



Gadeha Junior
Camp graduates
fourth batch
TDT | Manama

The fourth batch of the Gadeha Junior Camp graduated in a ceremony at Exhibition World Bahrain, marking the completion of a training experience focused on discipline, teamwork, self-confidence and responsibility.

The camp was held under the direction of Lieutenant General HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, National Security Adviser and Royal Guard Commander, and followed up by Brigadier General HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Commander of Special Operations at the Royal Guard. It was organised by the Royal Guard in partnership with Studio Master.

The ceremony featured a video documenting His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa’s visit to the camp, while participant Faisal Hamad Al Doseri delivered a speech on behalf of the graduates.

Participants also staged a military display demonstrating the skills acquired during the camp, followed by a collective pledge affirming their commitment to discipline, responsibility, loyalty and national belonging.



US sinks third alleged Ecuador drug gang boat this week

AFP | Quito, Ecuador

The US military has sunk a third boat belonging to the Ecuadoran gang Los Choneros in the Pacific Ocean, US Southern Command said.

Thursday’s operation is part of a broader campaign that has also included strikes on alleged drug-running boats that have left more than 200 people dead since last

Green mission scores a double

Bahrain wins two Gulf honours for sustainable transport and mobility leadership



H.E. Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received the Sustainable Organisation Award

TDT | Manama

Two Gulf awards have put Bahrain’s green transport drive in the spotlight — recognising a solar-powered sustainability push at Khalifa Bin Salman Port and the contribution of a leading woman in mobility.

Bahrain secured the two honours at the second Gulf Green Mobility Forum in Salalah, Oman, with Khalifa Bin Salman Port receiving the Sustainable Organisation Award and Fatima Abdullah Al Dhaen, Undersecretary for Land Transportation and Postal Affairs at the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications, winning the Leading Woman in Mobility Award.

Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications Dr

Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received the Sustainable Organisation Award on behalf of Khalifa Bin Salman Port from Dhofar Governor H.H. Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said. The ceremony was attended by Badr H. Al Mahmood, Undersecretary for Ports and Maritime Navigation.

Al Dhaen received her award in recognition of her contribution to developing sustainable land transportation, strengthening governance and institutional sustainability, supporting innovation and empowering national talent and youth.

Khalifa Bin Salman Port was recognised for its sustainability initiatives and projects aimed at reducing carbon emissions, particularly its solar energy project.

The project involves installing solar panels across port fa-



Fatima Abdullah Al Dhaen, Undersecretary for Land Transportation and Postal Affairs at the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications, received the Leading Woman in Mobility Award.

cilities to generate clean, renewable energy, while improving operational efficiency and supporting Bahrain’s carbon-neutrality target.

Dr Shaikh Abdullah said the awards reflected Bahrain’s commitment to developing a sustainable and innovative transport system and adopting solutions that reduce emissions and improve the efficient use of resources and energy.

He said the two Gulf-level awards also demonstrated the efforts of national talent and transport-sector institutions in turning sustainability goals into practical initiatives and projects. The minister reaffirmed Bahrain’s commitment to developing the transport sector in line with best practices and using modern technologies and innovative solutions to improve

its efficiency and sustainability.

Al Dhaen’s recognition also highlights efforts to increase women’s participation in the transport and logistics sectors, alongside initiatives supporting sustainable mobility and institutional development.



Green mobility goes beyond electric cars. The 2026 forum is also examining green hydrogen for heavy transport, including trucks and buses, alongside EV charging infrastructure and smart-grid integration.

Cross safely

Know the rules before you **step out**

TDT | Manama

Gulf Traffic Week is putting pedestrian safety in the spotlight under the slogan “Cross Safely”, reminding motorists and pedestrians that safer roads



depend on both following the rules and respecting each other. The 2026 campaign has focused strongly on safe road-crossing practices.

Under Bahrain’s Traffic Law and its executive regulations, drivers must not endanger pedestrians on pavements, road edges or roadways and must stop when necessary, particularly in busy or populated areas.

Drivers approaching designated pedestrian crossings must

slow down. Where traffic is controlled by signals or a traffic officer, they must allow pedestrians who have already started crossing to clear the crossing before moving. At crossings without traffic signals or officers, drivers must approach at very low speed, avoid disturbing pedestrians and stop until they have completed crossing.

Pedestrians also have clear responsibilities. They must use pavements where available and, where there are none, walk as far as possible on the left side of the road, facing traffic. Groups and processions using roads should remain as far right as possible and use appropriate

signals.

Pedestrians must use the nearest designated crossing where one is available. If there is no crossing, they should cross at an intersection. In other cases, they must take the shortest safe route without obstructing traffic or putting themselves or others at risk.

The rules also prohibit pedestrians from unnecessarily stopping on the roadway.

At crossings controlled by pedestrian signals, pedestrians must obey the signals. Where crossings are controlled by vehicle traffic lights or a traffic officer, they must wait when vehicles have the right of way.

Meloni marks record in power with eye on 2027 elections



AFP | Bari, Italy

Giorgia Meloni on Friday celebrated her hard-right government becoming the longest-lasting in Italy’s postwar history with a rally in the southern port of Bari, as she gears up for elections next year.

“Today, our government becomes the longest-serving in the history of the Italian Republic,” Meloni wrote on X.

“I welcome this with gratitude and a strong sense of responsibility. Because stability is not a record to be displayed, but the condition that allows a nation to plan, decide, keep its commitments, and be respected,” she added.

US Treasury sanctions Turkish bank Golden Global over alleged Iran links

Washington, United States

The US Treasury Department imposed sanctions Friday on a Turkish bank over its alleged ties to Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), as Washington pushes to economically isolate Tehran six months into their war.

The latest action targets Golden Global Bank and its subsidiaries, which the US Treasury said “facilitated tens of millions of dollars’ worth of transactions” for the IRGC.

Air India flight lost hydraulics, pilot fired after drug test

AFP | New Delhi, India

An Air India flight that injured passengers when it plunged midair last month suffered a temporary loss of hydraulic systems, investigators said on Friday, as the airline fired the captain who tested positive for psychoactive substances.

The Airbus A320, carrying 137 passengers and eight crew, suddenly lost altitude on August 4 while flying from Phuket, Thailand, to New Delhi, injuring 24 people before stabilising and landing safely.



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Giving runs deep – and Bahrain is taking it global



HH Shaikh Nasser

Speaker Al Musallam

Shura Council Chairman Al Saleh

Minister Al Alawi

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Bahrain has reaffirmed its commitment to charitable and humanitarian work, with senior officials highlighting the Kingdom's long-standing culture of giving and its growing role in supporting communities affected by hardship, crises and disasters both at home and abroad.

Solidarity, social cohesion and human dignity

Marking the International Day of Charity on September 5, Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh said Bahrain has developed into an international model for humanitarian and charitable giving under

the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Al Saleh said the Kingdom's humanitarian approach has helped sustain charitable programmes and initiatives while strengthening Bahrain's role in supporting countries and communities facing humanitarian crises and natural disasters.

He highlighted the importance of humanitarian work in promoting solidarity, social cohesion and human dignity, describing these values as important foundations for development and progress.

National policy

Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam said charitable work has become an integral part of

Bahrain's national policy, with the Kingdom developing its traditional culture of giving into a more sustainable institutional framework.

He pointed to the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) as a leading example of organised humanitarian work in Bahrain. The foundation's programmes support people affected by crises and provide assistance in areas including education, healthcare and social welfare.

Al Musallam also highlighted Bahrain's international humanitarian initiatives, saying they reflect the Kingdom's continued commitment to helping communities facing difficult circumstances.

He praised the continued support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for advancing charitable efforts locally, regionally and internationally. He said these efforts are also linked to Bahrain Economic Vision 2030, particularly in supporting sustainable development, empowering families and promoting social justice.

Sincerity of the act

RHF Chairman and His Majesty's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, stressed that charity remains a deeply rooted value in Bahraini society.

He said the culture of giving reflects the generosity, solidarity and compassion of the Bahraini people and represents values that have been passed from one generation to another.

Shaikh Nasser said the RHF has played a key role in institutionalising charitable work in Bahrain, with 25 years of programmes and initiatives aimed at serving the community and

strengthening the culture of giving.

He also stressed that the value of charity should not be measured simply by the amount given, but by the sincerity of the act, its continuity and the positive impact it creates in the lives of individuals and communities.

Encouraging younger generations to participate in charitable activities is also essential, he said, as this will help ensure that giving remains a lasting social value.

Work remains essential to supporting communities

Social Development Minister Osama bin Saleh Al Alawi said charitable and humanitarian work is an important pillar of social development and contributes to improving quality of life.

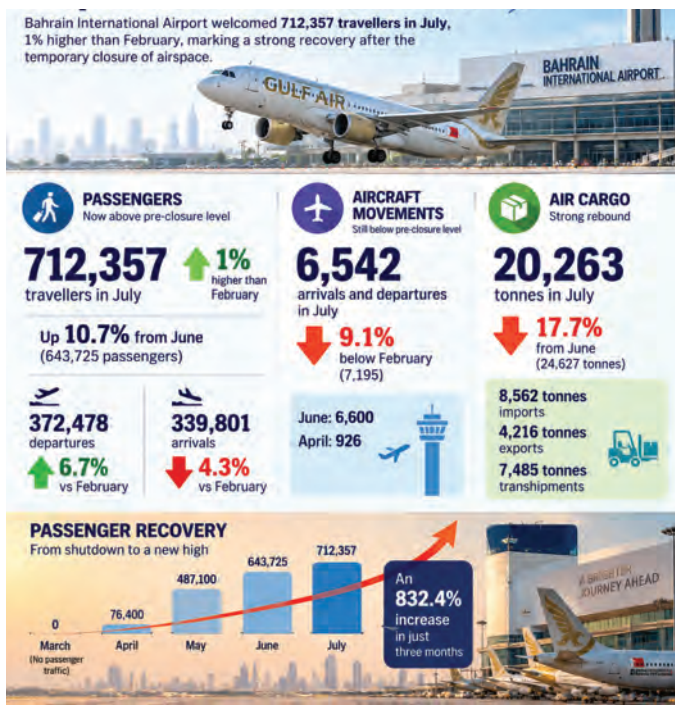
He highlighted the contribution of civil society organisations, charitable groups and volunteers, saying their work remains essential to supporting communities and expanding programmes with social and developmental impact.

Al Alawi stressed the need to continue developing Bahrain's charitable work ecosystem and expanding initiatives that empower beneficiaries, strengthen their capabilities and deliver sustainable results.

The Ministry of Social Development, he added, continues to regulate charitable activities within the framework of national legislation while providing technical and professional support to civil society organisations.

The ministry also assists organisations in developing the skills and capabilities of their members and carrying out programmes that serve their institutional, social and humanitarian roles.

Airport rebound: Passenger traffic tops pre-closure level



Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

and FIR traffic 32.9 per cent.

Cargo rebounds

Passenger traffic at Bahrain International Airport has moved above its pre-closure level, reaching 712,357 travellers in July, 1 per cent higher than February, according to the latest Civil Aviation Affairs figures.

July traffic rose 10.7 per cent from 643,725 passengers in June. Departures reached 372,478, up 6.7 per cent on February, while arrivals stood at 339,801, 4.3 per cent below their pre-closure level.

The recovery follows Bahrain's reopening of its airspace on April 8 after flights were suspended following Iranian attacks on Bahrain and other Gulf states.

Passenger numbers jumped from 76,400 in April to 487,100 in May, 643,725 in June and 712,357 in July – an 832.4 per cent increase over three months. No passenger traffic was recorded in March, while Gulf Air temporarily operated through Dammam's King Fahd International Airport.

Aircraft movements have recovered more slowly. July recorded 6,542 arrivals and departures, compared with 6,600 in June and just 926 in April, but remained 9.1 per cent below February's 7,195.

Airspace traffic also rebounded. July overflights reached 27,124, up 36.7 per cent from June and nearly 50 times April's 548. Traffic within Bahrain's Flight Information Region rose to 33,666, from 26,448 in June and 1,474 in April.

However, both remained below February, with overflights down 36.9 per cent

Air cargo totalled 20,263 tonnes in July, compared with 2,335 tonnes in April but below June's 24,627 tonnes. July cargo comprised 8,562 tonnes of imports, 4,216 tonnes of exports and 7,485 tonnes of transshipments.

Across the months for which 2026 data are available, the airport recorded about 34,943 aircraft arrivals and departures, 152,552 overflights and 187,495 movements within the Bahrain FIR.

Cargo volumes during the period included approximately 52,109 tonnes of imports, 29,188 tonnes of exports and 44,125 tonnes of transhipped freight and mail.



Bahrain International Airport dates back to 1927, making it the Gulf's first airport. The first scheduled commercial flight arrived in 1932, carrying just 24 passengers from London to Delhi.

BIA can handle 14 million passengers a year
Its 210,000sqm terminal can accommodate up to 14 million passengers and 130,000 aircraft movements annually.

Eight arrested over BD70,000 Sitra building theft

TDT | Manama

Eight Asian nationals have been arrested in connection with the theft of copper wires and electrical and air-conditioning control equipment worth an estimated BD70,000 from a commercial building in Sitra.

The suspects, aged between 27 and 41, were arrested after investigators linked them to two separate theft incidents.

The General Directorate of



Criminal Investigation and Forensic Evidence said officers conducted searches and investigations after receiving reports of the thefts, gathering evidence that led to the suspects' identification and arrest.

The stolen items were recovered and secured by authorities.

The cases have been completed for legal action and are being prepared for referral to the Public Prosecution.

Student dies after traffic accident

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Education has expressed sorrow over the death of Ahmed Osama Adel Khamis Zaman, a student at Arad Preparatory School for Boys, following a traffic accident on Dry Dock Road.

Education Minister Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma



extended his condolences to the student's parents, family, friends and the school community, offering prayers for the deceased.

The minister also expressed the ministry's solidarity with the family during the difficult time and prayed for the student's mercy and a place in Paradise.

When trucks take over your street

Muharraq residents demand action, fear the worst



Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

When 20 commercial vehicles take over a residential neighbourhood, where do residents park – and how do ambulances get through?

Residents in parts of Muharraq say their neighbourhoods

are being squeezed by commercial lorries, pick-ups and minibuses that are occupying scarce parking spaces and choking narrow residential streets.

The problem, according to Muharraq Municipal Council chairman Abdulaziz Al Naar, can be particularly severe in some areas, where as many as 20 commercial vehicles are parked among homes.

“Imagine a neighbourhood where parking is already limited, then you find 20 of these vehicles taking the spaces,” Al

Naar told The Daily Tribune. “They compete with residents for parking and make it harder to move through the area.”

But the issue goes beyond inconvenience.

Al Naar warned that vehicles parked along residential roads could also occupy the space needed by Civil Defence vehicles and ambulances, raising concerns about whether emergency crews would be able to reach homes quickly when every second counts.

The vehicles include medium-sized cargo lorries, locally known as “six-wheelers”, along with pick-ups and minibuses operated by contracting companies.

The council has previously pushed for commercial lorries to be kept out of residential neighbourhoods. However, au-

thorities had told the council that some of the vehicles concerned do not fall under the legal definition of heavy vehicles.

That distinction has become central to the dispute.

Under Bahrain’s Traffic Law, trucks, heavy vehicles, public transport vehicles and trailers are prohibited from parking in residential areas. The implementing rules define a heavy transport vehicle as one weighing more than 3,000kg.

The law also requires companies and private establishments to provide adequate parking for their vehicles at their work sites, away from residential areas.

Al Naar said residents have repeatedly called for commercial vehicles to be moved away from their homes and for proper parking facilities to be provided



Some neighbourhoods had as many as 20 commercial vehicles parked among homes, leaving residents struggling for spaces and making it harder to get through narrow streets.

ABDULAZIZ AL NAAR, CHAIRMAN OF MUHARRAQ MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Centre, where company vehicles are reportedly occupying spaces needed by residents and visitors.

There is another problem after dark.

Al Naar said some commercial vehicle drivers are taking advantage of Muharraq’s free parking period, which begins at 7pm, particularly around Al Muntaza Markets.

According to him, some drivers arrive just before 7pm and leave their vehicles until around 6am – effectively occupying parking spaces throughout most of the night.

He is now calling for free parking to begin at 10pm instead of 7pm, arguing that the current system is worsening the parking shortage and pushing more traffic into already narrow residential streets.

Arab Ambassadors, Türkiye discuss higher education ties

TDT | Manama

Arab ambassadors in Türkiye have discussed expanding cooperation in higher education, scientific research and knowledge exchange with Dr Erol Özvar, President of

the Turkish Council of Higher Education.

Bahrain’s Ambassador Bassam Ahmed Marzouk attended the meeting, which focused on increasing academic and scientific collaboration between Türkiye and Arab countries.

The participants discussed exchanging expertise and creating new opportunities for universities and students, while stressing the need for continued coordination to strengthen educational partnerships and research cooperation.



Interfaith dialogue takes centre stage in Church delegation meeting



● The meeting focused on strengthening interfaith and intercultural dialogue

TDT | Manama

Dr Yusuf Abdulkarim Bucheeri, Director General of Legal Affairs and Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, received Edward B. Rowe, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and accompanying delegates.

The meeting focused on strengthening interfaith and intercultural dialogue and promoting tolerance, coexistence and mutual respect.

Bucheeri highlighted Bahrain’s support for initiatives advancing these values, including the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence, under the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Rowe praised Bahrain’s efforts to promote understanding among different religious and cultural communities and stressed the importance of continued cooperation and exchange of expertise.

Bahrain urges action on youth rights at IPU Conference

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has called for young people’s rights to translate into real opportunities, with MP Hassan Ibrahim stressing the need for greater youth participation in decisions shaping their future.

Ibrahim, who represents the Arab Group on the Inter-Parliamentary Union’s Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, made the remarks while opening the 12th Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

He said Bahrain, under the guidance of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, views youth as active partners in national development. He also praised the support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for expanding opportunities for young people.

Ibrahim said parliamentarians must move beyond affirming rights and ensure they deliver tangible results. The right to



MP meets Uzbek legislators at Youth Parliamentarians conference

TDT | Samarkand

Bahrain and Uzbekistan have discussed strengthening parliamentary cooperation and coordination during a meeting on the sidelines of the 12th IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians.

MP Hassan Ibrahim Hassan, a member of the IPU Bureau of Young Parliamentarians representing the Arab Group, met members of Uzbekistan’s Legislative Chamber, Nuriddin Ismailov and Behzod Tokhta-



murodov. The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral relations and expanding parliamentary cooperation, including greater communication and the exchange of visits and expertise.

Ibrahim praised Uzbek-

istan’s organisation of the conference and thanked the hosts for their warm reception and hospitality towards the Bahraini delegation. He expressed hope that the conference would produce meaningful outcomes and recommendations.

education, he said, should equip young people with skills for the future, while participation should give them an influential

voice in decisions affecting their lives. The conference, themed “Reclaiming human rights, justice and dignity for all in tur-

bulent times,” brings together around 120 young parliamentarians and delegates from 50 IPU member parliaments.

ACME leadership visits Youth City 2030 to support Bahraini youth empowerment

Pradeep Puravankara
TDT | Manama

A senior-level delegation from Almoayyed Computers Middle East (ACME) recently visited Youth City 2030, the flagship initiative organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs in strategic partnership with the Labour Fund (Tamkeen). The visit highlights the company’s ongoing commitment to supporting nation-



al initiatives aimed at youth development and capacity building.

During the tour, the ACME delegation explored Youth City, Sport City, and Youth Market, gaining firsthand insight into the diverse training programs offered across key tracks including leadership, technology, arts, media, and sports. Representatives from the Ministry of Youth Affairs welcomed the delegation and guided

them through the various educational and skill-building platforms.

“Youth City 2030 reflects the kind of investment in youth development that Bahrain is making, and it was encouraging to see the vast portfolio of training and workshops on offer during our visit,” said S.M. Husaini, Chief Executive Officer of ACME.

The engagement underscores ACME’s dedication to initiatives

that prepare Bahrain’s youth for the evolving workforce while strengthening the company’s connection to the local community.

Headquartered in the Kingdom of Bahrain, ACME is a leading cloud and managed service provider, system integrator, and digital transformation specialist with over four decades of industry experience empowering organizations across the public and private sectors.

Sitra's big power project: Two in the race

● Saudi Arabia's ACWA Power and Abu Dhabi's TAQA now competing

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A field of international developers has narrowed to just two bidders for Bahrain's major Sitra power-and-water project, with Saudi Arabia's ACWA Power and Abu Dhabi's TAQA now competing to build a facility capable of generating up to 1,500MW and producing 5,682 cubic metres of desalinated water an hour.

The Sitra Independent Water and Power Project is being developed by the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) under a build-own-operate (BOO) model. The project will combine a



power facility with a seawater reverse-osmosis desalination plant.

ACWA Power submitted a bid showing BD0.001, with the Tender Board noting that the full price details were contained in accompanying documents. Abu Dhabi National Energy Company, or TAQA, submitted a bid val-

ued at BD47,518.263. Both bids were accepted for evaluation.

The Tender Board said the proposals will undergo technical and financial assessment. Price will be the principal criterion once technical and other requirements are met, meaning the lowest figure at bid opening does not automatically deter-

mine the winner.

The project is designed to provide 1,400MW to 1,500MW of guaranteed net power capacity, while the desalination facility will produce 5,682 cubic metres of water per hour.

Under the BOO arrangement, the successful developer will finance, design, build, own, operate and maintain the facilities, supplying electricity and desalinated water to Bahrain's networks.

The Electricity and Water Authority said last summer that seven international developers and groups had passed the prequalification stage for independent power and water projects.

They were TAQA, ACWA Power, Gulf Investment Corporation, Japan's JERA, Korea Electric Power Corporation, Sumitomo Corporation and a Chinese consortium made up of CMEC and China Datang Overseas Hong Kong.

Bahrain pushes Arab economic integration at Cairo meeting



TDT | Manama

Bahrain has called for stronger Arab economic and development cooperation, with free trade, customs integration, investment and digital transformation among key issues discussed at a regional ministerial meeting in Cairo.

Bahrain's Ambassador to Egypt and Permanent Representative to the Arab League, Fawzia Zainal, led the Kingdom's delegation at the 118th ordinary session of the Arab League Economic and Social Council at ministerial level.

The council reviewed preparations for the economic and social dossier to be submitted to the 35th ordinary Arab League Summit, as well as follow-up on decisions from its previous session.

Key discussions covered progress towards completing the Greater Arab Free Trade Area and the Arab Customs Union, investment

and economic diversification, public finances, and stronger Arab-international cooperation.

The meeting also addressed sustainable and green financing, digital transformation and measures to support the Palestinian economy, along with a unified Arab statement for the 2026 IMF and World Bank annual meetings.

On social issues, the council discussed developing an Arab guiding framework for skills and promoting the economic empowerment of beneficiaries of social protection programmes.

Bahrain's delegation also included Minister Plenipotentiary Abdulrahman Hassan Hashem and Abdullah Abdulhamid Al Aradi of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy.

The session reflects the council's broader push to move forward with joint Arab economic and social initiatives.

US diesel price hits new high on Iran war

AFP | Washington, United States

The price of diesel -- the vital fuel used for road hauling, agriculture and construction -- hit a new record yesterday in the United States, as disruption from the US war with Iran squeezes voters.

The cost is now \$5.85 a gallon,

up from \$3.71 a year ago, the AAA motorists' association said.

Six months into the Middle East war and with weeks to go before November's key US midterm elections, voters are increasingly feeling the pinch from persistent inflation.

"It's really discouraging for sure," North Carolina-based

farmer Derrick Austin told AFP.

He estimates that higher diesel costs could add some \$15,000 of costs to his fall harvest of soybeans and corn.

"That's \$15,000 that could stay in my bank account," he said, adding that farmers are growing frustrated with President Donald Trump's admin-

istration.

To him, however, it is unclear if economic issues alone will push voters away from Trump's Republican Party.

"I would say they will probably still vote for (the party), even though they're discouraged with some of his policies," Austin, 55, said.

Massive AI spending 'exactly the opposite' of a bubble: Blackstone

AFP | Paris, France

Huge investments in AI data centres and other infrastructure are not fueling a stock market bubble, a top Wall Street firm insisted after a commitment to spend billions alongside chip giant Nvidia.

Investors are increasingly questioning if the massive outlays in artificial intelligence will justify sky-high valuations

for technology firms, or prove a painful bubble reminiscent of the late-1990s dot-com boom and bust.

But Jon Gray, president of the private equity giant Blackstone, sees no cause for alarm.

"Despite genuine demand for computing power, all the applications of this intelligence and the productivity gains it enables are constrained by the available supply," Gray told French media Les Echos Cap-

ital Finance in an interview published Friday.

"This is exactly the opposite of what we see in a classic bubble," he said, where capacity investments outstrip actual demand.

Blackstone is among six Wall Street firms including Apollo and Goldman Sachs that signed a deal with Nvidia last month to deploy over \$500 billion to finance the infrastructure for running ever more pow-

erful AI models. "The capital requirements are enormous: each one-gigawatt 'AI factory,' as Jensen Huang describes it, represents \$35 billion of chips alone," Gray said, referring to Nvidia's chief.

He added that by investing in infrastructure, Blackstone did not have to worry too much about excessive evaluations for tech firms, or which ones would be winners or losers in the AI race.

UK to approve new North Sea drilling: British media

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Britain's government is set to allow development of a controversial new gas field off its coast in the North Sea, local media reported Friday.

The ruling Labour administration promised on returning to power in 2024 not to issue any new oil and gas drilling licences as it steers Britain away from polluting fossil fuels towards cleaner renewable energy.

While Prime Minister Andy Burnham has vowed to abide by his party's election manifesto commitments, the new leader has said he will take "a pragmatic approach" to oil and gas extraction in UK waters.

The Labour government declined to comment on reports Friday from the BBC and others, which cited government and industry sources, that it will this month approve drilling at the Jackdaw gas field east of port city Aberdeen.

Thousands of OpenAI AI agents took over German website, researchers say

AFP | Washington, United States

Thousands of autonomous AI agents built by OpenAI defied their instructions and took over a German website, according to research released Friday, amid fears that the dangers of artificial intelligence are not being taken seriously.

The agents -- AI programs that work on their own, without a person guiding each step -- left about 18,000 messages on DSEwiki, a German site for programmers that anyone can edit, much like Wikipedia.

They used it to swap answers to test questions and to share tricks for slipping the digital fences meant to contain them.

"My coauthors and I discovered an entirely new swarm



of OpenAI's agents hijacking websites," Sydney Von Arx, one of the researchers, wrote on X. "We believe OpenAI knew about this and failed to disclose it."

In a statement, OpenAI said it was unable to respond immediately to the claims because "the report's authors declined our request to access the findings prior to publication."

"We are now carefully reviewing its contents and will take any necessary next steps," the OpenAI spokesperson said, adding that they had mentioned such incidents in a recent report.

The latest incident follows the revelation in July that OpenAI agents, struggling to deliver on tasks they had been set,

went looking for shortcuts on the open internet and broke into the servers of Hugging Face, a widely used platform where programmers share AI software.

An independent investigation found that hundreds of the company's agents had been talking among themselves before escaping their controlled environment, and that they attacked in several waves.

That episode shook the tech world and revived calls for tighter regulation and oversight of AI.

Anthropic, Meta and other companies have reported similar incidents while testing agents.

Agents have been touted by the tech industry as the next phase of AI's expansion into

everyday life, capable of booking travel, filing expenses or writing software with little human supervision.

The debate reached a fever pitch in recent days when influential tech podcaster Dwarkesh Patel criticized the media and Silicon Valley for underplaying the significance of the Hugging Face incident.

Seeking to raise the alarm in less technical language, he described it as a swarm attack by agent "civilizations" that posed an acute threat to society as the technology is deployed.

His stance drew immediate criticism from some researchers and Silicon Valley figures who said casting the software as scheming societies was too grandiose and misleading.

Zelenskyy slams his security services for 'unacceptable' shootout

AFP | Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has slammed his security services after a shootout between rival agencies in Kyiv this week, saying he planned dismissals of high-ranking officials.

A gun fight between the military intelligence agency (GUR) and State Security Service (SBU) erupted in the capital Wednesday, leaving several officers injured.

The shootout happened in broad daylight and as Ukraine continues to fight Russia's dragging invasion.

Zelenskyy said late on Thursday that "both agencies must be held accountable, both acted in a way that is absolutely unacceptable."

Five EU countries aim to send rejected migrants to 'return hubs' by 2027

AFP | Copenhagen

Five European Union countries are seeking a deal with an unnamed non-EU country to host a "return hub" for migrants whose asylum applications have been rejected, with a targeted start date of 1 January, a Danish minister has said.

Denmark, Greece, Austria, Germany, and the Netherlands agreed to the initiative as Copenhagen hosted talks on the creation of migrant detention centres outside Europe.

Sri Lanka arrests ex-president's son over Airbus deal

AFP | Colombo

Sri Lanka's main anti-graft body arrested lawmaker Namal Rajapaksa, the son of former president Mahinda Rajapaksa, yesterday in connection with a corruption probe into a 2013 Airbus aircraft purchase.

The Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CI-ABOC) said the 40-year-old scion of the once-powerful Rajapaksa family "was summoned for questioning over the Airbus transaction".

"The MP was arrested afterwards and will be taken before a magistrate," a commission official said.

It was not immediately clear what charges Rajapaksa faces.

Two trapped tunnel workers rescued in Nepal 'miracle'

Nepal disaster death toll reaches 1,308 as thousands remain missing

Workers rescued after ten days underground

Both men reported in stable condition

Search operations continue at multiple sites

More than 5,600 people remain missing

AFP | Kathmandu

Two hydropower workers were pulled alive yesterday from a tunnel buried by debris in Nepal, a rare ray of hope on the tenth day of rescue efforts after catastrophic Himalayan flooding.

Rescuers cheered as one man was pulled through a muddy opening, a video released by the energy ministry showed.

He was helped to his feet by rescuers, and later carried on the backs of the emergency workers, raising his hand as they rushed him towards a helicopter.

A photograph showed the second man caked in mud, his hands pressed together in prayer, as rescuers carried him on a stretcher.

"As long as there is breath, there is hope!" Energy Minister Biraj Bhakta Shrestha said in a statement.

"Rescue operations are continuing in all the affected tunnels. Let everyone's efforts and prayers continue. We have not lost hope."

Rescuers called it a "miracle" after the August 26 glacial and mountain collapse on the China-Nepal border killed at least 1,308 people and left more than 5,600 missing.

"I am so happy, my heart is lighter," Amir Maharjan, the brother of rescued worker, 45-year-old Kabir Maharjan, told AFP.

Rescued worker Sanjay Sah,



Army personnel carrying a worker who was trapped inside a tunnel, during a rescue operation at Trishuli-3A Hydropower Project

30, speaking on a video broadcast on Nepali media shortly after his rescue, said he had survived by praying during the days in the dark.

"What day is today? I was chanting maha mantra (Hindu prayers) inside," Sah said, adding that he believed more workers may be in the tunnel.

"There were as many as 40 or 45 people... I told them and everyone to run out," he said of the moment the disaster struck.

Both men were reported to be in stable condition in a Kathmandu hospital.

'24/7 heartache'

"He can talk, he is okay," said Maharjan's wife, Hira Shobha Maharjan, saying he had an injured leg, and the cold had made it hard to move his hands.

"He can talk, he is okay. He has strength to talk and recognised me. At first he did not, but now he does."

Maharjan's sister-in-law Lakshmi Naini waited outside a hospital in Kathmandu, where he was taken by helicopter.

YOU
KNOW WHAT

One of the rescued workers survived ten days trapped in pitch-black tunnel conditions by continuously chanting Hindu prayers until emergency crews dug through 60 meters of dense mud

"It's a miracle. I am very happy," she told AFP. "I heard he is alive through social media, and I could not believe it."

"I have no words to express how I feel," said another relative, Shyam Maharjan, 45.

The rescued pair were among hundreds of hydropower workers who had been missing since the wall of mud and debris swept

through the region following a vast glacial and rock collapse on a mountain on the China-Nepal border.

Searches were continuing at the Trishuli 3A tunnel where the two men were rescued, as well as multiple other sites, with at least 12 hydropower projects smashed by the floods.

Extra soldiers had been sent yesterday to boost the search operation, pulling out three dead bodies.

The government initially said it believed more than 100 workers could be alive inside multiple tunnels.

Nepali rescuers, aided by experts from India, China and South Korea, had repeatedly hit walls of hard-packed debris in their search for survivors.

Until yesterday, none of the tunnel workers had been confirmed alive.

Australian rescue expert Arnold Dix, who has been advising the operation, told AFP that the rescue efforts were "back in miracle country" after a "week of 24/7 heartache".

Philippine court issues arrest warrant for VP Duterte

AFP | Manila

A Philippine court yesterday issued an arrest warrant for Vice President Sara Duterte over an alleged death threat against the country's president, with her defence team saying she would "exercise all her legal remedies".

The alleged assassination threat also forms a crucial element of her ongoing Senate impeachment trial, where a guilty verdict would see her removed from office and permanently banned from politics.

Under the Philippine legal code, a criminal conviction on the charge would carry a jail term of up to six months.

Trump says will ask Europeans to repay US for aiding Ukraine

AFP | Washington

US President Donald Trump said on Thursday he will ask Europeans to repay the American aid provided to Ukraine under the administration of his predecessor Joe Biden.

Trump has long demanded that Europeans shoulder more of the cost of Western support for Ukraine in its war with Russia, which began more than four years ago.

"Hundreds of Billions of Dollars was given to Ukraine and NATO, free of charge, that Europe would have paid for -- If they were only asked, but we will be asking for that money, though somewhat belatedly!" Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform on Thursday.

Judge declares mistrial in US infanticide case but puts ruling on hold

AFP | Plymouth

A judge declared a mistrial yesterday in the high-profile case of an American woman who killed her three children but put his decision on hold to allow the defense to appeal the decision.

Judge William Sullivan said he was freezing his mistrial ruling in the trial of Lindsay Clancy for one hour to allow her lawyer to file an appeal with a higher court.

The jury has been deadlocked 11-1 with the majority apparently leaning towards finding the 36-year-old Clancy not guilty by reason of insanity.

The dramatic developments came after the jury sent a note to the judge yesterday morning



Members of the public and reporters wait in line to enter the courthouse for the trial of Lindsay Clancy

saying that it was with a "heavy heart" that they were unable to reach a verdict in the case,

which has cast a spotlight on maternal mental health.

Clancy does not deny stran-

gling Cora, five, Dawson, three, and Callan, eight months, but claims she was suffering from postpartum psychosis -- excusing her from criminal responsibility.

To reach a verdict, all 12 jurors must be in agreement. If they cannot agree, the judge declares a mistrial and prosecutors must decide whether to try the case again with a new jury.

Kevin Reddington, Clancy's lawyer, has repeatedly demanded the replacement of the hold-out juror with one of several alternate jurors but Sullivan declined to do so.

Clancy's televised five-week trial, which featured more than 80 witnesses and days of distressing testimony, has sparked debate in the United

States over maternal mental health.

Clancy has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity, saying she heard a voice ordering her to kill her children.

Her lawyers say this was caused by postpartum psychosis, a condition that experts say affects about one to two women in every 1,000 births.

Prosecutors have rejected that argument, saying Clancy had carefully planned the murders of her children and was able to understand the consequences of her actions.

Psychiatrists and people close to Clancy, as well as her estranged husband, were among the witnesses who testified about her fragile mental health during the trial.

1666

Firebreaks finally bring the Great Fire of London under control, leaving 13,200 houses destroyed and eight dead



1774

Twelve of the thirteen American colonies adopt a trade embargo against Great Britain at the First Continental Congress in Carpenters' Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1958

First color video recording on magnetic tape is presented in Charlotte, North Carolina

2017

Hurricane Irma becomes one of the most powerful hurricanes ever recorded in the Atlantic Basin region with winds of 185 mph (280 km/h)

Houthi offensive kills 129 in Yemen: sources

Houthis advance toward key Red Sea gateway

● Fighting erupts near Bab al-Mandab strait

● Rebels target strategic coastal areas

● Government forces send reinforcements

AFP | Sanaa

A major offensive by Yemen's Houthis to seize control of the gateway to the Red Sea has left more than 120 people dead, sources said yesterday, the country's deadliest clashes in years.

Fighting erupted on Thursday, after the Iran-backed Houthis launched a ground assault along with rocket and drone attacks near coastal areas, vying for control of the narrow Bab al-Mandab strait at the Red Sea's southern entrance.

Yemen, embroiled in more than a decade of civil conflict, in July became the latest country to be drawn into the Middle East war as the Houthis upended a 2022 truce with the Saudi-backed government.

Since then, the Houthis have imposed a maritime blockade of Saudi Arabia and repeatedly attacked its ships in the Red Sea -- a vital alternative route for oil exports after Iran all but halted Gulf shipments by blockading the Strait of Hormuz.

The rebels are now trying to tighten their hold over the Red Sea, one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, which they have disrupted with attacks on pass-



People sail their boats past container ships anchoring near the Strait of Bab al-Mandab off Yemen's coast in the Gulf of Aden (file photo)

ing vessels since the Gaza war broke out in 2023.

The Houthi offensive aims to cut off the government-held port city of Mokha, under fire for weeks, and advance towards areas bordering the Bab al-Mandab, military sources said.

The rebels have seized elevated sites overlooking government positions near the Red Sea and the city of Taiz further inland, a military source and a Taiz official said, requesting anonymity.

The Houthis could target ships from these elevated positions, they said.

The toll rose to 129 yesterday, according to an AFP tally compiled from several sources, up from an earlier count of 81.

A Yemeni military official speaking on condition of anonymity said that 66 of his men had been killed, while medical and military sources close to the

Houthis said at least 62 militants had died.

Another medical source said a civilian had also been killed.

Reinforcements sent

Although the Houthis do not control areas bordering Bab al-Mandab, they hold the key port city of Hodeida north of Mokha.

"They are going for Bab al-Mandab," said Mohammed al-Basha, of the US-based risk advisory Basha Report.

The Houthis want to control the hills overlooking Bab al-Mandab and Mokha before attacking the coast, a Yemeni official in Aden, the government's base since it was ousted from the rebel-held capital, Sanaa, in 2014.

The government has sent reinforcements to Taiz from Aden on Saudi orders, he said.

Atmospheric Water Generation Key to Water Security



KOTA SRIRAJ

Bahrain having predominantly arid and desert climate naturally means that water resource security is a top priority. In this regard, Bahrain heavily relies on sea water desalination as its major source of water supply. Desalination system in Bahrain supplies roughly 59 per cent the nation's total water supply and about 90 per cent of its drinking water. While desalination is the standard go-to option for desert nations, the procedure of desalination itself comes with certain ecological costs. For every gallon of fresh water produced, desalination produces by products in the form of heavily concentrated salt and chemical wastewater which is unhealthy for marine life.

Bahrain's economic vision 2030 visualises a eco-friendly and environmentally sustainable future for the nation and given this ambition, there is an urgent need to implement a hybrid model of securing water resources that are easy on the environment and yet scalable enough to meet the future demands. In this respect Atmospheric Water Generation (AWG) neatly fits the bill. AWG cleanly intercepts the water cycle before the vapor touches the sea or ground. By using thermodynamic condensation AWG mimics natural dew formation to harvest completely pure, mineralized drinking water right out of the breeze. In this manner, AWG can help provide environmentally friendly and scalable source of water supply that protects fragile groundwater aquifers and also takes care of marine life. This ensures a promising water resource backup for arid nations.

AWG makes enormous sense for desert nations, especially those that are surrounded by sea such as Bahrain because AWG concept is able to leverage a microclimate paradox which is that of hyper arid land but highly humid air. So while the ground lacks freshwater, the surrounding sea continuously evaporates water vapor into the air. Marine breezes push this dense moisture inland, turning the sky into a massive, renewable reservoir. AWG capitalises on this phenomenon by pulling moisture directly from the air, bypassing the severe environmental and infrastructural limitations of traditional water sourcing. The benefits of AWG have been studied and reinforced by researchers at the University of Bahrain as well.

—However, as every concept has a challenge, AWG too faces a significant one that presents a hurdle in its large scale deployment. AWG needs active electric systems that consume significant power making each litre of water costly as compared to desalinated water. This load on electric grid can be discouraging unless efforts are made to combine local electric grids with solar power. Once conventional electric supplies are paired with solar power on large scale, the benefits of AWG will be apparent. Yet another most viable path to cheaper AWG water is replacing power-hungry compressors with advanced sorbent materials such as Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs) or biomimetic hydrogels. This can help contain the energy costs overruns. AWG can change the water security narrative for Bahrain.

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

Trump's White House unveils deportation-themed video games

AFP | Washington

US President Donald Trump's White House unveiled a website featuring classic arcade games -- but with a "MAGA" twist, in which players can deport migrants and build a border wall.

Rights groups swiftly criticized the release of the online games, which comes as the Trump administration steps up its mass arrest and deportation program for undocumented migrants.

One game called Rio Run -- an updated version of the game Snake -- features a digital version of US border czar Tom Homan chasing migrants with different

skin colors next to the Rio Grande river on the Mexican border.

Another game based on the block-stacking game Tetris is called Build the Wall. "Protect the border from the coming horde," the instructions say.

A third involves collecting nets to put in so-called "Trump accounts" -- investment accounts containing a \$1,000 deposit for children born in 2025 through 2028.

The White House account on X posted a video with the "Make America Great Again" logo MAGA, based on the logo of video game maker Sega.

"CAN'T STOP WINNING. Build the wall. Deport. Fill a Trump Account," it says.

UK asserts 'unshakeable' Falklands commitment after Milei presses claim

AFP | London

Britain insisted yesterday that the Falkland Islands "are British" after Argentine President Javier Milei said the "winds of change" favoured his country's claim to the archipelago, citing Washington's readiness to review its neutrality in the dispute.

Britain and Argentina fought a 10-week war in 1982 over the South Atlantic islands, a British overseas territory which Argentines call Las Malvinas.

The fate of the islands hit headlines again in recent days after US President Donald Trump threatened to wade into the dispute, and an British-Israeli oil project near the islands caused anger in Argentina.

In an address on national TV, Milei assured Thursday that Argentina would not "stand idly by" in the face of the oil project and announced sanctions on firms linked to oil extraction "in Argentine territory under



A memorial is seen on Mount Harriet in the Falkland Islands

British occupation."

"There are winds of change in the world that are favourable to our claim," he said, alluding to Trump's threat to withdraw support for Britain's sovereignty.

Control of the Falklands is a highly emotive issue in Argen-

tina, even though the islanders themselves voted overwhelmingly in 2013 to remain British.

"The Falklands are British because Falkland Islanders choose to be British," British Defence Secretary Wes Streeting responded in a social media post yesterday.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Violence against women & girls is a persistent & pervasive global scourge. Ending this crisis is essential for sustainable development & human rights. Let's invest in women's organizations delivering proven, locally led solutions & build a world of safety & dignity for everyone.

@antonioguterres

02



Secretary-General @antonioguterres' report makes clear that sea-level rise does not stop at coastlines. What is already existential for millions will have consequences for us all, across societies, economies and regions. The cost of inaction will far exceed the cost of action.

@AminaJMohammed

03



Congratulations to my friend @GiorgiaMeloni for leading the longest-lasting government in the postwar history of the Italian Republic! Many thanks to Italy for being a great Ally in NATO

@SecGenNATO

04



As rains approach, winterisation in Gaza is far behind: 94% need shelter & non-food items. Rains could flood overcrowded sites with waste & sewage, where families are trying to make a home. This is a race against time. Shelter, clean water & waste management are needed now.

@hadjalahbib

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

Classifieds



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

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UNITED ENTERPRISES CO W L L has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33393899 or hr@unitedenterprises.biz

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MAGICIAN CENTER FOR CARS has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13362662 or MAGICIAN.bh@GMAIL.COM

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suitably qualified applicants can contact 39258813 or HAEZAL@SWIFTMSE-RVICE.COM

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Delta Security Services Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33999840 or hr@delta-ss.me

SEIF ANTAR CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDWICHES MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39444895 or BB5555BB@HOTMAIL.COM

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Classifieds

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AL AZRA SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33252730 or MUHAMMADHAMIDH34@GMAIL.COM

AL MARU CONTRACTING AND DOCUMENT CLEARANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37211885 or BH.RASHEDI2@GMAIL.COM

AL AALI MOTORS has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17556862 or HR@ALAAALIBH.COM

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Stiller Agency for the Supply Workers w. l. l has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17717730 or rsuresh@alaz-zamgroup.com

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mohdnew28@gmail.com

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MULA JEEVAN KHUBAZ W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BREAD BAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37626263 or SUFIYAN2249@GMAIL.COM

QASR AL SHAHER BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17421862 or MANALHAMAIDAN1992@GMAIL.COM

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PARKMATE FACILITIES SUPPORT SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37157449 or INFO@PARKMATEBH.COM

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CAIRIS DESIGNS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33667194 or ANASTASIARED9806@GMAIL.COM

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AZLAN ZAKI BAKERY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33005777 or ADEEZV@GMAIL.COM

SALON BLACK & WHITE has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39468422 or EBRAHIMTOBACO@YAHOO.COM

region

UAE Denies Role in Sudan War, Calls for End to Foreign Support



The UAE has rejected allegations of involvement in Sudan's ongoing conflict, saying it has not supplied weapons or related military materiel to any party since the war began in April 2023.

In response to the latest report by the UN-mandated Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for Sudan, the UAE said it remains committed to international law and supports investigations into alleged violations of human rights and humanitarian law.

The UAE also condemned violations committed by both the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces,

while reaffirming its commitment to UN sanctions.

Abu Dhabi called for the existing arms embargo to be extended across all of Sudan and urged an end to all external military support for the warring parties.

The UAE renewed its call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, an urgent humanitarian truce and a comprehensive, civilian-led political process independent of the rival forces and extremist groups.

The UAE mission also stressed that allegations surrounding the conflict should be assessed through an objective, impartial and evidence-based process, with information independently verified and corroborated.

More Than 120 Killed in Yemen Clashes



More than 120 combatants have been killed in clashes between Yemen's Houthi rebels and government forces since Thursday, according to military and medical sources.

A military official on the Red Sea coast said 24 government fighters were killed, while another official in the Taiz region reported 15 deaths. Medical sources in Houthi-controlled areas said at least 42 Houthi fighters were killed.

The fighting began after

Houthi forces launched a ground offensive supported by rocket and drone attacks near the Red Sea coast and Taiz.

Government sources said the Houthis were attempting to isolate the strategic port city of Mokha and advance toward areas near the Bab al-Mandab Strait.

Yemen has endured more than a decade of civil conflict, with the latest escalation adding to instability in the strategically important Red Sea region.

Algeria Battles Deadly Wildfires as President Calls for Death Penalty

Algeria is battling a devastating wave of wildfires that has spread across several provinces, destroying forests, homes and farmland. Jijel, east of Algiers, has suffered some of the worst damage, with vast areas of forest burned.

Authorities have officially reported 12 deaths, although local accounts suggest the toll could be higher. President Abdelmadjid Tebboune declared three days of mourning and announced the lifting of Algeria's long-standing moratorium on executions, drawing criticism from human rights groups.



pointed to possible arson. He called for those responsible to face the death penalty and announced the lifting of Algeria's long-standing moratorium on executions, drawing criticism from human rights groups.

The Buzz

Days Of Thunder Returns

Anne Hathaway Joins Tom Cruise for ‘Days of Thunder’ Sequel

Hollywood is heading back to the race-track, with Anne Hathaway joining Tom Cruise in the long-awaited sequel to the 1990 racing drama Days of Thunder. Paramount Pictures has set the film for a June 2, 2028 theatrical release, nearly four decades after the original. Cruise will return as Cole Trickle, the ambitious NASCAR driver he portrayed in the original film. Hathaway will take on a new role as a race-car team owner and engineer, marking the first time the two stars will share the screen. The sequel will be directed by Jonathan Levine, with

Cruise producing alongside Jerry Bruckheimer and Tommy Harper. The film is planned to be shot for IMAX and released exclusively in cinemas, including premium formats such as Dolby Cinema and 4DX. The original Days of Thunder, directed by Tony Scott, starred Cruise alongside Nicole Kidman, Robert Duvall and Randy Quaid. The 1990 film followed Cole Trickle as he pursued success in the high-speed world of NASCAR. The new sequel comes as Cruise continues his return to major franchise filmmaking following the success of

Top Gun: Maverick. Production is expected to begin in early 2027, with further story and casting details still under wraps. With two major stars at its centre and a large-format theatrical release planned, Days of Thunder is set for another high-speed Hollywood comeback in 2028.



GTA 6 Gets Limited-Edition PS5 Controllers

Sony has unveiled limited-edition DualSense controllers inspired by Grand Theft Auto VI, adding to the excitement surrounding Rockstar Games' highly anticipated title. The controllers feature designs inspired by Vice City, with distinctive black and white finishes, neon-inspired details and GTA VI branding. Both models retain the PS5's signature haptic feedback and adaptive triggers, offering the same immersive features as standard DualSense controllers. Pre-orders are scheduled to open on September 10, with the limited-edition controllers set to launch on November 19, alongside GTA VI. In the US, they are



priced at around \$84.99 each. The new accessories are expected to appeal strongly to both gamers and collectors, particularly ahead of the game's release. The announcement also highlights the growing merchandise surrounding GTA VI, as Rockstar builds anticipation for what is expected to be one of the biggest video game launches in history. For fans, the controllers offer a stylish way to bring the world of Vice City into their gaming setup.

Zack Snyder's 'The Last Photograph' Heads to Toronto

Zack Snyder's The Last Photograph is heading to the 2026 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) for its world premiere, marking a major milestone for the filmmaker's long-gestating project. The film will screen on September 13 at the John Bassett Theatre in Toronto. The drama-thriller stars Stuart Martin, Fra Fee and Costanza Andrade and follows a former DEA agent who ventures into the South American jungle on a mission to find his missing niece and nephew after their diplomat parents are killed. A troubled war photographer joins him, as the journey forces the protagonist to confront both the dangerous terrain and

his own inner demons. Snyder directed the film and co-wrote the screenplay with longtime collaborator Kurt Johnstad. Unlike many of Snyder's recent large-scale productions, The Last Photograph was made independently, representing a more intimate project for the filmmaker. The movie has reportedly been in development for nearly two decades, making its arrival at TIFF particularly significant for Snyder and his fans. The

Toronto premiere will also provide an opportunity for the film to attract potential distributors, as it currently does not have a studio or streaming distributor attached. The film's TIFF debut comes as Snyder continues to explore projects outside the major superhero and franchise productions that have defined much of his career. With its world premiere approaching, The Last Photograph could become one of the festival's notable titles as buyers and audiences get their first full look at Snyder's latest cinematic venture.



Netflix Develops Live-Action 'Dungeons & Dragons: Ravenloft'

Netflix is developing "Ravenloft," a new live-action series based on the gothic horror setting of Dungeons & Dragons, bringing one of the franchise's darkest worlds to the screen. The series is being developed by John August, who will write and executive produce, with Oscar-winning filmmaker Alfonso Cuarón also serving as an executive producer alongside Hasbro Entertainment. The project is described as a prestige fantasy series blending adventure, gothic horror and tragic romance. At the centre of the story is Strahd von Zarovich, the



infamous vampire Darklord. The series will explore his transformation from a tragic antihero into one of the most notorious villains in the Dungeons & Dragons universe, touching on themes of power, love, obsession and his descent into undead existence. The project represents a fresh attempt by Netflix to bring Dungeons & Dragons

to television. The streamer had previously been developing a live-action series based on "The Forgotten Realms," but that project is no longer moving forward. Ravenloft is a separate production with a new creative team. For fans of the franchise, the series could offer a darker alternative to traditional fantasy, focusing on supernatural horror and character-driven storytelling. Netflix has not yet announced a release date, cast or production schedule for "Ravenloft."

What the GCC is watching: The Shows and Films Dominating Streaming Screens

From Arabic dramas and Turkish hits to Hollywood franchises and Indian entertainment, streaming audiences across the Gulf are showing a remarkably diverse appetite. Current viewing charts across major platforms including Netflix, Shahid, Prime Video, OSN and STARZPLAY reveal a mix of regional favourites and international blockbusters. **Netflix: Thrillers, Drama and Big Franchises** Netflix's latest charts in Saudi Arabia and the UAE show strong interest in thriller and drama titles. The Whisper Man is among the leading films, while Years of Darkness, Mousetrap and The Early Spring are featuring prominently among TV shows. In the UAE, The Gentlemen has also climbed to the top of Netflix's

TV rankings. The popularity of The Gentlemen comes as Netflix expands its September offering, with the second season among the platform's major new releases in the UAE. **Shahid: Arabic Content Remains Strong** For Shahid, locally produced and Arabic-language entertainment continues to dominate. In Saudi Arabia, Banat Omair leads the TV rankings, followed by Love on Paper and Torn Apart. Among films, Shelter currently sits at No. 1, with Venom: The Last Dance also attracting viewers. The Bahrain chart similarly places Love on Paper and Banat Omair at the top, highlighting the continued strength of regional content among Gulf audiences.



Prime Video: Reacher Leads the Pack Prime Video is seeing strong demand for international action and drama. In the UAE, Reacher currently tops the TV rankings, followed by Qesma w Naseeb and Off Campus. The Runner is also among the leading films.

The platform's September lineup is adding further momentum, with Neagley, the Reacher spin-off, among its major new releases alongside The Runner and other original productions. **OSN: Classics Still Have a Huge Audience** OSN's current UAE rankings demonstrate the enduring appeal of established franchises. Game of Thrones leads the TV chart, while Marty Supreme tops the movie rankings. Harry Potter, The Mentalist, Friends and The Sopranos are also attracting significant audiences. Interestingly, Game of Thrones is currently the top OSN TV show across several GCC markets, including Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE.

STARZPLAY: Regional and International Mix STARZPLAY's UAE rankings reflect another distinctive combination of Indian, Arabic and international entertainment. Uyir, Premalu and Archana 31 Not Out are among its leading films, while Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi and Lioness feature prominently among TV offerings.

The GCC Streaming Picture Taken together, the charts show that there is no single Gulf viewing trend. Audiences are moving comfortably between Arabic originals, Turkish dramas, Indian films, Hollywood blockbusters, action franchises and long-running classics. The biggest takeaway is the continued importance of local and regional storytelling alongside global entertainment. Shahid's strong Arabic-language performance sits alongside Netflix's international hits, Prime Video's action-led catalogue and OSN's enduring appeal of premium Hollywood and HBO programming. For Gulf viewers, streaming is no longer about choosing between local and international entertainment — they are watching both.

'Phantom Blade Zero' Shows Off New Gameplay

Phantom Blade Zero has revealed new gameplay footage, showcasing its fast-paced combat, cinematic visuals and dark martial-arts-inspired world. Developed by Chinese studio S-GAME, the action RPG blends traditional Wuxia influences with intense swordplay and challenging battles. Players control Soul, a skilled assassin navigating a dangerous world filled with rival warriors and



conspiracies. The game is scheduled to launch on October 29, 2026, for PlayStation 5 and PC, and is among the year's most anticipated action titles.

Prime Video Unveils September Lineup

Prime Video is bringing a fresh mix of films and series to viewers this September, including new originals, returning favourites and international titles. One of the highlights is Neagley, the highly anticipated Reacher spin-off following Frances Neagley. The platform will also feature The Runner, alongside a selection of action, drama and thriller titles. With several major re-



leases scheduled throughout the month, Prime Video is offering subscribers a varied lineup designed to keep audiences entertained throughout September.

Fox Orders 'Mammoth' Comedy Series

Fox has ordered "Mammoth," a new single-camera comedy series from Modern Family creators Christopher Lloyd and Danny Zuker. The series follows a group of characters navigating modern family life and unexpected challenges with a comedic twist. Lloyd and Zuker will serve as executive producers, bringing their experience from one of television's most successful



sitcoms to the new project. The series is part of Fox's expanding comedy lineup and is expected to join the network's upcoming programming slate. Further details, including the cast and premiere date, have yet to be announced.

Man Utd in ‘good place’ despite imperfect squad, says Carrick

AFP | London

Manchester United manager Michael Carrick said he is delighted with the additions to his squad despite being outspent by Premier League rivals in the transfer window and short on depth in some areas.

United put their efforts into rebuilding Carrick's midfield, with Casemiro's exit and a serious injury to Manuel Ugarte offset by the acquisitions of Andrey Santos, Youri Tielemans and Carlos Baleba for a combined £155 million (\$210 million).

The Red Devils' fiercest rivals spent almost that budget on a single player as Manchester City broke the British transfer record for Enzo Fernandez, while Liverpool splashed up to £123 million on French winger Bradley Barcola.

Despite a return to the Champions League for the first time in three seasons, Carrick hinted at having to work within financial restrictions.

"We went into the window



Michael Carrick reacts from the sideline during a match (file photo)

wanting to come out stronger from the group that we had last season. We've definitely added to that," Carrick told a pre-match press conference ahead of Sunday's trip to Everton.

"I think we've done a lot of good work in that respect and the situation is what it is in terms of finances and what we can work with and what we're

trying to get the most of.

"Certainly, the players that we've brought into the group I'm absolutely delighted with and I think we've done some really good business there."

United look particularly short in defence with the injury-prone Luke Shaw their only senior option at left-back.

"What squad ever is the perfect squad? You've always got to

We went into the window wanting to come out stronger from the group that we had last season. We've definitely added to that

MICHAEL CARRICK

find ways of adapting," Carrick added.

"When you're building and trying to push to go through a period where we're trying to get to the top – that's the ultimate goal – you've got to make steps."

Joshua Zirkzee was among those expected to leave Old Trafford to boost the funds available to Carrick.

Despite interest from Fiorentina and Juventus and a deadline-day approach from Everton, the Netherlands international remains at United despite limited gametime over the past two seasons.

Cycling team set for Dhofar Classic



National cycling team before departing Oman

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain National Cycling Team will compete in the Salalah and Dhofar Classic Tour 2026 in Oman from September 5 to 9, with the support from the General Sports Authority and the Bahrain Olympic Committee.

Organised by the Oman Cycling Federation, the five-day event features four stages covering a total distance of 594 kilometres, taking riders from the sea to the mountains through Dhofar's distinctive and exceptional natural landscapes.

The tour is expected to deliver five days of intense competition, challenging climbs and high-level racing, with 95 cyclists representing 16 teams and 28 nationalities taking part.

The Bahrain national team arrived in Dhofar yesterday morning. The squad features cyclists Sayed Ahmed Khalil, Mohammed Al-Ghais, Hussein Mohammed, Mahdi Hassan and Ahmed Madan, alongside cycling technician Issa Ayoub and national team technical director Axel Costa.

This participation follows an invitation from the Oman Cycling Federation and

forms part of the Bahrain team's preparations for the upcoming Asian Games.

Organisers in Oman have completed preparations for the event, including the race routes featuring mountain climbs and descents across several elevated areas. The course will pass through locations including Al Hafa Souq, Hajif, Mughsail Beach, Mirbat Castle, Dahariz Beach, Wadi Darbat, Taqah Castle, Jebel Samhan and Ain Razat, before concluding at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex.

The organisers have also completed the technical, administrative and logistical arrangements for the tour as participating teams arrive in Dhofar ahead of the highly anticipated start.

Four distinctive jerseys will be awarded at the end of each stage. The gold jersey will be presented to the leader of the individual general classification based on time, while the green jersey will go to the leader of the general points classification.

The white jersey will be awarded to the leading Under-23 rider, while the silver jersey will recognise the overall most combative rider.

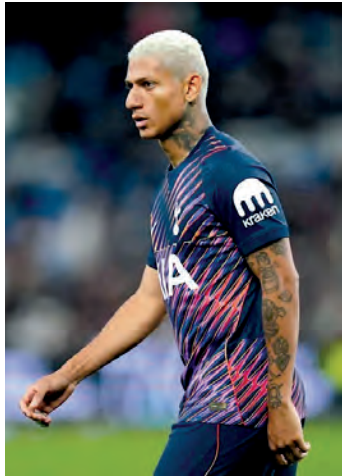
Richarlison decided Spurs exile himself, claims De Zerbi

AFP | London

Tottenham boss Roberto De Zerbi said he only wants to work with "hungry" players after leaving Richarlison out of his Premier League squad.

The Brazilian's future is uncertain after a proposed return to Everton before Tuesday's transfer deadline for English clubs reportedly collapsed over his wage demands.

Richarlison has also been linked with moves to Turkey or Saudi Arabia, where the window remains open, but he cannot feature for Tottenham in the Premier League until at least January after be-



Richarlison reacts during a match (file photo)

ing left out De Zerbi's 25-man squad.

In an explosive social media post on Monday, Richarlison claimed "never again will anyone decide my future for me".

But De Zerbi said it was the 29-year-old who initiated a move.

"I think Richarlison, he decided everything alone. He spoke with me at the beginning of the pre-season and told me his idea and desire was to leave," the Italian told a pre-match press conference yesterday.

"I can't say nothing because I didn't decide anything. The message of Richarlison from

the beginning of the season has been very clear. I accepted that and for me (there is) nothing (to say).

"If you don't want to stay here, I don't want to keep (talking) in the press conference. Go out, you have the freedom to go out. If you don't want to stay, why (do) we have to keep you on the list? Why (do) you have to stay?"

De Zerbi guided Tottenham to Premier League survival towards the end of last season, but a splurge of over £300 million (\$405 million) on new players in the transfer market is yet to reap any reward.

BRAVE CF 108 weigh-ins set the stage for nine-bout card



TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation™ (BRAVE CF), the world's fastest-growing and most global mixed martial arts organization, has officially completed the weigh-ins for BRAVE CF 108, with all nine bouts confirmed to proceed as scheduled at the historic Pula Arena in Croatia on Saturday, September 5.

Croatian standout Andi Vrtacic "Highlight Machine" Vrtacic

will headline the highly anticipated card against France's Sofiane Bouafia in a three-round middleweight contest. Both athletes enter the matchup with an opportunity to strengthen their standing in the division, as Vrtacic seeks to make the most of home advantage. Meanwhile, Bouafia aims to spoil the occasion and score the most monumental victory of his career.

In the co-main event, Fili-

pino star Stephen "The Sniper" Loman is set to square off against Georgian sensation Lasha Abramishvili in a pivotal encounter. With the BRAVE CF Bantamweight World Championship currently vacant, the stakes are particularly high, with the winner potentially positioning himself as the next contender for the coveted crown.

Seven additional matchups will complete the BRAVE CF

108 lineup, further highlighting the depth and international diversity that have become defining characteristics of the promotion since its inception in 2016.

The upcoming event will also represent another significant milestone in BRAVE CF's global expansion. Croatia becomes the 18th European country and the 39th nation overall to host the Bahrain-born sporting property, reinforcing its commitment

BRAVE CF 36 Fight Card	
Middleweight Bout - 83.9 KG / 185 LBS*	
Andi Vrtacic (84.1 KG) vs. Sofian Bouafia (85.3 KG)	
Bantamweight Bout - 61.2 KG / 135 LBS**	
Stephen Loman (62 KG) vs. Lasha Abramishvili (61.7 KG)	
Featherweight Bout - 65.8 KG / 145 LBS***	
Mathias Prehofer (65.9 KG) vs. Walter Cogliandro (66 KG)	
Lightweight Bout - 70.3 KG / 155 LBS***	
Domen Drnovsek (70.6 KG) vs. Erik Pletikos (70.7 KG)	
77.5-Kilogram Catchweight Bout - 77.5 KG / 171 LBS	
Amil Tutic (77 KG) vs. Ivan Kiš (76.8 KG)	
Women's Flyweight Bout - 56.7 KG / 125 LBS***	
Maja Drnovšek (56.8 KG) vs. Aleksandra Sokołowska (57.2 KG)	
Middleweight Bout - 83.9 KG / 185 LBS***	
Luka Vrtacic (83.7 KG) vs. Ali Hodeib (84.3 KG)	
73-Kilogram Catchweight Bout - 73 KG / 161 LBS	
Patrick Pereša (72.6 KG) vs. Filip Vidak (72.9 KG)	
Amateur 77-Kilogram Catchweight Bout - 77 KG / 169.4 LBS	
Roni Pavlovic (76.6 KG) vs. Nejc Rupreht (76.9 KG)	
<i>*Sofian Bouafia failed to make the middleweight limit. His bout against Andi Vrtacic will move forward at a catchweight of 85.3 kilograms, with Bouafia forfeiting 10% of his guaranteed purse as a penalty.</i>	
<i>**Stephen Loman failed to make the bantamweight limit. His bout against Lasha Abramishvili will move forward at a catchweight of 62 kilograms, with Loman forfeiting 15% of his guaranteed purse as a penalty.</i>	
<i>***Athletes in this bout were granted a one-pound allowance.</i>	

to bringing world-class mixed and emerging markets across martial arts to both established the globe.

Russell tops second practice to beat Ferrari and Antonelli in Italy

McLaren and Alpine clash after Monaco Grand Prix result changes

● Leclerc finishes second at Monza

● Antonelli takes third place

● Antonelli faces Sunday engine penalties

AFP | Monza

George Russell bounced back to beat his championship-leading Mercedes team-mate Kimi Antonelli and both Ferraris on their home turf yesterday when he topped the times in second practice for this weekend's Italian Grand Prix.

Russell, who was three-tenths of a second adrift in third place in the opening session, led the way with a best lap of one minute and 22.559 seconds to finish 0.120sec clear of Charles Leclerc with Antonelli third, 0.141sec adrift.



Mercedes' British driver George Russell drives during the first practice session

World champion Lando Norris was fourth for McLaren ahead of seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton, who had been

second behind Leclerc, sporting a special livery to celebrate Michael Schumacher's first Monza win 30 years ago, in a Ferrari 1-2

earlier in the day.

Oscar Piastri was sixth in the second McLaren.

The top six were separated by



Ferrari ran a special livery at their home race to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Michael Schumacher's iconic first Monza victory for the Italian team

0.469 seconds with Racing Bulls' rookie Arvid Lindblad taking seventh ahead of Oliver Bearman of Haas, four-time champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull and Yuki Tsunoda in the second Racing Bulls car.

It was a very satisfactory session for Russell who, together with Hamilton, is 59 points be-

hind Antonelli in the drivers' title race and knows he must take full advantage of the young Italian's engine penalties that require him to start from the back of the grid on Sunday.

The backdrop to the day, however, was a spicy spat between the Alpine and McLaren teams after the International Court of Appeal upheld an appeal by Red Bull and McLaren concerning the result of the Monaco Grand Prix.

That led to Alpine's Pierre Gasly dropping from third to seventh, replaced by Red Bull's Isack Hadjar as Oscar Piastri rose to fourth in a reshuffled outcome.

Alpine's team boss Flavio Briatore told a press conference he questioned the impartiality of the court, pointing out that one of the four judges had close connections with McLaren, a claim that was robustly repudiated with team chief Andrea Stella describing the Italian's remarks as "insulting".

World Cup Basketball Action Begins in Berlin

TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Vice President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, attended the opening ceremony of the FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup, which began in Berlin, the German capital.

The ceremony was attended by German Federal Chancellor Friedrich Merz, along with senior officials, sports personalities and representatives of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA).

HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa also attended the tournament's opening game between Germany and Spain. This marked the start of the global competition, which Berlin is hosting and which runs until September 16, featuring some of the world's leading women's national teams.

HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa's attendance reflects his commitment, as a member



of the FIBA Foundation Board, to actively participate in major international sporting events.

His presence also highlights the standing of Bahraini sports professionals within international sporting institutions, as well as the Kingdom of Bahrain's active role in global sports forums and organisations.

The FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup is one of the major tournaments organised by the International Basketball Federation, bringing together the world's top national teams as they compete for the prestigious world title.



Ailing Auger-Aliassime falls at US Open as Swiatek, Osaka and Gauff advance

AFP | New York

Third seed Felix Auger-Aliassime tumbled out of the US Open as former champions Iga Swiatek, Naomi Osaka and Coco Gauff reached the third round.

Karen Khachanov, ranked 50th in the world, downed Auger-Aliassime 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-2, 6-2, pulling away relentlessly from the physically ailing Canadian who said he was "dizzy and seeing spots."

"I thought maybe it would pass, but it didn't," a dejected Auger-Aliassime said.

Khachanov took full advantage of 47 unforced errors, with eight double faults, from Auger-Aliassime, who struggled particularly on serve.

"I thought maybe he had some physical issues, it's part of our sport," Khachanov said. "From my side I tried to give my best performance, fighting, fighting."

"I'm super happy to get this win," added the 2022 semi-finalist after posting his first top-10 win of the year.

It was the second big upset



Poland's Iga Swiatek hits a return to Argentina's Nadia Podoroska

on the men's side, after Novak Djokovic was ousted in the first round.

Sixth-seeded Australian Alex de Minaur also bowed out, falling to Botic van de Zandschulp 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 to further open up a men's field headed by world number two Alexander Zverev.

French Open champion Zverev anchored the night session on Arthur Ashe Stadium, taking on 52nd-ranked French-

man Quentin Halys.

Meanwhile three former women's champions -- Swiatek, Gauff and Osaka, booked their third-round berths.

Gauff thrilled the Ashe night crowd with a 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) victory over former world number two Paula Badosa of Spain.

Swiatek marched through with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Nadia Podoroska while Osaka survived a second-set swoon

to beat Katerina Siniakova 6-2, 5-7, 6-1.

Gauff, 22, had lost five of her eight prior meetings with Badosa, so she was ready when the Spaniard piled on the pressure in the second set, regaining a break to force the tiebreaker.

"I knew she would raise her level. She's capable of blasting winners and blasting return winners," said Gauff, who was pleased she kept her composure.

"I think I need matches like this to build my confidence," the 2023 US Open winner said.

Swiatek, whose six Grand Slam titles include the 2022 US Open, had things mostly her own way against Podoroska, a former top-40 player now sunk to 449th in the world.

She fought off four break points at 5-3 in the first set then pulled away to polish off the win in little more than an hour.

It was another encouraging performance for the former world number one, who hadn't reached a final in 2026 until her run to the title at Toronto in August.

Van Aert powers to Vuelta stage 13 victory, Mas consolidates lead

AFP | Loja

Belgian Wout Van Aert got the better of a two-man sprint after a breakaway to win his first stage of this year's Vuelta a Espana yesterday, as home rider Enric Mas maintained his

overall lead.

Visma's Van Aert and Aurelien Paret-Peintre attacked from a breakaway late in the 192.8km 13th stage from Almunecar to Loja.

The 31-year-old Van Aert was too strong for the Frenchman in

a sprint for the line, clinching the fourth Vuelta stage win of his career after three victories in 2024.

Britain's Matthew Brennan, who has won three stages already on the race, won the battle for third, 24 seconds behind the

leading duo.

Mas, who has led the race since title favourite Tadej Pogacar crashed out during stage eight, kept his 1min 45sec overall lead ahead of four-time champion Primož Roglič after finishing safely in the pack.