

'Aerial Intercept'

Washington reports naval clashes with Iranian forces as it escorts commercial shipping through the strategic waterway. | P8

Drone strike hits Fujairah industrial area, injures three Indians

Zain Bahrain Posts Stable Quarterly Results

Dust Wave Warning



TDT | Manama

Bahrain is expected to see a gradual change in weather over the coming days, with stronger north-westerly winds starting Wednesday, the Meteorological Directorate said.

Wind speeds are expected to rise to moderate to active levels from 6 May. They may become strong at times between Thursday and Saturday.

Parliament Session Postponed

TDT | Manama

The Council of Representatives decided to cancel today's regular session and hold a special session on Thursday.

According to parliamentary sources, the General Secretariat informed members shortly before via text message about the cancellation and the rescheduling of the agenda to Thursday's session.

Online Speech Probe



TDT | Manama

Anti-Cybercrime Directorate arrested a 20-year-old man for the alleged misuse of social media.

The ministry said the individual posted online comments that publicly insulted a figure considered sacred by a religious community.

The directorate reiterated its call for responsible social media use, urging users to respect laws and avoid publishing or circulating any material that violates legal provisions.

Stand United

Royal Family Council renews pledge of loyalty to the King



HM the King, in the presence of HRH Prince Salman, receives a formal declaration of loyalty from Shaikh Salman bin Khalid Al Khalifa

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa led a meeting of the Royal Family Council

in Manama on Monday, with HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa in attendance. Shaikh Salman bin Khalid Al

Khalifa, Director-General of the Royal Family Council, presented a formal declaration of loyalty to His Majesty the King.

The document underscored

the royal family's firm support for the king, highlighting unity and steadfast backing amid current regional developments.

It stressed a collective commitment to protecting national stability, preserving unity, and standing firmly behind the Kingdom's leadership.

Bahrain Condemns UAE Attack

Leaders reviewed regional security developments

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa held a telephone call on Sunday with United Arab Emirates President Shaikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, in which he strongly condemned the "terrorist Iranian attacks" targeting civilian sites and facilities in the UAE.

The king expressed "strong condemnation and denunciation" of the attacks, calling them a dangerous escalation that threatens regional security and stability, and a "blatant violation" of principles of good neighbourliness and international laws and conventions.



UAE President Shaikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

HM King Hamad stressed that the security of the UAE is an integral part of Bahrain's own security, reaffirming Bahrain's full solidarity with the UAE and its support for all measures Abu



HM the King

Dhabi takes to safeguard its sovereignty, security, stability, and national assets.

He also conveyed his sincere wishes for a swift recovery for those injured in the attacks.

Foreign Ministry warns

Bahrain called for international action and restraint after expressing strong concern over missile and drone attacks targeting civilian sites in the UAE.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the incidents as a serious escalation that threatens regional stability, warning that continued attacks risk widening tensions in an already volatile Middle East.

It urged the international community, including the UN Security Council, to respond firmly to prevent further escalation and to safeguard civilian infrastructure, maritime routes, and global energy supplies,

while stressing the importance of upholding ceasefire commitments and international law.

Attack In Hormuz

Meanwhile, the foreign ministry denounced the use of two drones against a vessel operated by the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) while it was transiting the strategic waterway, describing the attack as a "flagrant violation" of international law, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, International Maritime Organization regulations, and UN Security Council Resolution 2817.

SECURITY AND STABILITY

Government Reviews Diplomacy Efforts

TDT | Manama

Deputy Prime Minister, HE Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting at Gudaibiya Palace on Sunday, where ministers reviewed national developments, regional diplomacy, and government initiatives.

The Cabinet reaffirmed the importance of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's recent address to the media, describing it as a guiding framework for protecting Bahrain's interests, strengthening security and stability, and sustaining national development.



HE Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa

Ministers stressed that all government entities continue to implement royal directives, highlighting that safeguarding Bahrain's security and stability remains a shared national re-

sponsibility.

The Cabinet also expressed appreciation for the support shown by Bahraini and GCC families and tribes following the King's address, as well as solidarity from allied countries and international organisations in support of Bahrain's sovereignty and security measures.

It commended the positions of several Arab and GCC leaders and organisations, including Morocco, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, the GCC General Secretariat, and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, for their backing of Bahrain.

Ukraine President Lands in Manama



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky arrived in Bahrain on Sunday for an official visit. Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani and other senior officials received him at Bahrain International Airport.



HH Shaikh Nasser Praises Chamber Efforts

TDT | Manama

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, met Nabeel Khalid Kanoo, Chairman of the Chamber's Board of Directors, in the presence of First Vice-Chairman Yousif Salahuddin and Second Vice-Chairman Nawaf Khalid Al Zayani.

During the meeting, HH Shaikh Nasser congratulated the Chairman and members of the Board on their election to the 31st session of the Chamber's Board of Directors.

He wished them success in continuing their national efforts and



HH Shaikh Nasser receives Nabeel Khalid Kanoo

achieving further progress that supports the national economy and strengthens Bahrain's standing across various sectors.

He also underlined the vital role of the private sector as a key partner in the kingdom's comprehensive development path.

Radiation Safety Tightened

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain will introduce new licensing rules for radiation workers, safety officers, experts and related service providers under decisions issued by the Supreme Council for Environment and published in the Official Gazette.

Under the framework, anyone involved in radiation work exceeding 30 per cent of the annual dose limit must obtain a licence.

Professionals are classified into radiation workers, protection officers and qualified experts, each with specific

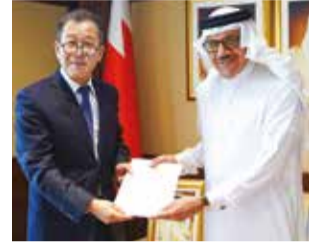


HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, President of the Supreme Council for Environment

training and experience requirements.

Licences will be valid for three years and may be renewed, suspended or revoked in cases of non-compliance.

Bahrain, China Review Ties



Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani with Chinese Ambassador, H.E. Ni Ruchi

TDT | Manama

Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani received the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Bahrain, H.E. Ni Ruchi, at the ministry headquarters on Sunday.

The two sides reviewed the strong bilateral relations between Bahrain and China, highlighting their continued development and growth across various fields.

They also exchanged views on regional developments and the current situation, including the implications of closing the Strait of Hormuz to international navigation, alongside other issues of common concern.

The meeting was attended by Ambassador Mohammed Rashid Al Suwaidi, Acting Head of the Asia and Pacific Affairs Sector at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

EU delegation visit strengthens diplomatic engagement

TDT | Manama

Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Foreign Minister, met a delegation from the European Parliament in Manama on Monday.

The delegation was led by Reinhold Lopatka, Member of the European Parliament, during their official visit to the kingdom.

Discussions focused on strengthening relations between Bahrain and the European Union, including expanding cooperation across various sectors—particularly parliamentary ties—to support regional and global security, stability, and development.

The two sides also reviewed regional developments, including the implications of Iran's closure



Dr. Al Zayani with the European Parliament delegation

of the Strait of Hormuz on international trade, energy supplies and the global economy, as well as other issues of mutual concern.

National Unity Emphasised



The Chairman of Bahrain's Shura Council, Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, said on Monday that programmes and initiatives by the Bahrain Institute for Political Development contribute to strengthening national belonging and loyalty to the kingdom and its leadership. He was speaking during a meeting in which he received the institute's annual report for 2025 from its officials, according to a statement. Al Saleh praised the institute's role in promoting political awareness, training national cadres, and highlighting Bahrain's democratic development under HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Bapco Chief Praises HM the King's Remarks

TDT | Manama

The chief executive of Bapco Energies, Mark Thomas, said that remarks by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa reflect "firm national constants" and reinforce unity and responsibility across Bahrain's society and institutions.

Thomas said the King's media remarks embody a "consistent leadership approach" based on strengthening national values, safeguarding security and stability, and promoting social cohesion and accountability.

He added that the messages carried "highly significant national themes," underscoring the priority of safeguarding Bahrain's security and stability, upholding the rule of law, and strengthening national unity.

According to him, these principles form a balanced frame-



Mark Thomas, Bapco Energies chief executive



Majesty the King and the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

He said the group remains focused on contributing to sustainable energy security for future generations while advancing the Kingdom's broader development ambitions.

Mr. Thomas added that the King's leadership continues to serve as a guiding inspiration for national work, strengthening confidence in the future and placing people and development at the centre of Bahrain's vision.

work that combines firmness with responsibility and supports confidence in the country's future.

The Bapco Energies CEO praised the King's "deep wisdom and forward-looking vision," which he said laid the foundations of Bahrain's comprehensive development journey.

Mr. Thomas reaffirmed the company's commitment to supporting Bahrain's development goals under the leadership of His

New Director Appointments

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, has issued two edicts appointing directors at the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) and the Civil Service Bureau.

Under Edict (16) of 2026,

Shaikh Khalifa bin Duaij bin Khalifa Al Khalifa was appointed Director of the Real Estate Operations Directorate at RERA, succeeding Mehnaz Ghuloom Mohammed Abulqasim.

Under Edict (15) of 2026, Haitham Ali Khalil Nass was appointed Director of the Policies and Regulations Affairs Directorate at the Civil Service

Bureau. Authorities also announced several other director-level appointments across key departments, including compliance, talent development, recruitment, performance management, and institutional excellence.

Both edicts take effect immediately and will be published in the Official Gazette.

Coast Guard Raises Awareness



Coast Guard carried out a maritime awareness campaign near Al Dar Islands on Monday as part of efforts to enhance sea safety and raise awareness among seafarers. The campaign targeted fishermen, boat owners and recreational users, urging them to comply with maritime safety guidelines and navigation rules in operational areas to ensure their safety.

Coastal Clean-Up Drive



Volunteers and officials joined forces on a beach clean-up campaign at Jid Al Haj beach, underscoring efforts to protect Bahrain's coastal environment through community partnership. The initiative was organised by Clean Up Bahrain in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture and the Northern Municipality. Northern Municipal Council Chairman Dr Sayed Shubber Ibrahim Al Wadaei took part in the campaign, describing collaboration between public bodies and civil society as essential for safeguarding coastal areas. (By Hasan Barakat)

Expatriate Jailed in Assault Case

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The First Criminal High Court of Appeal upheld a one-year prison sentence against an Asian expatriate in an assault case that resulted in a permanent disability, and ordered his deportation after he serves his sentence.

The 37-year-old defendant was convicted of assaulting a 56-year-old Asian security guard on 10 September 2025. A forensic medical report indicated the incident left the victim with a 4% permanent disability.

Prosecutors said the incident occurred while the victim was on duty at a residential building.

The defendant reportedly arrived seeking access to operate a gas cylinder at his workplace but was denied entry based on instructions from the property sponsor.

He then allegedly forced his way in and assaulted the guard by twisting the fingers of his left hand.

The First Criminal High Court of Appeal has upheld a one-year prison sentence against an Asian expatriate, along with an order for deportation, after he was convicted in an assault case that resulted in a permanent disability assessed at 4%.

The case dates back to an incident on 10 September 2025, when the 37-year-old defendant was found to have assaulted a 56-year-old Asian security guard while the latter was on duty at a residential building.

Three MPs Face Ouster Vote

Committee Backs Removal Move

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Three MPs moved closer to losing their seats on Monday after Parliament's Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee recommended approving a request to remove Abdulnabi Salman, Mahdi Al Shuwaikh and Mamdouh Al Saleh.

The request has been signed by 37 of Parliament's 40 members, meaning every MP apart from the three named in it has supported the move. Speaker Ahmed Al Musallam is among those who signed.

Sources told The Daily Tribune that the three MPs attended Monday's meeting of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee, where they were heard before the committee drafted its final report and sent it to Parliament.

According to the explanatory note attached to the request, the signatories said the three MPs took a position that ran counter to the parliamentary oath and national duty by criticising state action against people accused of praising Iranian attacks on Bahrain.

The note said that action included stripping citizenship from those involved, as well as



Parliament's Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee



Ahmed Al Musallam, Speaker of Parliament



Abdulnabi Salman, First Deputy Speaker

from others whose nationality was withdrawn as dependants. It argued that the MPs' remarks cast doubt on the fairness of the state's steps and formed part of their grounds for rejecting the decree-law.

The signatories said the position amounted, in their view, to a breach of national unity, cost the three MPs trust and standing, and breached the duties of

membership and the honour of representing citizens.

Those named in the request are First Deputy Speaker Abdulnabi Salman, Services Committee Chairman Mamdouh Al Saleh and Dr Mahdi Al Shuwaikh.

The committee's report is expected to go to Parliament's Bureau before being placed on the agenda for today's sitting,

when MPs are expected to decide the matter. Parliamentary sources said a meeting held earlier on Monday, attended by MPs other than the three named in the request, ended with agreement to move ahead with the removal bid. The committee is also expected to examine the choice of a new First Deputy Speaker in the event that Abdulnabi Salman's seat is declared vacant.

Hammer Attack Conviction Upheld



TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

A 43-year-old African national will serve a 10-year prison sentence followed by permanent deportation after the Court of Cassation upheld his conviction for attempting to kill an African woman inside her home, following a dispute between them.

According to court findings, the man attacked the victim inside her residence using a hammer, striking her multiple times and causing serious injuries. The assault reportedly continued until he believed she had died.

The attack was interrupted when a passerby intervened, allowing the injured woman to escape. A witness later testified that after being called for help, he arrived at the scene,

saw the victim bleeding as she left the apartment, and spotted the accused inside with blood-stained clothing before the accused fled.

Prosecutors charged the defendant with attempted premeditated murder, arguing the crime was not completed due to circumstances beyond his control, namely the victim's escape. The court also noted that the victim suffered a permanent disability estimated at five percent.

The accused denied the charges during investigations, claiming the incident stemmed from a minor dispute. However, the victim maintained that he had attacked her with intent to kill her inside her home.

The ruling confirms the 10-year prison term, after which the defendant will be deported from the country permanently.

Emergency Lane Stop Ends in Tragedy

Road Safety Urged After Fatal Crash

TDT | Manama
Ghadeer Alkumaish

A 22-year-old university student died in a road accident on Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Highway near Hidd City, heading toward Manama. His vehicle collided with another while it was stopped in the emergency lane due to a breakdown.

According to authorities, Ali Ibrahim Bujasam, a media student at Gulf University, was waiting for a tow truck when the incident occurred. A companion traveling with him was also injured.

Eyewitnesses said the crash happened suddenly, leaving no time to avoid impact.



“Don't wait for the perfect conditions. start with what you have, even if it is simple.”

FROM ALI IBRAHIM'S LAST SOCIAL MEDIA POST

A lasting impression

Those who knew Ali remembered him as a driven and hardworking young man who bal-

anced studies and work from an early age. In a previous video, he spoke about his routine, saying he had been studying and working since the age of 15 or 16, describing life as “a constant race against time.”

He later established his own business, Royal Car Care, a fully equipped car wash built independently, reflecting his entrepreneurial drive and determination.

At Gulf University, a professor described him as a bright and disciplined student who showed strong motivation and creativity, particularly in practical assignments. She highlighted a short film he produced about himself, noting that his work was “made with passion.”



Traffic Penalties

- Red light, wrong-way driving, overtaking on a yellow line, and speeding are serious violations.
- Injury accidents: BHD 1,000-5,000 fine and/or 1+ year in jail.
- Fatal accidents: BHD 2,000-6,000 fine and/or 2-5 years in jail.

BD10,000 Copper Stolen



The Ministry of Interior said its Criminal Investigation Directorate arrested three Asian men, aged 35 to 46, in connection with the theft of copper cables from a private company in Ras Zuwayed.

Authorities said they detained the suspects after investigating the case, which involved stealing around two tonnes of copper wires valued at approximately BD10,000.

Police recovered and seized the stolen materials.

Minors Jailed Over Vandalism

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad



Prosecutors said Monday that a juvenile court sentenced three minors to three years in detention each for their involvement in violence and vandalism incidents, citing a lack of parental supervision as a contributing factor.

The High Juvenile Reform Court also ordered authorities to submit a follow-up report within six months to assess the youths' behaviour and progress in rehabilitation, the Family and Child Prosecution said.

The cases relate to incidents in March in which the juveniles were caught taking part in acts of disorder and property damage. They were arrested at the scene by police in the capital and later referred to prosecutors.

Authorities said the minors were questioned with full legal safeguards in place and held in custody during the investigation, which relied on testimonial and forensic evidence before the case was sent to court.

Social assessments presented to the court pointed to inadequate parental oversight and guidance in the defendants' upbringing, which judges took into account in issuing the sentences.

Prosecutors said the rulings underscore efforts to uphold public safety while pursuing rehabilitation to prevent repeat offences, stressing the importance of family responsibility in supervising minors.

Parliament speaker warns over regional security threats



TDT | Manama

Speaker of the Parliament, Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, reaffirmed the kingdom's commitment to strengthening cooperation with

the European Union, particularly in trade, investment and broader strategic partnerships.

He made the remarks during a meeting on Sunday with a European Parliament delegation led by MEP Reinhold Lopatka,

highlighting Bahrain's leadership under HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the support of HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa in advancing international engagement.

Al Musallam welcomed the European Union's solidarity with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states amid regional tensions and he reiterated Bahrain's position that dialogue and diplomacy remain essential for

achieving long-term regional stability.

The Speaker also referred to the impact of Iranian attacks on civilian and strategic sites, which he said caused casualties and material damage.

Lawmakers Address Regional Risks

Parliamentary diplomacy stressed as key pillar of foreign policy



First Deputy Chairman Jamal Mohammed Fakhro and members of the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives with the European Parliament delegation

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

Senior members of Bahrain's Shura Council discussed regional security developments and parliamentary cooperation with a European Parliament delegation on Tuesday, focusing on tensions linked to recent Iranian attacks in the region, according to an official statement.

The meeting, held with First Deputy Chairman Jamal Mohammed Fakhro, centred on strengthening legislative coop-

eration and reviewing regional and global political and military developments.

Lawmakers referred to "Iranian attacks" targeting Gulf Cooperation Council states and Jordan, saying the incidents posed risks to infrastructure, energy facilities and international shipping routes, including the Strait of Hormuz.

Shura Council members said the developments amounted to violations of international law and warned of their potential impact on global energy markets

and regional trade.

They also reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to national unity and coordination with international partners to maintain security.

Jamal Mohammed Fakhro highlighted Bahrain's parliamentary diplomacy efforts, stating that the legislative branch aims to support official foreign policy through dialogue and cooperation in line with the vision of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Members of both the Shura

Council and the Council of Representatives attended the meeting, which also covered broader efforts to expand international parliamentary partnerships.

The European Parliament delegation expressed solidarity with Bahrain, condemned attacks on regional states, and stressed the importance of respecting sovereignty and international law.

It also praised Bahrain's efforts to uphold stability and the rule of law amid regional tensions.

One-Day Housing Process

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama



Bahrain reduced the time required for housing allocation to just one working day after fully automating the process, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning said.

The ministry announced that the system is now entirely digital, linking housing allocation directly with electronic contract issuance to improve efficiency and speed up services.

Previously taking up to two days, the process is now completed within a single day because the procedures are fully automated. Under the new system, once a housing unit or plot is assigned, the applicant's address is automatically updated and the contract is issued digitally, eliminating the need for paperwork.

Housing and Urban Planning Minister Amna bint Ahmed Al Romaihi said the upgrade simplifies procedures, reduces steps, and saves time and effort for beneficiaries.

She added that re-engineering the process cut required documents by 50 percent and reduced approval steps by 25 percent, enhancing efficiency and transparency.

The move is part of wider government efforts to modernise public services and accelerate digital transformation. Authorities noted that they have documented more than 1,300 government services, redesigning around 800 based on public feedback, investor input and service evaluations.

Driver Gets 7 Years

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

First High Criminal Court sentenced a man in his twenties to seven years in prison over a fatal crash on Zallaq Road that killed two cyclists and injured two others.

The court heard the defendant was speeding when he

lost control of his vehicle and struck a group of cyclists in the early hours of March 21, 2026.

He fled the scene without offering help, and investigations confirmed he possessed a psychotropic substance.

He was convicted of involuntary manslaughter, reckless driving, drug possession and use, and failing to assist victims.

BD7.5m Phase Complete

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Ministry of Works completed the first phase of infrastructure works in Wadi Al Buhair at a cost of BD7.5 million, covering road levelling and rainwater drainage linked to Tubli Bay.

Two more phases are in progress: the second is set to go to tender after design and funding approvals, and the third is nearing final design. Works will include roads, sewage networks,



Wadi Al Buhair

drainage, lighting and safety features.

Groundwater at the site is be-

ing managed through rainwater drainage pipes, with a long-term solution planned under the fi-

nal phase. Sewage coverage in the Southern Governorate has reached 82 percent, officials said.

Company Law Reform



Shura Council Financial and Economic Affairs Committee reviewed a draft decree-law amending the Commercial Companies Law, aimed at modernising the country's corporate legal framework. During a meeting on Monday, the committee, chaired by Khalid Hussein Al-Maskati, examined Decree-Law No. (38) of 2025, which proposes changes to provisions of the Commercial Companies Law issued under Decree-Law No. (21) of 2001. Members reviewed the House of Representatives' decision, its accompanying documents, and a legal opinion from the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee, which deemed the draft constitutionally and legally sound. The panel also discussed the proposal with legal and economic advisers before preparing its final report for submission to the Council's Bureau. (By Rehab Mohammad)

Why UTIs Are More Common in Summer

Neethu V
TDT | Manama

Summer means travel, sunshine, and outdoor fun - but it also brings an unexpected rise in urinary tract infections (UTIs), and the cause is often misunderstood.

According to urologist Dr Mahmoud Sharaf, the issue is not stronger bacterial growth, as one might think, but a mix of environmental factors and daily habits that leave the urinary system more vulnerable.

UTIs occur when bacteria enter the urinary tract, causing symptoms such as burning during urination, frequent urges to urinate, and lower abdominal discomfort.

As the doctor explains, it is a simple cycle between the invad-



Dr Mahmoud Sharaf, Uro-Genital Surgeon, Endo-Urologist

ing organism, the urinary system (the host), and the resulting symptoms.

Speaking to TDT, Dr Mahmoud said, "Urine acts like a flowing river that helps flush bacteria out," adding that when this natural flow slows, the risk of infection increases.

"UTIs in summer are largely environmental and behavioral



UTIs in Summer

- Risk increases in summer due to dehydration and travel habits.
- Causes include low water intake, delayed urination, and limited restroom access.
- Symptoms: burning urination, frequent urge, lower abdominal pain, sometimes reddish urine.
- Diagnosis is confirmed only through urinalysis and urine culture tests.

rather than purely pathological."

"Higher temperatures lead to increased fluid loss through sweating and breathing, often resulting in dehydration. This reduces urine volume and flow

- the body's primary defense against urinary infections. At the same time, concentrated urine can irritate the bladder lining, making it easier for bacteria to attach and multiply."

Heat and humidity also encourage bacterial growth around the genital area, especially in women, where moisture from sweating can increase colonization, added Dr Mahmoud.

Prevention

Speaking about reducing the risk of UTIs this summer, he advises maintaining regular hydration of around 2-3 litres of water daily, rather than waiting for thirst. The bladder, he notes, should not be treated as a storage tank but as a flushing system, so urine should not be held and should be passed every 3-4 hours. During travel, he recommends using the cleanest available restrooms, avoiding prolonged wear of wet clothing such as swimwear and opting

for breathable fabrics such as cotton.

"The fact is that Cranberry is for prevention and the myth is that Cranberry is for cure. Cranberry juice contains proanthocyanidins, which form a protective lining on the urinary bladder mucosa, reducing bacterial adhesion."

"Your best natural antibiotics in summer to avoid UTI are hydration, urine flow and hygiene," he said.

Globally, UTIs are a major health burden, with an estimated 400 - 450 million cases annually. They are far more common in females, with women being about 3.6 times more affected than men, and the risk increases after menopause. Around 50-60% of women experience at least one UTI in their lifetime, compared to 12-14% of men.

Zain Bahrain announces financial results for 1st Quarter of 2026

Reported 1% increase in total profit for the year attributable to the shareholders amounting to BD 1.18 million for Q1

● EBITDA also grew by 1.3% to reach BD 5.45 million.

● Revenue for Q1 2026 remained stable at BD 21.02 million.

Manama

Zain Bahrain, a leading Bahraini provider of innovative technologies and digital lifestyle experience, announced its financial results for the first quarter (Q1 2026).

Zain Bahrain reported a total profit attributable to the shareholders of BD 1.18 million for the three months ended 31 March 2026, representing an increase of 1% from BD 1.17 million in Q1 2025. Basic and diluted earnings per share remained stable at 3 fils. Revenue remained stable at BD 21.02 million compared to BD 21.01 million in Q1 2025. EBITDA for Q1 2026 increased by 1.3% reaching BD 5.45 million from BD 5.38 million in Q1 2025.

“Zain Bahrain maintained a high level of operational readiness, supported by our ongoing investment in digital transformation and resilient infrastructure, enabling more than 95% of our services to be available digitally, ensuring seamless and uninterrupted service delivery for our customers

HIS EXCELLENCY SHAIKH AHMED, ZAIN BAHRAIN CHAIRMAN



At the balance sheet level, Zain Bahrain's total equity as of 31 March 2026 accumulated to BD 88.59 million, down by 2.40% compared to BD 90.75 million as of 31 December 2025. The Company's asset base stood at BD 140.81 million as of 31 March 2026, a decrease of 4.7% from BD 147.79 million as of 31 December 2025.

His Excellency Shaikh Ahmed bin Ali Al Khalifa, Chairman of Zain Bahrain, expressed his profound gratitude and highest appreciation to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for His Majesty's visionary leadership and prudent directives in implementing proactive and decisive measures that have safeguarded

the wellbeing of citizens and residents, while reinforcing the stability and resilience of the Bahraini economy, particularly in light of the evolving regional and global challenges.

He further extended his deep appreciation to His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa for his steadfast commitment to ensuring business continuity and preserving the achievements of the labor market, thereby strengthening the national economy's ability to navigate uncertainty. These efforts underscore the government's forward-looking approach to sustaining economic stability, reinforcing resilience, and driving continued growth

despite prevailing challenges.

Zain Bahrain maintained a high level of operational readiness, supported by our ongoing investment in digital transformation and resilient infrastructure, enabling more than 95% of our services to be available digitally, ensuring seamless and uninterrupted service delivery for our customers. We also implemented flexible working models that enabled employees to work remotely, ensuring efficient business continuity.

As part of our social responsibility and in support of national efforts, the company provided free home and mobile internet access to selected online educational platforms, in addition

to providing fixed and mobile internet services for businesses to access a number of virtual meeting platforms, ensuring continuity of education and enabling students to continue their studies without interruption, while supporting employees in conducting their virtual meetings efficiently and maintaining business continuity. This reflects Zain's enduring commitment to supporting the community, strengthening national resilience, and reinforcing its role as a trusted and responsible national partner.

Zain Bahrain Chairman continued: "The company also achieved a number of strategic milestones, most notably the signing of the acquisition agreement for Infonas, a strategic step that supports our expansion in ICT and enterprise solutions and aligns with Zain Group's '4WARD - Progress with Purpose' strategy. Zain Bahrain was also recognized on the global stage during its participation at Mobile World Congress (MWC) Barcelona 2026 as the Kingdom's most awarded network, receiving 10 awards,

including Best Network in Bahrain for coverage, quality, and overall gaming experience. This recognition reflects the strength of our continued investments and our commitment to delivering a reliable, high-quality connectivity experience for our customers."

The Chairman concluded: "Our performance this quarter reflects the strength of our long-term strategy and our continued focus on delivering sustainable growth and shareholder value, while continuing to create greater value for our customers and reinforcing our role as a leading digital partner in Bahrain's transformation journey. Looking ahead, we remain focused on accelerating our transformation into a fully integrated digital ecosystem, expanding our enterprise capabilities, and delivering innovative solutions that support Bahrain's digital ambitions. We are confident that our strategic direction and strong operational foundation will continue to drive sustainable growth and long-term value for our customers' shareholders."



Zain Bahrain B.S.C.

Three-Month Period Ended 31 March, 2026

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March, 2026

	31 March 2026 (Reviewed) BD '000	31 December 2025 (Audited) BD '000
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and banks	9,498	13,232
Trade receivables and other assets	15,088	15,787
Contract assets	8,770	8,478
Inventories	2,205	3,100
Total current assets	35,561	40,597
Non-current assets		
Trade receivables and other assets	1,259	1,312
Contract assets	3,368	3,164
Right-of-use assets	20,289	20,379
Property and equipment	72,537	74,741
Intangible assets	7,791	7,597
Total non-current assets	105,244	107,193
Total Assets	140,805	147,790
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	28,970	33,313
Lease liabilities	3,797	3,778
Contract liabilities	1,534	1,667
Total current liabilities	34,301	38,758
Non-current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	-	285
Lease liabilities	17,089	17,201
Provision for employees' end of service benefits	825	794
Total non-current liabilities	17,914	18,280
Total Liabilities	52,215	57,038
Equity		
Share capital	36,800	36,800
Treasury shares	(754)	(754)
Treasury shares reserve	(6)	(6)
Share premium	3,032	3,032
Statutory reserve	15,697	15,697
Retained earnings	32,705	34,797
Equity attributable to shareholders of the Company	87,474	89,566
Non-controlling interests	1,116	1,186
Total Equity	88,590	90,752
Total Liabilities and Equity	140,805	147,790

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss and other Comprehensive Income

For the Three-Month Period Ended 31 March 2026

	Three-Month Period Ended 31 March	
	2026 (Reviewed) BD '000	2025 (Reviewed) BD '000
Revenue	21,021	21,007
Cost of revenue	(6,873)	(7,532)
Operating and administrative expenses	(7,637)	(7,376)
Depreciation of property and equipment	(2,334)	(2,291)
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	(1,166)	(1,161)
Amortization of intangible assets	(562)	(562)
Expected credit losses on financial assets and contract assets	(1,061)	(719)
Operating profit	1,388	1,366
Finance income	103	89
Other income	32	3
Other expenses	(24)	(3)
Finance costs	(386)	(381)
Profit for the period	1,113	1,074
Other comprehensive income		
Total comprehensive income for the period	1,113	1,074
Total comprehensive income for the period		
Attributable to:		
Shareholders of the Company	1,183	1,172
Non-controlling interests	(70)	(98)
Basic and diluted earnings per share	Fils 3	Fils 3

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Changes In Equity

For the Three-Month Period Ended 31 March 2026

	Share capital BD '000	Treasury shares BD '000	Treasury shares reserve BD '000	Share premium BD '000	Statutory reserve BD '000	Retained earnings BD '000	Equity attributable to owners of the company BD '000	Non-controlling interests BD '000	Total equity BD '000
Balance, 31 December 2025 (Audited)	36,800	(754)	(6)	3,032	15,697	34,797	89,566	1,186	90,752
Appropriation of dividends	-	-	-	-	-	(3,275)	(3,275)	-	(3,275)
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-	-	-	1,183	1,183	(70)	1,113
Balance, 31 March 2026 (Reviewed)	36,800	(754)	(6)	3,032	15,697	32,705	87,474	1,116	88,590
Balance, 31 December 2024 (Audited)	36,800	(754)	(6)	3,032	15,136	32,646	86,854	1,267	88,121
Appropriation of dividends	-	-	-	-	-	(3,275)	(3,275)	-	(3,275)
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-	-	-	1,172	1,172	(98)	1,074
Appropriation to statutory reserve	-	-	-	-	117	(117)	-	-	-
Balance, 31 March 2025 (Reviewed)	36,800	(754)	(6)	3,032	15,253	30,426	84,751	1,169	85,920

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows For the Three-Month Period Ended 31 March 2026

	Three-Month Period Ended 31 March	
	2026 (Reviewed) BD '000	2025 (Reviewed) BD '000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Profit for the period	1,113	1,074
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of property and equipment	2,334	2,291
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	1,166	1,161
Amortization of intangible assets	562	562
Increase in expected credit losses on financial assets and contract assets	1,061	719
Provision for inventories	36	36
Finance income	(103)	(89)
Finance costs	386	381
Gain on termination of leases	(16)	(5)
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	1	-
Provision for employees' end of service benefits	31	50
	6,571	6,180
Working capital changes:		
Net change in inventories	859	2
Net change in trade receivables and other assets	(275)	(2,396)
Net change in contract assets	(522)	(56)
Net change in trade and other payables	(2,796)	(798)
Net change in contract liabilities	(133)	(36)
Cash generated from operating activities	3,704	2,896
Finance costs paid	(386)	(381)
Net cash generated from operating activities	3,318	2,515
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payment for acquisition of property and equipment	(4,958)	(3,727)
Payment for intangible assets	(1,059)	(1,078)
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment	16	-
Finance income	103	89
Deposits maturing after three months	(1,300)	-
Net cash used in investing activities	(7,198)	(4,716)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Movement of principal portion of lease liabilities	(1,154)	(1,137)
Net cash used in financing activities	(1,154)	(1,137)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(5,034)	(3,338)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	13,256	7,458
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	8,222	4,120
Cash and bank balances:		
Cash on hand and at banks	8,222	4,120
Deposits with contractual maturity of more than three months	1,300	2,200
Expected credit loss	(24)	(43)
Cash and bank balances	9,498	6,277

The above Consolidated Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Profit or Loss & Other Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows have been extracted from the Condensed Consolidated Interim Financial Statements of Zain Bahrain B.S.C. for the Three-Month Period Ended 31 March, 2026, which were approved by the Board of Directors and issued by KPMG, Kingdom of Bahrain on 4 May 2026.

Shaikh Ahmed Bin Ali Al Khalifa - Chairman

Mr. Bader AlKharafi - Board Member

KPMG - Financial Auditors

Bede launches 'One, Two Thousand or More' campaign

Up to three-year repayment options

● Customers can now take advantage of enhanced financing options starting at BHD 1,000 BHD 2,000 or more.

● Repayment periods have been extended up to three years, offering customers greater flexibility.

Manama

In response to evolving customer needs and increasing demand for more flexible financial solutions, Bede Bahrain, the innovative microfinance solutions app, announced a significant enhancement to its financing offering, introducing higher financing limits and ex-



tended repayment options.

Customers can now take advantage of the newly launched exclusive campaign 'One, Two Thousand or More' with extended repayment options up to three years, tailored to meet

their individual financial needs. The campaign reinforces Bede's commitment to delivering seamless, Shariah-compliant financing solutions that empower customers to manage their financial commitments with greater flex-

ibility and confidence.

Commenting on the campaign launch, A. Nasser Al-Rayes, CEO, Bede Bahrain, said: "The 'One Thousand, Two Thousand, or More' campaign reflects our deep understanding of customer

needs and our ongoing engagement with their feedback and evolving expectations, empowering our customers to manage their financial commitments with greater ease and confi-

dence."

Bede offers a straightforward registration process with minimal requirements. Users can apply for Islamic financing in just a few minutes from anywhere, at any time throughout the week, making it a comfortable experience.

Customers can apply for financing through the App or find more details via our website, www.bede.bh. Our dedicated customer service team is available 24/7 at +973 13633333, ensuring our users always have the support they need.

“The 'One Thousand, Two Thousand, or More' campaign reflects our deep understanding of customer needs and our ongoing engagement with their feedback and evolving expectations, empowering our customers to manage their financial commitments with greater ease and confidence.”

A. NASSER AL-RAYES, CEO, BEDE BAHRAIN



BisB financing partner in off-plan sale of residential units

Government Land Development Rights Programme

● Expanding Homeownership Pathways for Citizens

● The Government Land Development Rights Programme is a collaboration between public and private sector entities

Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB), the leading provider of innovative Islamic financial solutions for simplifying money matters in the Kingdom of Bahrain, has announced its participation as a financing partner in the off-plan sale of residential units under the Government Land Development Rights

Ebrahim Jasim, Assistant General Manager - Commercial & Institutional Banking of Eskan Bank

Programme, a housing initiative led by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning in collaboration with Eskan Bank.

BisB's involvement reflects its continued commitment to supporting sustainable homeownership solutions and contributing to national development priorities by enabling Bahraini citizens to access affordable housing under suitable financing terms.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Faisal Al Abdulla, Chief Retail Banking Officer at BisB, said, "Our participation in the

Government Land Development Rights Programme marks an important step to-

wards strengthening BisB's role within the Kingdom's housing ecosystem. Our close collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning and Eskan Bank allows us to offer Shariah-compliant financing solutions with flexible structures that facilitate homeownership, in alignment with national measures to ensure property affordability. This initiative also affirms our responsibility, as an Islamic financial institution, to contribute to sustainable growth and deliver positive social impact that responds to the aspirations of Bahraini families."

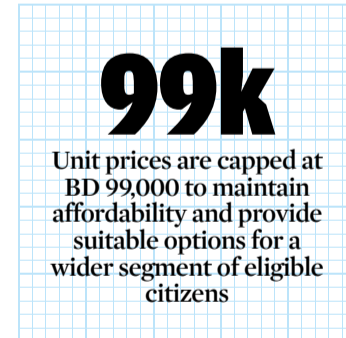
Mr. Ebrahim Jasim, Assistant General Manager - Commercial & Institutional Banking of Eskan Bank, stated, "The Government Land Development Rights Programme presents a progressive model for public-private partnership and reflects our focus on providing citizens with more accessible and sustainable pathways to homeownership. BisB's participation as a financing partner is a valuable addition to this endeavour, one that helps further diversify available financing options and sup-

ports the citizens in acquiring homes that meet their needs, in line with the Kingdom's development agenda."

This cooperation forms part of ongoing efforts to enhance integration among the various stakeholders supporting Bahrain's housing ecosystem and to achieve sustainable developmental impact across the Kingdom.

The Government Land Development Rights Programme is a collaboration between public and private sector entities, under which licensed real estate develop-

ers construct housing units on



government-owned land. Unit prices are capped at BD 99,000 to maintain affordability and provide suitable options for a wider segment of eligible citizens. Applicants may apply directly through Eskan Bank or the Baity App.

BisB's participation in this national initiative further underscores its enduring support for Bahrain's housing sector, ensured through innovative Shariah-compliant financing solutions and strong strategic partnerships with government institutions. The Bank continues to empower Bahraini families with accessible avenues to homeownership, while supporting the Kingdom's broader sustainable development ambitions.

Faisal Al Abdulla, Chief Retail Banking Officer at BisB

US Treasury chief says Hormuz operation can ease oil shock

Washington, United States

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said yesterday that the US mission to restore maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz can help alleviate an ongoing oil shortage, adding that "help is on the way" for consumers.

Global oil prices have since surged, as have costs at US gasoline pumps, squeezing American households as key midterm elections approach.

Meanwhile, Washington is maintaining a blockade of Iranian ports.

"They (Iran) are trying to cut off international freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, and the US is opening that up," Bessent told Fox News in an interview on Monday.

"We have blockaded the ships going into or out of Iranian ports. Their economy is in freefall," he added. "Their soldiers will not have a high tolerance for not getting paid."

But the economic fallout has been widespread globally.

In the United States, the average cost of a gallon of regular gasoline was \$4.46 as of Monday morning, according to the AAA motor club. This is a sharp rise from the \$2.98 level seen on February 26 before the war. "Help is on the way as of today," Bessent said Monday. "Every crude carrier that goes through has about two million barrels," he said.

Al Baraka Islamic Bank signs agreement with Eskan Bank

To finance purchase of residential units under construction

Manama

Al Baraka Islamic Bank, one of the leading Islamic banks in the Kingdom of Bahrain, has announced the signing of the third addendum to the housing finance programmes agreement with Eskan Bank. This step incorporates the "Sale of Residential Units Prior to Completion" programme under the framework of joint cooperation between the two parties, enhancing citizens' opportunities to own residential units through flexible and innovative financing solutions.

This signing comes as part of Al Baraka Islamic Bank's ongoing commitment to actively contribute to the development of the Kingdom's housing finance ecosystem, in line with the Respected Government's direction to provide sustainable housing solutions and enable citizens to access suitable housing through strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders.

The "Sale of Residential Units under construction" programme facilitates



Mazin Dhaif, Chief Retail Officer at Al Baraka Islamic Bank

the purchase of off-plan residential units within projects under the Government Land Development Rights Programme. This provides beneficiaries with broader options while enhancing the efficiency of housing project delivery in partnership with the private sector.

Under this addendum, Al Baraka Islamic Bank joins the list of financial institutions participating in financing this type of unit, supporting faster project execution and ensuring delivery in line with the highest quality standards.

On this occasion, Mr. Mazin Dhaif, Chief Retail Officer at Al Baraka Islamic Bank, stated: "We take pride at Al Baraka Islamic Bank in continuing to strengthen our strategic partnership with Eskan Bank, which represents an advanced model

of public-private sector integration in supporting the housing sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The signing of this addendum reflects our ongoing commitment

to developing innovative financing solutions that meet citizens' aspirations and provide them with greater flexibility in choosing their homes, including the ability to purchase units prior to completion within approved housing projects."

He added: "We are confident that this programme will represent a qualitative addition to housing finance initiatives by expanding access to housing services. At Al Baraka Islamic Bank, we will continue to offer Sharia-compliant financing solutions that support urban development in the Kingdom and enhance social stability for citizens."

Mr. Ebrahim Jassim, Assistant General Manager - Commercial & Institutional Banking at Eskan Bank, commented: "This collaboration with Al

Baraka Islamic Bank represents an important step within our ongoing efforts

to develop housing finance programmes, contributing to improved project execution efficiency and expanding the financing options available to citizens, enabling them to own their residential units at early stages of development."

He added: "At Eskan Bank, we are keen to establish effective partnerships with national financial institutions, supporting the sustainability of the housing sector and enhancing the quality of services provided to citizens. The Sale of Residential Units Prior to Completion programme is one of the key initiatives that contributes to accelerating housing delivery and improving project implementation efficiency."

This signing reaffirms Al Baraka Islamic Bank's commitment to continuing its leading role in providing integrated Islamic banking solutions that meet individual needs, while strengthening its contribution to supporting national initiatives and reinforcing its position as a key partner in achieving sustainable development in the Kingdom of Bahrain.



Ebrahim Jassim, Assistant General Manager - Commercial & Institutional Banking at Eskan Bank

Al Salam Bank opens voting to determine the distribution of first BD 1 Million grand prize

Under "Danat 2026" with the Theme "Designed by You"

Manama

Al Salam Bank has announced the opening of voting for clients and the public to determine how the first BD 1,000,000 grand prize will be distributed under the "Danat 2026" scheme. This follows the successful conclusion of the Bank's social media contest, which witnessed strong participation from the public in sharing their ideas on how the prize should be allocated.

The engagement campaign resulted in a wide range of suggestions, reflecting strong interest from clients in shaping their savings experience. Based on audience participation and engagement, the Bank has selected the most suggested proposals, which have now been shortlisted as the main 4 voting options. With many surprises awaiting the voters, participants can now cast their votes to decide the preferred distribution method of the first grand prize, whether it will be awarded to one winner or divided among multiple winners.

The Bank has invited all clients to participate in the voting process through the dedicated link available in its official Instagram bio, highlighting that this voting phase applies specifically to the first BD 1 million grand prize. Clients will also have the opportunity to vote on the distribution of the remaining three BD 1 million grand prizes at a later stage.

The launch of the voting phase reinforces Al Salam Bank's commitment to the "Designed by You" concept, which lies at the core of the "Danat 2026" scheme. Through this approach, clients are no longer limited to participating in draws, but are actively involved in deciding



Mohammed Buhijji- Chief Retail Banking Officer at Al Salam Bank

how the grand prizes are distributed, offering a more engaging and innovative banking experience.

Commenting on this occasion, Mr. Mohammed Buhijji- Chief Retail Banking Officer at Al Salam Bank said: "The voting phase marks a natural extension of the successful engagement contest we recently launched, which enabled us to gather valuable client feedback and suggestions on how the first grand prize should be distributed. By giving clients, the opportunity to vote on the final options, we reaffirm our commitment to empowering them and placing them at the center of decision-making, ultimately enhancing their overall experience and making it more interactive and innovative."

DESIGNED BY YOU

Bahrain Bourse announces winners of 2025-2026 TradeQuest Programme

Manama

Bahrain Bourse (BHB), a licensed exchange by the Central Bank of Bahrain, held the awards ceremony for the 2025-2026 TradeQuest Program on Thursday, 30th April 2026. The ceremony celebrated and recognized participants for their dedication and outstanding performance throughout the program, and announced the top three winning teams of each category, with the attendance of Sh. Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al-Khalifa, CEO of Bahrain Bourse, Her Excellency Suha Saleh Hamada, Director-General of Schools Affairs at the Ministry of Education, alongside various CEOs and senior representatives from sponsoring organizations, Ministry of Education officials, and participants of the program.

Sh. Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al-Khalifa, CEO of Bahrain Bourse stated: "We extend our sincere congratulations to this year's TradeQuest champions. Their outstanding performance reflects the high calibre of talent among our university and high school students."

More than 225 students representing 20 schools and 10 universities, along with 38 investment advisors who guided the students throughout the program, gathered to celebrate the outstanding achievements



The top three winners

• **Winners from the private schools:** 1st Place - Ibn Khuldoon National School, 2nd Place - Al Noor International School, and 3rd Place - Abdulrahman Kanoo International School.

• **Winners from the Government schools:** 1st Place - Al Noor Secondary Girls School, 2nd Place - Sh. Isa bin Ali Secondary Boys School, and 3rd Place - Sh. Abdulaziz bin Mohamed Al Khalifa Secondary Boys School.

• **Winners from the Universities:** 1st place - BIBF, 2nd Place - University of Technology Bahrain, and 3rd Place - Royal University for Women.

of the participating teams.

The private schools included Abdulrahman Kanoo International School, American School of Bahrain, Bahrain Bayan School, British School of Bahrain, Al-Hekma International School, Ibn Khuldoon National School, Modern Knowledge Schools, Al Noor International

School, Shaikha Hessa Girls' School, and St. Christopher's School Bahrain.

The participating government schools are Sh. Abdulaziz bin Mohamed Al Khalifa Secondary Boys School, Ghazi Alghosaibi Secondary Girls School, Hamad Town Secondary Girls School, Sh. Isa bin Ali Secondary Boys

School, Sh. Khalifa bin Salman Institute of Technology, Khawla Secondary Girls School, Sh. Moza bint Hamad Al Khalifa Comprehensive Girls School, Nasser Centre for Science & Technology, Al Noor Secondary Girls School, and Saar Secondary Girls School.

In addition, 10 universities took part in this year's competition: Ahlia University, American University of Bahrain, Bahrain Polytechnic, Bahrain Institute of Banking & Finance (BIBF), Euro University of Bahrain, Gulf University, Royal University for Women, University of Bahrain, University of Strathclyde, and University of Technology Bahrain.

EU bans funding for certain Chinese solar tech

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The EU is cutting public funding to clean tech projects using certain Chinese technology that could pose risks to the bloc's power grid, officials said yesterday.

The European Union has in recent years viewed China's dominance of the green tech sector with increasing suspicion, and fears the 27-country bloc's reliance on Chinese supply as a growing vulnerability.

Brussels has now announced it is banning EU funding for Chinese-made inverters. Described as a "brain" for solar energy systems, inverters help connect renewable sources to the electricity grid.

The ban has been in place since early April and applies to new projects -- with some leeway granted to projects that

have already advanced, an EU official said.

The policy applies to inverters coming from China, notably from firms such as Huawei and Sungrow, but also from Russia, Iran and North Korea, the official said.

"Among the most pressing threats is the risk of disruption of the EU's critical infrastructure by foreign actors," said EU spokeswoman Siobhan McGarry.

"In practice, this could mean a shutdown, a remote shutdown, of member states' networks, leading to countrywide blackouts," she added. The EU plans to prioritise inverters made in Europe, or use suppliers from countries deemed to be more "like-minded", such as Japan, South Korea, the United States or Switzerland, the official said.

UAE missile warning

The United Arab Emirates issued a mobile phone alert for a potential missile attack, nearly a month into a fragile ceasefire in the Middle East war. "Due to the current situation, potential missile threats, immediately seek a safe place in the closest secure building," the message read. Authorities said earlier that Iran had fired two drones at a tanker affiliated with its state oil company ADNOC in the Strait of Hormuz.

Israeli authorities ban Jewish pilgrimage near Lebanese border

Israeli police warned people not to defy the cancellation of a major pilgrimage near the border with Lebanon, scrapped because of hostilities with Hezbollah, while local media reported thousands had gathered at the site. The Mount Meron pilgrimage takes place on the Lag BaOmer holiday, when mainly ultra-Orthodox Jews through the site of the tomb of the revered second-century rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai. "Police will not allow extremist elements to turn this sacred place into a scene of violence," a police statement said.

India launches Earth observation satellite

Xinhua | New Delhi

India's space agency, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), on Sunday launched a privately-developed Earth observation satellite "Drishti," developed by the country's space-tech startup "GalaxEye." The ISRO posted on X that it was a significant milestone in India's space journey. Congratulating the successful launch, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi described it as "a major achievement in our space journey."



US forces destroy six Iran boats, down missiles and drones: US admiral

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States has destroyed six Iranian boats and shot down missiles and drones fired at US Navy and commercial vessels by Tehran's forces, a top US admiral said Monday.

The military action occurred as American forces seek to facilitate the transit of commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz in an effort dubbed "Project Freedom" that President Donald Trump announced on Sunday.

Tehran denies US sank six Iranian boats: state TV

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran denied on Monday that the United States had sunk Iranian boats, state television

reported, after an American admiral said US forces had destroyed six vessels. "The US claim that it sank a

number of Iranian war boats is false," a senior Iranian military official was quoted as saying by state television.

The military action occurred as American forces seek to facilitate the transit of commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz in an effort dubbed "Project Freedom" that President Donald Trump announced on Sunday.

US Apache and Seahawk helicopters hit "six

Iranian small boats threatening commercial shipping," Admiral Brad Cooper, the head of US Central Command (CENTCOM), told journalists. US forces also "effectively engaged" all "missiles and drones

that were fired at both us and the commercial ships," Cooper said. Some cruise missiles were launched at US Navy ships but most of them as well as multiple drones targeted commercial vessels, he said. "We defended both ourselves

and, consistent with our commitment, we defended all the commercial ships," Cooper said. US and Israeli forces launched a massive military campaign against Iran on February 28, prompting Iran to close the Strait of Hormuz -- a vital route for oil and gas exports -- while American forces later launched a blockade of Iranian ports. Iranian state television said earlier Monday that the country's navy had fired cruise missiles, rockets and combat drones near US destroyers crossing the strait in what it described as a "warning shot." CENTCOM said that two US guided-missile destroyers had passed through the strait into the Gulf as part of "Project Freedom," while two US-flagged merchant vessels transited the opposite way and "are safely headed on their journey."



A US Apache helicopter

US Apache and Seahawk helicopters hit "six Iranian small boats"

Mission Hormuz

US guided-missile destroyers have entered the Gulf

AFP | Washington, United States

US guided-missile destroyers have entered the Gulf as part of a mission to escort ships through the vital Strait of Hor-

muz waterway, the US military said on Monday. The warships "are currently operating in the Arabian Gulf after transiting the Strait of

Hormuz in support of Project Freedom," US Central Command (CENTCOM) said on X, referring to the operation announced by President Donald Trump on

Sunday. "American forces are actively assisting efforts to restore transit for commercial shipping," CENTCOM said, adding that

"two US-flagged merchant vessels have successfully transited through the Strait of Hormuz and are safely headed on their journey."

The Iranian navy said it fired cruise missiles, rockets and combat drones near US destroyers crossing the Strait of Hormuz on Monday, state television reported.

US President Donald Trump had announced a plan to guide ships from neutral countries out of the Gulf, saying it was a humanitarian effort to help their stranded crews.

"For the good of Iran, the Middle East, and the United States, we have told these (non-combatant) Countries that we will guide their Ships safely out of these restricted Waterways," Trump posted on Truth Social, saying operations would begin on Monday.

Once out, "they will not be returning until the area becomes safe for navigation," Trump added. US media reported that the US Navy would not escort vessels through the strait but would provide guidance on traversing the narrow seaway. News site

Pakistan facilitates return of Iranian crew from US-seized ship

AFP | Islamabad, Pakistan

Pakistan said Monday it had facilitated the transfer of 22 Iranian crew members from a US-seized vessel, describing the move as a "confidence-building measure" amid fragile diplomatic contacts between Washington and Tehran.

The sailors, who had been held aboard the container ship *Touska*, were flown into Islamabad late Sunday and were due to be handed over to Ira-

nian authorities, according to a statement from Pakistan's foreign ministry.

The handover follows a tense maritime standoff in the Gulf of Oman, where US forces intercepted the Iranian-flagged vessel.

President Donald Trump said the ship carried "a gift from China", an allegation Beijing rejected, insisting it opposed "any malicious association and speculation".

The vessel itself is expected to be returned after repairs.

Axios said US ships would be "in the vicinity" to prevent Iranian attacks on commercial vessels.

As of April 29, more than 900 commercial vessels were located in the Gulf, according to maritime intelligence firm AXSMarine. In the early hours of Monday, the British maritime agency UKMTO also reported an attack on a tanker off the UAE with "unknown projectiles".

Later in the day, the UAE said Iran had fired drones at a tanker affiliated with its state-owned oil giant ADNOC.

Trump in his post said he was "fully aware that my Representatives are having very positive discussions with the Country of Iran, and that these discussions could lead to something very positive for all."

But he made no direct mention of a 14-point plan that Tehran said it put forward last week to end the war.

Trump declined on Sunday to specify what could trigger new US military action.

But in his post on the Hormuz plan he said that "if in any way, this Humanitarian process is interfered with, that interference will, unfortunately, have to be dealt with forcefully".

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the US naval blockade was only part of a broader economic embargo.

"We are suffocating the regime, and they are not able to pay their soldiers," he told Fox News. "This is a real economic blockade, and it is in all parts of government."

US media reported that the US Navy would not escort vessels through the strait but would provide guidance on traversing the narrow seaway. News site Axios said US ships would be "in the vicinity" to prevent Iranian attacks on commercial vessels.

Hezbollah says fighters clashed with Israeli troops in south Lebanon

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Hezbollah said its forces clashed with Israeli soldiers on Monday in south Leb-

anon near the border where the troops are still operating, despite a ceasefire since April 17. Hezbollah said in a statement

that after Israeli troops attempted to advance near the town of Deir Seryan -- which is inside the Israeli-declared "yellow

line" where Lebanese residents have been told not to return -- its fighters "opened fire on the enemy force and engaged in

heavy clashes with them". The Israeli military confirmed there were clashes with Hezbollah fighters in south Lebanon.

1429

English siege of Orleans broken by Joan of Arc and the French army

1867

Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel patents dynamite in England, the first of three patents he receives for the explosive material



1912

Columbia University approves plans to award the Pulitzer Prize in several categories, after establishment by Joseph Pulitzer

1915

RMS Lusitania is sunk by a German submarine off the southern coast of Ireland, with 1,198 lives lost

NATO chief says Europeans have 'gotten message' from Trump on defence

AFP | Yerevan, Armenia

Europeans have "heard" US President Donald Trump's message of frustration over the Iran war and are "stepping up", NATO chief Mark Rutte said yesterday after Washington announced it would withdraw 5,000 troops from Germany.

"European leaders have gotten the message. They

heard the message loud and clear," Rutte said before talks with European leaders in Armenia, acknowledging "disappointment on the US side" faced with European allies' resistance to joining the war.

"Europeans are stepping up, a bigger role for Europe and a strong-

er NATO," Rutte insisted ahead of a European Political Community meeting dominated by the twin security threats posed by the Ukraine and Middle East wars.

"We have seen all these countries now participating with their bilateral agreements making sure that when it comes to basing requests and all the logistical support," Rutte said.

EU top diplomat Kaja Kallas called the announcement's "timing" a "surprise".

"I think it shows that we have to really strengthen the European pillar in NATO, and

we have to really do more," Kallas said, while stressing that "American troops are not in Europe only for protecting European interests, but also American interests."

"Europeans are taking their destiny into their own hands, increasing their defence and security spending, and building their own common solutions," French President Emmanuel Macron said.

"We have to step up our military capabilities to be able to defend and protect ourselves," EU chief Ursula von der Leyen told reporters.



Other than the South Korean Ship, there has been, at this moment, no damage going through the Strait

TRUMP SAID ON HIS TRUTH SOCIAL PLATFORM AS OIL PRICES JUMPED OVER THE RENewed HOSTILITIES.



Seahawk helicopters

900

As of April 29, more than 900 commercial vessels were located in the Gulf,

Israel military says army on high alert after US downs missiles

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

An Israeli military official said yesterday that the army remained on high alert and was monitoring the situation

after a US admiral said forces destroyed six Iranian boats and shot down missiles.

"The IDF (Israeli military) is closely monitoring the situation and remains on

high alert... our air defence systems and offensive capabilities remain at a high state of readiness," the official said in a statement sent to AFP.

Trump says 'no damage' from Iran's Hormuz strikes, except for S Korean ship

Destroyers deployed

The warships are currently operating in the Arabian Gulf

YOU KNOW WHAT

Modern US Navy destroyers—especially the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer—are equipped with the Aegis Combat System, which allows them to track and engage multiple threats simultaneously, including aircraft, ships, and ballistic missiles.

US Navy destroyers carry the Tomahawk cruise missile, which can strike targets over 1,500 km away with high precision from the sea. These missiles are launched from the Mk 41 Vertical Launch System (VLS), allowing a single destroyer to carry dozens of missiles for different missions—from land attack to air defence.

The Fars news agency had earlier reported that Iran hit a US warship with missiles, a claim that CENTCOM immediately denied.



For the good of Iran, the Middle East, and the United States, we have told these (non-combatant) Countries that we will guide their Ships safely out of these restricted Waterways. Operations would begin on Monday. Once out they will not be returning until the area becomes safe for navigation

TRUMP POSTED ON TRUTH SOCIAL

Yesterday afternoon, CENTCOM said "guided-missile destroyers are currently operating" in the Gulf, having transited Hormuz.

US says Rubio to discuss Mideast in Vatican visit

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States confirmed Monday that Secretary of State Marco Rubio will visit Rome this week, saying he will discuss the Middle East in

the wake of President Donald Trump's criticism of Pope Leo XIV. The Vatican earlier announced that Rubio would meet privately with the pontiff on Thursday, with an Italian source

telling AFP he would also see Italian officials and had sought a meeting with Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

In a brief statement, the State Department confirmed that Ru-

bio would travel to Rome from Wednesday through Friday.

"Secretary Rubio will meet with Holy See leadership to discuss the situation in the Middle East and mutual interests in the

Western Hemisphere," the State Department said.

"Meetings with Italian counterparts will be focused on shared security interests and strategic alignment."



TOP 4 TWEETS

01



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02



We're very close to a new breakthrough in science. Clinical trials for new tuberculosis #TB vaccines remain on track, and will deliver efficacy results within the next two years showing how well the vaccines work.

TB is still the world's deadliest infectious disease, yet no new vaccine has been approved in over 100 years.

As these clinical trials proceed, we need to ensure that the novel TB vaccines, will be available equitably across the world to meet the global target of reducing new cases by 80% by 2030.

@DrTedros

03



I am immensely proud that Anga, Banga, and Kalinga—these three pillars—have chosen the BJP for the grand campaign of developed India and placed their trust in the NDA.

@narendramodi

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

Modi celebrates 'record' win in opposition-held West Bengal

In Kerala, the Congress party-led alliance ousted the ruling Communists

● MK Stalin of Tamil Nadu lost his seat in major electoral shock

● Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma celebrated a "hat-trick" of wins

AFP | Kolkata, India

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi claimed a "record" victory yesterday in key elections in opposition-held West Bengal state after official trends and partial results showed a thumping majority for his Hindu nationalist party.

Votes were still being counted under tight security in the state of more than 100 million people, one of five states and territories that held elections in April and May where results were also being announced on Monday.

The results should put Modi on a stronger footing while he battles a series of economic and foreign policy challenges, including high unemployment rates and a pending US trade deal, ahead of a general election in 2029.

In keenly fought West Bengal, where Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has never won before, the party was leading in 156 of the 293 seats and had won 48 others, according to the Election Commission of India.

"The 2026 West Bengal As-



India's Prime Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Narendra Modi (2L) waves to supporters as he arrives at party headquarters in New Delhi

sembly Elections will be remembered forever," Modi said on social media. "People's power has prevailed and BJP's politics of good governance has triumphed."

"BJP's record win in West Bengal would not be possible without the efforts and struggles of countless Karyakartas (workers) over generations," Modi said.

Senior party leaders and thousands of supporters celebrated on the streets of the state capital Kolkata, joyously swaying to victory tunes.

The BJP, the ruling party in the

national parliament, waged an aggressive campaign to dislodge the powerful regional party of firebrand leader Mamata Banerjee, in power in West Bengal since 2011.

Scuffles broke out outside several counting centres in the state, and police used batons to control the crowd. Past elections have resulted in violence.

This campaign was marked by protests over the removal of millions of names from voter rolls, billed as removing ineligible voters but which critics said was skewed against marginalised and

minority communities.

'New face'

Veteran politician MK Stalin, chief minister of the southern state of Tamil Nadu, lost his seat in another major electoral shock.

Stalin's ruling

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) came a distant second behind a party floated by the actor-turned politician C. Joseph Vijay.

Vijay, 51, one of India's most bankable actors, launched his TVK party in 2024 on the plank of youth employment and good governance in Tamil Nadu, a key industrial hub with more than 80 million people.

Results showed that Stalin, 73, had lost in his Kolathur stronghold to TVK's V.S. Babu.

The trends indicated a surprise result for TVK in a state where most exit polls had suggested Stalin's DMK would return to power.

"This result (in Tamil Nadu) shows that the youth want a new face. It is not just anti-incumbency," political scientist Ramu Manivanan told AFP.

"Vijay as an actor has a large female fan base as a cinema star. All that has influenced the outcome," Manivanan said.

In neighbouring Kerala, the Congress party-led alliance ousted the ruling Communists, bagging 63 out of 97 seats.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi thanked the people of Kerala for

a "truly decisive mandate".

He also heaped praise on party workers for ensuring a "hard-fought, well-run campaign".

The BJP returned to power in the northeastern state of Assam and in the small coastal territory of Puducherry, where it was a part of the ruling coalition.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma celebrated a "hat-trick" of wins in the state of more than 31 million after the BJP sealed victory for the third successive time.



India conducts the world's largest democratic exercise, with over 900 million eligible voters participating in elections to the Lok Sabha, overseen by the Election Commission of India.

Voting is done using Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), and elections are often held in multiple phases to manage the country's vast size and population.

Two dead after car ploughs into people in Germany's Leipzig: mayor



Members of the emergency services work at the scene where a car ploughed into people on a street leaving at least two dead and several injured, in the city centre in Leipzig, eastern Germany

Leipzig, Germany

A car ploughed into people on a street Germany's eastern city of Leipzig yesterday, leaving at least two dead and several injured, authorities said.

The driver was arrested after the vehicle careered from a main square down a major city centre street, close to historic sites.

Leipzig mayor Burkhard Jung confirmed two people had died, adding: "We still don't really know the motivation. We

don't know anything about the perpetrator."

Leipzig fire service chief Axel Schuh also gave a death toll of two.

Two people were also seriously injured and two others were "affected," he said.

Police said in a post on X that the car ploughed into people on Grimmaische street and then "fled the scene".

But they later arrested the driver, adding that "there is currently no further danger from him".

Police deployed in large numbers along with firefighters, emergency medical personnel and two helicopters.

Germany has faced a string of car-ramming attacks in recent years.

In December 2024, at least six people were killed and hundreds wounded in a car-ramming attack on the Christmas market in the eastern city of Magdeburg.

There have also been similar attacks in Munich and Berlin.

Passenger jet clips lamppost, truck while landing at Newark

AFP | New York, United States

A United Airlines jet with 231 passengers and crew escaped a major disaster Sunday after one of its wheels clipped a lamppost and truck on a highway while on final approach to land in New Jersey.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials said the Boeing 767 landed safely at Newark Liberty International Airport after arriving from Venice, Italy, and the agency would investigate the incident.

A preliminary investigation from New Jersey State Police said "while a United Airlines Aircraft was approaching the runway, a landing tire and the underside of the plane collided with a pole and a tractor-trailer."

"The pole then struck a Jeep" that was also traveling the highway, state police said.

No injuries were reported on the plane, and the delivery truck driver was taken to the hospital with minor injuries and released, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey said in a statement.



United Airlines flight 169 was carrying 221 passengers and 10 crew members when the incident on a section of road near the airport runways occurred around 2 p.m. local time on Sunday.

The H&S Bakery truck "was unscathed" but "the wheel of the commercial plane crashed into the driver's window," according to Chuck Paterakis, a senior vice president for the company, who added "the truck driver suffered small cuts from the incident."

Paterakis also told TV broad-

caster ABC everybody in the incident was very fortunate "because it could have been the opposite of what happened, and a little help from God went a long way tonight for everybody on the plane, and including the driver."

United Airlines said in a statement it plans to "conduct a rigorous flight safety investigation into the incident and our crew has been removed from service as part of this process."

Aircraft manufacturer Boeing did not immediately respond to AFP's request for comment.

EU to launch programme to aid Palestinians facing settler violence

● Excluding east Jerusalem, more than 500,000 Israelis live in the occupied West Bank

AFP | Ramallah, Palestinian Territories

The European Union will soon launch a programme to support Palestinians facing Israeli settler violence in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Authority and the EU office in Jerusalem said Monday.

"In coordination with the government, the European Union will launch a programme to support victims of settler terrorism," Palestinian prime minister Mohammad Mustafa said in a statement.

"It's a project that the EU is developing with local and international NGOs with the aim of documenting attacks on Palestinians by violent Israeli settlers and to support the communities that are victims of such attacks," the office of the EU representative in the Palestinian Territories told AFP.



Palestinians inspect the debris of a demolished house that was built without a permit, in the village of al-Dirat near Yatta town in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron

A source at the office added that the project, led by civil society organisations and supported by the EU, "will provide protective presence and protective equipment such as fences to Palestinian communities facing attacks from settlers".

The programme is expected to be finalised within a few months, and its budget should be "around six million euros", the source added.

Settler violence has long been an issue, and has only increased as settlements expand in the West Bank.

Rural communities are most vulnerable due to their isolation, with beatings, damaged crops, cattle theft and arson reported almost daily.

There has been a spike in deadly attacks by Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank since the start of the Iran war on February 28, Palestinian officials and the United Nations have said. Excluding east Jerusalem, more than 500,000 Israelis live in the occupied West Bank in settlements that are illegal under international law, among some three million Palestinians.

Russia declares May 9 truce, threatens attack if Ukraine breaks it

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russia yesterday declared a unilateral ceasefire with Ukraine between May 8-9, when Moscow marks its annual World War II Victory Day commemorations, and threatened a "massive missile strike" on Kyiv if Ukraine violated it.

Russian President Vladimir Putin first proposed the truce last week, during a phone call with US counterpart Donald Trump.

Ukraine said last week it would seek details from Washington about the offer.

"In accordance with a decision of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Armed Forces, Vladimir

Putin, a ceasefire has been declared from May 8-9, 2026 ... We hope that the Ukrainian side will follow suit," the Russian defence ministry said in a post on state-backed messaging app MAX.

"If the Kyiv regime attempts to implement its criminal plans to disrupt the celebration of the 81st anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War, the Russian Armed Forces will launch a retaliatory, massive missile strike on the center of Kyiv."

"We warn the civilian population of Kyiv and employees of foreign diplomatic missions of the need to leave the city promptly," it added.

Mother convicted for locking up daughter in Germany

AFP | Berlin, Germany

A German woman convicted of keeping her young daughter locked up at home for years was sentenced to five years in prison yesterday.

The woman, who had kept her daughter confined to the home of the girl's grandparents, was found guilty of kidnapping, abduction of a minor and mistreatment of a vulnerable person, according to a court spokeswoman.

The grandmother was given a two-year suspended sentence for the same charges, while the grandfather also received a suspended sentence as an accomplice.

The girl, who is now 11 years old, was kept locked up for about seven years in the town of Attendorn in the Sauerland region of western Germany

before being freed in September 2022.

The girl received neither schooling nor medical care during that time, according to prosecutors, who said the girl suffered severe developmental problems as a result of the isolation.

According to the indictment, the mother fabricated a story claiming she had moved to Italy with her daughter, and severed all contact with the child's father.

The grandparents allegedly helped by running errands and spreading the false claims that the child was in Italy.

"The girl's family was part of the community," a resident of Attendorn told public broadcaster ARD, adding that it was "incredible that no one noticed".

What is hantavirus, and can it spread between humans?

AFP | Paris, France

Three people have died after a suspected outbreak of hantavirus on board a cruise ship sailing between Argentina and Cape Verde.

So far, one case of the potentially deadly virus has been confirmed, according to the World Health Organization, which stressed that the risk to the public remains low.

However, the suspected outbreak has raised questions over whether the virus, which is normally spread by contact with rodents, is being transmitted between humans.

Virginie Sauvage, the head of France's National Reference Centre for Hantaviruses, told AFP in an interview that identifying the specific strain will provide crucial insight into what happened on the ship.

How common are hantaviruses?

These viruses are found all over the world, with infections occurring year-round. For example, China, Russia and South Korea report several thousand cases a year.

In the Americas, Finland and

France, there are several hundred cases annually.

Only certain strains of hantaviruses found exclusively in rodents -- rats, mice, and voles -- are transmitted to humans.

How dangerous are they?

Hantaviruses are split into two groups: viruses from the old world (Europe, Asia, Africa) and those from the new world (North, Central and South America).

For old world viruses, the mortality rate can be as high as 14 percent. However, in developed nations such as France, fatal cases are extremely rare and mainly affect people with pre-existing health conditions.

Some cases are asymptomatic or limited to body aches, an upset stomach and a mild cough. But rare cases can include kidney problems that can develop into acute but reversible renal failure.

In contrast, the lethality of new world viruses can exceed 40 percent. These cases can rapidly spread to lungs, leading to breathing issues or sometimes heart problems.

What is the treatment?

The faster

people receive treatment, the better their prognosis.

Because there is no specific treatment for hantavirus, instead doctors aim to manage the symptoms.

If the virus severely affects the lungs, oxygen therapy in an intensive care unit may be necessary.

People who work in particular industries, such as forestry or farming, are particularly at risk.

Like any infection, the most at risk are the elderly, those with weaker immune systems, and people with pre-existing health problems.

Is it contagious?

It is still unknown whether this was an outbreak of the Andes virus. This is the only strain for which there are confirmed cases of human-to-human transmission, but this required close and prolonged contact -- for example, within a family.

Humans are mainly infected by inhaling aerosols contaminated by the saliva, droppings or urine of animals or through direct contact with faeces, or

via bites or scratches.

For the cruise ship, there are two possible scenarios: human-to-human transmission or isolated infections before people boarded, for example if they took a trip together.

What could sequencing reveal?

Sequencing the virus from an infected passenger on the ship will identify what strain of hantavirus is involved.

Because the ship left from Ushuaia in southern Argentina, the Andes virus is suspected because it circulates there.

However, if it is a different new world strain, for example one called Sin Nombre, which only circulates in North America, contamination in South America can be ruled out.

If a new world hantavirus is being transmitted between humans on this ship, that would be unprecedented, to my knowledge.



Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome often begins with flu-like symptoms—fever, fatigue, and muscle aches—but can rapidly progress within days to severe breathing problems as fluid builds up in the lungs.



A general view of the cruise ship MV Hondius stationary off the port of Praia, the capital of Cape Verde

Fujairah Drone Strike Injures Three Indians

● Fire broke out after the strike

● UAE said the attack originated from Iran

● Foreign Ministry condemned it as a “serious escalation.”

Three Indian nationals were injured in a drone attack on an industrial zone in Fujairah, authorities and the Indian Embassy in the UAE said on Monday, as regional tensions escalated further.

The Indian mission said it had been in contact with local authorities to ensure the injured received medical care and support. The condition of the three men, who were taken to hospital, was not immediately disclosed.

In a separate statement, the Fujairah Media Office said the men sustained moderate injuries in the strike, which triggered a fire at the Fujairah Oil Industry Zone (FOIZ). Emergency and



Civil Defence teams were deployed to the site and worked to contain the blaze.

Officials said the fire broke out following a drone strike originating from Iran, describing it as part of a developing situation affecting oil facilities in the area.

The UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemned the attacks, which it said targeted civilian facilities using missiles and drones and resulted in injuries to foreign nationals.

The ministry described the incident as a “serious escalation” and an “unacceptable act of ag-

gression”, adding that it posed a direct threat to the UAE’s security and stability. It also stated that the attacks violated international law and the United Nations Charter.

Remote Learning

In a related development, UAE authorities announced precautionary measures in response to heightened regional tensions, including missile interception alerts earlier in the day.

The Ministry of Education later confirmed a temporary shift to distance learning for all

nurseries, public and private schools, and staff, from Tuesday, May 5 until Friday, May 8, 2026. The move was described as a precautionary step to ensure student safety while monitoring the evolving situation.

Schools had initially informed parents that normal operations would continue, but the decision was later revised as the security situation developed.

The UAE had repeatedly called for restraint amid rising regional tensions, warning against actions that could further destabilise the Gulf.

Qatar Rejects “Bargaining Chip” Use of Strait of Hormuz



Qatar strongly condemned the Iranian attack targeting an Emirati oil tanker affiliated with ADNOC while it was transiting the Strait of Hormuz, calling it a violation of international law and maritime navigation rules.

In a statement, the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the vessel was struck by two drones as it passed through the strategic waterway. It described the incident as a “flagrant breach” of international law and UN Security Council Resolution 2817.

The ministry renewed Qatar’s rejection of using the Strait of Hormuz as a “bargaining chip,” urging that the key shipping route be kept

open without conditions. It stressed that freedom of navigation in the strait is a “fundamental principle” that cannot be compromised, warning that any continued disruption would threaten the vital interests of regional states.

Qatar also called for an end to what it described as “unjustified attacks” on the property of neighbouring countries. It expressed full solidarity with the United Arab Emirates and supported all measures taken by Abu Dhabi to protect its assets.

The Strait of Hormuz, a narrow maritime chokepoint between the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Gulf, is a critical route for global oil shipments.

Iran accused of repeated destabilising actions

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) strongly condemned “blatant Iranian attacks” targeting the United Arab Emirates, calling them a serious escalation that threatens regional security and stability.

GCC Secretary-General Jassem Mohamed Al Budaiwi said the council “strongly condemns and denounces” the incidents, describing them as a clear violation of a member state’s sovereignty and a dangerous escalation in the region.

He said the targeting of the UAE was “unacceptable under all standards” and reflected a pattern of escalation that disregards international law and the principles of good neighbourly relations.

Al Budaiwi urged the inter-



national community to assume its responsibilities to halt what he called repeated Iranian attacks and to take urgent action to stop “irresponsible behaviour” that undermines regional and international peace and security.

The GCC did not provide further details on the alleged incidents.

Brussels Warns Iran

The United Arab Emirates has been targeted by “vicious” missile and drone attacks originating from Iran, according to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who expressed full solidarity with the UAE and condemned the strikes as a violation of international law.

In a statement, von der Leyen said the UAE was “once again” hit by attacks and extended support to President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Emirati people, and regional partners.

“These attacks are unacceptable and constitute a clear violation of sovereignty and international law,” she said.

She added that “security in the region has direct consequences for Europe,” stressing the need for continued cooperation with international partners.

Von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, also said the European Union would



work closely with partners on de-escalation efforts and pursue a diplomatic solution aimed at ending what she described as the Iranian leadership’s “brutal actions,” both against neighbouring states and its own population.

The statement comes amid heightened regional tensions and renewed concerns over spillover effects on broader Middle East security.

UAE slams Iran strikes as ‘moral bankruptcy’

Anwar Gargash, diplomatic adviser to the UAE president, on Sunday condemned dangerous escalation by Iran following missile and drone attacks targeting the United Arab Emirates, calling the strikes “moral bankruptcy”.

In a statement posted on social media,

Gargash said the targeting of civilians reflected the actions of a “regime that has chosen aggression over coexistence”, adding that such behaviour would not alter the UAE’s approach toward regional



relations.

“The UAE’s firm and principled position would not be shaken by the escalation and would not allow it to shape the future of relations in the region,” he said, adding: “Once again, Iran has miscalculated.”

UAE attacks spark Arab warning

The Secretary-General of the Arab League, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, strongly condemned renewed Iranian attacks against the United Arab Emirates, including drone and missile strikes targeting civilian infrastructure, according to a statement released by the organisation.

Aboul Gheit also denounced an attack on an Emirati tanker in the Strait of Hormuz, as well as a separate drone strike on an oil facility in Fujairah. He said the incidents represented a “flagrant violation” of inter-



national law and a ceasefire arrangement, according to the statement.

He called for an immediate halt to all hostile actions at-

tributed to Iran against the UAE and against maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz. The Arab League chief held Iran “fully responsible” for actions he said threaten international peace and security.

The remarks were conveyed by Gamal Roshdy, spokesperson for the Secretary-General, who said Aboul Gheit reaffirmed that Arab national security is indivisible. He also expressed “full solidarity” with the UAE and support for any measures it takes to protect its security and territorial integrity.

Jordan backs UAE security

Jordan’s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi condemned “renewed brutal Iranian attacks” on the United Arab Emirates, during a phone call with his Emirati counterpart.

In the call with UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Safadi reaffirmed Jordan’s “absolute solidarity” with the UAE, saying the attacks represented a “dangerous escalation” that threatened the security and stability of the country and its residents.



He said the strikes constituted a “blatant violation of international law and the UN Charter,” according to a statement.



Safadi also reiterated Jordan’s support for any steps the UAE takes to safeguard its sovereignty, security and stability.

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When Messi walks in, winners walk out

Antonelli extends winning run in Miami as football royalty looks on



Messi in the cockpit of Andrea Antonelli's Mercedes-AMG F1 W17 E Performance car

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Lionel Messi made headlines off the pitch and on the track at the Miami Grand Prix on Sunday, as his surprise appearance in the Mercedes garage coincided with a historic victory for Andrea Kimi Antonelli.

The Argentine star, attending as a guest of Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team, was seen briefly sitting inside Antonelli's car before the race,

a moment that quickly went viral among fans. Hours later, the teenage sensation delivered a standout performance, converting pole position into victory and fueling talk of a light-hearted "Messi effect" in Formula One.

Antonelli's win was another milestone in his remarkable rise. The 19-year-old secured his third consecutive victory from pole and became the youngest driver to lead the championship, continuing a record-breaking start to his career.



Lionel Messi with Mercedes drivers George Russell (L) and Andrea Antonelli (R)

Messi, who was joined by his family in the paddock, also took time after the race to congratulate Antonelli following his triumph. His visit drew significant attention throughout the weekend, adding extra buzz to the event.

There was also a personal angle to the trip, as Messi showed

support for fellow Argentine Franco Colapinto, who competes for Alpine F1 Team. The pair had met earlier in the week, with Colapinto describing the encounter as a dream come true.

Messi's appearance came shortly after featuring for Inter Miami CF in a dramatic 4-3 de-

feat to Orlando City, where he still managed to register a goal and an assist before heading to the Grand Prix.

From football brilliance to Formula One drama, it proved a memorable day in Miami, with Messi's presence adding an extra layer of intrigue to an already historic race.

Cristian Chivu, a winner with Inter on the pitch and in the dugout

AFP | Milan

Cristian Chivu was crowned a Serie A champion with Inter Milan for the fourth time but his first as coach on Sunday, showing his prowess in his first full season in the dugout of any team, never mind one of Europe's top clubs.

Eyebrows were raised when 45-year-old Chivu was hired by Inter last summer as his only previous top-level experience had been a handful of matches in charge of Parma, who the former Romania defender kept in Serie A after he was hired in February last year.

Despite being a popular ex-player for the club, at that point Chivu's only previous experience coaching at Inter had been in the club's youth set-up, and he had left that position months before.

So it was no surprise when Como's Cesc Fabregas became the top name to replace the departing Simone Inzaghi.

Como's refusal to release Fabregas led to Chivu's arrival



Inter Milan's Romanian head coach Cristian Chivu celebrates with Inter Milan's Italian defender #32 Federico Dimarco

and he has, in Serie A at least, performed way above expectations as few observers would have predicted such a confident charge to the Scudetto.

When Chivu took charge Inter were still reeling from a fearful 5-0 hammering at the hands of Paris Saint-Germain in last season's Champions League final, which was complicated by pre-match rumours of Inzaghi

leaving for Saudi Arabia.

Napoli and AC Milan both strengthened last summer while Inter's first choice XI was nearly unchanged from last season, when they ran out of gas in the final weeks of the campaign.

So this season's triumph is huge deal for a man who was already a bona fide Inter legend thanks to his role in the 2010 Serie A, Champions League and

Italian Cup treble won under Jose Mourinho.

Chivu played 168 times over six seasons at Inter, where he won the Serie A title three years in a row and in 2010 also won the Club World Cup.

He played the majority of his career in Italy and moved to Inter in 2007 from Roma, where he lifted the Italian Cup in his final season as part of a swashbuckling team inspired by Francesco Totti and coached by Luciano Spalletti.

Chivu was brought to Roma four years before by Fabio Capello, and he was visibly moved in October when his former coach hailed the work he has done to shake up what had looked like a team which was dead on its feet.

"All I can hope for is to have half the career you had, because I would like to be as much as a winner as you were," said Chivu.

"You were the one who trusted me, accepted me and allowed me to play at the highest level."

Inter also appear to trust

Chivu, with a contract extension set to be agreed this summer, and a squad rebuild is about to be carried out to further rejuvenate a team which has changed little from his predecessor Simone Inzaghi's tenure.

Inzaghi re-established Inter as a force in Europe, taking them to two Champions League finals and providing fans with some of their most memorable moments of this century.

The next step for Chivu is to show that he can do it in the big matches against top opposition, something his team have failed to do this season, both at home and abroad.

That failure ended up costing Inter direct qualification to the last 16 of the Champions League and led to a humiliating exit in the play-offs at the hands of Norway's Bodo/Glimt.

And Chivu will be judged on how he deals with the Champions League and big games against domestic rivals, especially resurgent Juve who look set to challenge for next year's Scudetto.

NOTICE

I, Mr. Lovely Masih, S/o. Mr. Mr James Masih, holder of Indian Passport No. V5788332 issued at Amritsar on 20/12/2021, permanent residence at Ward No.14, Nabipur, Near By pass Kalanaur Road, Gurdaspur and temporary resident of Bahrain, Hoora and Ms. Rajinder Kaur holder of Indian passport No. U5684378 issued at Amritsar on 19/05/2020, permanent residence at VPO Nanowal Jinder, Gurdaspur and temporary resident of Bahrain, Bu Ghazal intend to solemnize our civil marriage on 21st August 2025 at the Embassy of India, Building 1090, Al Seef, P.O.Box 26106, Kingdom of Bahrain under the Foreign Marriage Act 1969 of India. Objection(s), if any, may be forwarded to the Embassy of India, Kingdom of Bahrain within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Qutami wins countback thriller

TDT | Manama

Rashed Al Qutami narrowly defeated Abdulla Al Jowher on countback to win an 18-hole Stableford competition at Awali Golf Club, marking the venue's first event in two months after reopening.

Played last Friday in mild but windy conditions, the competition saw golfers return with modest expectations, prioritising enjoyment after a long break.

The breeze added difficulty but helped players stay composed and make measured decisions.

Al Qutami carded 37 points, including two birdies and several pars, while Al Jowher matched the score after a strong finish. However, Al Qutami's superior performance on the back nine secured him the victory.

Salah Musbah Al Kaabi and Abdulrahim Fakhroo followed with 35 points each, while Benedikt Schwerm, Nathan Prince and Daniel Guillaume all scored 34.

Prizes were presented by club captain Steve Newall. The club will host a Club Medal competition next week, weather permitting.



Muharraq Back on Top

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Muharraq kept their title challenge alive with a 3-1 win over Al Najma at Khalifa Sports City last night. They remain second in the 2025-26 Nasser bin Hamad Premier League standings as leaders Al Khaldiya stay two points clear with 51 points.

Under Portuguese coach Fernando Manuel de Jesus, Muharraq started brightly and dominated early possession, creating several clear chances. Their best opportunity of the first half came in the 33rd minute when Abdulwahab Al Malood met Eliot Simoes' cross with a close-range header, only for Al Najma goalkeeper Ammar Mohammed to produce an excellent save.

Muharraq broke the deadlock early in the second half when

Soufiane Mahrouk capitalised on defensive confusion in the 49th minute. A long ball caused uncertainty between defender Dusan Jokovic and the advancing goalkeeper, allowing Mahrouk to finish into an empty net.

Al Najma responded quickly, equalising in the 55th minute through Zachary Hadji, who reacted first in a crowded box after a set-piece scramble to level the score. The decisive moment came in the 76th minute when Hussain Abdulkarim struck again following his heroics last week. The forward latched onto a clever lobbed pass from Mahrouk and lifted a composed finish over the goalkeeper to restore Muharraq's lead.

Simoes then sealed the win in the 84th minute when his corner kick surprisingly sailed directly into the net. Al Najma briefly thought they had pulled



Hussain Abdulkarim fires in Muharraq's second goal against Al Najma



Muharraq and Al Khaldiya are set to meet next Monday in a top-of-the-table clash that could have major implications in the title race.

one back through Hadji, but the goal was ruled out for offside.

Elsewhere, A'ali secured a 1-0 victory over Al Hidd at the Bahrain National Stadium. Diego Cardoso scored the only goal in the 11th minute, heading in Matheus Lima's free-kick. The

match was not without controversy, as Al Hidd were awarded a second-half penalty after a VAR review upheld the decision for a foul inside the area, despite strong protests from A'ali's bench. Osama Belatrech stepped up but saw his effort saved by goalkeeper Omar Salem Rajab in the 59th minute.

With these results, Al Khaldiya remain top of the table on 51 points, with Muharraq close behind on 49 points, keeping the title race finely poised. The two sides meet next Monday in a crucial top-of-the-table clash that could have major implications in the championship battle.

Today's fixtures bring Matchweek 20 to a close, with Al Shabab facing Riffa at Khalifa Sports City and Al Ahli taking on Sitra at the Bahrain National Stadium, both kicking off simultaneously.

City hand title control to Arsenal

TDT | Manama

Manchester City's Premier League title hopes suffered a major setback yesterday as they were held to a dramatic 3-3 draw away at Everton, a result that leaves them no longer in control of the title race heading into the final stretch of the season.

City started strongly at Hill Dickinson Stadium, dominating possession and territory in the opening stages. Their control was rewarded just before half-time when Jeremy Doku produced a brilliant finish in the 43rd minute, curling a shot into the far corner to give the visitors a 1-0 lead at the break.

Everton responded far more aggressively after half-time and quickly turned the match on its head. The equaliser came in the 69th minute when a poor back pass from Marc Guehi was intercepted by Thierno Barry, who calmly finished to make it 1-1.

Momentum shifted fully in



Erling Haaland and Rayan Cherki look dejected at Everton's Hill Dickinson Stadium

Everton's favour five minutes later when Jake O'Brien rose highest to head in from a corner, putting the home side 2-1 up. The pressure continued to build on City, and in the 81st minute Everton extended their

lead to 3-1 after Barry scored his second, finishing off a swift counterattack that stunned the visitors.

City, however, refused to collapse. Just two minutes later, Erling Haaland pulled a goal

back in the 83rd minute, reacting quickly inside the box to make it 3-2 and set up a tense finale.

Everton defended deep as the clock ticked down and looked set to secure a famous win, but City struck again in the 98th minute. Doku stepped up once more, scoring his second of the game to rescue a dramatic 3-3 draw.

The result carries significant implications for the title race. City remain on 71 points with a game in hand, but they now trail Arsenal, who sit on 76 points with just three matches left to play. As things stand, the destination of the title is no longer in City's control, with Arsenal firmly in the driving seat heading into the decisive final weeks of the season.

Everton, meanwhile, will be left to reflect on a missed opportunity of major proportions, having been seconds away from securing a statement victory over the reigning champions.

Basketball Tournament Scrapped at 4th Gulf Games



Bahrain's national basketball team in training prior to the announcement

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

The men's basketball competition at the Gulf Games in Doha, scheduled for May 11-22, has been canceled after the number of participating teams dropped below the required minimum.

Organizers said the field was reduced to three teams following a withdrawal, leaving the tournament without a workable format under the regulations.

The cancellation is a setback for Bahrain, as the event was expected to be the national

team's first major outing of the year and part of its preparation for upcoming competitions.

However, the 3x3 basketball events for both men and women are still expected to take place, with Bahrain set to participate. The Kingdom will also compete in volleyball and handball, which remain on schedule.

Looking ahead, Bahrain's men's team will turn its focus to the FIBA Asia Cup 2029 pre-qualifiers in Dubai from August 24 to September 1, followed by the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya from September 19 to October 4.

Forest sink woeful Chelsea to boost survival bid

AFP | London

Nottingham Forest took a huge step towards Premier League survival with a 3-1 win at Chelsea yesterday that dealt a major blow to the Blues' hopes of qualifying for the Champions League.

Taiwo Awoniyi marked his 100th Forest appearance with the early opener at Stamford Bridge and Igor Jesus's penalty doubled their advantage soon afterwards.

Cole Palmer compounded Chelsea's misery when he missed a penalty late in the first half.

Awoniyi struck again after the interval and Joao Pedro's eye-catching bicycle kick in the closing stages was no consolation for lacklustre Chelsea.

Languishing in ninth place, Chelsea's wretched run has left them on the verge of failing to reach next season's Champions



Nottingham Forest's Nigerian striker #09 Taiwo Awoniyi (2nd R) heads the ball in for the team's first goal

League.

Chelsea have lost six consecutive league games for the first time since 1993.

Scoring for the first time in six league matches was the only positive in a shambolic display. Calum McFarlane's team are

10 points behind fifth-placed Aston Villa, with only nine points available in the race for the top-five finish that secures Champions League qualification.

However, sixth will also earn a Champions League berth if Villa finish fifth and win the Europa League, leaving Chelsea -- currently four points adrift of sixth-placed Bournemouth -- still with a slender chance.

Forest's third successive league victory moved them six points clear of the relegation zone, with four more points needed to guarantee survival.

There are just three games left for each club in Forest's scrap with fourth-bottom Tottenham and third-bottom West Ham.

Pereira made eight changes from Forest's previous league game as he prioritised holding onto their 1-0 lead in Thursday's Europa League semi-final second leg at Aston Villa.

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