

King's Cup last eight confirmed

HM The King's Cup round-of-16 continued on Thursday as A'ali and Al Ahli stormed into the quarter-finals, completing the line-up for Bahrain's premier domestic knockout tournament. | P12

6 US seeks new nuclear talks

Jennifer Garner bit a stunt performer's ear

5 Elections Committee publishes voters' list for review and data verification

HM King, HRH CP, PM condole with Jordan King

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of condolences to His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, following the passing of Ahmad Obeidat, former Jordanian Prime Minister.

Trump deletes racist video post of Obamas as monkeys

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump shared a post with a racist video depicting Barack and Michelle Obama as monkeys, sparking outrage across the US political spectrum Friday before deleting it in a rare backtrack.

The White House initially rejected "fake outrage" over the video shared on Trump's Truth Social account late Thursday night, only to then blame the post on an error by a staff member.

Bahrain condemns Islamabad mosque attack, mourns victims

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has condemned the terrorist attack on a mosque in Islamabad during Friday prayers, which killed 31 people and injured over 130 worshippers.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed the Kingdom's rejection of extremism and terrorism, and strongly denounced attacks targeting places of worship and civilians.

Bahrain expressed its condolences to the government and people of Pakistan, as well as to the families of the victims, and wished a speedy recovery to those injured.



220 fils (includes VAT)



Bahrain, France deepen strategic ties with defence pact signed in Paris

TDT | Paris

Bahrain and France have stepped up their strategic partnership with the signing of a joint defence cooperation agreement following high-level talks between His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and French President Emmanuel Macron at the Élysée Palace.

HM King Hamad was accorded a formal welcome on arrival, setting the tone for talks that underscored the depth of relations between the two countries and their shared interest in expanding cooperation across defence, security and other key sectors. President Macron highlighted the long history of ties with Bahrain and the steady progress achieved in recent years.

The agreement was signed for Bahrain by His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa,



France's President Emmanuel Macron (R) welcomes HM King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa at the Elysee Presidential Palace in Paris

National Security Adviser and Secretary-General of the Supreme Defence Council, and for France by Alice Rufo, Minister

Delegate to the Minister of the Armed Forces and Veterans. Both sides praised the work of the Joint Bahraini-French High Committee in advancing bilateral cooperation.

Regional and international developments also featured prominently in the discussions, with both leaders stressing the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in resolving conflicts. King Hamad commended President Macron's leadership role in promoting international security and stability, as well as France's support for just Arab causes.

The visit concluded with a luncheon hosted by President Macron in honour of the King, attended by senior officials from both delegations, highlighting the warm and evolving partnership between Manama and Paris.

Slovenian Prime Minister receives Arab foreign ministers in Ljubljana

TDT | Ljubljana

Dr. Robert Golob, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia, received a number of Arab foreign ministers during their official visit to Slovenia.

Present was Tanja Fajon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdulrahman Al Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Ayman Sa'fadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; Dr. Badr Abdelatty, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain; and Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar.



Tensions ease as Iran-US talks open

Iran agrees with US to 'proceed with negotiations'

● Iran FM says talks solely on nuclear issue

● The timing and the format of the next round will be decided "at a later date"

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi yesterday described the atmosphere of talks with the United States as positive, with the two sides agreeing to proceed with negotiations.

The talks took place following threats from Washington and after it recently deployed an aircraft carrier group to the Middle East following Iran's deadly



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (C) arrives for a meeting in Muscat.

response to anti-government protests.

"In a very positive atmosphere, our arguments were exchanged and the views of the other side were shared with us," Araghchi told Iranian state TV, adding that "it was a good start."

He noted the two sides had "agreed to proceed with the ne-

gotiations" and that the "way forward" would be decided after negotiators held consultations within their respective capitals.

The timing and the format of the next round will be decided "at a later date", Araghchi said, expressing hope that Washington would refrain from "threats and pressure" so that "the talks

can continue".

The top diplomat insisted that the discussions were "focused exclusively on the nuclear issue", in an interview with the official IRNA news agency.

"We are not addressing any other subject with the Americans," he added.



Yesterday's talks were the first since nuclear negotiations between Iran and the US collapsed last year following Israel's unprecedented bombing campaign against Iran, which triggered a 12-day war.

Power trouble

MPs push for separate power meters for families sharing homes

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Families sharing a single home should be allowed to install separate electricity meters for each household, according to a proposal submitted to Parliament.



The proposal, put forward by MPs Abdulhakeem Al Sheno, Bader Al Tamimi, Hamad Al Doy, Abdulwahid Qarata and

Hassan Ibrahim, focuses on extended families and households benefiting from housing finance and housing programmes that are currently billed through a single shared meter.

The MPs said combining electricity use often pushes households into higher tariff bands, resulting in bills that do not reflect the actual consumption of each family.

They noted that the impact is felt most by retirees and low- to middle-income families, with homeowners frequently bearing the cost of electricity used by multiple households.

The accompanying memorandum described the proposal as an administrative measure that would not impose additional direct costs on the state.

Buying local in

Budaiya



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Under the shade of Budaiya Botanical Garden's greenery, the Bahraini Farmers Market has evolved into a lively weekend destination, drawing families, food lovers and visitors from Bahrain and abroad.