic efforts and highlighted the importance of continued consultations to build consensus on the resolution. He stressed the need to ensure the reopening of the Strait and safeguard global energy, trade, and supply chains.

lighted the importance of continued consultations to build consensus on the resolution. He stressed the need to ensure the reopening of the Strait and safeguard global energy, trade, and supply chains.

He reaffirmed the unified GCC-Jordan stance and called for sustained international engagement to address disruptions in navigation and uphold international law and maritime security.

# Bahrain Condemns attacks on UAE Embassy in Damascus

TDT | Manama

**T**he Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed the Kingdom of Bahrain's strong condemnation and denunciation of the acts of rioting, assaults, and attempted vandal-



ism targeting the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates and the residence of the Head of Mission in the Syrian capital, Damascus. The incidents also involved unacceptable offenses against national symbols, constituting a blatant violation of

international laws and norms. The Ministry affirmed Bahrain's full solidarity with the UAE, stressing the necessity of protecting diplomatic premises and personnel in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

# Indian School Bahrain Launches BD 400,000 Smart Classroom Project; Defers April Transport Fees



ISB Chairman Adv. Binu Mannil Varughese and other representatives during a press conference.

Pradeep Puravankara  
TDT | Manama

**T**he Indian School Bahrain (ISB) officially launched a massive Smart Classroom project across its Isa Town and Riffa campuses, as announced by school authorities during a press conference. Executed at an estimated cost of BD 400,000, the initiative aims to significantly enhance learning standards for approximately 11,500 students. ISB Chairman Adv. Binu Mannil Varughese stated during the briefing that the project, implemented in collaboration with Zain Business, has equipped 350 classrooms with cutting-edge digital infrastructure. This includes 225 classrooms at the Isa Town campus and 125 at the Riffa campus, along with upgraded libraries and laboratories. Each classroom now features an 86-inch Hikvision 4K interactive display running on Android 14.0, supporting 40-point touch for collaborative learning. To ensure student safety, advanced Hikvision cameras with smart



School officials demonstrate the new Smart News System to members of the press during a briefing session.

motion detection have also been installed throughout the campuses.

Addressing current regional concerns during the press meet, school authorities emphasized that student and staff safety remains a top priority. Drawing from lessons learned during the pandemic, the school is fully prepared to ensure educational continuity under any circumstances. In a significant relief to parents, the school management announced its decision to

defer the collection of transport fees for April. The Chairman clarified that the transport contract, approved by the Annual General Meeting (AGM), covers a 10-month service period per academic year and has been renewed from September 2025 to June 2029. Regarding suggestions to use surplus funds, the Chairman explained that the BD 40,000 profit from the ISB School Mega Fair cannot be diverted to cover transport costs, as nearly 4,000 students do not

use the school transport facility. Meanwhile, he also stated that the school is yet to receive approximately BD 420,000 in outstanding fee arrears.

The school also highlighted several recent academic and environmental milestones at the press conference. The second session of the JEE (Joint Entrance Examination) was successfully conducted on April 2nd in coordination with the Indian Embassy and the National Testing Agency (NTA). The institution further celebrated the achievement of Shreya Manoj, who emerged as the Gulf Topper in the CBSE Class 12 examinations. Additionally, a solar panel project aimed at promoting environmental sustainability is currently in its final stages. These panels are expected to generate approximately 1.86 million units of energy annually, meeting over 60% of the school's energy requirements. The new academic year is scheduled to begin tomorrow (April 6, 2026) with classes conducted in strict accordance with official government directives.

# Deshpande, Rajasthan hold nerve to edge Gujarat in IPL

Rajasthan posted a competitive 210-6 after they elected to bat first

● Spinner Ravi Bishnoi took four wickets but it was Deshpande who held his nerve to deny Gujarat 11 runs in the final

● Gujarat opener Sai Sudharsan top-scored with 73 and Jos Buttler hit 26 but the batting collapsed after they looked good on 127-2 in 12 overs.

● Delhi and Punjab Kings have two wins in two matches but Rajasthan, led by Riyan Parag, are number one in the 10-team table with a better net run-rate.

AFP | Ahmedabad, India

Tushar Deshpande bowled an excellent last over as Rajasthan Royals edged out Gujarat Titans by six runs to win their second successive match of the IPL season on Saturday.

Spinner Ravi Bishnoi took four wickets but it was Deshpande who held his nerve to deny Gujarat 11 runs in the final over while chasing 211 for victory at their home in Ahmedabad.

Deshpande started with a wide to Kagiso Rabada, who hit an unbeaten 23, but soon nailed



Rajasthan Royals' players celebrate after winning the 2026 Indian Premier League (IPL) T20 match between Gujarat Titans and Rajasthan Royals at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad

his yorkers and dismissed Gujarat's stand-in-skipper Rashid Khan, who made 24, on the fifth ball.

He gave away just four runs as Rajasthan celebrated their second win to take the top spot from Delhi Capitals, who beat Mumbai Indians in the first match of the day in Delhi.

"The discussion was clear, like, you know, we just need to hit one boundary," said Rashid. "And I think Tushar bowled really well. He bowled some exceptional yorkers."

Delhi and Punjab Kings have two wins in two matches but Rajasthan, led by Riyan Parag, are number one in the 10-team table with a better net run-rate.

England pace bowler Jofra Archer was equally effective as he bowled the 19th over for just four runs when Gujarat need 15 to win from the last 12 balls.

"I took a challenge thinking that let's go full and fast," said Parag on going with two quicks in overs 19 and 20.

"It's insane that they (Archer and Tushar) executed as we wanted."

Gujarat opener Sai Sudharsan top-scored with 73 and Jos Buttler hit 26 but the batting collapsed after they looked good on 127-2 in 12 overs.

Rashid and Rabada then threatened to pull off the chase with late cameos and a 43-run eighth-wicket partnership but it was not to be.

Impact substitute Bishnoi, a leg-spinner, took down Sudharsan and struck regular blows to rattle the batting as he went past 200 T20 wickets.

Earlier Rajasthan posted a competitive 210-6 after they elected to bat first with wick-

etkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel hitting 75 and opener Yashasvi Jaiswal 55.

Left-handers Jaiswal and 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who hit an 18-ball 31, got the team off to a flier with an opening stand of 70 in 6.2 overs.

Sooryavanshi, a T20 batting sensation who blasted a 17-ball 52 in his team's opening win, unleashed his power with five fours and one six before leg-spinner Rashid cut short his innings.

Jaiswal kept up pace and put on 56 runs with Jurel to strengthen the foundations of the tall total.

Rajasthan wobbled with a few wickets including Shimron Hetmyer out for 18 but Jurel took the attack to the opposition with five fours and five sixes in his 42-ball knock, but it was not enough.



Meshael looks for an opening in Germany's defense

## Bahrain U18s Overwhelmed by Hosts in Schweitzer Opener

Hussain Al Maskati  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's under-18 basketball team suffered a heavy 116-59 defeat against hosts Germany in the opening game of the 31st Albert Schweitzer Tournament yesterday. The Bahrainis, making their debut at the prestigious event under coach Georgios Vovoras, struggled to contain the world-class Germans, who dominated from the first quarter.

Germany surged early, building a 37-14 lead after the opening frame and never looked back. Standout performances came from Lucai Anderson, who scored 16 points, and

Kenan Youdom with 14 points, while Fin Borczanowski added 14. Jamie Edoka contributed 11 points and six rebounds, helping the hosts maintain control throughout.

Despite spirited efforts from Bahrain's Hassan Abdulkadir, who finished with 13 points and 12 rebounds, and Somto Patrick Onoduenyi's eight points, the nationals were unable to match Germany's pace and precision.

Bahrain now face Sweden in their second Group A game today at 6.15pm Bahrain time, before taking on Slovenia tomorrow at the same time and Japan on Wednesday at 2.15pm.

# Bayern storm back late to win at Freiburg before Real showdown

AFP | Berlin, Germany

Bayern Munich came from two goals down in the last 10 minutes to win 3-2 at Freiburg in the Bundesliga on Saturday, ahead of their Champions League quarter-final first leg at Real Madrid.

Trailing 2-0 and without injured talisman Harry Kane, Tom Bischof scored twice from distance before Lennart Karl grabbed the winner in the ninth minute of stoppage time.

Karl's goal was Bayern's 100th of the season, one short of the all-time Bundesliga record.

Bischof said the comeback win was the ideal preparation for

Tuesday's European tie in the Spanish capital.

"A game like this is the perfect match for us right now before Real Madrid, because we realise what type of team we are -- we stick together," said the 20-year-old Bischof, who scored his first Bayern goals since arriving from Hoffenheim last summer.

Real lost 2-1 to Mallorca in La Liga on Saturday but Bischof said the 15-time European champions always perform on the biggest stage.

With Kane sidelined by an ankle complaint, Vincent Kompany opted to leave Michael Olise and Dayot Upamecano on the bench ahead of the trip to Madrid, whom Bayern have not beaten since 2012.

Veteran Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer returned from injury but Freiburg took the lead just after the break when Johan Manzambi blasted a long-range effort into the corner.

Lucas Hoeler doubled Freiburg's lead on 71 minutes to seemingly put his side on track for a first league win over Bayern since 2015.

**Dortmund sink Stuttgart late**

Karim Adeyemi and Julian Brandt scored in stoppage time to snatch Borussia Dortmund a fiery 2-0 win at Stuttgart.

Both sides had few chances and the match looked headed for a goalless draw until Dortmund broke through on the counter, Adeyemi blasting in from near the penalty spot in the fourth minute of added time.

Two minutes later, Dortmund broke again and Brandt ripped the top of the net with a superb volley.

As Dortmund celebrated in front of the Stuttgart fans, several supporters breached the fence and came close to the field, with a folding chair thrown onto the pitch.

Dortmund coach Niko Kovac had a verbal allocation with Stuttgart boss Sebastian Hoernes after the game but downplayed the incident.

"We had a difference of opinion, but that's OK. It's football -- you're allowed to express your point of view," he told Sky.

The win keeps Dortmund nine points behind Bayern, while Stuttgart drop from third to fourth behind RB Leipzig, who beat Werder Bremen 2-1, on goal difference.

Bayern Munich's German defender #04 Jonathan Tah (l) and Freiburg's German defender #29 Philipp Treu vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match between SC Freiburg and FC Bayern Munich in Freiburg, southern Germany

Leipzig's win came thanks to two pieces of individual brilliance.

Antonio Nusa put Leipzig in front with an excellent shot from outside the box and Romulo drove a low shot into the corner to pad the visitors' advantage.

Bremen sit four points ahead of St Pauli, who occupy the relegation play-off spot.

Elsewhere,  
B a y e r

Leverkusen came from behind twice to win 6-3 in a wild clash at home to Wolfsburg to stay in Champions League contention.

Wolfsburg's Danish contingent Jonas Wind, Joakim Maehle and Christian Eriksen all scored before half-time to put the away team 3-1 up against a Leverkusen side coached by former Denmark boss Kasper Hjulmand.

Leverkusen pulled one

back before the break and then responded with four second-half goals to grab control.

Alejandro Grimaldo bagged a brace, while Patrik Schick, Ibrahim Maza, Edmond Tapsoba and Malik Tillman also scored as Leverkusen stayed within four points of Leipzig.

Leverkusen's win took them a point behind Hoffenheim, whose 2-1 home defeat to Mainz continued their slide.

Cruising in third in February, Hoffenheim are now fifth and have won just one of their past six matches.



Bayern Munich are the most successful club in German football history, with over 30 Bundesliga titles and multiple UEFA Champions League trophies.



## Saudi Leadership Pushes Forward International Sports Partnerships

TDT | Manama

Saudi Arabia continues to strengthen its global sports ambitions as high-level talks in Jeddah brought together key figures shaping the future of football.

His Royal Highness Prince



Mohammed bin Salman held a meeting with Gianni Infantino, President of FIFA, to explore opportunities for expanding cooperation and accelerating sports development initiatives across the Kingdom.

The discussions focused on enhancing collaboration in foot-

ball development, supporting grassroots programs, and identifying new avenues to grow the sport at both national and international levels. The meeting reflects Saudi Arabia's broader strategy to build strong partnerships with leading global sports organizations.

Prince Mohammed bin Salman emphasized the Kingdom's commitment to advancing its sports sector as part of its long-term vision. Both sides reviewed potential initiatives aimed at strengthening Saudi Arabia's position in the global football landscape.

## Eight-man Riffa undone as Al Khaldiya strike late

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

Al Khaldiya came from behind to beat fellow title contenders Riffa 2-1, who were shockingly reduced to eight men, in last night's affair at Bahrain National Stadium. The win not only retains Al Khaldiya's top spot in the Nasser Bin Hamad Premier League, but also sets the stage for this Friday's King's Cup semi-final, where the two sides will meet again.

From the outset, Al Khaldiya imposed themselves on proceedings. Under Tunisian head coach Lassad Al Chabbi, they pressed high and created early openings, with Joel Beya at the centre of much of their attacking play. However, Riffa, managed by Kuwaiti coach Mohamed Mashaan, found a resilient fig-



Moroccan Saifeddine Bouhra celebrates his last-gasp winner

ure in goalkeeper Džiugas Bartkus, who denied Beya on multiple occasions.

Despite Al Khaldiya's dominance, it was Riffa who struck first. Just before the interval, referee Mohammed Khalid pointed to the spot following a VAR review, adjudging Clyde O'Connell to have fouled Yuri in an aerial duel. Rodrigo Yuri calmly converted his penalty to give Riffa a 1-0 lead, against the run of play.

Momentum shifted almost immediately. In stoppage time of the first half, Riffa's Thiago Fernandez was dismissed for a second yellow card after an elbow on Mohammed Adel, leaving his side with 10 men heading into the break.

Al Khaldiya capitalised after the restart. Substitute Nizar Al Otmani delivered a low ball into the area that deflected off

Yaqoob Diara for an own goal, restoring parity in the 57th minute.

What followed was a remarkable sequence. Riffa were reduced to nine men when Bartkus received a second booking for bringing down Al Otmani. Replacement goalkeeper Abdulkarim Al Fardan briefly emerged as a hero, saving Saifeddine Bouhra's penalty.

Minutes later, Al Fardan was also sent off for fouling Gleison Moreira outside the box, forcing outfield player Rodrigo Yuri into goal. Al Khaldiya pressed but still faced resistance.

Despite being three men down, Riffa nearly snatched victory when Wellington Moreira produced a brilliant rainbow flick before surging down the byline and firing narrowly over.

In stoppage time, Al Khaldiya were initially awarded a penalty after Bouhra was brought down by Riffa captain Jassim Al Shaikh, but the decision was overturned following a VAR review. Moments later, Bouhra unleashed a powerful strike from distance that found the corner and sealed a remarkable win.

The result lifts Al Khaldiya back to the top of the table on 42 points, while Riffa remain third, bringing Matchweek 17 of the league to a close. Attention now turns to this weekend's cup semi-final, where the two sides are set for another explosive clash.

In the later game yesterday, Al Ahli and Al Malkiya played out a goalless stalemate at Khalifa Sports City, leaving Al Ahli seventh on 20 points and Al Malkiya one place above on 24.

## Manama Rally Past Al Najma to Reach Finals

● **Manama's Ali Jaber nearly achieved a triple-double**

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

Manama secured their place in the 2025-2026 Zain Bahrain Basketball League finals with a 75-71 victory over Al Najma, winning the semi-final series 3-1. Al Najma had taken the opening game, but Manama responded by winning the next three contests, including last night's thrilling decider.

The 25-time champions, coached by Bahraini Salman Ramadhan, will now face four-time and reigning champions Muharraq in a best-of-five format starting Wednesday.



Manama's Buallay drives past Al Najma's Ali Aqeel

Muharraq booked their spot straight games, setting up a by sweeping Al Ahli in three blockbuster finale. For Ma-

nama, it is also a chance for redemption after The Red Wolves defeated them in last month's Khalifa bin Salman Cup final.

Manama started yesterday's game strongly, taking the first quarter 25-23. Ali Jaber imposed himself inside early while Ahmed Salman stretched the defense with timely three-pointers. Al Najma had opportunities but missed shots and struggled for second-chance points, allowing Manama to finish the quarter slightly ahead.

Al Najma bounced back in the second, claiming a 46-43 halftime lead. Ali Aqeel attacked the rim aggressively, drew fouls, and converted all four of his free throws. Donovan Smith contributed efficiently inside and Al Najma's bench added 30 points. Manama remained strong on the boards but their

offense lacked consistency.

The third quarter proved decisive. Early on, Jaber dominated in the paint, orchestrating the attack with precise passes, while Ahmed Salman provided perimeter support. Al Najma struggled with turnovers and cold three-point shooting, allowing Manama to take control and enter the final period leading 57-56.

The fourth quarter was tense and physical. With just over seven minutes remaining, Aqeel tied the game at 66-66 with a three-pointer. Manama responded immediately, with Jaber and Salman scoring both inside and from distance. With two minutes left, Jaber extended the lead to 73-66. Al Najma fought back, closing the gap to 73-71 through Mohamed Kuwayed, but a missed three-pointer and

a 24-second violation ended their comeback hopes. Salman sealed the victory with two crucial free throws in the closing seconds.

Ali Jaber was named man of the match with 21 points, 13 rebounds, eight assists, and nine of 11 two-pointers, completing a dominant double-double and near triple-double performance.



Manama's win sets a rematch of last month's Khalifa bin Salman Cup final

## Slot urges Liverpool to stick together after FA Cup rout at Man City

AFP | Manchester, United Kingdom

Arne Slot urged his Liverpool flops to stick together after admitting Saturday's dismal 4-0 defeat at Manchester City in the FA Cup quarter-finals summed up their turbulent season.

Slot's side wasted a series of early chances at the Etihad Stadium before capitulating when Erling Haaland bagged City's opener late in the first-half.

Haaland struck again on the stroke of half-time and completed his treble after the break following Antoine Semenyo's goal.

Liverpool's wretched performance, which also including a missed Mohamed Salah penalty when the score was 4-0,



Manchester City's Norwegian striker #09 Erling Haaland (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring their second goal during the English FA Cup quarter final football match between Manchester City and Liverpool at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England

increased the pressure on Slot after a miserable campaign.

"It's very disappointing to be out, not only in the manner but also the result and the score. Another big disappointment for us," said Slot, whose team have only two wins in their last seven games.

"The first 35 minutes was the sort of team I would like to see but the 20 minutes after that, we have to defend so much better than we were doing today.

"It's not nice to go in at 2-0 just before half-time, not helpful for your mood especially after the season we have had. That was really hard to take."

In a frank admission of Liverpool's problems, Slot said he was concerned with avoiding

an even bigger thrashing ahead of Wednesday's Champions League quarter-final first-leg at Paris Saint-Germain.

"The only good thing was that we didn't concede more. If you want to have a good game on Wednesday, a 4-0 loss is already not helpful but an even bigger loss would be a bigger problem for us to go there," he said.

"I tried to get us back into the game, to make it 4-1 or 4-2 but make sure that it stays at four and that was the main thing I thought about."

The Reds are languishing in fifth place in the Premier League, with their title defence in tatters and their bid to qualify for next season's Champions League far from certain to have a happy ending.

# Elite horses deliver dramatic finish to King's Cup Festival



**HM the King's Cups**

Arabian Horses Cup: Trainer Yousif Taher
Local-Bred Horses Cup: Owner Mohammed Khalid Abdulrahim
Imported Horses Cup: Jockey Benoit De La Sayette
Feature Race - Al Methaq Mile Cup (7th Race)
<b>Winner: Piz Nair (Al Adiyat Racing)</b>
Presented to: Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa
Presenter: Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid bin Isa Al Khalifa
<b>Additional Race Winners &amp; Trophies</b>
Bapco Energies Cup: Shaikh Sultan Al Deen bin Mohammed bin Salman Al Khalifa
Presented by: Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak bin Daina
2nd Race Trophy: Trainer Paul Smith
Presented by: Hisham Al Rayes (GFH Bank CEO)
Chairman's Cup: Owner Hasan Mefareh Alajmi
Presented by: Hayssam Youssef (Binaa)
8th Race Trophy: Jockey Edinson Rodriguez
Presented by: Firas Barakat (Avenues-Bahrain CEO)



His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa's arrival



TDT | Manama

The HM the King's Cup Festival concluded in Sakhir with a high-profile closing racing evening that brought together elite horses, leading owners, trainers, and jockeys for a final day of compe-

titution at the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club.

Representing His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa attended the closing races held on April 2 and 3 at the club's racecourse in Al Raffa, where the season's most prestigious

titles were decided.

The event showcased intense competition across Arabian, imported, and Bahraini-bred horse categories, with top contenders vying for HM the King's Cups and other major trophies concluding the racing season.

Organised by the Rashid

Equestrian and Horseracing Club, the festival once again highlighted Bahrain's growing stature in the regional and international horseracing scene.

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa praised HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's continued support for the equestrian sector, noting that

this backing plays a key role in sustaining excellence and driving further development within the sport. He also commended the ongoing guidance of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, describing it as vital in preserving Bahrain's heritage while strengthening its

global sporting presence.

He further underlined that Bahrain's ability to successfully host and organise major equestrian events reflects strong national capabilities and the dedication of skilled Bahraini professionals, reinforcing the Kingdom's position on the horseracing map.



## Iraq Marks Historic World Cup Return with Massive Celebrations

TDT | Manama

Baghdad witnessed scenes of nationwide celebration as Iraq's capital erupted in jubilation following the national football team's qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, ending a 40-year absence from the global stage.

Thousands of supporters filled the streets as the Iraqi national team, known as the "Lions of Mesopotamia," toured the city in an open-top bus parade.

The celebrations, held under the directive of Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, transformed key parts of Baghdad into a sea of flags, chants, and national pride.

The victory procession passed through major landmarks, in-



cluding Freedom Square and several central intersections, where large crowds gathered to salute the players and celebrate the historic achievement.

Iraq secured its World Cup place after a dramatic 2-1 victory

over Bolivia in Monterrey during the final intercontinental playoff. Goals from Ali Al-Hamadi and captain Aymen Hussein sealed the decisive win, confirming Iraq as the last nation to qualify for the expanded 2026



tournament.

Under head coach Graham Arnold, the team showed strong resilience in a tightly contested match, holding off late pressure to secure its place on football's biggest stage.

The qualification has been widely hailed as a unifying national moment, bringing supporters across the country together amid broader regional and economic challenges.

Iraq is now set to prepare for a demanding group stage campaign, where it will face football heavyweights Norway, France, and Senegal as it looks ahead to its long-awaited World Cup return.