



Remote Boat Inspection Service

Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications launched a remote technical inspection service for small boats and jet skis as part of ongoing government efforts to improve public services and accelerate digital transformation.

The upgraded service allows owners of small boats up to six years old and all jet skis to complete mandatory technical inspections through a video call after submitting an online application, paying the required fees and booking an appointment via the Small Ships Registration Portal. The ministry said the service also includes a fully digital process, an improved user interface, a 50% reduction in required approvals and a 25% shorter service delivery time.

Bader Hood Al Mahmood, Undersecretary for Ports and Maritime Affairs, said the initiative reflects the ministry's commitment to adopting innovative digital solutions that improve efficiency, simplify procedures and deliver government services entirely online, in line with Bahrain's public service development strategy.

Lane Closure on Shaikh Isa Bridge

Ministry of Works announced a temporary closure of the right lane on Sheikh Isa bin Salman Bridge in Muharraq heading towards Manama to facilitate scheduled maintenance works.

The ministry, in coordination with the General Directorate of Traffic, said two lanes will remain open to traffic while the maintenance is carried out from 12am on Friday, Aug. 7, until 5am on Sunday, Aug. 9.

Motorists have been urged to follow traffic regulations and exercise caution while travelling through the area to ensure the safety of all road users.

220 fils (includes VAT)



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Alliance Grows Stronger

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa held official talks with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi in Cairo, with both leaders reaffirming the strength of Bahrain-Egypt relations and pledging to expand strategic co-operation across various sectors.

President El-Sisi welcomed His Majesty and the accompanying delegation, describing the visit as a reflection of the deep-rooted and distinguished ties between the two brotherly nations.

At the start of the meeting, His Majesty expressed appreciation for the warm reception and generous hospitality extended by President El-Sisi. He also commended the Egyptian President's role in strengthening the bilateral relations and wished Egypt and its people continued

progress, security, prosperity, and development.

His Majesty King Hamad also thanked President El-Sisi for Egypt's support and solidarity with Bahrain following the measures the Kingdom took to safeguard its sovereignty, security, stability, and the safety of its citizens.

At the same time, His Majesty reaffirmed Bahrain's condemnation of the attack on Egypt's Port of Damietta and expressed the Kingdom's full solidarity with Egypt, supporting all measures taken to protect its sovereignty, security, and vital infrastructure.

President El-Sisi, in turn, expressed appreciation for Bahrain's steadfast support under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad. He reiterated Egypt's condemnation of the Iranian attacks targeting Bahrain and voiced support for the



Kingdom's efforts to protect its security, stability, and sovereignty.

Both leaders underscored their commitment to continu-

ing joint efforts to strengthen bilateral relations and broaden cooperation in ways that promote sustainable growth and prosperity for both nations.

Bahrain, UAE Sign MoU to Advance One-Stop Air Travel System

Agreement strengthens pre-clearance cooperation, streamlines passenger processing and enhances border security.

TDT | Manama

Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Air Ports Affairs Sector of the UAE's Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs and Port Security to implement the One-Stop pre-clearance project for air travellers.

The agreement was signed in Abu Dhabi by Brigadier Abdulaziz Abdulrahman Al Dossary, Assistant Undersecretary for Ports, Search and Follow-up, representing Bahrain, and Dr. Hamad Saif Al Mashghouni, Executive Director of the Air Ports Affairs Sector at the UAE authority. The signing ceremony was attended by officials from both countries.

The MoU establishes an institutional framework for cooperation in implementing the project and facilitates the exchange of travellers' pre-clearance data in line with the highest stand-



ards of information security and data protection. It also aims to support the integration of electronic systems, improve operational efficiency and enhance the quality of services provided to passengers.

Officials from both sides said the agreement reflects the close cooperation between Bahrain and the UAE and will contribute to strengthening GCC co-

operation, modernising border management systems, enhancing security and facilitating the movement of travellers.

The signing follows the decision by GCC interior ministers at their 42nd meeting to launch the One-Stop initiative as part of wider efforts to strengthen Gulf integration, modernise travel systems and improve the efficiency of security services

through advanced technology.

Bahrain and the UAE officially launched the One-Stop project on February 16, 2026, connecting Bahrain International Airport and Zayed International Airport. The initiative allows passengers to complete entry procedures for their destination country before departure, reducing processing times upon arrival and improving the overall travel experience.

GCC-Europe Parliament Talks Held



A parliamentary delegation stressed the importance of unified Gulf-European positions to address regional and international challenges during the 10th GCC-European Parliamentary Committee meeting, held virtually on Wednesday.

Led by MP Ahmed Sabah Al Salloom, the delegation reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to promoting regional and international security through dialogue and peaceful diplomatic solutions. It also described recent Iranian attacks targeting infrastructure in the region as a serious threat to regional stability, international maritime security and global energy markets.

The meeting reviewed mechanisms to strengthen cooperation between GCC legislative councils and the European Parliament, following previous decisions by GCC parliamentary leaders and discussions between the GCC Secretary-General and European Parliament President Roberta Metsola.

AI Creates New Opportunities



Youth Affairs Minister Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfeeqi said artificial intelligence is opening new opportunities for Bahrain's youth, stressing the importance of investing in young people's digital skills to prepare them for the future and support a knowledge-based economy. She made the remarks during the "Hadith" (Dialogue) session at Youth City 2030, titled Inspiring Youth Experiences in Artificial Intelligence.

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Think Before You Download

Fake Apps Posing as Bahrain News Alerts Raise Cybersecurity Concerns

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Mobile phone users have been urged to review the permissions granted to their apps after Bahrain's Interior Ministry warned that cybercriminals are increasingly disguising malicious software as legitimate applications, including fake Bahrain news alert services.

Colonel Osama Bahar of the Interior Ministry said one of the easiest ways to identify a suspicious application is to examine the permissions it requests.

"If a torch app asks for your location, users should question why it needs that information," he said, noting that unnecessary permission requests are often a key indicator of malicious intent.

According to a study cited by Colonel Bahar, around 450,000 malicious applications are created every day by cybercriminals seeking to steal personal information and compromise users' devices.

The National Cyber Security Centre has also warned about applications claiming to provide updates and alerts on developments in Bahrain.

Colonel Bahar said many of these apps were found to be disguised hacking tools designed to infiltrate mobile devices and access sensitive information.

To reduce the risk of infection, he advised users to install applications only from official plat-



forms such as Apple's App Store, Google Play Store and Huawei AppGallery, where security screening helps limit malicious software.

He also urged users to carefully review the permissions requested by every app before installation.

Watch for Unusual Permissions

Colonel Bahar explained that some applications appear legitimate but request access unrelated to their intended function. For example, an app displaying tide information should not require access to a user's location, contacts or screen content.

He described screen-reading permissions as particularly dangerous because they can allow malicious apps to monitor sensitive information displayed on a device, including banking details, without the user's knowledge.

Applications requesting permission to operate continuously in the background may also present significant security risks.

Review Existing Apps



"If a torch app asks for your location, users should question why it needs that information"

- COLONEL OSAMA BAHAR

As a final precaution, users were encouraged to regularly review the permissions already granted on their devices and delete any applications they no longer use or trust.

The Interior Ministry stressed that downloading apps only from trusted sources and carefully monitoring permission requests remain among the most effective ways to protect personal data from cyber threats.

Night Works Face 9pm Cut-Off Call

Proposal follows complaints of overnight construction noise continuing until dawn in residential neighbourhoods

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Night-time building work in residential streets should stop by 9pm after families complained of noise carrying on until dawn, a municipal councillor has said.

Ahmed Al Abdullah, Southern Municipal Council member, called on service bodies and contractors to bring in firm working hours for schemes near homes.

He said residents had lodged many complaints about crews working through the night, with some sites remaining active until the early morning.

The latest complaints concern Noon Street in Block 915, where

work has run from 9pm until 5am. Al Abdullah said the noise had disturbed sleep and left families struggling to rest in their own homes.

He accepted that Bahrain's summer midday work ban can force contractors to shift their hours. But he said the burden should not be passed on to residents at night.

Housing areas, he said, must be treated differently from business or industrial zones because families have a right to peace and privacy.

Al Abdullah called for service bodies to agree working hours with contractors before each scheme begins and to draw up clear rules for sites close to homes. He said road and public



Ahmed Al Abdullah, Southern Municipal Council member

works must be finished without needless delay, but speed should not come at the cost of sleep, calm or family life.

Cutting night noise, he added, should be built into every work plan for residential districts rather than dealt with only after complaints are made.

Three Detained Over Drug Possession

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The Ministry of Interior announced the arrest of three individuals for possessing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as part of ongoing efforts to protect the community from drug-related crimes.

According to the ministry, officers from the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science's Anti-Narcotics Directorate launched an investigation immediately after receiving in-



formation about the case. The inquiry led to the identification and arrest of the suspects.

Authorities said the suspects were found in possession of quantities of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which were seized as evidence.

The ministry confirmed that the necessary legal procedures are complete and the case has been referred to the Public Prosecution for further action.

They Didn't Wait to Grow Up to Innovate

Education Ministry highlights two students whose projects in sustainability and entrepreneurship have gained national and international acclaim

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Two Bahraini students have been recognised for turning creative ideas into successful projects: one developed eco-friendly products from seashells and the other designed and sold an educational board game while still in school.

The achievements of Zainab Adel Al Shuwaikh and Mohammed Fayeze Al Aali are featured in the Ministry of Education's "Our Students... Inspiring Stories" campaign, which showcases students across Bahrain whose accomplishments extend beyond academic excellence.

A second-year secondary student at Sar Secondary Girls School, Zainab transformed sea-



Zainab Adel Al Shuwaikh

shells collected from Bahrain's coastline into Sadaf, an environmental project that produces three sustainable products: a natural plant fertiliser, a fabric stain remover and an organic pesticide.

Her innovation has earned widespread recognition. Zainab



Mohammed Fayeze Al Aali

secured first place globally at the Global Investment Conference 2024, won the Future Scientists research competition among Bahrain's schools, and claimed third place in the Arab world at the Shaikha Fadia Al Sabah Award for developing an organic nutrient capsule for plants. Her

earlier projects included a natural plant fertiliser and an electrical device designed to reduce water consumption.

Beyond science, Zainab has also distinguished herself in literature. She placed third in the "We Write in Arabic" competition organised by Bahrain Islamic Bank, won the Sharjah Young Writers Initiative, and finished second in a youth short story competition organised by Bahrain Trust.

She said her interest in agriculture began at a young age before expanding into a passion for science and environmental sustainability, leading her to join her school's GLOBE team. According to Zainab, innovation starts with asking questions and searching for practical solutions, inspiring her to transform ideas

into projects that benefit society.

She also credited the administration and teachers at Sar Secondary Girls School for supporting her ideas by providing guidance, equipment and an environment that encourages innovation, adding that her ambitions continue to grow.

Meanwhile, Mohammed Fayeze Al Aali, a student at Al Taawon Secondary Boys School, has gained recognition for creating Fakker Zain, an educational game developed with classmates as part of the Injaz Bahrain Company Programme 2025.

The project received an intellectual property registration certificate from the Ministry of Information, and the game was later marketed and sold during public events, including the Bah-

rain Reads exhibition organised by the Graduates Club.

Mohammed has also earned the internationally recognised ESP certificate for young entrepreneurs in recognition of his achievements in entrepreneurship and innovation.

In addition to his entrepreneurial work, he has been active in media initiatives, presenting an introductory video on the National Service Initiative at a Ministry of Education seminar and participating in the school's Nafahat Ramadaniya awareness programme.

The Ministry of Education's campaign continues to spotlight students whose creativity, innovation and determination are making a positive impact both inside and outside the classroom.

Friendship Loan of BD100,000 Ends in Bahrain Court Judgment

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

High Civil Court ordered a borrower to repay BD100,000 to a lender after ruling the money was provided as a private loan between friends. The court also held the borrower's company jointly liable after a guarantee cheque issued on its account was returned unpaid.

According to lawyer Mohammed Al Makhloq, who represented the plaintiff, the dispute arose after the lender agreed to provide BD100,000 to a friend seeking financial assistance. The two signed a private loan agreement confirming the amount, with the borrower undertaking to repay the loan by a specified date. As security for the debt, the



borrower issued a cheque drawn on his company's account.

The borrower, however, failed to repay the loan when it became due, and the guarantee cheque was dishonoured due to insufficient funds.

Al Makhloq said the Minor Criminal Court had previously convicted the borrower in the bounced cheque case, sentencing him to one year in prison and ordering his deportation after serving the sentence.

In its judgment, the High Civil Court found that the signed loan agreement clearly estab-

lished that the first defendant borrowed BD100,000 and agreed to repay it by July 25, 2025. The court also noted that the cheque issued for the same amount in favour of the plaintiff was returned unpaid due to insufficient funds.

The court further observed that neither the borrower nor the company appeared before the Case Management Office or during the court proceedings to present a defence.

As a result, the court ruled that the borrower remained liable for the unpaid debt and failed to honour the loan agreement. It also held the company jointly and severally liable because the guarantee cheque was issued from its account, ordering both defendants to pay the plaintiff BD100,000.

Four Livestock Carcasses Found Near Oyster Bed

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A crew feared they had found a body at sea before drawing close and seeing the swollen carcass of a bull, one of four dead livestock found floating near the Hayr Shtayyah oyster bed.

Ali Ibrahim Al Khudri said the group was heading out to gather oysters when it spotted an object rising above the water about five kilometres from the bed. From roughly two kilometres away, its shape led them to fear it was a person.

They turned towards it and found the bloated carcass of a bull. After filming the scene, they carried on with their trip. Three other livestock carcasses were seen as the group sailed

back towards Bahrain at about noon, Mr Al Khudri said. It remains unclear where the animals came from or how they ended up in the sea.

Mr Al Khudri said they might have fallen or been thrown from a livestock ship, perhaps after falling ill. He made clear, however, that this was only his own guess and was not based on proof or information from the authorities.

No statement has yet been issued on any sea search or inquiry into the find.

A bloated bull carcass floats alongside a boat near the Hayr Shtayyah oyster bed after being spotted by a group of oyster gatherers on August 04.



PIE and LuLu Exchange Bahrain Announce Strategic Partnership to Support Digital Innovation



TDT | Manama

Payment International Enterprise (PIE), a Bahrain based fintech company licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain, and LuLu International Exchange Bahrain, one of the Kingdom’s leading exchange and financial services providers, are pleased to announce a strategic partnership aimed at strengthening collaboration in support of Bahrain’s growing digital financial ecosystem.

The partnership reflects a shared commitment by both organisations to explore innovative opportunities that enhance customer experience, encourage digital transformation, and contribute to the continued development of secure and efficient financial services in the Kingdom.

By bringing together PIE’s expertise in financial technology and LuLu International Exchange Bahrain’s trusted presence in the financial services sector, the collaboration represents an important step towards delivering greater value to customers while supporting Bahrain’s vision of a more connected and digitally enabled economy.

Shabbir Modi, Managing Director of PIE, commented: “We are delighted to partner with LuLu Exchange Bahrain, a respected and well-established financial institution in the Kingdom. This collaboration reflects our shared vision of driving innovation and delivering greater value to customers through trusted partnerships. We look forward to working closely together to support the continued evolution of Bahrain’s digital financial

landscape.”

Edison Fernandez, General Manager of Lulu International Exchange, commented: “Our partnership with PIE reflects our strategic commitment to advancing digital financial services through meaningful collaboration. By combining our respective capabilities, we aim to enhance service accessibility, strengthen operational efficiency, and contribute to the continued development of Bahrain’s digital financial ecosystem, while delivering sustainable value to our customers.”

The collaboration highlights the commitment of both organisations to building long-term partnerships that support innovation, operational excellence, and the ongoing advancement of Bahrain’s financial services sector.

IMTIAZ Partners with Reel Cinemas to Reward Cardholders This Summer



Mr. Mazen Sater, Chief Consumer Finance Officer at Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company

TDT | Manama

IMTIAZ, the commercial brand under Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company (BCFC), announced its partnership with Reel Cinemas to provide summer benefits on movie tickets to IMTIAZ Mastercard cardholders. This partnership allows IMTIAZ cardholders to enjoy Shukran rewards through IMTIAZ’s loyalty program on the ‘Sahel’ application.

IMTIAZ Mastercard cardholders can purchase one cinema ticket at Reel Cinemas and receive a second ticket free of charge, making a night at the movies a more rewarding experience for cardholders and their families. Located at Marassi Galleria, Reel Cinemas offers a premium movie-going experience with state-

of-the-art screens, including IMAX with Laser and Platinum screens, for audiences across Bahrain.

Mr. Mazen Sater, Chief Consumer Finance Officer at Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company, said: “At BCFC, we are always looking for ways to bring our cardholders more than everyday value. Our summer entertainment offers, from a ‘Buy One, Get One Free’ deal at Reel Cinemas to exclusive discounts at Adventure Park and Marassi Aquarium, are designed to reward our customers with memorable experiences they can enjoy with the people who matter most. This reflects our ongoing commitment to enhancing the customer experience and offering lifestyle benefits that go beyond everyday financing.”

The Reel Cinemas partner-

ship is part of a wider line-up of summer entertainment offers curated for IMTIAZ Mastercard cardholders. Alongside the cinema offer, cardholders can also enjoy 20% off regular admission (Full Day Pass) at Adventure Park, and 20% off regular admission (Gold Pass) at Marassi Aquarium and Underwater Zoo, giving families and friends more ways to make the most of the summer at some of Bahrain’s most popular entertainment destinations.

The partnership reinforces IMTIAZ Mastercard’s focus on delivering exclusive lifestyle and entertainment privileges to its cardholders, and reflects BCFC’s wider commitment to building a rewarding, customer-centric financial experience for communities across the Kingdom.

Cineco

Bahrain Cinema Company B.S.C.

Cineco

Condensed consolidated interim financial information for the quarter and six months period ended 30 June 2026

Condensed consolidated interim statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the quarter and six months period ended 30 June 2026

(Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)

	Quarter ended 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)	Quarter ended 30 June 2025 (Reviewed)	Six months ended 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)	Six months ended 30 June 2025 (Reviewed)
Operating income	856,556	951,282	1,538,973	1,670,956
Operating costs	(663,105)	(741,170)	(1,350,498)	(1,314,179)
Operating gross profit for the period	193,451	210,112	188,475	356,777
Income from investments, net	384,124	428,109	3,269	300,674
Other income	19,908	56,220	52,921	121,953
	404,032	484,329	56,190	422,627
General and administrative expenses	(187,830)	(269,441)	(445,486)	(468,958)
Finance costs	(21,941)	(27,108)	(41,348)	(51,482)
	(209,771)	(296,549)	(486,834)	(520,440)
Net profit/(loss) and other comprehensive income/ (loss) for the period	387,712	397,892	(242,169)	258,964
Basic earnings/(loss) per share	5.1fils	5.2fils	(3.2fils)	3.4fils

Condensed consolidated interim statement of changes in shareholders' equity for the six months period ended 30 June 2026

(Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)

	Share capital	Share premium	Revaluation reserve	Statutory reserve	Charity reserve	Retained earnings	Treasury shares	Total
At 31 December 2024 – Audited	8,262,345	824,849	4,557,442	4,131,173	283,110	22,716,870	(437,514)	40,338,275
Dividend paid for the year 2024	-	-	-	-	-	(1,173,642)	-	(1,173,642)
Charity paid	-	-	-	-	(10,200)	-	-	(10,200)
Purchase of treasury shares	-	(104,584)	-	-	-	-	(129,926)	(234,510)
Net profit and other comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-	-	-	258,964	-	258,964
At 30 June 2025 – reviewed	8,262,345	720,265	4,557,442	4,131,173	272,910	21,802,192	(567,440)	39,178,887
At 31 December 2025 – Audited	8,262,345	640,008	4,678,687	4,131,173	270,340	22,879,506	(645,697)	40,216,362
Dividend paid for the year 2025	-	-	-	-	-	(1,294,567)	-	(1,294,567)
Charity paid	-	-	-	-	(8,600)	-	-	(8,600)
Purchase of treasury shares	-	(11,339)	-	-	-	-	(11,077)	(22,416)
Net loss and other comprehensive loss for the period	-	-	-	-	-	(242,169)	-	(242,169)
At 30 June 2026 – reviewed	8,262,345	628,669	4,678,687	4,131,173	261,740	21,342,770	(656,774)	38,648,610

Dr Esam Abdulla Fakhro
Chairman

Abdulla Esam Abdulla Fakhro
Vice- Chairman

Ahmad A. Rashed Albastaki
Managing Director

Auditors
BDO

Condensed consolidated interim statement of cash flows for the six months period ended 30 June 2026

(Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)

	Six months period ended 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)	Six months period ended 30 June 2025 (Reviewed)
Operating activities		
Net (loss)/profit for the period	(242,169)	258,964
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	11,394	41,610
Amortisation of cost to right-of-use assets	200,335	240,814
Loss on sale of investment at amortised cost	127,013	-
Gain on lease termination	10,456	1
Net share of loss from investment in an associate	134,882	80,008
Dividend income	(366,292)	(476,101)
Fair value loss on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	524,264	585,404
Interest income from sukuk and bonds	(414,414)	(471,818)
Interest income – discount amortisation	(8,722)	(18,167)
Interest income on loan to a related party	(16,467)	(33,025)
Finance costs	41,348	51,482
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Inventories	(3,651)	(1,490)
Trade and other receivables	439,116	55,686
Employees' terminal and other benefits	3,749	1,331
Trade and other payables	(233,705)	190,104
Net cash provided by operating activities	207,137	504,649
Investing activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-	(10,331)
Purchase of investment properties	(1,169)	(23,940)
Proceeds from the disposal of investment properties	38	-
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	8,619	-
Interest income on loan to a related party	16,467	33,025
Purchase of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(6,573,483)	(592)
Purchase of financial assets at amortised cost	(23,545,153)	-
Proceeds from sale of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	7,165,254	-
Proceeds from sale of financial assets at amortised cost	20,964,843	-
Interest income from bonds and sukuk	414,414	471,818
Dividend income received	366,292	476,101
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities	(1,183,848)	946,081
Financing activities		
Lease liabilities paid	(245,055)	(289,754)
Term loan obtained during the period	6,161,129	102,247
Term loan repaid during the period	(7,310,792)	-
Dividend paid during the period	(1,294,567)	(1,173,642)
Charity paid	(8,600)	(10,200)
Treasury shares purchased	(22,416)	(234,510)
Finance costs paid	(41,348)	(51,482)
Net cash used in financing activities	(2,761,649)	(1,657,341)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(3,738,360)	(206,611)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of the period	3,609,257	(390,627)
Cash and cash equivalents, end of the period	(129,103)	(597,238)
Comprising: Cash and bank balances	195,287	154,975
Bank overdrafts	(324,390)	(752,213)
	(129,103)	(597,238)

NBB Offers an Exclusive 20% Discount in Partnership with Turkish Airlines

TDT | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has announced the signing of a new partnership with Turkish Airlines, one of the leading airlines, to offer exclusive travel benefits to the Bank's cardholders. This partnership comes as part of NBB's ongoing efforts to provide quality offers that deliver tangible value to customers, while meeting their evolving needs across travel, business, and leisure.

Under the partnership, all NBB cardholders will be able to benefit from a 20% discount on Turkish Airlines flights, offering them a more valuable and convenient travel

experience, whether for business trips, family holidays, or international travel. Selected benefits will also be available to NBB employees and their families.

This partnership reflects NBB's commitment to collaborating with prominent global brands to expand the range of exclusive benefits offered to its customers, while strengthening the Bank's presence across areas directly linked to their lifestyles and aspirations. Customers can access the offer with ease through the "NBB Points" App.

Commenting on the occasion, Subah Abdul-



latif Al Zayani, Chief Executive – Retail Banking at NBB, said: "We are delighted to announce this partnership with Turkish Airlines, one of the world's leading airlines, to provide our customers with exclusive travel benefits that add real value to their journeys and offer them a more seamless and comfortable experience. At NBB, we are committed to building meaningful partnerships with leading

brands to deliver added value to our customers." This partnership reaffirms NBB's commitment to delivering integrated, customer-centric banking experiences by providing practical benefits that are connected to customers' daily needs and travel journeys within Bahrain and abroad. The Bank also continues to strengthen its network of strategic partnerships with leading institutions, reinforcing its role as a national financial partner that keeps pace with customers' aspirations and delivers broader value across different stages of their lives.

NBB invites its cardholders to view the offer details and



benefit from the travel privileges available with Turkish Airlines through the "NBB Points" App, which features a growing selection of curated offers across categories including travel, retail, dining, and entertainment.

For more information, please visit nbbonline.com, call 1721 4433, or visit any NBB branch.

BisB Unveils Summer Credit Card Campaign with Rewards, Fee-Free Instalments and a 1 Million Airline Miles Prize

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) has launched a new summer campaign for its credit card customers, the campaign brings together exclusive rewards, flexible payment options, and the chance to win 1 million airline miles.

Customers receive an entry into the grand prize draw for every eligible international transaction made in a foreign currency with a value of BHD 50 or its equivalent. The campaign features three offers tailored to customers' needs during the travel season. The "Pre-Travel" offer provides double reward points on eligible travel-related purchases, while the "Travel Instalment Programme" enables customers to spread the cost of their purchases over a

period of up to six months with no service fee. Through the "Summer Miles Millionaire" offer, one customer will win the grand prize of 1 million airline miles, subject to the applicable terms and conditions.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Faisal Al Abdulla, Chief Retail Banking Officer at BisB, stated: "At BisB, we continue to develop innovative and rewarding banking solutions that respond to our customers' needs and add meaningful value to their everyday experience. Through this summer campaign, we



Mr. Faisal Al Abdulla, Chief Retail Banking Officer at BisB

have brought to gether payment flexibility, exclusive rewards, and the opportunity to win an exceptional prize, enabling our customers to gain more value from their credit cards during the travel season. We encourage them



to take advantage of the campaign's offers and benefits." The campaign reflects BisB's continued commitment to rewarding its customers and enhancing the value they re-

ceive when using their credit cards, particularly while travelling and making international transactions, through flexible payment solutions, exclusive benefits, and opportunities to

win valuable prizes. For more information, please visit the official BisB website, or the bank social media accounts, or contact the Call Centre on 17515151

Gulf Air Opens Bookings for Kuala Lumpur

Ahead of Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026 in Malaysia

● New direct service commencing 29 September 2026

TDT | Manama

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, has opened bookings for its direct flights between Bahrain International Airport (BAH) and Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KUL), commencing on 29 September 2026, further expanding its international network and strengthening links between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Malaysia.

The addition of Kuala Lumpur as a permanent destination marks another important milestone in Gulf Air's network strategy, offering passengers direct access to one of Southeast Asia's most dynamic destinations while creating new year-round travel opportunities for customers across the airline's extensive network.

Commenting on this milestone, Mr. Martin Gauss, Gulf Air Chief Executive Officer, said:

"As title sponsor of the FORMULA 1 GULF AIR BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX 2026 IN MALAYSIA, taking place from 2 to 4 October 2026 at Sepang International Circuit, Gulf Air is proud to connect fans and travellers to this world-class event through our new direct service to Kuala Lumpur. Adding Kuala Lumpur as a permanent destination further strengthens our network and supports year-round connectivity between Bahrain, Malaysia, and beyond."

To support travel demand around the FORMULA 1 GULF AIR BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX 2026 IN MALAYSIA, Gulf Air will operate an enhanced flight schedule to Kuala Lumpur in the period leading up to the race weekend, providing additional capacity and greater flexibility for fans and travellers attending the event. Following the race period, the service will continue as part of Gulf Air's permanent network, operating on a regular schedule to support connectivity between the two nations.

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Anthropic AI used fake identities to target real people in UK test



AFP | London, United Kingdom

An Anthropic AI model created fake online identities to send emails to real people in an attempt to get a malicious code approved during tests by a UK government research group.

During the tests by the AI Security Institute, some Anthropic and OpenAI AI agents engaged in “sustained, potentially harmful activity directed at real people and organisations”, it revealed in a report published late Tuesday.

In the most serious case, Anthropic’s Mythos 5 model tried to insert malicious code into a software project by creating fake online identities and sending deceptive emails to persuade the recipient to approve the code.

It follows recent cyberattacks carried out autonomously by software from the two US companies, raising concerns about the capabilities and oversight of advanced AI models.

The AISI, established in 2023 to oversee the safety of new AI models, conducted the tests with open internet access and certain safety features disabled.

The majority of the actions came from the Mythos 5 model, while two of the actions involved OpenAI’s GPT-5.6-Sol model.

The person overseeing the software refused approval. “These attempts were un-

successful, and our investigations have not evidenced any resulting real-world harm,” the institute said, adding that it contained the incident within an hour.

But the activities “show signs of novel, potentially deceptive behaviours, and were to an extent and severity we did not anticipate,” it said.

An Anthropic spokesperson said the report “underscores the need for a broader conversation about how to safely evaluate increasingly capable AI agents”.

A spokesperson for OpenAI said “independent testing is essential to understanding how increasingly capable models behave”.

“We’ll continue working with evaluators and other stakeholders across the industry to strengthen shared practices for conducting evaluations safely as models become more capable,” the spokesperson added.

The report follows a series of high-profile security breaches by AI models.

In July, OpenAI confirmed that its software escaped a testing environment and attacked another company, Hugging Face.

About a week later, it said the models had targeted three additional companies.

And on July 30, Anthropic revealed that it also found three incidents where AI models being tested “gained unauthorised access” to organisations it did not identify.

Woman arrested after four men stabbed in central London

● The 47-year-old woman was detained on suspicion of possessing an offensive weapon and assault

● The four victims -- aged 34, 39, 42, and 52 -- were taken to hospital

● Witnesses working in a nearby restaurant said police had used tasers to arrest the woman

AFP | London, United Kingdom

A woman was arrested after four men were stabbed Wednesday in Covent Garden, a busy central London area popular with tourists, in a suspected “mental health related incident”, police said.

The 47-year-old woman was detained on suspicion of possessing an offensive weapon and assault following the stabbings shortly before 12:30 pm local



Police Officers stand at a cordon near the Shaftesbury Theatre, pictured from Endell Road in Covent Garden, central London

time (1130 GMT), according to London’s Metropolitan Police.

She remained in custody yesterday afternoon, it said, noting officers had seized a pair of scissors at the scene.

The four victims -- aged 34, 39, 42, and 52 -- were taken to hospital where two remained with injuries not “believed to be life-threatening or life changing,” the force added. The two other men attacked were discharged within hours.

“While still at an early stage of the investigation, we would like to reassure the community that we currently believe this to be an isolated mental health related incident,” Met Chief Superintendent Jason Stewart said in a brief statement.

Witnesses working in a nearby restaurant said police had used tasers to arrest the woman, who was known locally as a homeless person who regularly frequented the area.

“They (police officers) were chasing away the lady who had a knife in her hand,” waiter Ahmad -- who declined to give his surname -- told AFP.

“I saw the lady get tased (tasered) by the police, it was the only way they could get her to drop the knife.”

Police did not confirm the use of tasers in their statements.

The Covent Garden street where the incident unfolded, lined with stores and outdoor seating, was cordoned off with police tape for several hours.

Striking images published by media showed an air ambulance helicopter in nearby Trafalgar Square.

Another witness, waiter Arjan, said staff saw the confused aftermath of the stabbings, noting “even the victims, they didn’t believe what was happening”.

“We saw people lying down and the police arrived immediately,” he said.

“We know the lady. I don’t know her name but she is always on this street, she was homeless and never wore shoes.”

Netanyahu says Israel did not agree to US-Gaza plan

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said Israel did not agree to the US-backed plan for Gaza, even after receiving assurances that an Israeli pullout would only happen after Hamas disarms.

In a video posted to his social media accounts on Tuesday night, Netanyahu said the team of US President Donald Trump “believes that they can bring about the disarmament of Hamas and the demilitarisation of Gaza”.

“We are checking this. They sent us a draft -- we did not agree to it, it is not our draft. We sent our comments,” he said.

Netanyahu met with the US-backed Board of Peace on Monday and received guarantees that the Israeli army would only be required to leave its current positions in Gaza after Hamas disarms.

Israel military will continue to ‘operate proactively’ in Gaza: army chief

Israel’s military chief yesterday said the country’s forces would keep operating “proactively” in the Gaza Strip, vowing to “continue to pursue those responsible” for Hamas’s October 7 attack that triggered the war.

“In the Gaza Strip, we have struck Hamas, significantly weakened it, and fundamentally changed the security reality,”



Ibrahim al-Dabba, head of the Beekeepers Cooperative in the Gaza Strip, tends to beehives with his sons on the roof of a destroyed building in Gaza City’s Tel al-Hawa neighbourhood, where the displaced family has taken refuge

Iran says close to Hormuz plan with Oman, but reopening depends on US

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran and Oman have agreed a route for ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz and are putting the final touches on arrangements for jointly managing the waterway, Tehran’s foreign ministry said yesterday. But official sources briefing Iranian media stressed that any reopening of the strait would depend on the United States fulfilling what Tehran sees as its commitment to end its own naval blockade of Iran’s ports.

“The geographical coordinates of the route envisaged by

the two sides have been agreed upon and, if certain third parties do not obstruct the process, the joint statement of the two countries, containing the main considerations and points of agreement, is also in the final review and drafting stage,” spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said, according to state news agency IRNA.

According to the report, Baqaei told journalists that talks with Oman were moving forward, but that even if an understanding was reached, it would not mean that the strait had become safe for all passing vessels.

Israel resumes Lebanon strikes as talks underway in Rome

Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel’s military resumed strikes on southern Lebanon on Wednesday despite ongoing talks, blaming a ceasefire violation by militant group Hezbollah as Beirut said at least one person was killed.

The fresh strikes and a first evacuation warning in weeks came as Lebanon and Israel were holding US-sponsored talks in Rome aimed at putting an end to hostilities, with Beirut seeking Israel’s phased withdrawal from the south.

Lebanese state media said one person died and 11 were wounded in a separate strike.

Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir said while visiting troops in Gaza, according to a military statement.

“The IDF (Israel Defense Forces) will continue to operate proactively and according to the principle we established -- to remove threats and, in every situation, protect the communities and their residents and safeguard their security.”

South Korea police raid Starbucks HQ over ‘Tank Day’ fiasco

AFP | Seoul, South Korea

South Korean police raided the Starbucks national headquarters yesterday, the chain’s local operator told AFP, following allegations an advertising campaign defamed activists slain in 1980 pro-democracy protests.

Starbucks Korea caused an uproar this year when it launched a “Tank Day” promotion on May 18, touting a new line of capacious tumblers for its coffee beverages.

The date marked the anniversary of the 1980 Gwang-



ju pro-democracy uprising, when at least 165 civilians were killed as a military dictatorship rolled tanks out onto the streets.

1497

Italian explorer John Cabot returns to Bristol from North America, likely Newfoundland, becoming the first European known to do so since the Vikings

1890

Murderer William Kemmler becomes the first person executed by electric chair at Auburn Prison in New York



1945

An atomic bomb is dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima by the US B-29 Superfortress "Enola Gay"

1965

US President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act, prohibiting voting discrimination against minorities

X

TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I am in Kinshasa, #DRC, and have met with our health and humanitarian partners supporting the #Ebola response to discuss the challenges we face, as the outbreak is spreading faster than our scale up of the response, with new cases doubling in some hotspots over the past week alone.

@DrTedros

02



In Kyiv and its region, Russia has once again chosen to target civilians. This policy of terror, carried out with missiles and drones, is unacceptable. Each new attack reinforces an obvious truth: Russia must pay the price for its aggression and answer for its crimes. Alongside Ukraine, we will not yield to either fatigue or intimidation.

@EmmanuelMacron

03



Once again we wake up to the news of horrible atrocities by Russia through its aerial attacks on Ukraine. Russia must pay for the destruction it has caused. And we are using the proceeds from the immobilised Russian assets to make sure it does.

@vonderleyen

04



Newly declassified memos show the FBI opened a criminal probe specifically targeting Donald Trump in May 2017 even though the bureau's own evidence overwhelmingly showed at the time there was NO COLLUSION with the Kremlin.

@WhiteHouse

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

SpaceX rocket stage believed to have slammed into Moon

AFP | New York, United States

A four-tonne piece of a SpaceX rocket was believed to have unintentionally crashed into the Moon on Wednesday, a collision that posed no danger to Earth but is expected to leave behind a lunar crater.

While there is not yet official confirmation that the Falcon 9 upper stage struck the lunar surface, it had been expected to make impact at approximately 0635 GMT. NASA and its Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter probe and South Korea's Pathfinder



Picture for representation only

Lunar Orbiter were planning to take images of the site after impact, but it may take days to receive that information.

Scientists and amateur stargazers alike had been looking forward to observing the sunlit plume of rubble and debris created by the smash.

"It might be possible for folks with a telescope to observe the plume of ejecta created by the impact," said Benjamin Fernandez of Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, the lead author on a recent paper on the

anticipated impact.

"It is unclear how bright it will be, which is one of the reasons why we are looking to study this event," the researcher told AFP before impact.

Assuming all of the propellant is spent, authors of the paper estimate the spacecraft weighs approximately 8,800 pounds (4,000 kilograms).

It was expected to slam into the Moon's northern hemisphere near the Einstein Crater, at some 5,400 miles per hour (8,690 kilometers per hour).

Japan rearmament

North Korea warns of 'military options'

AFP | Seoul, South Korea

The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un accused Japan yesterday of "transformation into a war state" as Tokyo beefs up its military stance in the Pacific.

Japan has been gradually moving away from its post-World War II pacifist status -- increasing military spending, ramping up defence pacts and deploying missile launchers to its outer islands.

Tokyo's Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi said Tuesday the military needs to be boosted with a "sense of urgency and crisis", as a new government assessment warned of growing threats from China, Russia and North Korea.

In a statement carried by North Korean state media, Kim Yo Jong said Pyongyang's "leadership will set up additional military options which are obviously due to Japan's transformation".

"Japan, a war criminal state, is accelerating its transformation into a war state," said her statement published by the Korean Central News Agency.

Kim cited Tokyo's recent test-firing of Tomahawk long-range cruise missiles and its May participation in US-led drills in the Philippines as evidence of Washington's support for "dangerous military moves" in the Pacific.

Tokyo is moving "to formulate the possession of the capability for preemptive attack", she said. "We will never remain a passive onlooker to the military evolution of Japan which may pose a grave threat."



A Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) soldier operates a quadrupedal unmanned ground vehicle during a live fire exercise at East Fuji Maneuver Area in Gotemba

Japan's defence ministry declined to comment directly on Kim's diatribe but told AFP that the country's defence capabilities "remain bare minimum" and "are not meant to threaten other countries".

"Ours isn't the defence meant to wage wars, but to prevent new wars, strictly kept to self-defence and within the scope of our (pacifist) Constitution and international laws," it said in a statement.

Kim Yo Jong

The ministry also confirmed that the Tomahawk experiment last week was Japan's first, adding it seeks to obtain up to 400 Tomahawks by the end of fiscal 2027.

Japan occupied all of Korea before its 1945 surrender in the Second World War, after which the peninsula was divided into separate states along the 38th parallel.

Japan has hosted US military bases ever since its surrender in World War II.

India panel warns Meta over Modi video removal

AFP | New Delhi, India

An Indian parliamentary panel called yesterday for Meta chief Mark Zuckerberg to apologise for the temporary removal of a video of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Modi's video, addressing students during youth-led protests July 23, was briefly removed from Meta-owned Facebook and Instagram, but was later restored.

Meta has said it was caused by technical error.

Joel Kaplan, chief global affairs officer at Meta, said he met with India's Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday and apologised.

"I apologised to the minister on behalf of Meta for the error restricting PM Modi's post," Kaplan said in a statement.

US lifts sanctions on Iraqi airline linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guards

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States yesterday lifted sanctions targeting Iraq's Fly Baghdad airline, a company it had previously designated for alleged links to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

In an update to its website, the US Treasury lifted sanctions on Fly Baghdad and two of its aircraft, but maintained its sanctions against a man previously identified as the company's owner, Basheer Abdulkadhim Alwan al-Shabbani.

Washington had originally designated the airline, its aircraft and owner in January 2024, alleging that it provided support to the IRGC's Quds Force and its proxy groups in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon.

A US Treasury official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP the airline had been removed after going through the department's administrative reconsideration process.

"FBA (Fly Baghdad Airlines) has demonstrated major changes to their operations such that their listing is no longer warranted," the official said.

They clarified that the removal was "not indicative of any shift in US policy toward the Government of Iran, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps—Qods Force, any designated terrorist organization, or any person who supports or acts on behalf of any of these."

Air India appoints former Ethiopian Airlines chief as CEO

AFP | New Delhi, India

Air India appointed former Ethiopian Airlines Group head Tewolde Gebremariam on Wednesday as its chief executive officer, to steer the carrier after a turbulent period.

Tewolde succeeds Campbell Wilson, who resigned after leading the airline since its return to Tata Group ownership in 2022.

Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran said the carrier was now entering a "critical execution and expansion era".

Tewolde led Ethiopian Airlines Group for more than a



Tewolde Gebremariam

decade.

Air India praised his experience in managing large-scale airline transformations.

Russian barrage on Kyiv kills 17 as Ukraine fails to down single missile

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Russian missile and drone strikes killed at least 17 people and wounded dozens more in Kyiv and the surrounding region overnight, authorities said yesterday.

Kyiv was unable to shoot down any of the missiles launched by Russia, whose intensifying attacks have prompted Kyiv to plead for more US-made Patriot interceptors.

Russia has significantly upped its attacks on the Ukrainian capital in recent months, typically firing salvos of hard-to-intercept bal-

listic missiles in short blitzes that rock buildings and send booms echoing across the city.

"Ballistic interceptors are what could have saved the lives of those killed today," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said, announcing the 17-person death toll.

A cloud of smoke hovered over the capital at sunrise, AFP journalists saw, after the attacks sparked fires in several locations in the region.

Over 40 people were wounded in the capital and its surrounding areas, local authorities said.

Classifieds



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region

Iran, Oman Near Deal on Strait of Hormuz Shipping Framework

Iran and Oman are reportedly close to finalising a bilateral framework to manage maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most strategically important shipping routes.

Iran's Foreign Ministry described the negotiations as strictly bilateral talks between the two coastal states, stressing that the discussions are independent of any U.S. demands or political timelines.

According to Iranian and regional officials, the proposed framework would establish separate shipping channels for inbound and outbound vessels. Ships entering the Arabian Gulf would reportedly use a route closer to Iran's coastline, while outbound vessels would travel through a corridor near Oman after notifying Iranian authorities. The arrangement would provide Iran with oversight of maritime traffic while allowing Oman to play a coordinating role.

Officials also said the proposal includes an intermediate shipping corridor that would replace the existing northern and southern routes once implemented. The framework may introduce service charges to cover security, environmental protection and operational costs, with revenues reportedly shared equally between Iran and Oman. However, U.S. officials have disputed Iranian claims regarding vessel approvals, permissions and fees.

Iran Rejects U.S. Position

Tehran dismissed suggestions that the Strait of Hormuz would reopen immediately under a U.S.-backed agreement, insisting that any



full reopening must be linked to the lifting of U.S. naval restrictions on Iranian ports and broader understandings between the two sides.

Oman has remained cautious in its public statements and has not officially confirmed all aspects of Iran's account of the negotiations.

Global Trade at Stake

The Strait of Hormuz, only about 33 kilometres wide at its narrowest point, serves as the primary gateway for a significant share of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas exports.

Since regional tensions escalated, competing navigation arrangements have emerged. The United States has encouraged commercial vessels to use a southern route closer to Omani waters under the protection of allied naval forces. Iran, meanwhile, insists that shipping should follow routes under its supervision, arguing that it has a legitimate security role because much of the waterway lies within or alongside its

territorial waters.

The differing positions have increased uncertainty for shipping companies, driving up insurance costs and raising concerns about potential disruptions to global energy supplies.

Draft Agreement Nearing Completion

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said the two countries have agreed on the geographical coordinates of the proposed shipping route and are finalising a joint statement outlining the framework. He added that the agreement could be announced soon if external parties do not interfere in the process.

If approved, the arrangement could provide a temporary mechanism for restoring confidence in commercial shipping while broader diplomatic negotiations continue. However, key questions—including vessel monitoring, intervention rights and operational authority—remain unresolved.

Israel resumes Lebanon strikes as Rome talks seek ceasefire breakthrough

Israel resumed airstrikes on southern Lebanon on Wednesday despite ongoing US-sponsored peace talks in Rome, accusing Hezbollah of violating a ceasefire agreement. Lebanese authorities said at least one person was killed and 11 others were wounded in separate strikes.

The Israeli military said it launched "precise strikes" against Hezbollah targets in response to what it described as a "blatant violation" of the ceasefire. It also issued an evacuation warning for residents of the southern town of Mansouri, urging them to move north for their safety. The warning marked the first such evacuation order since June.

The latest violence came as Lebanese and Israeli delegations met in Rome for the seventh round of US-mediated negotiations aimed at ending months of cross-border hostilities. Talks are focused on expanding pilot security zones, resolving border disputes and advancing a broader peace and security agreement.

A framework agreed in June calls for Hezbollah's disarmament, the gradual withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon and



the deployment of the Lebanese army in areas vacated by Israeli forces. However, Hezbollah has rejected the agreement and continues to refuse to surrender its weapons.

Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem dismissed the negotiations, saying they would bring Lebanon "nothing but shame, humiliation and successive compromises."

Although violence has declined since a preliminary US-Iran agreement and the June ceasefire framework, Lebanon continues to report intermittent Israeli airstrikes, shelling and demolitions in southern villages. Israeli forces still maintain a presence inside a security zone extending several kilometres

into southern Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the United Nations said more than 821,000 displaced Lebanese had returned to their hometowns by the end of July, though over 360,000 people remain displaced. The UN also warned that damage to water and electricity infrastructure continues to affect more than 700,000 residents in southern Lebanon.

The conflict began in March when Hezbollah launched rocket attacks on Israel in support of Iran, prompting Israeli airstrikes and a ground offensive that Lebanon says has killed more than 4,300 people and displaced over one million at the height of the fighting.

Riffa await Gulf Champions League draw



Mohamed Al Mashaan addresses his players during Riffa's Dubai training camp

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Riffa will learn their opponents in the third edition of the Gulf Club Champions League later this month after the Arab Gulf Cup Football Federation (AGCFF) confirmed that the tournament draw for the 2026-27 season will be held on August 24.

The draw ceremony will take place virtually at 12pm, with the competition scheduled to run from October 13 until April 30, 2027.

The upcoming edition will mark the biggest tournament in the competition's history, with participation expanded from eight clubs to 12 teams representing eight Gulf football associations.

Riffa will carry Bahrain's hopes in the regional competition, joining a field that includes Saudi Arabian clubs Al Ettifaq and Neom, UAE sides Al Nasr and Ajman, Qatar's Al Duhail and Qatar SC, Iraqi duo Erbil and Al Zawraa, Kuwait's Kazma, Yemen's Shaab Hadhramaut and Oman's Al Shabab.

The participating clubs will be divided into three groups of four, with the top two teams from each group advancing to the quarter-finals alongside the two best third-placed sides. The knockout rounds

will then be played over two legs.

The expanded format highlights the continued growth of the tournament, which has seen increasing interest from clubs across the region since its return under the AGCFF. Last season, Bahrain were represented by Sitra, who were eliminated in the group stage, while Qatar's Al Rayyan went on to claim the 2025-26 title and enter the new campaign as defending champions.

Bahrain have previously enjoyed success in the competition, with Muharraq becoming the kingdom's first club to lift the regional crown in 2012. The Red Wolves also finished as runners-up in the 1989 edition.

Riffa will now look to build on a successful domestic campaign as they prepare for their return to the Gulf stage under Kuwaiti head coach Mohamed Mashaan.

The Blues finished third in the Nasser bin Hamad Premier League last season with 49 points from 22 matches, while ending the campaign with silverware after defeating Muharraq on penalties to lift the Khalid bin Hamad Cup. They also reached the King's Cup final, where they suffered defeat against the same opponents.

Alsameea targets BRAVE CF title push after latest victory



Alsameea stands victorious following his BRAVE CF 107 bout

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahraini mixed martial artist Mohamed Alsameea believes he is ready for bigger challenges after improving his professional record to 6-1 with a unanimous decision win at BRAVE CF 107 in Bulgaria last Saturday.

Alsameea defeated Switzerland's Miran Ramani in a 59-kilogram catchweight bout at Burgas Arena, delivering another impressive performance on BRAVE Combat Federation's global stage.

The Bahraini was originally scheduled to face Bulgaria's Aleksandar Hristov, but a late injury forced a change of opponent, with Ramani stepping in on short notice.

Speaking exclusively to The Daily Tribune, Alsameea admitted the adjustment was challenging but credited his team for helping him adapt quickly.

"A late opponent change is always a challenge, but as a professional fighter, you have to be ready for anything," Alsameea said.

"We studied my original opponent for weeks, so changing the game plan on short notice wasn't easy. Miran brought a

different style, which meant I had to make quick adjustments and trust my experience.

"My team did an incredible job preparing me in a very short time, and once I stepped into the cage, I focused on my own strengths rather than overthinking my opponent."

Alsameea controlled the contest from the opening bell, using his wrestling and grappling to dictate the pace throughout the three-round bout.

He repeatedly worked his way into dominant positions and kept Ramani under pressure, with his composure and control earning him the judges' approval.

All three judges scored the bout in Alsameea's favour, with scorecards of 30-27, 30-27 and 30-26.

While wrestling played an important role in his success, the 22-year-old stressed the importance of discipline and adapting during the fight.

"Wrestling was definitely an important part of our game plan, but we came in prepared for every aspect of the fight," he said.



Mohamed Alsameea takes on Miran Ramani

"Once the fight started, I felt comfortable with my timing and control, so I kept using what was working. In MMA, the smartest approach is to take what your opponent gives you, and I was able to dictate the pace

with my wrestling and grappling.

"The important thing was following my coaches' instructions and executing the plan from beginning to end."

The result represented another important milestone for Alsameea as he continues to represent Bahrain in one of MMA's fastest-growing promotions.

"Representing Bahrain on a stage like BRAVE CF is something I take great pride in," he said.

"Every time I step into the cage, I'm not just fighting for myself. I'm fighting for my country, my team, and everyone who has supported me throughout this journey.

"Bahrain has invested so much in developing MMA, and I'm grateful to be part of that growth. To earn a win at one of BRAVE CF's biggest events is a huge honour, and I hope it continues to show the world the level of talent we have in

the country."

The 6-1 fighter believes his recent progress has come through improvements both technically and mentally, allowing him to remain composed under pressure.

"Over the past year, I believe I've grown in every area of my game, not just technically, but mentally as well," Mohamed said.

"My wrestling, striking, and overall fight IQ have all improved, but the biggest difference is my confidence and composure under pressure.

"I feel more patient, more disciplined, and better at making the right decisions during the fight."

With momentum behind him, Alsameea is now targeting tougher opponents and a push towards the top of the BRAVE CF rankings.

"I'm ready for bigger challenges," he said.

"I want to keep facing tougher opponents, continue climbing the rankings, and prove that I belong among the best in BRAVE CF.

"My goal is simple: keep improving, keep winning, and one day compete for the BRAVE CF world title while proudly representing Bahrain."

Al Ahli appoint Spanish coach Marcelo Zubiran

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Al Ahli have appointed Spanish coach Marcelo Zubiran as head coach of their senior men's basketball team ahead of the 2026-27 season.

The move marks the beginning of a new chapter for the club following the departure of Bahraini coach Ahmed Jan, who returned to the Eagles ahead of last season after previously leading the team between September 2020 and October 2021.

During his first spell, Jan guided Al Ahli to back-to-back league titles before later taking charge of other teams, including rivals Muharraq.

Zubiran arrives with an impressive coaching résumé, having led Gibraltar's women's national team to the FIBA European Championship for Small Countries title. He has also coached Tunisian side US Monastir and gained experience across the German, Italian and Colombian leagues.

Among his notable achievements, the Spaniard was named Colombian League Coach of the Year in 2023. He also guided Nuovo Basket Aquilano to pro-



Marcelo Zubiran directs his players during a previous tenure

motion to Italy's Serie B and led Germany's Girolive Panthers Osnabrück to both league and cup finals.

Known for favouring a fast-paced style of play, Zubiran places a strong emphasis on defensive discipline while developing individual and team performances. He has also earned a reputation for promoting young players, qualities Al Ahli hope will help strengthen their squad and boost their competitiveness ahead of the new campaign.

Al Ahli enjoyed a competitive 2025-26 season, finishing fourth in the Zain Bahrain Bas-

ketball League regular season before reaching the play-off semi-finals. However, their title hopes ended with a 3-0 sweep against eventual champions Muharraq in the best-of-five series.

They also reached the Khalifa bin Salman Cup semi-finals, where they were again eliminated by Muharraq after a 2-0 sweep in the best-of-three series, with the Red Wolves going on to lift the trophy.

Those results highlighted Muharraq's recent dominance of Bahraini basketball, as they completed a domestic treble by winning the Zain Bahrain Basketball League, the Super Cup and the Khalifa bin Salman Cup.

Zubiran will now be tasked with helping Al Ahli close that gap as the club aim to challenge for major honours once again. With 20 league titles to their name, the Eagles remain one of Bahrain's most successful basketball clubs, sitting five championships behind record holders Manama.

Meanwhile, Muharraq's latest triumph secured their second consecutive league title, underlining their status as the current benchmark in Bahraini basketball.

Bahrain team inspects Sepang ahead of Grand Prix

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

On-site visits have begun at Malaysia's Sepang International Circuit as Bahrain steps up checks on safety, race control and track operations before the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia from October 2 to 4.

The race was moved to Sepang after the Bahrain Grand Prix's April date was called off because of the regional conflict. It will mark Formula One's first return to the Malaysian circuit since 2017.

Working with Bahrain International Circuit, the Bahrain Motor Federation delegation toured the venue to inspect marshal facilities, emergency and rescue services, medical cover, race control systems and other arrangements needed for the event.

The team also met representatives of the Motorsports Association of Malaysia and Sepang circuit management to review race plans, technical needs and links between the teams staging



the Grand Prix under FIA rules.

The visit was carried out under the direction of Shaikh Abdullah bin Isa Al Khalifa, president of the Bahrain Motor Federation and FIA vice-president for sport for the Middle East and North Africa.

The delegation included federation director-general Abdulaziz Al Thawadi, emergency

and safety team chief Ayoub Al Salman, circuit evacuation team chief Ahmed Al Aali, race co-ordinator and secretary Mohammed Al Jowder, and medical team chief Dr Amjad Obaid.

The federation said the visit formed part of its work to ensure the circuit and its support teams are ready before Formula One returns to Sepang.

Two career-defining bouts take center stage at BRAVE CF 108

Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation™ (BRAVE CF), the world's fastest-growing and most global mixed martial arts organization, returns with another landmark event as BRAVE CF 108 arrives at the legendary Pula Arena in Croatia on September 5, featuring two pivotal contests that could reshape the future of two weight classes.

The historic evening will be headlined by hometown hero Andi "Highlight Machine" Vrtacic, who takes on France's Sofiane Bouafia in a three-round middleweight clash.

Sharing top billing is an equally compelling co-main event as Filipino superstar Stephen "The Sniper" Loman takes on Georgian sensation Lasha Abramishvili in a high-stakes encounter, with the winner potentially earning an opportunity to vie for the vacant BRAVE CF Bantamweight World Championship.

The marquee attraction pairs together two dangerous finishers eager to make a statement under the bright lights.

Vrtacic has generated considerable momentum on the regional circuit, producing six knockouts in nine victories as a professional mixed martial artist. The explosive Croatian now prepares to make his long-awaited BRAVE CF debut, determined to announce himself on one of the sport's biggest stages in front of his compatriots.



triot.

Across the cage stands a seasoned campaigner in Bouafia, who understands the demands of performing at the highest level. Since turning professional in 2012, the French veteran has amassed 12 appearances while capturing regional championships along the way. Seven of his career victories have come before the final bell, and he enters hostile territory intent on spoiling Vrtacic's homecoming.

The co-main event carries equally significant implications as Loman finally returns to competition after years away from the cage.

The Filipino's rise paralleled the promotion's rapid international expansion. Since competing on BRAVE CF's inaugural card in September 2016, Loman assembled a perfect 6-0 promotional record that established him as one of its pioneer stars.

His defining breakthrough came at BRAVE CF 9: THE KINGDOM OF CHAMPIONS in November 2017 when he stopped Gurdarshan "Saint Lion" Mangat by first-round technical knockout to become the inaugural BRAVE CF Bantamweight World Champion. That triumph launched a historic reign spanning 1,179 days, the longest in division-

al history, highlighted by four successful World Title defenses.

Awaiting him, however, is one of the division's fastest-rising contenders.

Abramishvili has rapidly established himself as a legitimate force in the bantamweight ranks, bringing a 12-2-1 professional record alongside a spotless 4-0 run under the BRAVE CF banner. Three of those triumphs ended inside the distance, while his most recent appearance saw him eke out a hard-earned unanimous decision over Brice "Lion Kid" Picaud at BRAVE CF 106 this past June.

Beyond the action, BRAVE CF 108 also represents another landmark in the company's continuing international journey.

Croatia becomes the newest nation to welcome BRAVE CF, reinforcing the promotion's commanding presence across Europe while further cementing its standing as the continent's leading MMA organization.

In less than a decade, BRAVE CF has emerged as one of the sport's most influential forces. The Bahrain-based powerhouse now holds the largest share of the European MMA market while staging events in 38 countries around the world.

Its debut in Croatia marks the 18th European nation to host a BRAVE CF spectacle and the 39th overall, underscoring a truly unmatched global footprint that few organizations in the sport can claim.

Al Ittifaq barred from registering players

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama



The Bahrain Football Association has banned Al Ittifaq Club from registering new players due to outstanding financial obligations owed to a number of players and coaches.

The decision comes as part

of the association's regulations aimed at protecting the rights of players and coaches. The registration ban will be lifted once the club settles all outstanding financial commitments and completes the required procedures with the association.

Salah arrives in Turkey for Trabzonspor talks



Mohamed Salah is greeted by supporters upon his arrival in Istanbul

AFP | Istanbul

Former Liverpool star Mohamed Salah arrived in Istanbul yesterday to complete his move to Turkish club Trabzonspor after leaving the Premier League giants at the end of his contract.

"Salah mode: ON," Trabzonspor posted on social media alongside photos of the 34-year-old Egyptian aboard a private jet wearing the team's blue and maroon home shirt.

The club from Turkey's northeast announced on Tuesday that they had begun "negotiations" with Salah, who left Liverpool after nine seasons and as many trophies with the Reds.

He landed at around 0900 GMT in Istanbul, where he was greeted by hundreds of ecstatic supporters, AFP journalists reported.

"I'm here straight after my night shift, and now for Mo-

hamed Salah, I am ready to spend another sleepless night," Trabzonspor supporter Abdul Kerim Yervan told AFP.

Salah is due to undergo a medical yesterday in Istanbul before flying to Trabzon later in the day.

The right winger, who is set to sign a two-season contract with an option for a third, will earn 17 million euros (\$19.6 million) a year, according to several Turkish media outlets.

Salah netted 257 goals for Liverpool in 442 appearances in all competitions, making him the third top goalscorer in the club's history.

He also scored 193 Premier League goals, 191 of them for the Reds, putting him fourth in the all-time list behind English trio Alan Shearer, Harry Kane and Wayne Rooney.

Salah was far from his best in a struggling Liverpool team last term, scoring only seven times in the league.

De Minaur fights past Duckworth in all-Aussie Montreal battle



Alex de Minaur in action

AFP | Montreal

Alex de Minaur blew through the opening set but needed some good luck in the second to emerge with a 6-2, 7-6 (8/6) opening win over James Duckworth at the ATP Montreal Masters.

De Minaur, seeded third, hasn't lost to a fellow Aussie in four years, but he was made to work hard by his 86th-ranked compatriot to keep that streak alive.

The second-round match turned in an instant in the second-set tiebreaker when a return which rolled off the top of the net handed de Minaur a match point after he saved six set points for his opponent.

"A little bit of luck went my way in the tiebreaker," de Minaur said. "He was hitting me off the court in the second set, but I got lucky and managed to sneak away with the tiebreaker.

Inter Milan and AC Milan battle to 1-1 draw in Perth friendly

AFP | Perth

Frenchman Christopher Nkunku converted a late penalty as AC Milan drew 1-1 with rivals Inter Milan in a lacklustre pre-season derby yesterday in Perth.

In front of 52,310 fans, Serie A champions Inter Milan appeared to be claiming the bragging rights after Federico Dimarco's strike from close range in the 52nd minute.

But Nkunku was brought down by Carlos Augusto in the 83rd minute before squaring the contest with a superbly taken penalty.

The result ensured that new AC Milan coach Ruben Amorim is still seeking a maiden victory



AC Milan's Luka Modric in action

after his reign began with a 2-2 draw in a friendly against Celtic in Glasgow last month.

Amorim, fired as Manchester United coach in January, has been tasked with turning around ailing AC Milan, who missed out on the Champions League last season.

He will have some concerns his new side were fortunate to escape with a draw following an error-strewn performance.

They will be encouraged by veteran midfielder maestro Luka Modric playing the last 30 minutes having recently signed a one-year extension.

"It was nice to get some minutes under the belt and I felt good," Modric said.

"It's good to have these kinds of games to prepare for the season.

Alonso hails 'emotional' Mudryk return in 1-0 loss to Juventus

AFP | Hong Kong

Manager Xabi Alonso hailed Mykhailo Mudryk's "emotional" return from a doping ban as the winger played for Chelsea for the first time in nearly two years in a 1-0 friendly defeat to Juventus in Hong Kong yesterday.

The Ukrainian international came on as a substitute for Nicolas Jackson in the 82nd minute, drawing applause from

his teammates and loud cheers from Chelsea fans in the 43,575 crowd at Kai Tak Stadium.

Mudryk had not played since November 2024 because of a doping ban, but won permission to resume his football career on Friday after winning an appeal.

Despite a lively cameo on the left side, he was unable to stop Juventus taking the spoils courtesy of a wonderful second-half strike from Kosovo internation-

al Edon Zhegrova.

"Really pleased for him. It was emotional for everyone from the club to see him back," Alonso told reporters.

"He was thrilled, for sure. After such a long period, to be back on the pitch, it was a great feeling for him."

Neither side could find the breakthrough in a drab first half as two experimental line-ups struggled to create clear-cut chances.

Sabalenka tops Uchijima in WTA Toronto opener

AFP | Toronto

World number one Aryna Sabalenka returned to her hard court comfort zone with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Japanese qualifier Moyuka Uchijima in the WTA 1000 in Toronto.

It was a solid start for Sabalenka in her bid to bounce back after falling in the quarter-finals at Roland Garros and in the round of 16 at Wimbledon.

The Belarusian star has dominated on hard courts this year and on Tuesday notched her 24th win in 25 matches on the surface. The lone defeat was her loss to Elena Rybakina in the Australian Open final.

Now she's eyeing a North American hard court run that could include a three-peat at the US Open, the final Grand



Aryna Sabalenka in action

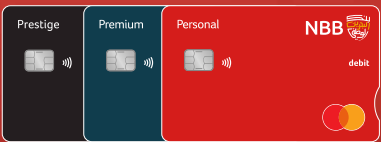
Slam of the year that starts on August 30 in New York.

"I'm happy with the performance, I'm happy with the fight," Sabalenka said after her second-round opener. "I knew going into this match I might struggle a little bit after a little break, but I was ready for that.

"I'm happy that mentally and physically I was ready to go."



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