



**Children's
 Storyteller
 Mohammed
 Saleh Dies**



Mohammed Saleh reading a story to children

Rehab Mohammad
 TDT | Manama

An outpouring of grief followed the death yesterday of Mohammed Saleh, a young Bahraini known as 'the storyteller', whose work with children in schools, nurseries and public events made him a familiar face to many families across Bahrain.

Saleh became known among children through group storytelling sessions, using a warm, lively style that held the room and drew in adults as well as the young. He was widely known for his smile, his easy manner and the bond he built with children through stories.

He was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2018 and spoke openly about his illness. Saleh said his doctor had warned him he could lose his ability to speak after surgery to remove the tumour, but he chose to keep telling stories and carried on with the work for which he had become known.

**No abnormal air
 pollution detected**

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The Supreme Council for Environment confirmed that air quality across the Kingdom of Bahrain remains normal, with no abnormal levels recorded, following yesterday's incident where one facility and several operational units at another site were targeted.

The Council stated that environmental monitoring operations are continuing around the clock to track air quality indicators across the Kingdom.

Royal Assurance

HM King Meets BDF, Praises Courage and Readiness

● Support for families affected by recent attacks

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, met yesterday with members of the Bahrain Defence Force in Manama, reaffirming the Kingdom's commitment to national security and citizen welfare amid recent regional developments.

The meeting, attended by Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, highlighted the Bahrain Defence Force's crucial role in safeguarding the nation. His Majesty commended the personnel for their professionalism, courage, and dedication in carrying out their duties under challenging circumstances.

Addressing recent events, His Majesty the King condemned unjustified Iranian aggression targeting Bahrain and neighboring countries. He noted that the attacks impacted civilian areas



HM the King with BDF officers

and infrastructure, resulting in injuries and damage to private properties.

Priority

His Majesty reassured citizens that the government would compensate all losses related to

property damage, emphasizing that the well-being of Bahraini families remains a top priority.

His Majesty the King also reiterated the importance of adhering to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2817, which condemns the attacks and calls

for their immediate halt, alongside any further hostile actions.

Praising the unity shown by the public, His Majesty expressed appreciation for the strong sense of national responsibility demonstrated by citizens, including their willingness

BETTER YOU KNOW

His Majesty the King condemned unjustified Iranian aggression targeting Bahrain and neighboring countries.

to volunteer and support recovery efforts.

His Majesty underscored the need for continued vigilance and readiness to protect the Kingdom's security and stability. He affirmed that Bahrain will remain a nation of safety and resilience, moving forward on its path of development through unity and collective determination.

Bahrain urges urgent global action over escalating Strait of Hormuz tensions

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Bahrain has called for immediate and coordinated international action over rising tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, warning that the situation now poses serious risks to global stability, food security, and the international legal order.

Speaking on the developments, Foreign Minister Dr. Abdulatif

bin Rashid Al Zayani said the situation has evolved from earlier threats against commercial shipping into a broader crisis with worldwide implications, stressing that delay in response could significantly worsen the fallout.

He noted that maritime traffic through the strategic waterway has dropped by more than

90 percent since February 28, warning that the disruption is no longer confined to energy markets but is now affecting global supply chains, particularly food and agricultural inputs such as fertilizers. Dr. Al Zayani referred to United Nations assessments warning that worsening conditions could push millions into

hunger and poverty, including

an estimated 45 million additional people facing acute food insecurity and around 4 million in the Arab region at risk of falling into poverty if the crisis continues.

He said Bahrain's decision to raise the issue at the United Nations Security Council reflects the severity of the situation, describing it as an international

emergency rather than a regional dispute.

The Foreign Minister warned that every day without decisive intervention increases the risk of global agricultural disruption, rising hunger levels, and instability in vulnerable countries, adding that developing nations would bear the heaviest burden if the crisis deepens.

Seven Arrested in **BD800,000 Gold Heist**

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The Ministry of Interior announced that the Capital Governorate Police Directorate arrested seven individuals, aged between 18 and 23, in connection with a major burglary involving gold jewellery, luxury watches, and other valuables estimated to be worth more than BD800,000.

According to officials, investigations revealed that the suspects committed the theft after taking advantage of the homeowners' absence. The group re-

portedly planned and executed the crime by targeting the residence while it was unoccupied.

The directorate stated that it took immediate action upon receiving a report from the homeowner. Police teams launched intensive search and investigation operations, collecting evidence and tracking leads, which ultimately led to identifying and apprehending the suspects. Authorities confirmed that they recovered the stolen items from various locations where the accused had hidden them.



Suspects with the seized evidence

Wave of Drone Strikes

Swift response limits impact on critical Gulf oil and water facilities



Bapco Energies Facility Hit by Drone Attack

Bapco Energies confirmed yesterday that a hostile drone attack struck one of its storage facilities, causing a fire in a storage tank. The company said the fire has since been fully extinguished and the situation is now under control.

Initial assessments are underway to determine the extent of the damage. No injuries were reported. Bapco Energies emphasized that the safety of its employees and facilities remains its highest priority.



“The Operations Centre of the General Directorate of Civil Defence received a report of a fire at a civilian facility caused by the Iranian attack. Civil Defence units responded immediately and brought the fire under control in record time, preventing its spread.”

THE CIVIL DEFENCE OFFICER BRIEFED BAHRAIN TV ON THE INCIDENT



GPIC confirms drone attack on operational units

Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) also confirmed that Iranian drones targeted several of its operational units early Sunday morning. The company stated that the incident caused fires in multiple affected units. However, emergency response teams acted swiftly, and all fires have

since been fully extinguished. Damage assessment teams have been deployed to evaluate the extent of the facility’s impact. The company added that its emergency teams worked closely with Civil Defence units and relevant government authorities to secure the site.

Borouge plant temporarily halted after debris-related fire

Borouge, a flagship petrochemicals producer in the UAE, converts oil and gas into high-performance plastics used across global infrastructure, energy, and manufacturing sectors. Its facilities form a key part of the country’s industrial base, supporting both domestic supply chains and international markets. Operations at the company’s plant in Abu Dhabi were temporarily suspended after fires broke out yesterday following debris falling at the site, according to official statements. The Abu Dhabi Media Office said the debris resulted from successful interceptions carried out by air defence systems. Authorities confirmed that no



Borouge Plc, a UAE-based petrochemicals leader, produces advanced polyethylene and polypropylene solutions for global industries.

injuries were reported. Initial assessments were carried out to determine the extent of any damage, while operations remained temporarily suspended as precautionary measures.

Kuwait reports multiple infrastructure hits

Kuwait reported that several of its key infrastructure and government facilities were damaged in a series of drone attacks, according to official statements issued on Sunday. The Ministry of Electricity and Water said two power and water desalination plants had been struck, resulting in “significant material damage” and the shutdown of two electricity generation units. No deaths or injuries were reported. Earlier, the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation confirmed that a fire broke out at its Shuwaikh oil sector complex, which houses the Oil Ministry and KPC headquarters, following a drone strike. State media, citing the Min-



Shuwaikh oil sector complex houses the Oil Ministry and Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) headquarters.

istry of Finance, stated that an Iranian drone had also hit an office complex used by multiple government ministries, causing extensive material damage but no casualties.

Saudi air defenses intercepted a cruise missile



A spokesperson for the Saudi Ministry of Defense, Turki Al-Malki, announced on Sunday that Saudi air defenses successfully intercepted a cruise missile. Al-Malki confirmed that the interception succeeded, preventing the missile from reaching its target. The Ministry of Defense reiterated that its forces remain fully prepared to counter various threats, emphasizing their ongoing commitment to safeguarding the security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and protecting its territories.

Between 28 February and 5 April

Several oil and water infrastructure sites across the region were reportedly affected by Iranian aggression, including disruptions, attempted attacks, and reported damage across multiple Gulf countries.

Oil & Energy Facilities Affected:

- Ras Tanura Refinery (Saudi Arabia)
- Shaybah Oil Field (Saudi Arabia)
- Yanbu Oil Refinery/Port Area (Saudi Arabia)
- Oil sector complex in Shuwaikh (Kuwait)
- Fuel storage facilities in Duqm Port (Oman)
- Salalah Port fuel and logistics infrastructure (Oman)

Water & Desalination Facilities Affected:

- Shuwaikh desalination/power-linked facilities (Kuwait)
- Additional Kuwaiti water and power utility installations



Ras Laffan industrial city, Qatar

Qatar’s Ras Laffan industrial city, the world’s largest LNG export hub, suffered major damage in the attacks, cutting LNG export capacity by around 17%. The Pearl gas-to-liquids facility was also significantly impacted, with repairs expected to take several years. Multiple LNG units experienced fires and extensive damage, and at least one production train at Pearl will likely remain offline for a year or more.

Bahrain air defences intercepted 13 drones in 24 hours

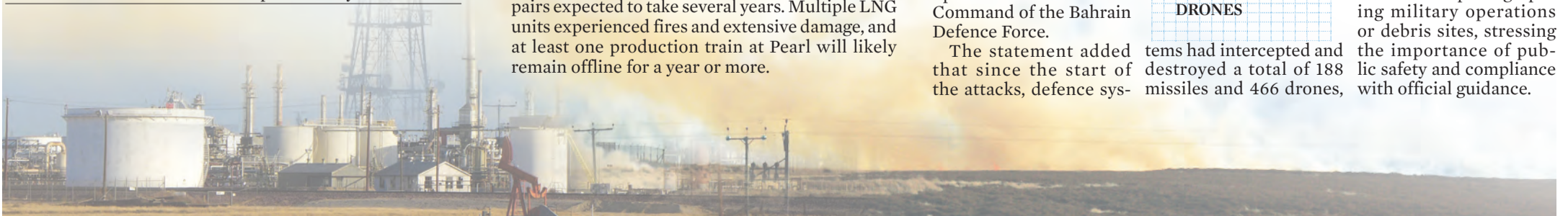


BAHRAIN IN 24HRS.

13 DRONES

The air defence systems had intercepted and destroyed 13 drones that targeted the Kingdom of Bahrain during the previous 24 hours, according to updates from the General Command of the Bahrain Defence Force. The statement added that since the start of the attacks, defence sys-

tems had intercepted and destroyed a total of 188 missiles and 466 drones, maintaining a high level of readiness. It also reiterated calls to stay away from affected areas, avoid touching suspicious objects, and refrain from photographing military operations or debris sites, stressing the importance of public safety and compliance with official guidance.



Manama Souq Traders Stand Strong

Strength, Stability and Trust in the Kingdom

TDT | Manama
Neethu V | Hasan Barakat

Despite a noticeable slowdown in activity, traders in Manama Souq are sending a clear and unified message: they are here to stay, standing hand in hand with the Kingdom of Bahrain through changing times.

During a special field visit by The Daily Tribune, shopkeepers across the historic market spoke with resilience and optimism, choosing continuity over concern and adaptation over retreat. While sales in some areas have dropped by up to 50 percent, the spirit of the souq remains unshaken.

The once-busy alleys may now be quieter, but shops continue to open on time, displays are carefully arranged, and daily routines are maintained—a reflection of both discipline and determination.

ADAPTING WITH CONFIDENCE

At a tailoring shop specialising in formal suits, Absar acknowledged a drop in sales of nearly 50 percent. Yet, operations continue steadily. Fabrics still arrive, albeit through adjusted routes via Dubai and Saudi Arabia.

“Work continues. We are here, and we will remain,” he said confidently, adding that loyal customers remain in touch, waiting for conditions to improve.

Nearby, fragrance seller Shaner reflected on the calmer evenings that have replaced once-busy weekends.

“Thursday, Friday, and Saturday used to be busy,” he said. “Now it is quieter, but we are not thinking of leaving Bahrain. This will pass, and people will come back.”

He noted that many regular customers still reach out, showing that relationships extend beyond transactions.

“We have seen many phases over the years. This is not new for us. We continue, like we always have,” he said, highlighting the resilience built through decades.

GOLD JEWELLERY MARKET

Munther described a shift rather than a slowdown. While footfall has decreased, demand remains steady, supported by



HOPE ANCHORED

For shops reliant on tourism, such as souvenir outlets, the slowdown has been more pronounced. Yet, optimism remains strong.



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Work continues. We are here, and we will remain

Absar, Tailor

”

We have seen many phases over the years. This is not new for us. We continue, like we always have

Alam, Kewalram Textiles Employee

”

Before, customers came in person. Now, most orders are through home delivery

Munther, Gold Shop Employee

BUSINESS EVOLVES, NOT STOPS

At Kewalram Textiles, a business rooted in over 70 years of history, Alam shared a similar outlook. Although daily visitors have dropped significantly, imports continue and operations remain stable.

seasonal purchases during Ramadan and Eid.

“Before, customers came in person. Now, most orders are through home delivery,” he explained. “People adapt, and so do we. Business continues, just in a different way.”

“These are passing days. “We stay, we work, and things improve,” a trader shared, emphasising the importance of maintaining routine.

Meanwhile, traditional sweet shops experienced a seasonal boost during Eid. Jaffar noted that while sales have since eased, cultural traditions continue to support demand.

“Eid was good for us. Many families still hold on to these traditions,” he said. “After Eid, it slowed down, but we are confident life will return to normal!”

STANDING TOGETHER

Across the souq, traders repeatedly expressed trust in Bahrain’s stability and leadership. Many drew parallels with the COV-

ID-19 period, recalling how the market endured and recovered.

“It was difficult, but we came through it,” one trader reflected. “This will also pass.”

Today, that experience reinforces their confidence — not only in their businesses, but in the Kingdom itself.

No trader spoke of leaving. Instead, they spoke of patience, unity, and belief in Bahrain’s ability to navigate challenges.

Manama Souq may be quieter for now, but its spirit remains strong. Its traders continue to open their doors each day, not just to do business, but to stand in solidarity with the Kingdom — confident that brighter days lie ahead.

Workers Cannot Be Sent on Unpaid Leave Unilaterally

- Unpaid leave employer cannot force it on a worker.
- No forced pay cuts or unpaid leave without consent
- Salary is a legal right
- Any change needs written agreement



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If the worker carries on working, paying half the salary is against the law

Seddiqa Al Mawali, lawyer

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

One-sided pay cuts or unpaid leave cannot be imposed on workers during economic strain or other exceptional conditions, lawyer Seddiqa Al Mawali told The Daily Tribune, saying the law gives employees a clear right to wages and allows reduced pay only in limited cases.

The question has taken on added weight in Bahrain after the recent Iranian attacks on the kingdom and the strain they have placed on public life. Against that backdrop, Al Mawali said a worker’s wage is a fixed right in return for work and cannot be changed

except under clear legal rules. She pointed to labour law provisions, including Articles 41 and 43, which bar any change in the pay system, monthly, weekly or by piece rate, unless the worker agrees in writing.

“The wage is a fixed right of the worker in return for

work,” she said. “It cannot be reduced or changed except within clear legal limits.”

She said a worker who turns up ready to work must still receive full pay if the employer does not let them work. If work stops for reasons outside the employer’s control, such as a government order, a disaster or a forced halt to business activity, the worker can in that case be due half pay.

“Half salary is lawful in one main case only,” she said. “That is when the worker attends work but cannot carry it out because of reasons beyond the employer’s control.”

Al Mawali said the law strikes a fair balance in that situation. The worker has done nothing wrong, while the employer did not cause the stoppage, so half the wage can be due.

That does not apply, she said, if the worker is still working. “If the worker carries on working, paying half the salary is against the law,” Al Mawali said. “In that case, the worker can claim the full wage and seek compensation for delay.”

On unpaid leave, she said an employer cannot force it on a worker. Any move to place a worker on unpaid leave, or to cut pay for a period, must come through agreement between both sides.

Media Key to Protecting National Unity and Security

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

The President of the Bahraini Journalists Association, Issa Al-Shaiji, has commended the strong and responsible role played by Bahrain’s media community in response to recent regional tensions and hostile narratives targeting the Kingdom.

Al-Shaiji praised the efforts of journalists, broadcasters, and media professionals across the Ministry of Information, newspapers, and digital platforms, noting that they have demonstrated

a high level of national responsibility by prioritizing Bahrain’s security, stability, and public interest.

He said the media sector’s performance during these sensitive circumstances reflects a longstanding tradition of patriotism and professionalism, adding that Bahraini media workers have consistently stood firm during key moments in the nation’s history.

The association president highlighted the importance of these efforts in promoting public awareness, strengthening national unity, and countering misinformation and misleading content circulating across various platforms, particularly social media.



Bahrain will remain a nation of peace, tolerance, and unity, where responsible media stands as a shield against misinformation and any attempts to divide society.

Issa Al-Shaiji, The President Bahraini Journalists Association

He called for continued vigilance against disinformation campaigns and rumors aimed at undermining social cohesion, stressing the need for the public to rely on official and credible sources of information.



الشركة البحرينية للترفيه العائلي ش.م.ب.
BAHRAIN FAMILY LEISURE COMPANY B.S.C.

Reminder of Extraordinary General Meeting

Please take notice that the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Bahrain Family Leisure Company B.S.C will be held on Monday, 6th April 2026 at 01:00 pm at Gulf Convention Center in Al Dana - 4 to discuss the announced agenda.

Thank you

Abdul Latif Khalid Al Aujan
Chairman of the Board

Shura Rejects Foreign Investment Guarantee Bill, Delays Graduate Training Law

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The Shura Council on Sunday rejected a proposed law requiring limited liability companies with foreign partners to provide an irrevocable BD30,000 bank guarantee, while also postponing a separate bill mandating graduate training in larger firms, following extensive debate on their economic and labour implications.

The first draft law would have required any company with one or more foreign partners to deposit a BD30,000 bank guarantee in favour of the ministry responsible for trade for the duration of the company's operations.

However, both the government and the Shura Financial and Economic Affairs Committee opposed the proposal, warning it would immobilise large amounts of capital, discourage investment, and negatively impact Bahrain's business environment.



Applying this requirement across all affected companies would free more than BD1 billion in the banking system as inactive capital, which would directly reduce liquidity, investment flow, and economic growth in Bahrain

H.E. MINISTER ABDULLA FAKHRO



Bahrain's competitiveness as an investment destination must be protected, and any additional financial burdens risk weakening the Kingdom's position compared to other regional economies and its long-term economic vision

KHALID AL MASKATI

Meanwhile, the Shura Council postponed voting on a Parliament-drafted bill requiring



The current legal framework already provides sufficient flexibility to regulate training without introducing rigid obligations that may not suit all business models

H.E. LABOUR MINISTER YOUSIF KHALAF

companies with 50 or more employees to provide structured training for university graduates nominated by the Ministry of Labour.



Structured workplace training is essential to bridge the gap between education and employment

FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN JAMAL FAKHRO

Under the proposal, firms would be required to train one graduate for every 50 employees for a minimum of three months.

Labour Minister Yousif Khalaf said existing legislation already gives the government sufficient authority to require training through ministerial regulations,



Stronger coordination between universities and employers is essential to improve graduate employment outcomes

ABDULLAH AL NUAIMI, SHURA COUNCIL MEMBER

particularly under Article 16 of the current vocational training law. He cautioned that the proposed amendment would replace a flexible framework with a rigid obligation unsuitable for all business models.

Royal visit



His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa and His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa visited the Marassi Galleria in Bahrain.

Faithful gather for Easter Vigil

TDT | Manama

The Easter Vigil Mass was celebrated at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Arabia and led by Bishop Aldo Berardi, bringing together worshippers for the solemn celebration of the resurrection of Christ.

The service followed the traditional Easter Vigil structure, beginning in darkness and gradually moving into light, symbolizing new life and hope. Key moments included the lighting of the Paschal candle, scripture readings, and the renewal of baptismal promises, creating a reflective and uplifting atmosphere for those in attendance.



One Phone Call Costs Bahraini Woman BD1,030

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

A Bahraini woman lost BD1,030 after falling victim to a phone scam in which a caller posed as a financial company employee and asked her to update her account details.

Believing the call was genuine, she shared a verification code sent to her phone, allowing the scammers to access her account and transfer the money.

BD1,000
Stolen fund that was transferred to the defendant's account.

Investigations revealed that a 26-year-old Asian man, working with an unknown accomplice, carried out the

fraud using the code linked to the victim's bank card and payment app.

BD1,000 of the stolen funds was transferred to the defendant's account and withdrawn the same day. Authorities confirmed the suspect used his own details to open the account and later admitted his involvement.

The case is now before the First High Criminal Court, highlighting the growing threat of phone-based cyber fraud.

Thumbs up for multi-use halls

● Suitable spaces for social gatherings

TDT | Manama

The Northern Municipal Council has approved two proposals to construct multi-use halls in Al Jasra and



Mohammed Saad Al Dosari, Northern Municipal Council member

Budaiya, aimed at supporting youth activities and community events in the areas.

Council member Mohammed Saad Al Dosari said the initiative comes in response to the lack of suitable spaces for social gatherings, as well as cultural, sporting, and youth programmes in both regions.

Suspended Sentence in Workplace Assault and Arson Case

TDT | Manama

A man received a one-year suspended prison sentence (suspended for three years) after the First High Criminal Court convicted him of assaulting his business partner—who is also his brother—and attempting to set fire to company property. The court's decision followed the victim's waiver of his complaint and the defendant's partial admission of responsibility.

Court findings show the

defendant was charged with attempted arson after allegedly trying to ignite a fire inside the workplace, in addition to damaging company property and assaulting the victim. The attempted fire did not materialize due to circumstances beyond his control.

Evidence presented included security camera footage showing the defendant attacking the victim, damaging a cash safe, and pouring a substance over it and nearby documents before attempting

to set them on fire.

The victim testified that the defendant arrived at the office angry, assaulted him, issued threats, and damaged office property during the incident.

Although the defendant later denied the arson allegation, claiming he used water instead of a flammable liquid, the court ruled the evidence was sufficient to establish guilt.

The sentence was suspended due to the reconciliation between both parties.

HM King Hamad's Initiatives Praised for Advancing Global Tolerance

● Kingdom advances peace, coexistence and human values

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has reiterated its steadfast commitment to advancing peace, coexistence, and human values, in line with the vision of His Majesty Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the directives of His Royal Highness Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

His Excellency Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence, said Bahrain continues to strengthen its global role in promoting tolerance, dialogue, and international cooperation through initiatives inspired by the Kingdom's leadership.

Speaking on the occasion of the International Day of Conscience, he said the global conscience is being severely tested amid escalating regional ten-



“Bahrain continues to strengthen its global role in promoting tolerance, dialogue, and international cooperation through initiatives inspired by the Kingdom's leadership”

H.E. DR. SHAIKH ABDULLAH BIN AHMED AL KHALIFA, MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

sions, referring to Iranian attacks targeting civilians and vital infrastructure. He said such actions constitute a clear violation of international law and principles of good neighbourliness.

Obligations

He urged the international community to fulfil its legal and moral obligations by implementing UN Security Council Resolution 2817 and working toward an immediate cessation of these attacks, which he warned threaten both regional stability and global peace.

Dr. Shaikh Abdullah high-

lighted Bahrain's long-standing approach under the leadership of His Majesty the King, noting that the Kingdom has moved beyond humanitarian support to actively foster international solidarity.

He pointed to Bahrain's initiatives, including hosting interfaith and intercultural dialogue forums, launching the “Bahrain Declaration” on religious freedom, and supporting efforts to counter hate speech and extremism. He said these initiatives reflect a comprehensive vision aimed at strengthening peace and human coexistence.

First batch of Sitra Housing Phase Two Handed Over

● 531 residential units distributed

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has taken another step forward in its national housing programme with the distribution of 531 residential units in the second phase of the Sitra Housing City project, as part of ongoing efforts to meet rising housing demand across the Kingdom.

The initiative is being implemented in line with the directives of His Majesty Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to accelerate the delivery of housing projects and achieve the goal of 50,000 new housing units, alongside instructions from His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to provide 7,000 housing services.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning has begun



Keys handed over to eligible housing beneficiaries



7000
Target goal for new housing units under the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister

handing over keys to eligible beneficiaries in the latest batch, marking a key phase in the Sitra development's structured rollout.

Officials said the process is progressing according to plan, underscoring continued efforts to strengthen housing provision and support sustainable community development in the Kingdom.



Fake Complaint Follow-Up Leads to Banking Scam Trial

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court is set to deliver its verdict on April 14 in a case involving an Arab man accused of embezzling more than 12,000 Bahraini dinars from a 50-year-old victim through a sophisticated digital fraud scheme that began with a simple phone call.

The case, described by investigators as a complex mix of deception and cyber manipulation, began when the victim lodged a complaint against a fuel company over disorganized vehicle handling at a petrol station. Shortly after, he received a call from an individual claiming to be a company representative, who assured him that the issue would be resolved.

Victim

Days later, the victim was contacted again and instructed to enter his banking details into a fraudulent link under the pretext of receiving a compensation reward. Once he complied, a total of 12,756 dinars was immediately withdrawn from his account. Investigations revealed that the accused misled the victim by posing as a complaint follow-up officer and obtained sensitive

banking information, which he allegedly used in coordination with an unidentified accomplice. The pair reportedly exploited card verification details and accessed banking systems to carry out unauthorized transfers. The accused was also found to be residing illegally in the country.

Investigation

The Public Prosecution's investigation further showed that the accused admitted to using a mobile banking application and receiving a deposit of 10,000 dinars of unclear origin. Bank records confirmed that multiple transactions were carried out, including withdrawals and transfers linked to cryptocurrency platforms, as well as the activation and use of several Visa cards across different locations.

Financial tracking also uncovered communication between the accused and another individual regarding bank card details and PIN codes. The funds stolen from the victim were moved in several transactions, with portions spent via credit cards, transferred to cryptocurrency platforms, while a small amount was later returned to the victim's account.

All-Inclusive Bahrain–Cochin Travel Plan via Oman



TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Malayalee Business Forum has announced a special repatriation travel package for passengers heading to Kochi, India, scheduled for April 16, 2026. The journey will operate on a multi-leg route via Oman, combining both land and air travel.

The all-inclusive package is priced at 220 BHD and includes flight tickets, Saudi transit visa arrangements, Oman entry facilitation, and transportation throughout the journey.

Package Inclusions:

- Air ticket from Oman to Kochi
- Saudi transit visa
- Oman entry arrangements
- Bus transportation from Bahrain to Oman

Required Documents

- Original passport
- White background photograph
- Bahrain visa copy
- No Objection Certificate (NOC) from employer

Baggage Allowance

- 30 kg checked baggage
- 7 kg hand luggage

Investigation Continues into Detainee Death Case

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The Special Investigation Unit announced that on March 27, 2026, it monitored social media reports regarding the death of a detainee. On the same day, the unit also re-

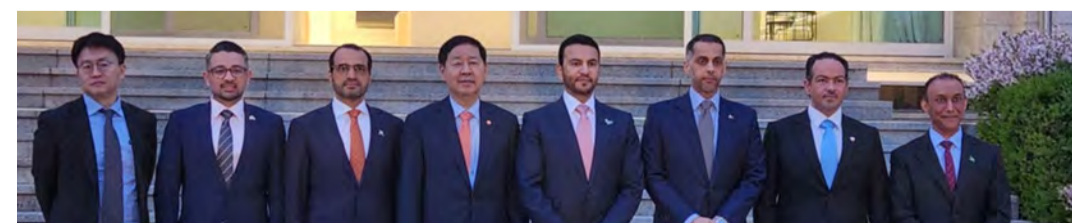
ceived an official notification from the Inspector General of the National Intelligence Agency concerning the same incident. In line with its legal mandate and authority, the unit immediately initiated procedures, launching a broad investigation.

High-level GCC–Korea meeting held in Seoul

TDT | Manama

The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Republic of Korea participated in a meeting held in Seoul between ambassadors of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and Ko Yun-chul, South Korea's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance of South Korea.

At the outset of the meeting, the South Korean minister ex-



GCC and South Korean ambassadors at the event

pressed concern over recent developments in the Middle East, including tensions linked to the Strait of Hormuz. He reaffirmed Seoul's support for

GCC countries and stressed the importance of restoring regional security and stability.

The meeting reviewed ways to enhance coordination be-

tween both sides and expand cooperation in economic and investment fields. Discussions also focused on strengthening public-private partnerships.

Bahrain Bourse Presents 2025 Results to Industry and Commerce minister



His Excellency Mr. Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce, the Minister mandated to carry out the responsibilities of Bahrain Bourse's shareholder met with the Chairman of Bahrain Bourse, Mr. Yusef Abdullah Al Yusef, and the Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Bourse, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al-Khalifa. During the meeting, both parties reviewed Bahrain Bourse's consolidated financial statements as of 31 December 2025. His Excellency commended the positive financial results achieved, praising the ongoing efforts of Bahrain Bourse's leadership and team in enhancing market performance and strengthening the capital market infrastructure. He highlighted that these accomplishments reflect steady progress toward the objectives of Bahrain Bourse's Capital Markets Development Plan 2026-2028 'Elevate', which focuses on elevating the market and enhancing its overall competitiveness.

Financial stocks lead trading at Bahrain Bourse

Index marks 1,880.05 points



Manama

Bahrain All Share Index closed at 1,880.05 points, down 9.58 points from its previous close. The decline was driven by losses in the communications services, financial and real estate sectors.

Meanwhile, Bahrain Islamic Index settled at 902.65 points, slipping 2.13 points. A total of 84 equity transactions were recorded, with a trading volume of 828,612 shares valued at BD 271,888. Trading activity was led by the financial sector, which accounted for 59.54% of the total value of securities traded.

ONE App marks anniversary with Grand Prize Jetour T2 campaign

Campaign offers clients more chances to win through salary account linking and eligible financial services

● Clients can enter the draw by linking their salary account through ONE App

Manama

ONE App, powered by Al Salam Bank, has announced the launch of its anniversary campaign, offering clients the opportunity to enter a grand prize draw to win a brand-new Jetour T2. The campaign is structured to reward clients from 1 April until 31 December 2026 through salary account



linking and the use of select financial services available within the app. Clients can enter the draw by linking their salary account through ONE App, without the need to switch their existing bank. Additional chances to win are granted when clients avail eligible financial services on the platform, including Government Sukuk Subscriptions, Buy Now Pay Later, Advance Salary, Instant Finance, Auto Finance, and Personal Finance, with each successfully completed service providing an additional entry into the draw. The campaign is open to salaried Bahrainis and expatriates

This anniversary campaign marks an important milestone for ONE App and reflects our continued focus on delivering practical and rewarding financial solutions for our clients. By linking participation directly to services available within the app, we are reinforcing the simplicity and convenience of the ONE App experience, while offering clients added value in their everyday financial interactions

MR. HAITHAM AL HADDAD, GENERAL MANAGER OF ONE APP

and is designed to reinforce ONE App's value proposition as a convenient, accessible, and rewarding digital financial platform. Commenting on the launch, Mr. Haitham Al Haddad, Gen-

eral Manager of ONE App, said: "This anniversary campaign marks an important milestone for ONE App and reflects our continued focus on delivering practical and rewarding finan-

cial solutions for our clients. By linking participation directly to services available within the app, we are reinforcing the simplicity and convenience of the ONE App experience, while offering clients added value in their everyday financial interactions." The initiative combines a clear participation framework with a high-value grand prize, supporting increased awareness and adoption of ONE App's financial services offering across Bahrain. Clients can participate by downloading ONE App, linking their salary account, and applying for eligible financial services directly through the platform.

Afghanistan seeks to boost trade with Central Asia to \$10 billion

AFP | Kabul, Afghanistan

Afghanistan aims to increase trade with Central Asian countries to \$10 billion within the next three or four years, Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said yesterday. Trade with Central Asian countries to Afghanistan's north came to about \$2.7 billion in 2025, itself a significant increase over previous years, Muttaqi said. He stated Afghanistan's new trade goal with its neighbours at a "constructive dialogue" meeting in Kabul with representatives from Tajikistan,



Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi (C, back), along with representatives from Central Asian states, takes part in the Afghanistan-Central Asia Consultative Dialogue at the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Kabul

Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. The meeting focused on political, economic and security issues, regional cooperation, trade and the expansion of transit routes. Muttaqi said Afghanistan is seeking to use "its geoeconomic position" to link Central Asia with South and West Asia.

Among the main projects is the TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India) gas pipeline, a major project between Herat in Afghanistan's west and Turkmenistan, of which about 25 kilometres (15 miles) have been completed so far on the Afghan side. The Taliban government is trying to trade with the world,

despite international sanctions on its banking sector that make investors wary. Russia remains the only state to have officially recognised the Taliban authorities, who returned to power in 2021, although countries including Turkey, China, India and the United Arab Emirates have embassies in Afghanistan. Landlocked Central Asia is trying to regain its historic role as an important trading route. Access to the sea, heading south through Afghanistan, is vital because the route north through Russia is hampered by sanctions. Afghanistan shares a 2,329-kilometre border with Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Muttaqi acknowledged that "certain issues such as the threat posed by the Islamic State group, drug trafficking, and illegal migration are among our shared concerns" but said "there are no longer any security problems along our common borders".

Nepal announces two-day weekends to fight energy crunch

● Slashed six days to five for the civil service and educational institutions

AFP | Kathmandu, Nepal

Nepal said yesterday it was cutting the working week from six days to five for the civil service and educational institutions to cope with the energy crisis caused by the Middle East war. Saturday had until now been the only day off each week for such workers in the Himalayan nation. Government spokesperson Sasmith Pokharel told reporters the two-day weekend would come into effect this week. "Given the present uncomfortable situation caused by fuel supply, the government and educational institutions remain closed for two days," Pokharel said. Government offices will now operate from 9 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday.

Pokharel said the government was also exploring legal measures to convert petrol and diesel vehicles to electric power but gave no further details. Nepal, a landlocked nation of 30 million people, relies almost entirely on India for its fossil fuel supplies, leaving it exposed to international price shocks. It nearly doubled aviation fuel prices on Thursday, while the state-owned Nepal Oil Corporation said it had been incurring heavy losses on other petroleum products despite some price hikes.

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Nepal began selling half-filled cooking gas cylinders last month to discourage hoarding and panic buying, with officials urging the public to cut back on fuel use.

2.3

Afghanistan shares a 2,329-kilometre border with Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

NBB announces first Thara'a Grand Prize draw for Luxury Villa and USD 10,000 for 100 winners

TDT | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has announced the first grand prize draw of its Thara'a 2026 campaign, offering one winner a luxury seafront villa and 100 winners USD 10,000 each.

Built around the promise of 'More Winners, More Chances,' the campaign is structured to expand the number of winners while maintaining a simple and accessible participation journey. Customers can enter the draw



As the grand prize draw approaches, we are offering our clients an exceptional opportunity to own the home of their dreams. We continue to reinforce our commitment to our clients by extending cash prizes to more winners, reaffirming our role as a trusted financial partner that delivers real, attainable value

SUBAH ABDULLATIF AL ZAYANI, CHIEF EXECUTIVE - RETAIL BANKING AT NBB

by depositing into their Thara'a account through the NBB App or visiting any branch, ensuring ease of access across all banking channels.

Commenting on the launch, Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani, Chief Executive – Retail Banking at NBB, said, "As the grand prize draw approaches, we are offering our clients an exceptional opportunity to own the home of their dreams. We continue to reinforce our commitment to our clients by extending cash prizes to more winners, reaffirming our

role as a trusted financial partner that delivers real, attainable value."

Customers are encouraged to deposit before 1st May 2026 to be eligible for the first grand prize draw. Through Thara'a 2026, NBB continues to deliver a rewarding proposition that prioritises accessibility, expands opportunity, and aligns closely with the ambitions of its customers.

For the full draw and prize schedule, visit <https://nbbonline.com/> or call 1721 4433.

OPEC+ hikes oil production quotas, issues warning

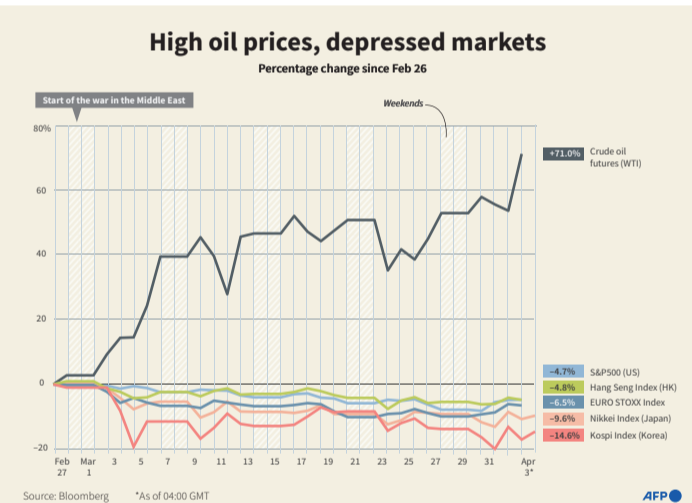
To raise quotas by 206,000 barrels per day (bpd) from May

Warned that damage to energy infrastructure increases oil market volatility, potentially hitting global supplies well into the future

Last month, the eight-strong V8 (Voluntary Eight) group in the OPEC+ cartel also raised production quotas by 206,000 bpd.

AFP | Vienna, Austria

The OPEC+ oil cartel agreed yesterday to again increase oil production quotas, while warning that repairing energy facilities, such as those damaged in the Middle East war, is "costly and takes a long time".



For the second month in a row, OPEC+ countries -- which include key oil producers Russia and Saudi Arabia, as well as several Gulf countries that have been targets of Iranian airstrikes -- agreed to raise quotas by 206,000 barrels per day (bpd) from May.

But OPEC+ warned that dam-

age to energy infrastructure increases oil market volatility, potentially hitting global supplies well into the future.

Its statement also stressed "the critical importance of safeguarding international maritime routes to ensure the uninterrupted flow of energy".

Before the war, about a fifth of

global oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) passed through the Strait of Hormuz.

Ukraine has also been striking Russian oil industry facilities as it seeks to fight back against Moscow's ongoing invasion.

Last month, the eight-strong V8 (Voluntary Eight) group in the OPEC+ cartel also raised production quotas by 206,000 bpd.

On Sunday, the V8 said in a statement that "any actions undermining energy supply security, whether through attacks on infrastructure or disruption of international maritime routes, increase market volatility" and make it more difficult for OPEC+ to manage global prices.

The eight countries -- Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria and Oman -- praised members that managed to find alternate exports routes to deliver oil, "which have contributed to reducing market volatility".

Tender Board Oversaw BD1.69bn in Deals in 2025

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Tender Board oversaw BD1.69 billion worth of government tenders and auctions in 2025 across 1,930 transactions. Savings on tender allocations reached BD165 million and contracts worth BD52.3 million went to small and medium-sized firms.

Its 2025 annual operations report said the total covered awards, extensions, change orders and renewals, showing the scale of state purchasing and the flow of public and development works during the year. The board said 790 tenders and auctions were put on the market in 2025 and drew 4,258 bids from suppliers and contractors. It also dealt with 290 requests for review and complaints.

Registered suppliers and contractors rose to 13,952 by year-end, comprising 10,466 local firms and 3,486 overseas ones. The report put the rise in registrations at 11pc.

The board said savings of BD165 million were made on funds earmarked for tenders. It linked these savings to stronger competition and the use of its electronic tendering system, which helped award work to the best offers in price and

quality.

More than 575,000 electronic notices were sent to suppliers and contractors during the year. The board also widened sector classifications from three to 16, which the report said helped improve targeting and contact with firms.

Regarding handling speed, 85pc of requests were completed within seven days or less, while 96pc were dealt with within 14 days or less. Tender participation also rose by 4.6pc after the board widened its outreach tools and held awareness workshops aimed at lifting competition and improving the standard of bids. Small and medium-sized firms won 247 tenders and auctions with a total value of BD52.3 million. The report said that made up 9.5pc of all awards after tenders of a special nature were excluded.

151

The number of small and medium-sized firms that benefited reached 151, up 11pc from the year before.

Middle East war hits Britain's fish and chip shops

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Before war erupted in the Middle East, fisherman Peter Bruce spent about £5,000 (\$6,600) on diesel to trawl the North Sea for haddock and cod, the main species used in fish and chips.

"Now, the last trip we spent about £10,000," he told AFP, despite his crew reducing the speed of the boat to save fuel.

Bruce, whose boat, Budding Rose, is based in the Scottish port of Peterhead, estimates the extra costs over a year could exceed £100,000.

It was not yet clear whether the rise in energy prices would have an immediate effect on the price of fish, Bruce said. But he is worried that the hike in fuel prices will hit customer demand for the classic British meal that was already facing challenges on numerous fronts.



Representative image. Courtesy of Wikipedia

Bruce's catch is sold at auction in Peterhead before being transported around Britain and abroad. He fears that customers "will stop buying so much fish and chips and they'll stop going out for meals so much".

Classic dish

The classic recipe for fish and chips -- white fish deep-fried in batter, chips, and mushy peas, often with tartare sauce on the side -- dates back to the 1860s. Fish and chip shops usually

serve nothing else and most are take-away. There were around 10,500 fish and chip shops in the UK in 2024 -- roughly the same as a decade earlier -- according to Seafish, a public body supporting the industry.

This was more than the total number of outlets of the nine main fast-food dining brands -- including KFC, McDonald's and Domino's Pizza, it boasted.

Easter is a particularly busy time for the sector since many Britons eat fish on the Good Friday holiday.

Andrew Crook, who owns a fish and chip shop in Lancashire, northwestern England, told AFP the number of customers can more than double on Good Fridays.

Nonetheless, "we're definitely under pressure," said Crook, president of the National Federation of Fish Fryers.

He blamed several factors.

"We've got extremely high fish prices, we've got energy prices; wages go up continually," he lamented.

The war in the Middle East, now in its second month, caused a record monthly rise in petrol and diesel prices in the United Kingdom in March was caused by the conflict, according to data from the Royal Automobile Club (RAC), a British auto services company.

But there are other difficulties.

Oil, fertiliser...

Stricter fishing rules to conserve species, as well as the war in Ukraine -- Russia previously supplied 30 to 40 percent of the country's fish -- had weakened the sector in Britain already, says Crook, and forced it to raise prices.

Another concern is the soaring price of fertilisers and its

impact on production of potatoes and oil seeds. Some 30 percent of the world's fertiliser normally passes through the Strait of Hormuz, which is now almost closed.

Back in 2022, small businesses were worried about a shortage of sunflower oil, since Ukraine was the world's leading exporter of the seeds; now, they are increasingly concerned about the energy cost of heating their cooking oils.

Crook, who sells fish and chips for £11.45 (\$15) per portion, said businesses are looking at options to avoid putting up prices, such as choosing less costly fish species like pollack from North America and South African hake, and reducing portions.

"We do try to cushion consumers," he said, adding that he does not want to raise his prices for now.

Gloomy Easter Sunday



Lebanese Maronite Christian worshippers pray during the Easter Sunday service at the Saint Antoine Church in Beirut

The war has cast a pall over Easter Sunday celebrations for Cristian minorities in Lebanon and across the region. In the usually lively alleyways of Jerusalem's Old City, silence reigned on Sunday. As a security precaution, Israeli authorities have restricted access to the Holy Sepulchre, where the faithful commemorate Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. "It's very hard for all of us

because it's our holiday... It's really hard to want to pray but to come here and find nothing. Everything is closed," said Christina Toderas, 44, from Romania. In his Easter blessing at the Vatican, Pope Leo XIV urged "those who have the power to unleash wars" to "choose peace" instead and criticised global indifference to "the deaths of thousands of people".



A Patriot missile battery is seen near Prince Sultan air base at Al-Kharj

UAE says 'will join any' US-led effort to open Hormuz

UAE says Iran strategy will boost Israeli influence in the Gulf

Iran airport hit

A US-Israeli airstrike hit the Qasem Soleimani international airport in southwestern Iran, state media reported.

Trump appears to extend Iran deadline in cryptic post

US President Donald Trump on Sunday appeared to extend his deadline for Iran to make a deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz or face devastating bombardment, posting a message stating simply: "Tuesday, 8:00 P.M. Eastern Time!" The new deadline, 0000 GMT Wednesday, would push back his ultimatum on Tehran by one day, after which Trump has vowed to destroy the country's power plants and bridges.

Pope urges peace

Pope Leo XIV urged "those who have the power to unleash wars" to "choose peace", in his first Easter blessing as pontiff. "We are growing accustomed to violence, resigning ourselves to it, and becoming indifferent. Indifferent to the deaths of thousands of people," he told a crowd in St Peter's Square.

Israeli strike kills family

An Israeli strike in southern Lebanon killed seven people including a family of six, a source from the Lebanese civil defence told AFP. The family had been waiting for a relative to pick them up in Kfar Hatta, a town around 70 kilometres (45 miles) from the border that Israel had ordered to be evacuated.



First responders look for survivors at the site of an overnight Israeli strike that targeted the southern Lebanese village of Kfar Hatta,

Deal with Iran on Monday!

US President Donald Trump said he believes there is a "good chance" of making a deal with Iran today, ahead of his deadline for Tehran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz or face heavy bombing. "I think there is a good chance tomorrow, they are negotiating now," the president told a Fox News journalist. "If they don't make a deal and fast, I'm considering blowing everything up and taking over the oil," he added.

US President delivers fiery Easter message

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump did not take a break from his polarizing rhetoric on Easter Sunday, delivering an explosive attack on Iran that sparked criticism on Capitol Hill and beyond.

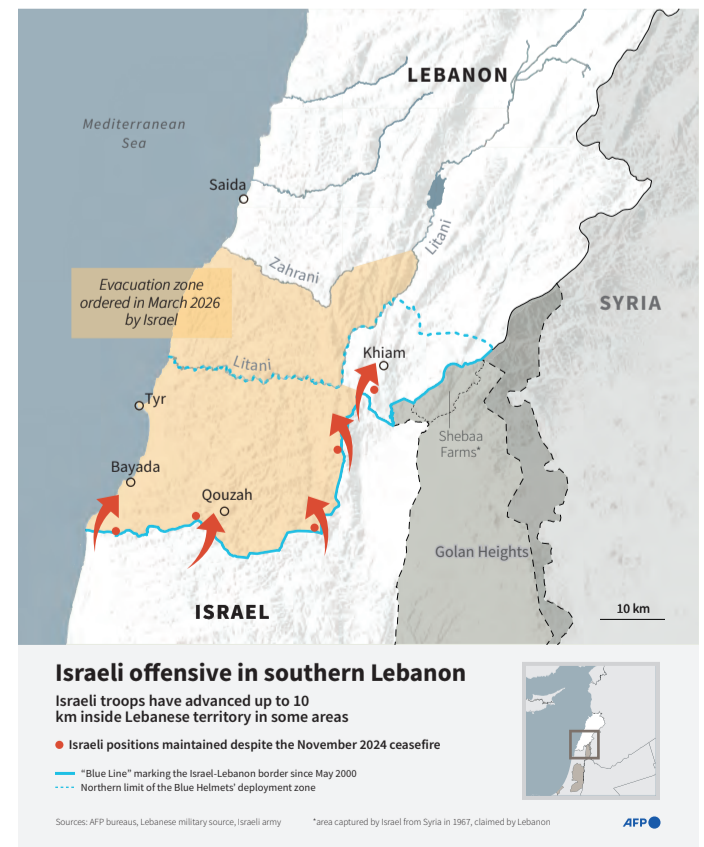
"Open the Strait, or you'll be living in Hell - JUST WATCH!" the president wrote just after 8:00 am, renewing his threat to unleash heavy bombing on Iranian power plants and bridges if Tehran refused to unblock the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

While the Republican president is well known for his straight talk, the post on his Truth Social network raised eyebrows, especially on a Christian holiday. "Happy East-

er, America. As you head off to church and celebrate with friends and family, the President of the United States is ranting like an unhinged madman on social media," Democratic Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said on X.

Marjorie Taylor Greene, the former congresswoman who was once a staunch Trump backer but now a fervent critic, slammed his message, especially on Easter Sunday.

"Everyone in his administration that claims to be a Christian needs to fall on their knees and beg forgiveness from God and stop worshipping the President and intervene in Trump's madness," Greene said in a post on X.



Battle of Thapsus: Julius Caesar defeats Caecilius Metellus Scipio and Marcus Porcius Cato (Cato the Younger) near Thapsus in modern-day Tunisia

Turkish forces under Sultan Mehmed II begin the siege of the Byzantine Empire's capital, Constantinople (now Istanbul), which falls on May 29



Cape Colony, the first European settlement in South Africa, is established by the Dutch East India Company under Jan van Riebeeck

The United States declares war on Germany and enters World War I on the side of the Allies

China FM tells Russia's Lavrov willing to work to 'de-escalate' Mideast war

AFP | Beijing, China

China's top diplomat told his Russian counterpart on Sunday that he is willing to work together to "de-escalate" the war in the Middle East, Beijing's state media reported. Wang Yi told Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in a phone call that "China and Russia should uphold fairness on major issues of principle", state news agency Xinhua said, noting that the call came at Lavrov's request.

Wang said that "the situation in the Middle East is still deteriorating and fighting is escalating", Xinhua reported.

He also reiterated

China's call for an "immediate ceasefire" to the fighting triggered by US-Israeli strikes against Iran that began on February 28.

"China is willing to continue cooperating with Russia in the UN Security Council, communicating promptly on major issues and making efforts to de-escalate the situation and maintain regional peace and stability and global security," Xinhua quoted Wang as saying.

Beijing and Moscow are close economic and political partners, and the relationship has deepened further since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.



Ukraine attacks oil pipeline in Russia

AFP | Moscow, Russia

An Ukrainian drone attacked an oil pipeline near the key Russian Baltic port of Primorsk early yesterday with Russia acknowledging an oil spill but insisting there was no damage.

Ukraine confirmed it staged the latest strike on the port, near the border with Finland, that plays an important role in Russia's oil exports.

Russian air defences shot down 19 drones in the Leninograd region and debris from one "damaged a section of the oil pipeline near the port of Primorsk, and the pipeline is being safely burned out," regional governor Alexander Drozdenko initially said on Telegram.

But two hours later, he wrote: "According to updated informa-



Representative image

tion, the oil pipeline in the area of the port of Primorsk was not damaged."

"The fuel leak occurred due to a shrapnel hit on one of the fuel tanks. The consequences have already been dealt with," he added. No casualties were reported.

Ukraine's drone forces commander Robert Brovdi said that the country's "unmanned systems forces once again struck the Transneft Primorsk port and paid a gracious visit to Lukoil in Kstovo," referring to a refinery of Russia's second-biggest oil firm in another region.

Israel army says residential building in Haifa area hit by direct missile after Iran fire

Trump tells Fox News 'good chance'

Israel renews Lebanon strikes, forces Syria border crossing closed

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Israeli strikes on south Beirut and its suburbs killed at least four people on Sunday, a day after Israel threatened to hit Lebanon's main border crossing with Syria, forcing it to close.

The Israeli military also carried out deadly attacks on Lebanon's south, one of which killed seven people including a family of six.

Israel has launched airstrikes across Lebanon as well as a ground invasion in the south since March 2, when armed

group Hezbollah entered the war in the Middle East on the side of its backer Iran.

One of Israel's strikes in Beirut on Sunday killed at least four people and wounded 39 in the Jnah neighbourhood, the Lebanese health ministry said.

It landed about 100 metres away from the Rafik Hariri University Hospital, the largest public medical facility in Lebanon, a medical source told AFP.

Another attack struck a building elsewhere in the area that the Israeli military had warned it would target.

After the first attack, 53-year-old Jnah resident Nancy Hassan thought she was safe at home.

"Shortly after, the planes were flying overhead, and we heard a huge bang, then stones rained down on us," she told AFP.

Hassan lost her daughter in an Israeli strike on the same area during the 2024 war between Hezbollah and Israel.

"My daughter was killed, she was 23 years old. Today, her friends were killed. Every time, they bomb us in the neighbour-

hood without warning," she added. Zakaria Tawbeh, deputy head of the Rafik Hariri hospital, said they received "four killed, three Sudanese and a 15-year old girl, and 31 wounded".

"Lots of glass was broken, and some of our patients had panic attacks."

Israel also launched several strikes on the nearby southern suburbs, an area now largely evacuated but where Hezbollah holds sway.

In a statement, the military warned it had "begun striking Hezbollah infrastructure sites".

Hezbollah yesterday claimed to have fired a cruise missile at an Israeli warship off the coast, but the Israeli military told AFP it was "not aware" of such an incident.

Iran internet blackout is longest nationwide shutdown on record: NetBlocks

AFP | Paris, France

Iran's internet blackout, which was imposed soon after the US and Israel attacked the country on February 28, is now the longest nationwide shutdown on record, according to the monitor NetBlocks.

"Iran's internet blackout is now the longest nation-scale

internet shutdown on record in any country, exceeding all other comparable incidents in severity having entered its 37th consecutive day after 864 hours," NetBlocks said in a tweet.

In another tweet, the monitor noted some countries had experienced intermittent or regional-level shutdowns over longer periods, while North Korea had never been con-

nected to the global internet at all.

"We constantly find ourselves searching for ways to reconnect, just to be able to hear reliable news," a 47-year-old woman in the central city of Isfahan told AFP Saturday.

"Being without internet feels like being without oxygen to me. I feel trapped and suffocated," a 53-year-old man in

Tehran said.

To connect to the international internet for news or banned social media networks such as Instagram, some are managing to use virtual private networks (VPNs) to disguise their origins in rare moments when network is available.

Iranians suspected of using VPNs since the war began have received text messag-

es warning them of arrest or imprisonment.

Far more limited numbers of people have access to Starlink or other satellite-based internet providers, which are also banned. Iranians were previously placed under an 18-day internet blackout in January amid anti-government protests during which thousands were killed.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Join the @iaeaorg in raising the alarm again over the safety of nuclear facilities in #Iran. The latest incident involving the Bushehr nuclear power plant is a stark reminder: a strike could trigger a nuclear accident, with health impacts that would devastate generations. With every passing day of this escalating conflict, the stakes and threats are raised higher and higher. We must de-escalate now. Peace is the best medicine.

@DrTedros

02



In the light of #Easter, let us allow ourselves to be amazed by Christ! Let us allow our hearts to be transformed by his immense love for us! Let those who have weapons lay them down! Let those who have the power to unleash wars choose peace! Not a peace imposed by force, but through dialogue! Not with the desire to dominate others, but to encounter them!

@Pontifex

03



Greetings on Easter. This sacred day celebrates hope and renewal. May it bring peace, joy and brightness to everyone's lives. May the teachings of Jesus Christ inspire all to be kind and strengthen the spirit of togetherness in society.

@narendramodi

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



Daring Search and Rescue Operations in US History: Trump

US commandos went deep into Iran to rescue downed airman

● Washington has not confirmed the details of how the fighter went down

● Navy SEAL Team 6 commandos were tasked with extracting the airman

● The unidentified airman was equipped with a pistol, a beacon and a secure communications device

AFP | Washington, United States

American commandos deployed deep into Iranian territory to rescue a downed airman, US news outlets reported yesterday, hours after President Donald Trump announced that the crew member had been recovered "safe and sound."

Tehran said this week it had shot down an F-15 warplane, the first US fighter jet to go down inside Iran since the start of the war. Washington has not confirmed the details of how the fighter went down.

Trump said early Sunday that the US military had "pulled off one of the most daring Search and Rescue Operations in U.S. History, for one of our incredible



Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) official website Sepah News reportedly shows the wreckage and remains of targeted and crashed aircraft in central Iran

Crew Member Officers, who also happens to be a highly respected Colonel, and who I am thrilled to let you know is now SAFE and SOUND!"

In a subsequent post, Trump described the rescue mission -- as well as another operation to pick up the pilot -- as "an AMAZ-

ING show of bravery and talent by all!"

"I will be having a News Conference, with the Military, at the Oval Office, on Monday, at 1:00 P.M. (1700 GMT)," he added.

Navy SEAL Team 6 commandos were tasked with extracting the airman, while US attack

aircraft dropped bombs and opened fire on Iranian convoys to keep them away, The New York Times reported, citing an unidentified official.

Though wounded, the airman, a weapon systems officer, could still walk, evading capture in the mountains for more than a day, according to news outlet Axios, which cited a US official.

The unidentified airman was equipped with a pistol, a beacon and a secure communica-

tions device to coordinate with rescuers, The New York Times reported.

American commandos converging on the officer fired their weapons to keep Iranian forces away from the rescue site, the Times said.

Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform that he had directed the US military to send "dozens of aircraft, armed with the most lethal weapons in the World, to retrieve" him.

"He sustained injuries, but he will be just fine," Trump wrote.

His second post however said the airman had been "seriously wounded," without elaborating.

Complex operation

Two of the planes meant to transport the airman and his rescuers to safety were stuck in a remote base in Iran and had to be destroyed to prevent them from falling into Iranian hands, The New York Times and CBS reported.

US forces then used three other transport planes to carry the airman and his rescuers out of Iran. The Iranian military said on Sunday the US operation to rescue the airman had used an abandoned airport in southern Isfahan province.

Ebrahim Zolfaghari, spokesman for the Iranian military's central command, also said two US "C-130 military transport planes and two Black Hawk helicopters were destroyed."

The CIA reportedly launched a deception campaign to spread word inside Iran that US forces were moving the airman out of the country on the ground.

In his initial post, Trump confirmed the "successful rescue of another brave Pilot, yesterday," adding it was not disclosed to avoid jeopardizing the second rescue mission.

"This is the first time in military memory that two U.S. Pilots have been rescued, separately, deep in Enemy Territory," he wrote, adding that both operations were concluded "without a SINGLE American killed, or even wounded."



The F-15 has an extraordinary combat record with 100+ aerial victories and zero losses in dogfights (as of publicly known data). Most of these wins were by the Israeli Air Force.

In 1983, an Israeli F-15 landed safely after losing almost an entire wing mid-air—an incredible example of its structural strength and pilot control.

It can carry over 7,000 kg of weapons, including missiles and bombs, making some versions (like the Strike Eagle) both a fighter and a bomber.

Still in service after 50 years

First flown in 1972, it remains in active use with upgrades, proving how advanced its original design was.

Top speed

F-15 can reach speeds of over Mach 2.5 (more than 3,000 km/h).

Global operator

Apart from the US, countries like Israel, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and South Korea operate F-15 variants.



Bangladesh says suspected measles outbreak kills about 100 children

AFP | Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh said it suspected measles killed at least 98 children in the past three weeks, official data showed Sunday, with Dhaka ramping up vaccination efforts in the worst-affected areas.

Last week, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman directed two senior ministers to travel across the South Asian nation of 170 million people in an effort to assess the scale of the crisis to help coordinate a response.

Health ministry data released on Sunday showed that children aged between six months and five years old with suspected measles symptoms soared to 6,476.

"Compared with past years, the number of affected children



Representative picture. (Courtesy of TRT World)

is higher, and the death toll is higher too," Halimur Rashid, director at the Communicable Disease Control, told AFP referring to the number in suspected cases.

The largest number of suspected cases on record was in 2005 at 25,934, according to World Health Organization (WHO) data, though that num-

ber had significantly declined until this year.

Rashid attributed the potential outbreak to "multifactorial causes, including a shortage of vaccines".

Confirmed numbers of measles cases among the demographic stand at 826, with only 16 deaths, with experts saying in many cases, testing is either not done or patients die before testing can be done.

Measles is one of the world's most contagious diseases, according to the WHO, and is transmitted when a person coughs or sneezes.

While the disease can affect a person of any age, it is most common among children and can cause complications, including brain swelling and severe breathing problems.

Eight Israelis held after assault on Palestinian village

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israeli police said yesterday eight suspects were arrested after an overnight attack by Israeli civilians on a Palestinian village in the occupied West Bank.

"Last night, forces... were called to the village of Qusra in Samaria following a report of an assault and arson of property by Israeli civilians," a police statement said, using a Biblical term for the northern West Bank.

"During searches, eight suspects were arrested by the forces on suspicion of being in a closed military zone and of involvement in the incident, and were taken in for questioning."

The suspects were aged

between 18 and 48, and during their searches the police also found an M-16 assault rifle issued by the army.

The Palestinian official news agency WAFA, citing local sources, reported that the assault had been carried out by Israeli settlers.

WAFA said they had operated "under the protection of Israeli forces" and "set fire to two poultry farming structures".

A 32-year old Palestinian man was assaulted, and rescuers said he had "sustained a deep head wound".

The news agency said the settlers had tried earlier on Saturday evening to attack homes in the village, but residents con-

fronted them.

Qusra, located between Nablus and Ramallah, on March 14 witnessed a deadly attack by settlers who gunned down a local resident and wounded two more, Palestinian officials said.

Violence in the West Bank, which Israel has occupied since 1967, has risen sharply since the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack on Israel triggered the Gaza war.

There has also been a spike in deadly attacks by Israeli settlers in the West Bank since the start of the Iran war, Palestinian authorities and the United Nations have said, with at least six Palestinians killed since March 1.

British royals attend Easter service without Andrew

Charles is to make a state visit to the United States later this month

● The family appeared together in public for the first time since the former Prince Andrew was arrested in February

AFP | London, United Kingdom

The British royal family yesterday attended a traditional Easter service at Windsor, making a show of family unity in their first appearance together since the arrest of the former Prince Andrew, whose family did not attend.

On a sunny morning, King Charles III and his wife Camilla arrived at St George's Chapel within the grounds of Windsor Castle, west of London, with a group of other royals that the BBC described as "slightly slimmed down".

The family appeared together in public for the first time since the former Prince Andrew was arrested in February following revelations in the released mes-



(L-R) Dean of Windsor, Christopher Cocksworth, Vice Admiral Timothy Laurence, Britain's Prince William, Prince of Wales, Britain's Prince George of Wales, Britain's Princess Charlotte of Wales, Britain's Prince Louis of Wales and Britain's Catherine, Princess of Wales leave St George's Chapel, in Windsor, west of London, after attending the Easter Matins Service

sages of US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Charles, 77, is to make a state visit to the United States later this month, his first as monarch. Prince William and his wife

Catherine, the Princess of Wales, wearing a beige suit and hat, attended the service with their three children. The family smiled and waved at well-wishers as they entered the chapel.

Catherine attended the Matins service for the first time in three years. She was absent in 2024 as she underwent cancer treatment and her family opted not to attend last year's event.

Also present were Charles' brother, Prince Edward and his son and Charles's sister Princess Anne with her husband.

The Epstein files have exposed the convicted financier's longstanding ties with Andrew and his ex-wife Sarah Ferguson, who has also been stripped of her Duchess of York title.

Neither attended this year's Easter service, while Andrew and Ferguson, who lived together until recently despite being divorced, made a surprise appearance at last year's event.

Their daughters, Eugenie and Beatrice, said ahead of the service that they had made alter-

native plans, although a royal source told AFP that they would be seen at future family celebrations.

Eugenie and Beatrice, who retain their princess titles, attended a Christmas church service last year without their parents.

Prince Edward went to see his isolated brother at Sandringham estate in eastern England this week, becoming the first royal to visit Andrew in two months, The Sun tabloid reported.



In 2019, Prince Andrew stepped back from public royal duties following a widely criticised interview with the BBC regarding his links to Jeffrey Epstein.

Artemis astronauts glimpse Moon's 'Grand Canyon' ahead of historic lunar flyby

AFP | Houston, United States

The Artemis astronauts have taken in sights of the Moon never before seen by human eyes, crew members reported on Sunday as their spacecraft crossed the two-thirds mark on their journey to a long-anticipated lunar flyby.

As the astronauts went to bed in the early hours of Sunday, closing out the fourth day of their 10-day mission, they were nearly 200,000 miles (321,869 kilometers) from Earth and 82,000 miles from the Moon, according to NASA's online dashboard.

The US space agency published on Sunday an image taken by the Artemis crew, showing a distant Moon with the Orientale basin visible.

"This mission marks the first time the entire basin has been seen with human eyes," NASA said. The massive crater, which resembles a bullseye, had been photographed before by orbiting cameras.

Speaking to Canadian children live from space, astronaut Christina Koch said the crew was most excited to see the basin -- sometimes known as the Moon's "Grand Canyon."

"It's very distinctive and no human eyes previously had seen this crater until today, really, when we were privileged enough to see it," Koch said during the question-and-answer session hosted by the Canadian Space Agency.

The next major milestone is expected overnight Sunday into Monday, at which point the astronauts will enter the "lunar



NASA's commander Reid Wiseman, Canadian Space Agency's mission specialist Jeremy Hansen and NASA's mission specialist Christina Koch during a brief demonstration of the food they eat in space to respond a question during a "VIP call" with Canadian children inside the Orion spacecraft while on their way to the Moon

sphere of influence," where the Moon's gravity will have stronger pull on the spacecraft than Earth's.

If all proceeds smoothly, as the Orion spacecraft whips around the Moon the astronauts -- Americans Koch, Reid Wiseman and Victor Glover along with Canadian Jeremy Hansen -- could set a record by venturing farther from Earth than any human before.

Flyby plans reviewed

NASA said the Artemis crew has completed a manual piloting demonstration and reviewed their lunar flyby plan, including reviewing the surface features they must analyze and

photograph during their time circling the Moon.

Earlier, the astronauts kicked off their day with a meal that included scrambled eggs and coffee, NASA said, and had woken up to the tune of Chappell Roan's pop smash "Pink Pony Club."

"Morale is high on board," commander Reid Wiseman told Houston's Mission Control center as the space crew's work day began.

The father of two girls was in high spirits in part because he had the chance to speak with his daughters from space.

"We're up here, we're so far away, and for a moment, I was reunited with my little family,"

he told a live press conference. "It was just the greatest moment of my entire life."

It's a feat Wiseman has dubbed "Herculean" and which humanity has not accomplished in more than half-a-century.

The astronauts have had geology training in order to be able to photograph and describe lunar features, including ancient lava flows and impact craters.

They'll see the Moon from a unique vantage point compared with the Apollo missions of the 1960s and 70s.

Apollo flights flew some 70 miles above the lunar surface, but the Artemis 2 crew will be just over 4,000 miles at their

This handout picture by an Artemis II crew member provided by NASA shows Artemis II mission specialist Christina Koch looking back at earth through the window of the Orion spacecraft

"Last night, we did have our first view of the moon far side, and it was just absolutely spectacular," Koch, the mission specialist, said during a live interview from space.

John Honeycutt, manager of NASA's Space Launch System program, shared at a briefing Saturday a new image transmitted by the astronauts.

"On the far left, you can see features of the Moon that have never been seen by human eyes until yesterday," Honeycutt said, explaining that only robotic imagers had previously "seen" that region.

The Artemis 2 crew has been busy taking photographs, including with smartphones, devices NASA recently approved to take aboard spaceflights.

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

The Artemis 2 mission is part of a longer-term plan to repeatedly return to the Moon, with the goal of establishing a permanent lunar base that will offer a platform for further exploration.

It's a highly anticipated journey that demands exacting precision -- but there's still room for the astronauts to live out their childhood dreams of spaceflight.

"It just makes me feel like a little kid," said Hansen recently, describing the joy of floating.

closest approach, which will allow them to see the complete, circular surface of the Moon, including regions near both poles.

Never before seen

The Artemis 2 astronauts have already seen brand-new perspectives.



Gaza's health system is on the brink amid the supply blockade

The humanitarian situation in Gaza Strip is rapidly deteriorating as critical shortages of medical supplies threaten thousands of lives, according to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

In a statement, MSF warned that restrictions imposed by Israeli authorities since early 2026 have blocked the entry of essential medical supplies into the enclave. These include life-saving antibiotics, painkillers, surgical tools, and basic wound care materials.

"Thousands of patients are at risk as vital medicines and

equipment remain unavailable," MSF said, highlighting the growing strain on an already fragile healthcare system.

Access

The organization also noted that international medical teams have been denied access to Gaza, further compounding the crisis as casualties continue to rise amid ongoing escalation.

MSF pointed to restrictions at key border crossings, including Kerem Shalom Crossing, which have disrupted the flow of humanitarian aid and delayed ur-



Medical personnel to the rescue



International medical teams have been denied access to Gaza, further compounding the crisis as casualties continue to rise amid ongoing escalation.

gent treatment for critically ill patients.

"The continuation of these restrictions could lead to a complete collapse of healthcare services," the organization warned.

Meanwhile, World Health Organization confirmed that no medical supplies or medicines have been allowed into Gaza, reinforcing concerns over the worsening crisis.

Saudi Arabia Condemns Attack on UAE Embassy in Damascus

Saudi Arabia strongly condemned acts of rioting, assault, and attempted vandalism targeting the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates and the residence of its head of mission in Damascus.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs denounced unacceptable attacks, including offenses directed at the UAE's national symbols in Syria.

The Kingdom reaffirmed its firm rejection of such actions, stressing that violence against diplomatic personnel and missions is a clear violation of international norms.



Saudi Arabia further underscored the importance of ensuring full protection for diplomats

and diplomatic premises, in line with established international laws and conventions.

Zelensky, Syrian Leader Hold First Talks in Damascus

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky held landmark talks in Damascus with Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa yesterday, focusing on security cooperation and regional stability amid escalating tensions linked to the Iran war.

The visit marks Zelensky's first trip to Syria since diplomatic relations were restored following the fall of former leader Bashar al-Assad, signaling a reset in ties between the two nations.

Positioning Ukraine as a strategic partner in the region, Zelensky highlighted Kyiv's readiness to share its battlefield experience, particularly in countering drone and missile threats developed during its prolonged war with Russia.

Security

"We see strong potential to work together on security and development," Zelensky said, noting mutual interest in exchanging military expertise.

Security cooperation fea-



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky with Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa

tured prominently in the discussions, with Syria seeking to strengthen its defense capabilities at a time of heightened regional uncertainty. Ukraine's expertise in modern warfare is increasingly presented as a valuable asset for countries facing evolving security threats.

In addition to defense, talks

also turned to economic resilience. Zelensky underscored Ukraine's role as a key global grain supplier, offering support to enhance food security efforts across the region.

Both sides explored collaboration opportunities to ensure stable food supplies and strengthen economic ties.

Abu Dhabi launches plan to train 20,000 emergency responders



Launch of the ambitious strategic plan

The Government of Abu Dhabi has unveiled an ambitious strategic plan to train 20,000 frontline personnel across key sectors, aiming to strengthen the country's emergency and crisis response capabilities.

The initiative will cover both healthcare and non-healthcare workers, including staff from healthcare facilities, emergency medical services, security entities, and other critical sectors involved in handling major incidents. The training will be delivered through a unified, integrated, and internationally accredited framework to ensure consistency and high standards

across all participating entities.

The announcement was made during the opening of the National Emergency Response Forum "Istijaba," held in Abu Dhabi and organized by the UAE National Programme for Preparedness and Response "Jahezia." The forum marks the launch of a nationwide initiative aligned with the strategic plan, focusing on enhancing the readiness and efficiency of frontline responders.

The forum is part of ongoing national efforts to establish a proactive and comprehensive system centered on preparedness and effective response, enhancing the UAE's ability to

manage various risks and crises with high efficiency and professionalism. The program is based on a comprehensive training framework that combines theoretical and practical components, including training programs, simulation exercises, and multi-agency response scenarios. It follows a unified national methodology that is internationally accredited and has been developed in partnership with leading global institutions. With an annual budget exceeding AED 100 million, the initiative ensures the sustainability of training efforts and the qualification of certified trainers to prepare frontline personnel.

Italy backs UAE



During an official reception hosted by HH Shaikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan President of the United Arab Emirates, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni reiterated her country's firm stance against "terrorist attacks" linked to Iran. Meloni strongly denounced the assaults, emphasizing that such actions threaten regional stability and violate international norms. She stressed that Italy stands firmly with the UAE in all measures it takes to defend itself, safeguard its sovereignty, and ensure the safety of its citizens and territory.

celebs



Taylor Swift

Taylor Swift faces The Life of a Showgirl lawsuit over chart topping album name

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Taylor Swift is being sued by an entertainer over her album *The Life of a Showgirl*. The 36-year-old pop star, whose latest chart topping hit record was released in October 2025, is facing legal action from writer Maren Wade over a supposed claim to a similar name.

According to The Hollywood Reporter,

in a lawsuit filed on Monday (30.03.26) Wade has accused Swift and UMG recordings of trademark infringement, false designation and unfair competition.

She is seeking unspecified damages, as well as a court order blocking the Opalite hitmaker from continuing to use the name.

In a statement, her lawyer Jaymie Parkinnen said: "A solo performer who spent twelve years building a

brand shouldn't have to watch it disappear because someone bigger came along."

The former *America's Got Talent* contestant started writing a column called *Confessions of a Showgirl* in the *Las Vegas Weekly* back in 2014, reflecting on her time as a performer in the entertainment world.

The column has since been developed into a podcast, plus a live show featuring pop and jazz music, and Wade's

trademark covers a range of things included theatrical productions, TV and live stage performances.

Regarding the release of Swift's album *The Life of a Showgirl*, the complaint reads: "They did not do so quietly."

"Within weeks, the designation was affixed to consumer goods, stamped onto labels, tags, and packaging, and deployed as a source identifier across retail channels — all directed at the same audience Plaintiff had

spent years cultivating."

The lawsuit alleges that when the Anti-Hero singer applied to register the album title, the application was denied by the US Patent and Trademark Office.

It's said it was declined because it was confusingly similar to the previously mark, with both names sharing the key "of a Showgirl" phrase.

Sophie Turner injured while filming Tomb Raider

Showbiz | Los Angeles

Sophie Turner has been injured while filming the new *Tomb Raider* TV series.

Production on the small screen reboot of the video game franchise has been "paused" after the lead actress - who plays Lara Croft - suffered an unspecified injury and she will be taking time off to recover.

Sophie Turner

A statement from Amazon MGM Studios released to Deadline.com explained: "Sophie Turner recently experienced a minor injury. As a precaution, production has briefly paused to allow her time to recover. We look forward to resuming production as soon as possible."

The Sun newspaper reports Sophie aggravated a previous back injury which she discovered during training for the series.

A source told the publication: "It's been chaos on set and now the whole show is in jeopardy."

"Sophie has been throwing herself into the role, but the gruelling physicality of being Lara Croft has meant she has pushed her body too far."

"Many on set fear Sophie may have to be replaced altogether now, as she may not bounce back in time. It's been a hugely

physical role and pushed her to the limit.

"But so much has already been shot that it's causing a real headache for producers."

Sophie recently opened up about her back issues explaining she discovered a problem when she spent months trying to get into shape for the physically demanding role.

Speaking on *The Julia Cunningham Show*, the actress explained: "We've been doing eight hours a day, five days a week since February of last year, of training. Yeah, so it's been a lot. I've learned I have a perpetual back problem, but I also realized that it's much easier to kind of build muscle if you've ever worked out before in your life, which I never had, so it has taken me months and months to get into good shape. That's what I've learned."

Orlando Bloom shares glimpse of 'love language lately'

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Orlando Bloom has shared a glimpse of his "love language lately"

The actor, 49, made the statement on social media after going public with a new relationship following his split from 40-year-old singer Katy Perry.

Orlando confirmed the end of his relationship with Katy last year, with the pair continuing to co-parent their daughter Daisy, five.

He is now reported to be dating Swiss model Luisa Laemmel, 28, after the pair were seen together during a recent trip to Switzerland.

In a new Instagram post, Orlando shared images from a snow-filled getaway alongside moments with his daughter, including a beach walk and a clip of Daisy in his arms watching the sunset.

The post also featured a female hand with red nail polish, a photograph of Grape Hyacinths, and an image of Orlando in a bathtub with his back turned.

The trip is understood to have included a stay at the The Dolder Grand, where rooms can reach £13,700 per night, during a visit linked to a promotional event for Porsche.

Captioning the post, Orlando wrote: "Love language lately".

The images prompted responses from followers, with one writing: "Looks lovely on all Orlando Bloom

levels."

Another said: "Life looks amazing in your recovery phase".

A third added: "Oh, Orlando, what a man you are!"

Further comments included: "You look stunningly handsome Orlando" and "Best place to relax, Switzerland".

Orlando - who rose to fame in epic franchises including *Pirates of the Caribbean* - was first linked to Luisa last month after being seen leaving the Super Bowl together.

The pair were spotted at Levi's Stadium, where an onlooker said they were "touchy-feely" during a date night.

Luisa, who has modelled for Calvin Klein, also shared images from the event on her social media, showing her in white jeans and a tan jacket.

Inside the stadium, Orlando was seen with friends including Jamie Foxx.

Meanwhile, Katy has moved on with Canada's former prime minister Justin Trudeau, 54, with the pair said to have begun seeing each other in the autumn.



Orlando Bloom

Bruce Willis filmed Gorillaz video for free

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Bruce Willis refused to take a fee for his appearance in Gorillaz's *Stylo* video.

The *Die Hard* star made a cameo in the promo for the band's 2010 song playing an armed thug pursuing the animated characters through the desert in a stylistic car chase and Gorillaz illustrator Jamie Hewlett has now revealed the Hollywood actor worked for free so the group left him some "nice red wine" in his trailer to say thank you.

During an interview with Zane Lowe for Apple Music, Jamie revealed the only request Bruce made was for a helicopter ride so he could get back to a children's birthday party after the shoot. Jamie said: "Bruce was a real sweetheart. He was



Bruce Willis

so nice and he didn't charge to be in the video.

"We did in Barstow in-between Vegas and LA and he said: 'Yeah I'll do it I'll come on a Sunday just can you fly me out by helicopter because I've got a kids birthday party to get back to. But I don't want to be paid."

Jamie added: "We bought some nice red wine for his trailer. He arrived. He was a sweetheart and he did it. Then he got back in his helicopter and off he went ... back to his kids birthday party."

Jamie previously explained how the connection to Bruce came about revealing he came to see the band perform in Paris, France and took them for a night out on the town.

In an interview with *Three News New Zealand* back in 2010, Jamie explained: "A very good friend of ours, [businessman] Robert Kraft, came to see the show in Paris ... and he said: 'Can I bring a friend?' and I said: 'Sure, sure'."

"And so we met him at the door and sure enough his friend was Bruce. So I said to Bruce:

'Why are you in Paris?' And he said he was looking for an apartment. And I said did you find anything nice? And he said he'd seen an apartment that used to belong to D'Artagnan and it was a bit cramped. I didn't know if he was being serious."

"And he sat and watched the show with me, which was really surreal and he kept going: 'This is great, man. This is really great'."

Jamie added of their big night out with the Hollywood star: "Then we went out afterwards and we hit Paris and obviously he knew all the nightspots and we got in everywhere and we had a really good time with him."

"And then met him a few more times and then he did the *Stylo* video. For free. Because he's a good guy."

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Van Dijk apologises for Liverpool thumping by Man City

Arne Slot faces mounting pressure following a heavy FA Cup quarter-final defeat

● Van Dijk concedes a first-half penalty

● Calls for immediate squad unity

AFP | London

Virgil Van Dijk apologised to Liverpool fans after admitting his side gave up during their FA Cup quarter-final defeat against Manchester City.

Arne Slot's team slumped to a dismal 4-0 loss at the Etihad Stadium on Saturday, leaving Van Dijk furious with their second-half display.

Already trailing 2-0 at half-time after Erling Haaland's brace, Liverpool conceded again immediately following the restart as Antoine Semenyo netted before Haaland completed his hat-trick.

Liverpool's limp surrender sparked a mass exodus of their



Liverpool's French defender #05 Ibrahima Konate (C) and Liverpool players react to their defeat on the pitch

8,000 fans well before the final whistle.

Van Dijk acknowledged he was culpable after conceding a penalty that Haaland converted in the first half and the Reds captain said his team-mates must also accept the blame.

"I can only apologise to the fans for what we have shown, especially the second half," he said.

"Obviously you come out with the right intentions from the dressing room, to hopefully score for 2-1 as soon as possible to change the game.

"The opposite happens and to come back from 3-0 is obviously very difficult here -- but also

8,000

Liverpool fans sparked a mass exodus from the Etihad Stadium well before the final whistle after watching their side capitulate 4-0 to Manchester City

you shouldn't give up and that's maybe, at a certain point, what happened.

"We let our fans down, we let ourselves down, and the manager. The way we played in the second half, especially, must hurt for everyone. It definitely

hurts me."

The dismal result intensified the pressure on Slot ahead of a daunting Champions League quarter-final first leg against Paris Saint-Germain in France on Wednesday.

With their hopes of domestic silverware dashed by City, Liverpool have to focus on winning the Champions League and qualifying for next season's tournament.

Urging his squad to stay united as the pressure mounts, Van Dijk said: "It's a together thing, isn't it? Obviously he's responsible as the manager but we are the ones on the pitch that have to do it.

Messi marks new stadium with goal but Miami held by Austin

AFP | Miami

Lionel Messi marked the opening of Inter Miami's gleaming new stadium with a goal as the Major League Soccer champions battled to a 2-2 draw against Austin FC on Saturday.

Inter Miami's co-owner David Beckham was among the star-studded crowd as the club's 26,000-capacity Nu Stadium made its debut, marking the end of a more-than-decade-long journey to find a permanent home.

"To see this stadium come to life, after years and years of trying to get this stadium up and running in Miami is something that's very special," Beckham said shortly before kick-off.

"I came to America in the MLS 20 years ago and I made a lot of promises. And 13 years ago I made a lot of promises again announcing I was coming to Miami.

"Today it's just a dream come true for us." But while the match kicked off in celebratory fashion, with Beckham joining billionaire Inter Miami managing owner



Inter Miami's Argentine forward #10 Lionel Messi is challenged by Austin's Honduran midfielder #30 Joseph Rosales and Austin's Spanish midfielder #06 Ilie Sanchez

Jorge Mas in a pre-game ribbon-cutting ceremony, Austin refused to follow the script.

The Texas club, who went into the game with only one win from five matches, had stunned the home crowd after only six minutes, with Guilherme Biro nodding in a corner from Falcundo Torres to make it 1-0 to

the visitors.

Messi though did not take long to open his account in his new surroundings.

Right-back Ian Fray burst down the flank and crossed for Messi, who equalized with a rare headed goal to make it 1-1.

Inter Miami dominated pos-

To see this stadium come to life, after years and years of trying to get this stadium up and running in Miami is something that's very special. I came to America in the MLS 20 years ago and I made a lot of promises. And 13 years ago I made a lot of promises again announcing I was coming to Miami. Today it's just a dream come true for us

DAVID BECKHAM

session thereafter and carved out a string of chances, with Mateo Silvestri twice going close with a shot in the 34th minute before heading wide four minutes later.

But Austin's dogged defence and speed on the counter continued to pose problems for the hosts, and they once again took the lead after 53 minutes.

Two fathers turn grief into action



Participants of Menathon gather before the Dubai-to-Abu Dhabi relay

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

What began as casual runs along Kite Beach in Dubai has grown into something much bigger for Dayle Hallam and Tom Kinsey. Yesterday, the two friends completed a relay run from Dubai to Abu Dhabi in under 23 hours. The challenge was not only a test of endurance, but also a way to raise awareness for men's mental health and create a space where men can talk openly about struggles often kept in silence.

For Hallam, the run carried a deeply personal weight. It honors his

17-month-old son, Henry, whom he lost. "I don't struggle to be open because I own everything that's happened in my life, including the parts I'm not proud of. They are still part of my journey," he told The Daily Tribune.

Kinsey, a constant presence through Hallam's grief, stepped in completely after Henry's passing. He managed both practical and emotional responsibilities so Hallam could grieve. Kinsey has also faced his own mental health challenges, including postnatal depression after the birth of his second son, an experience that gave him a personal understanding of the struggles many fathers face.

"Menathon has been a lifeline for

me in my darkest times," he told TDT. "Being able to lean on the community we created, who have become some of my closest mates, is a full-circle moment."

Their bond goes beyond friendship. Hallam said Kinsey pushes him to be a better person and father. "He is a shining example of a good man and an even better father," Hallam added. Their families are closely connected. Hallam is godfather to Kinsey's son, and Kinsey is godfather to Hallam's unborn daughter, Maisie Hope.

Hallam continues to navigate fatherhood while raising his daughter, Marnie, and processing grief. "I



Dayle Hallam and Tom Kinsey embrace after completing the challenge

have struggled at times, but you learn through experience, even in the hardest moments," he said.

Kinsey added that after Hallam's loss, he wanted to be there for him and his family in every way he could. "It was sometimes overwhelming, but it has made me value every moment supporting them even more. An extra cuddle or an extra bedtime story is never too much to give," he said.

From these personal challenges grew Menathon, now a structured program meeting twice a week. Team-based exercises help men build trust, open up, and confront their emotions. Active in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, Menathon

also hosts father-and-child sessions to model resilience and emotional openness.

Kinsey said Menathon was seen as a big bravado community at first. "Seeing guys in good shape, with beards and tattoos, being vulnerable really gives way for others to open up and see it as a strength rather than a weakness. It is okay to not be okay. It is okay to struggle and ask for help," he explained.

For Hallam and Kinsey, the lesson is simple. The right environment can make all the difference. By showing up physically and emotionally, men can begin to heal together, one step at a time.

Rosenior in a 'good place' with Fernandez despite Chelsea star's ban

AFP | London

Liam Rosenior insisted his relationship with Chelsea midfielder Enzo Fernandez is in a "good place" despite his controversial decision to ban the Argentine for two matches.

Blues boss Rosenior opted to drop Fernandez for Saturday's 7-0 win over Port Vale in the FA Cup quarter-finals after he hinted he would be willing to leave Stamford Bridge at the end of the season.

Fernandez's agent slammed the suspension as "completely unfair" but he was forced to watch the demolition of third-tier Vale from the stands.

The 25-year-old will be axed again when the Blues face Manchester City in a crucial Premier League clash next weekend in the race to qualify for the Champions League.

Having appeared to court Real Madrid, Fernandez left Rosenior



Chelsea's Argentinian midfielder #08 Enzo Fernandez (C) fights for the ball

determined to stamp his authority on the squad during a four-game losing streak, including Champions League elimination against Paris Saint-Germain.

But Rosenior said his issues with Fernandez will not fester once the ban is over.

"That's his opinion," said Rosenior of the agent's remarks. "I don't have anything to say on someone else's opinion. Enzo knows what I think of him and it was brilliant to see him here to support the players today.

"In the right time, in the right moment, which isn't now, going through what we've gone through, I'm sure the discussion will happen in terms of what's been said between me and Enzo.

"Enzo and I are in a very good place. I saw him today, had a really good conversation with him today one-to-one. Things aren't what people maybe think they are."

Jorrel Hato and Joao Pedro scored for Chelsea in the first

half against Vale before Jordan Lawrence-Gabriel's own goal increased their lead by the interval.

Tosin Adarabioyo, Andrey Santos, Estevao Willian and Alejandro Garnacho netted after the break to complete the rout.

In the absence of Fernandez and Reece James, Cole Palmer was given the captain's armband for the first time, a role which Rosenior believes the England forward is ready to take on.

Jokic out-duels Wemby as Nuggets down Spurs in overtime



Denver's Nikola Jokic scores against Victor Wembanyama

AFP | Los Angeles

Nikola Jokic scored 40 points to propel the Denver Nuggets to a 136-134 overtime victory over Victor Wembanyama and San Antonio on Saturday, halting the Spurs' 11-game NBA winning streak.

Three-time NBA Most Valuable Player Jokic added eight rebounds, 13 assists and three blocked shots for Denver, who won their eighth straight game and inched closer to the Los Angeles Lakers for third seed in the Western Conference.

MVP candidate Wembanyama, back after missing one game to rest a sore ankle, scored 34 points with 18 rebounds, seven assists and five

blocked shots for the Spurs, who led most of the contest but couldn't resist the Nuggets' late surge.

Aaron Gordon, fed by Jokic, threw down a dunk to tie it at 124-124 with 6.2 seconds left in regulation.

Wembanyama's jumper as time expired clanged off the rim and they went to overtime, when Gordon's dunk in the opening minutes put Denver ahead for good.

"It was indicative of what we can be as a group," said Gordon, who finished with 15 points.

Johnson scored 17 points and Jamal Murray scored 15 points and handed out 10 assists for the Nuggets in a contest marked by playoff-level intensity.



Enzo and I are in a very good place. I saw him today, had a really good conversation with him today one-to-one. Things aren't what people maybe think they are

LIAM ROSENIOR

Sweden Hands Bahrain Second Defeat in Germany

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's youth men's basketball team faced another tough outing last night, losing 101-70 to Sweden in their second Group A match at Herzogenried Mannheim. The team, led by Greek head coach Georgios Vovorras, looked to bounce back after their opening loss to hosts Germany.

Yesterday's game began evenly, with both teams trading baskets and finishing the first quarter tied at 21 apiece. For a brief moment, Bahrain seemed poised to keep the contest close. But Sweden quickly seized control in the second period, unleashing a 32-point surge that left the nationals trailing 53-29 at halftime.

Despite the blow, Bahrain refused to quit. The third quarter saw a spirited response, with the team outscoring the Swedes 26-16. Somto Onoduenyi led the charge with a standout double-double of 26 points and 14 rebounds, while Hassan Abdulkadir contributed 12 points and 11 rebounds. Ali Mohamed and Ali Barhoom chipped in 10 and 9 points, respectively, as Bahrain clawed back some momentum.



Hassan Abdulkadir of Bahrain goes up for an alley-oop

However, Sweden's depth and sharpshooting proved too much to overcome. The visitors sank 16 three-pointers, more than double Bahrain's seven, and key players Malcolm Berglund Price (26 points) and Michael Odinks (20 points) kept Sweden in control. In the fourth quarter, Sweden outpaced Bahrain 32-15, cementing a 31-point victory.

The match featured three ties and three lead changes, giving glimpses of Bahrain's tenacity, but Sweden's scoring bursts, particularly in the second quarter, proved decisive. Bahrain's biggest deficit reached 31 points, highlighting the challenge of facing one of Europe's top youth sides.

Under Vovorras' guidance, Bahrain now turn their focus to today's preliminary round clash with Slovenia at 6.15pm Bahrain time. The team will look to regroup after two opening losses and gain experience ahead of the Gulf Basketball Association qualifiers for the FIBA U18 Asia Cup 2026 in Qatar.

Pegula downs Jovic to reach WTA Charleston final



Jessica Pegula of the United States stretches for a ball while playing Iva Jovic of the United States

AFP | Charleston

Defending champion Jessica Pegula advanced to the final of the WTA Charleston Open clay-court tournament on Saturday, defeating fourth seed Iva Jovic 6-4, 5-7, 6-3.

American top seed Pegula, who has been taken to three sets in each of her four matches in Charleston this week, finally wrapped up victory in 2hr 35min when Jovic pulled a forehand return wide.

The 32-year-old from New York will face Yuliia Starodubtseva in the final after the unseeded Ukrainian upset fifth

seed Madison Keys in the other semi-final.

World number 89 Starodubtseva, who was initially scheduled to go through qualifying in Charleston before being granted a place in the main draw after a withdrawal, defeated Keys 6-1, 6-4.

World number five Pegula will be chasing her second title of the season on Sunday after her victory in Dubai in February.

The American admitted after Saturday's latest three-setter that she has become used to taking the scenic route as she has advanced through the rounds in Charleston.



Bahrain is Safe, Strong, and United by our love to the nation ...
with the will of a King and the people.