

Highest Level of Readiness



The General Command confirmed that all BDF units have been placed at the highest level of readiness and defensive preparedness to protect the Kingdom and ensure a rapid response to any further threats.

BDF said its air defence systems successfully intercepted and destroyed three missiles and several drones targeting the Kingdom yesterday.

The military urged the public to remain cautious and avoid approaching any unfamiliar or suspicious objects resulting from the attacks, warning that such debris could be dangerous.

Android users urged to update phones for emergency alerts

Android users have been advised to update their smartphones to the latest available software version to ensure they receive emergency alerts and notifications properly and without delay.

The guidance highlights that some alerts delivered via text message notifications may not always produce sound, particularly when received after midnight. This raises concerns that important warnings could be missed if devices are not fully updated.

Users are encouraged to regularly check for updates and install them as soon as they become available.

To do so, users can open the Settings app on their device, tap on “System,” then select “Software update.” If an update is available, users should follow the on-screen instructions to complete the installation.

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GCC Stands as One

Bahrain and Kuwait targeted in pre-dawn strike condemned across the Arab world

TDT | Manama

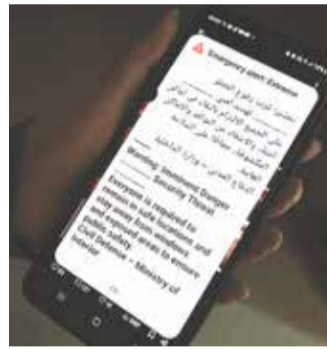
Iran launched a fresh wave of ballistic missile attacks against Bahrain and Kuwait in the early hours of Saturday, firing seven missiles toward the two Gulf nations in what regional governments swiftly condemned as a blatant act of aggression.

Bahrain’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned the attack as a flagrant violation of both countries’ sovereignty and a grave breach of the United Nations Charter. The ministry specifically cited UN Security Council Resolution 2817 (2026)—which previously condemned Iran’s attacks and its attempts to close or obstruct navigation through the Strait of Hormuz—as further proof of Iran’s continued defiance of international law.

Bahrain called on Tehran to immediately cease its attacks, reopen the Strait of Hormuz without restriction, disclose the locations of naval mines and cooperate in their removal, and establish a safe humanitarian corridor for civilian vessels. The ministry also demanded the safe departure of more than twenty thousand seafarers currently stranded in the region.

Missiles Intercepted

Kuwait’s Armed Forces spokesman Colonel Saud Al-Otaibi confirmed that the military detected and engaged all hostile ballistic missiles within Kuwaiti airspace at dawn. U.S. Central Command said American forces intercepted ballistic missiles launched toward Kuwait and Bahrain. While no direct hits were reported, shrapnel from the in-



tercepts fell over several residential areas, causing material damage on the ground.

Regional condemnations

Kuwait declared full solidarity with Bahrain, emphasising that the security of all Gulf Cooperation Council states is indivisible. Saudi Arabia issued its strongest denunciation of the attacks, calling them brutal aggression and a direct threat to regional and international security. Qatar

condemned the strikes as a violation of international law and called for immediate de-escalation to restore regional stability. Jordan described the attacks as a dangerous escalation that undermines all ongoing efforts to restore peace in the region, pledging absolute solidarity with both countries.

Iran has been conducting a sustained campaign of missile and drone strikes on Bahrain since late February 2026, targeting both military installations and civilian infrastructure across the island kingdom. Saturday’s predawn attack marks a significant escalation, striking two Gulf capitals simultaneously and drawing unified regional fury. With the Strait of Hormuz still partially obstructed and thousands of seafarers stranded, the human and economic cost of the conflict continues to mount.

Prisoners Released Peace



Bahrain welcomed the success of mediation efforts led by the United Arab Emirates that facilitated a new prisoner exchange between Russia and Ukraine, involving 370 prisoners from both sides.

In a statement, Bahrain’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the exchange as a positive humanitarian development that contributes to de-escalation efforts and supports prospects for a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

Lebanon Sovereignty Reaffirmed



The Kingdom of Bahrain reaffirmed its strong support for the sovereignty, security, and stability of the Lebanese Republic, reiterating its rejection of any foreign interference in Lebanon’s internal affairs.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed Bahrain’s backing for efforts led by Lebanese President General Joseph Aoun and the government to strengthen state institutions, extend full state authority across Lebanese territory, and ensure that weapons remain exclusively under state control, in line with the Taif Agreement and relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, including Resolution 1701.

The ministry also expressed appreciation for mediation efforts led by the United States to reach a permanent ceasefire in Lebanon, and commended the Lebanese leadership for its commitment to diplomatic solutions aimed at ending hostilities, protecting civilians, and enabling the return of displaced populations.

Survivor Recalls Kuwait Airport Attack

‘I Only Thought About Surviving’



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On June 3, when Iran launched an attack targeting Kuwait International Airport, Egyptian expatriate Mamdouh Abdel Aleem found himself caught in a scene of chaos and fear. The 35-year-old telecommunications worker was injured by shrapnel while attempting to escape the blast, later undergoing three surgeries as he began a long road to recovery.

Mamdouh’s story provides a firsthand account of the human

toll of the attack, illustrating how ordinary workers became victims of an unexpected act of violence. Beyond the physical injuries, his experience highlights the psychological impact of the incident and the acts of kindness that emerged amid the devastation.

Mamdouh, who has lived in Kuwait since 2017 with his brother, works for a telecommunications company operating within the airport. Speaking from his hospital bed, he said the day began like any ordinary shift before events took a dramatic turn.



“At around 7 a.m., we heard two warning sirens,” he recalled. “Then a powerful strike hit. The doors were closed, and my only thought was to get out and move as far away from the area as possible.”

As panic spread through the airport, Mamdouh was struck by shrapnel in his arm. However, the shock and adrenaline of the moment kept him from realizing he was injured. **(Read more on page 09)**

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BAHRAIN OPENS NEW DOORS IN RUSSIA

Finance Minister Leads High-Level Delegation to Saint Petersburg's Premier Economic Forum

Bahrain arrived at one of the world's most influential economic gatherings this week with a clear message: the Kingdom is open, ambitious, and ready to do business.

Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy and Chairman of Mumtalakat Holding Company, led a high-powered Bahraini delegation to the 2026 Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF). He used the platform to hold strategic meetings spanning finance, culture, trade, and investment.



President Putin Takes the Stage

The Bahraini delegation attended the forum's flagship plenary session, where Russian President Vladimir Putin delivered the keynote address before heads of state, government



ministers, and global business leaders. The minister said the forum offers a vital space for debating economic challenges and spotting new opportunities as global markets shift at an unprecedented pace.

Finance Leaders Meet

In one of the delegation's most significant bilateral meetings, Shaikh Salman sat down with his Russian counterpart, Finance Minister Anton Siluanov, to review global economic developments and deepen financial ties between the two nations. The minister conveyed royal greetings from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Crown Prince and Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa to President Putin.



Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa and Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov exchange notes on bilateral economic cooperation on the sidelines of SPIEF 2026.

Beyond Economics: A Cultural Connection



H.E. Shaikh Salman meets Russia's Culture Minister, reflecting Bahrain's commitment to multidimensional engagement.

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Tatarstan Opens Its Doors

President Rustam Minnikhanov of the Republic of Tatarstan received Shaikh Salman in a warm meeting focused on trade, investment, and knowledge exchange. Both sides expressed a shared desire to build new investment bridges and expand cooperation frameworks that benefit both peoples.



Tatarstan President Minnikhanov welcomes Bahrain's Finance Minister, as both sides pledge to deepen economic ties.



Sovereign Funds Talk Shop

Rounding out a packed day of diplomacy, H.E. Shaikh Salman met Kirill Dmitriev, CEO of the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), to explore investment opportunities and areas of mutual economic interest — a conversation that could lay the groundwork for future capital partnerships.

The delegation included Industry and Commerce Minister H.E. Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Bahrain's Ambassador to Russia H.E. Ahmed Abdulrahman Al Saati, and Mumtalakat CEO H.E. Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

Bahrain's presence at SPIEF 2026 sends a clear signal: guid-



Shaikh Salman and RDIF CEO Kirill Dmitriev: sovereign wealth and investment partnerships take centre stage.

ed by royal vision and backed by solid institutions, the Kingdom is actively building the partnerships that will shape its economic future.

Bahrain promotes fintech and digital assets in Europe



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The Bahrain Economic Development Board has concluded a five-day visit to Spain and Switzerland aimed at strengthening ties with investors, business leaders and industry stakeholders across key European markets.

The delegation was led by Noor bint Ali Alkhulaif, who also serves as Minister of Sustainable Development and Chief Executive of the board.

The programme covered engagements in Barcelona, Zurich and Geneva, with a series of meetings, roundtables and networking events focused on sectors including financial ser-

vices, manufacturing, logistics, tourism, fintech and digital assets.

In Barcelona, the delegation met Spanish investors and business leaders, presenting Bahrain's network of trade and economic cooperation agreements. Officials highlighted opportunities for companies seeking access to markets across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and beyond.

In Switzerland, discussions centred on Bahrain's financial services sector, wealth management ecosystem and regulatory framework. Meetings were held with asset management firms, family offices, and organisations specialising in blockchain and digital assets, reflecting Bahrain's push to

position itself as a regional hub for fintech innovation.

The delegation also partnered with the Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services to host Swiss business leaders, showcasing Bahrain's investment climate and long-term economic opportunities.

The visit concluded with talks at the World Economic Forum, where both sides explored potential areas for cooperation and joint initiatives.

The Bahrain Economic Development Board said the trip formed part of its wider strategy to strengthen investor engagement, build long-term partnerships and promote Bahrain as a competitive destination for international investment.

Global experts meet in Turkey to tackle food waste



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Bahrain has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening national food security and improving the efficiency of global food supply chains, as ministers and experts gathered in Istanbul for an international meeting focused on reducing post-harvest losses.

Minister of Municipalities and Agriculture, Eng. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, took part in the ministerial discussions hosted by Turkey's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in the Turkish capital, bringing together ministers from several countries alongside specialists in agriculture, logistics and food security.

The meeting focused on improving the resilience of food systems and reducing waste after harvest, a growing global concern amid ongoing disruptions to international supply chains in recent years.

In his remarks, the Bahraini minister said the country's approach to food security is guided by its leadership, with an emphasis on long-term sustainability and diversification of supply sources. He pointed to national strategies aimed at strengthening food systems, expanding strategic storage capacity, and enhancing regional and international partnerships.

He said recent global disruptions demonstrated the importance of preparedness and flexibility in ensuring the continuous flow of essential food supplies. He added that

Bahrain remains committed to strengthening its national food security framework in line with regional and international developments.

A key focus of his intervention was post-harvest loss reduction, which he described as a central pillar of food security and sustainability. He stressed the importance of adopting modern agricultural technologies, artificial intelligence and digital transformation to improve efficiency, reduce waste and optimise resource management across food supply chains.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the minister thanked the Republic of Turkey for hosting the event and praised the efforts of its Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in facilitating international cooperation on food security.

Bahrain opens Gulf Youth Forum

Ministry of Youth Affairs inaugurated a Gulf youth forum bringing together young participants and experts to discuss career pathways and labour market trends, marking Gulf Youth Day.

The forum, titled "Career Paths and the Labour Market," was held virtually and organised by the ministry with participation from across the GCC. It brought together Bahraini and Gulf youth alongside specialists in economic and development fields.

Speaking at the opening, Bahrain's Minister of Youth Affairs, Her Excellency Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi, said Gulf Youth Day was an opportunity to celebrate young people's contributions to development across various sectors.

She highlighted the growing role of Bahraini youth in inno-



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

She also praised the role of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, describing his initiatives as key in strengthening youth empowerment frameworks across the kingdom.

Tawfiqi said the forum addressed one of the most important issues facing young people today: career development and labour market transformation amid rapid global change.

She added that young people today have unprecedented opportunities to make an impact, supported by expanding platforms for innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship.

vation, entrepreneurship and the digital economy, saying they are increasingly shaping opportunities and helping to define future economic directions.

The minister said achievements in Bahrain's youth sector result from sustained support from the country's leadership, citing the efforts of His Majesty

MPs Push for Stricter Checks on Expat Qualifications

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Parliamentary Services Committee has backed a proposal to introduce stricter checks on expatriate workers' qualifications before they are hired, following concerns over forged certificates.

The proposal, submitted by several MPs, calls for creating a joint administrative committee linking the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Education and the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA). This body would verify academic and professional qualifications before expat workers begin employment in Bahrain.

Lawmakers also proposed a central database to allow government agencies to record, verify and retrieve certificates more efficiently.

MPs said the move would help improve trust in workers' skills, raise service standards and pre-



Mohammed Janahi, MP

vent unqualified people from taking up jobs requiring specialised training or licences.

Government bodies told the committee that qualification checks are already carried out in several regulated sectors, including education and licensed professions.

The Ministry of Education said it uses electronic systems and accredited specialist firms to verify certificates submitted by private educational institutions, while the LMRA said professional licences are already required for specialised jobs.

Despite existing measures, the Services Committee unan-



- A new committee would link the Labour Ministry, Education Ministry and LMRA.
- MPs say move would improve service quality and strengthen trust in skills.
- Authorities say several verification systems are already in place.

imously approved the proposal, saying stronger coordination between authorities would better protect the labour market and the public interest.

Winners honoured at Bahrain Quran awards

Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Consort of His Majesty King Hamad and President of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW), Bahrain held the awards ceremony for the 30th Bahrain Grand Holy Quran Award on Thursday.

The ceremony took place at Isa Cultural Centre and was attended by Dr. Shaikha Mariam bint Hassan Al Khalifa, Vice President of the Supreme Council for Women.

The event was organised by the Supreme Council for Islamic



Affairs in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments.

Speaking during the ceremony, Dr. Shaikha Mariam said HRH Princess Sabeeka's patronage reflects continued support for women who memorise the Holy Quran and efforts aimed at strengthening religious, educational and cultural awareness rooted in Islamic values.

She said participation in the competition has continued to grow over the years, adding that the award has played an important role in encouraging Quran memorisation and the study of

Quranic sciences over the past three decades.

Dr. Shaikha Mariam also praised Quran memorisation centres supervised by the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments for their efforts in preparing participants and promoting excellence.

During the ceremony, certificates and awards were presented to winners across several categories, including Quran memorization, recitation, and specialised competitions.

Partner organisations supporting the competition were also honoured. They included

the Ministry of Interior for the "Ghufran" competition for female inmates at rehabilitation centres, the Ministry of Education for the "Bayan" competition for school students, and the Ministry of Social Development for the "Ajran" competition for people of determination.

Members of the judging committee were also recognised for their contributions.

Special awards were presented for the oldest and youngest participants, the "Mizmar Dawood" award, the best Quran memorization centre, and the best local Quran competition.

Beauty That Exposed a Gap

Buhair Valley: From Trespassed Terrain to Bahrain's Next Great Attraction

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Over the past month, families and visitors flooded into Buhair Valley — a protected nature reserve in East Riffa — drawn by viral videos showing its rare greenery, flowing streams and dramatic rock formations. They swam in potentially unsafe water, wandered restricted terrain, and turned a sensitive ecological site into a public concern.

But the crowds also delivered a message: Bahrainis are hungry for natural spaces.

Beauty That Exposed a Gap

The valley gained attention after social media posts — including a widely shared video report — revealed a landscape many residents never knew existed in Bahrain. The response was immediate and overwhelming.

Yet no visitor path, no entry system, and no managed experience existed to receive them. The result was disorder inside a zone that legally cannot be entered.

Southern Municipal Council Chairman Abdulla Abdullatif confirmed that a formal complaint was filed with the Oil and Environment Minister, and that the water was referred for inspection following reports of people swimming in it.

A Regional Model

Saudi Arabia's Jabal Al Qarah in Al Ahsa transformed its caves and rock formations into a managed destination — with cafes, walkways and viewing areas — without sacrificing the



Buhair value at present



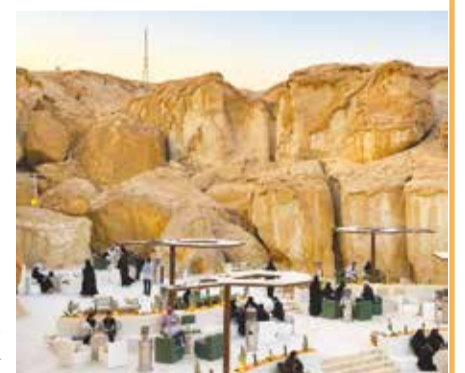
AI-generated vision of the new Buhair Valley landscape, blending nature and modern design

site's natural integrity. Can Bahrain apply the same thinking to Buhair Valley?

Look, But Do Not

Enter

The valley's core should remain fully protected. Around it, however, Bahrain could develop raised viewing decks, shaded seating, controlled walking paths, and cafes overlooking the landscape—turning



A coffee shop in Jabal Al Qarah, Al Ahsa, Saudi Arabia

viral curiosity into sustainable ecotourism.

BD19.9m Goes to Disability Support from Social Fund

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Nearly BD20 million from Bahrain's National Social Fund was allocated to disability support in 2024, accounting for the largest share of the fund's BD22.4m annual budget.

Social Development Minister Osama Al Alawi revealed the figures in a written response to Second Deputy Speaker Ahmed

Qarata, stating that BD19.931m was spent on disability allowances, rehabilitation services, assistive devices and care programmes.

The biggest portion, BD18.3m, was used for disability allowances under Bahrain's Persons with Disabilities Law. The increase followed a 2023 decision, agreed with Parliament, to double allowances for people with severe disabilities, including those with cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorder,



Ahmed Qarata, Parliament's Second Deputy Speaker



Osama Al Alawi, Minister of Social Development

severe intellectual disabilities and multiple disabilities.

Another BD1.2m was allocated to non-profit rehabilitation centres, while funds were also set aside for assistive devices, driving training for people with disabilities and support for the National Committee for the Care of Persons with Disabilities.

The minister said the budget also covered service contracts, rehabilitation programmes and

partnerships with civil society organisations.

Additional spending from the National Social Fund included support for elderly care centres, shelter homes, child welfare services and disability-focused educational and social programmes.

Al Alawi said the ministry is working on plans to strengthen financial oversight and improve the effectiveness of services provided through the fund.

Bahrain Surpasses Mangrove Goal

● National initiative reaches 139% of original planting target

● Mangroves strengthen biodiversity and natural coastal protection

● Project supports Bahrain's wider climate and sustainability goals

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Bahrain has exceeded its national mangrove planting target ahead of schedule after planting 2.23 million mangrove trees across coastal areas, officials said.

The achievement represents 139 per cent of the original goal



Mangrove forest in Tubli Bay

of 1.6 million saplings under the "Mangroves Bahrain" initiative, launched by Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

to support environmental sustainability and protect coastal ecosystems.

Mangrove forests have expand-

ed in areas including Arad Bay and Tubli Bay, creating important habitats for marine life and birds while strengthening natural coastal defences.

Officials said mangroves also play a key role in reducing coastal erosion and capturing carbon emissions, making them an important part of Bahrain's climate strategy.

The mangrove project forms part of Bahrain's wider afforestation plan, which aims to plant 3.6 million trees by 2035. Authorities said 2.45 million trees have already been planted, achieving around 68 per cent of the overall target.

Officials described the expansion as a major step in Bahrain's growing use of nature-based solutions to address environmental and climate challenges.

Eid Joy for Orphans Initiative



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As part of its ongoing commitment to social responsibility and community engagement, the Ebrahim K. Kanoo Social Development organized a special activity for children in celebration of Eid Al Adha, in collaboration with Al Sanabel Orphan Care Society. Held at Yabeela Entertainment Center, the event welcomed 160 children for a day filled with laughter, entertainment, and memorable experiences. The event featured a variety of games and recreational activities, providing the children with a memorable day of fun and entertainment. Volunteers from

Ebrahim K. Kanoo also participated in the initiative, accompanying the children throughout the activities, reflecting the spirit of community solidarity that the company strives to promote.

The Ebrahim K. Kanoo Social Development extends its appreciation to all partners, volunteers, and contributors who helped make the initiative a success, emphasizing the importance of collective efforts in supporting humanitarian and community initiatives and reinforcing the values of generosity, compassion, and social solidarity across the Kingdom of Bahrain.

NMS Bahrain Marks World Environment Day



New Millennium School Bahrain marked World Environment Day with a series of activities aimed at promoting sustainability and environmental awareness among students. Held under the theme "Go Green @ NMS," the celebration aligned with Bahrain's Green Education Initiative and encouraged students to adopt environmentally responsible habits and sustainable lifestyles. The school also launched a month-long "Everyday Earth Hour" initiative, during which non-essential lights and electrical appliances will be switched off daily to encourage responsible energy use. Principal Dr Arun Kumar Sharma stressed the importance of educational institutions in shaping environmentally responsible citizens, while Chairman Dr Ravi Pillai and Managing Director Mrs Geetha Pillai praised the efforts of students, teachers, and parents in supporting environmental awareness initiatives.

Excellence In Leadership



The General Secretariat of the Shura Council received the Excellence in Human Resources Award from Gulf University during celebrations marking World Human Resources Day 2026. Mohammed Adel Jameel, Director of the Human Resources and Finance Department, accepted the award, which recognised the Secretariat's efforts in institutional development, talent empowerment, and advancing modern human resources practices.



From
The Court

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

Five-Year Sentences Confirmed in Organised Warehouse Heist

High Criminal Court of Appeal upheld five-year prison sentences for two men convicted in a violent organised theft of electrical cables from a warehouse, while ordering their permanent deportation after serving their terms.

The court also reduced the sentence of a third defendant from three years to one year in prison, alongside deportation and confiscation of seized items.

The case relates to an early-morning raid on a company warehouse, where a group of men forced their way into the premises and stole electrical



cables worth more than BHD 24,000.

According to court documents, the warehouse security guard was attacked, blindfolded and prevented from calling for help after the suspects entered by climbing over a rear fence at around 1am.

The attackers allegedly damaged locks, disabled surveillance cameras and removed the CCTV hard drive before loading the stolen cables into a vehicle driven by one of the defendants.

Investigators said the cables were later offered for sale to a scrap dealer for BHD 13,400. The buyer became suspicious and reported the matter to authorities after being instructed to cover the goods before transport.

Security investigations later identified several suspects linked to the operation, leading to arrests and convictions in the organised theft case.

Public Worker Charged with Embezzlement and Money Laundering

Public Prosecution has referred an employee of the General Directorate of Jaafari Endowments to criminal trial on charges including embezzlement of public funds, forgery and money laundering involving nearly BHD 500,000.

According to the Chief Prosecutor of Financial Crimes and Money Laundering, the case began after a report from the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments alleged that the employee had misused his position to divert charitable assistance funds intended for eligible beneficiaries.

Investigators said the accused embezzled around BHD 483,107 by depositing cheque proceeds into his personal

bank account and using the money for personal expenses, including purchasing property and vehicles.

Authorities also alleged that he attempted to illegally obtain an additional BHD 58,000 by creating forged charitable assistance applications under fictitious names and manipulating records within the department's electronic system.

The investigation involved financial audits, witness testimonies and reports from anti-corruption authorities and the Financial Intelligence National Center. Prosecutors also ordered the freezing of the defendant's bank accounts and the



seizure of assets.

The accused reportedly confessed to the charges during questioning. He remains in custody pending trial, with the case scheduled to be heard before the High Criminal Court on 30 June 2026.

Appeals Court Halts Sale of Family Home Organised Warehouse Heist

The Second High Civil Court of Appeal overturned a ruling ordering the auction of a jointly owned family home, deciding instead to extend its co-ownership status for another two years.

The case began after one heir requested the division of his share in the government housing property. He asked the court to either allocate and register his portion or sell the property at public auction if division was not possible.

A lower court had ruled that the house could not be physical-

ly divided because of planning and technical restrictions and ordered the property sold.

However, one heir appealed the decision, arguing that the house was her only residence and that selling it would leave her without a home.

In its judgment, the appellate court said auctioning jointly owned property should only occur in exceptional circumstances when division is impossible or would significantly reduce the property's value.

The court found that the appellant still lived in the prop-

erty and did not own another residence. It also referred to conditions in the property's title deed aimed at preserving its residential use.

The judges further noted that an earlier court ruling had already maintained the co-ownership arrangement for three years beginning in October 2021.

Based on these factors, the court overturned the auction order and extended the joint ownership arrangement for an additional two years, while ordering the respondent to cover legal expenses and court costs.

Asian Worker to Be Deported After Violent Restaurant Assault

First High Criminal Court of Appeal upheld a three-year prison sentence against an Asian worker convicted of attacking his colleague with a cleaver inside a restaurant kitchen. The court also ordered his permanent deportation after completing his sentence.

According to court records, the incident took place after the restaurant had closed,

while both men were cleaning the kitchen. The defendant suddenly attacked the victim with a cleaver, inflicting a deep wound to the left side of his neck behind the ear.

Despite the injury, the victim managed to escape and seek help from a nearby work supervisor, who later took him to hospital for treatment.

Investigators said the defendant later stabbed

himself in the abdomen with a knife, believing he had killed his colleague. The self-inflicted injury was described as minor.

During questioning, the defendant admitted carrying out the attack, claiming he acted after the victim allegedly threatened to have him deported because of poor work performance.

Security camera footage from the restaurant

captured the assault, while forensic reports confirmed the victim suffered a potentially life-threatening injury near the brain, resulting in permanent facial nerve damage estimated at four percent disability.

Authorities also found biological traces on the seized knife and cleaver, with blood on the knife confirmed to belong to the defendant.

How NBB is Turning Responsible Banking into a Platform for Long-Term Growth

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Few words appear as frequently in banking as “responsible.” It turns up in annual reports, on websites and in conference speeches, often without anyone pausing to explain what it asks of the institution using it. Zaina Alzayani, Group Chief Strategy and Sustainability Officer at the National Bank of Bahrain (NBB), prefers to be specific. She describes governance less as a compliance exercise and more as the system that holds the Bank’s decisions together.

“Governance helps us make the right decisions, manage risks more effectively, and build trust with our stakeholders, whether they are customers, shareholders, or employees,” she says. For an institution founded in 1957, one that is the Kingdom’s first locally owned bank, that trust is the asset everything else rests on.

The structure underneath the strategy

Alzayani’s case for what sets NBB apart in the regional financial sector comes down to the pairing of a long institutional legacy matched to a clear view of where the Bank intends to go. Responsible banking, according to her, has moved from the periphery of NBB’s thinking to its centre.

“NBB has built a model that combines deep-rooted experience with a clear vision for the



future,” she says. “Today, responsible banking and governance are part of NBB’s strategy.”

Anchoring this strategy is a structure ensuring its disciplined execution. Oversight begins with the Board of Directors. Beneath it sit executive-level sustainability committees that supervise initiatives and follow their progress across the Bank’s departments.

A further committee governs sustainable finance itself, checking that the way deals are classified holds up against the Sustainable Finance Framework that NBB introduced in 2024. Sustainability, in other words, has been institutionalised into the Bank’s operational framework rather than a component bolted on beside it.

Putting the framework to work

Ask Alzayani which of NBB’s recent sustainability efforts has worked best and she returns first to that framework with proof. “Since last year and up until the end of 2025, we achieved nearly 33% growth in sustainable financing,” she points out. For a programme

barely two years old, a one-third rise gives the strategy something firmer than ambition to stand on.

The harder work comes next, however. NBB is moving towards emissions-reduction targets for 2026 and 2027 as part of a decarbonisation plan that reaches into every part of the organisation. Departments are setting their own priorities along with their performance indicators, and those numbers are watched as the plan is carried out.

This is collective work, Alzayani stresses, rather than the project of a single team. It requires institution-wide involvement, because sustainability touches all the areas from financing, operations and risk management, to strategy, product development, and customer engagement.

Why sustainability earns its place on the balance sheet

The question that trails many sustainability programmes is whether they are treated as a cost of doing business or as



Zaina Alzayani, Group Chief Strategy and Sustainability Officer

a source of long-term value. Alzayani’s answer is that NBB has chosen the latter.

“We do not view sustainability as merely an additional cost to the Bank, or something placed on the sidelines,” she affirms. “It is a core part of our strategy.” That view is reflected in the way NBB is developing its products. The Bank sees growing demand in the market for financial solutions that support responsible outcomes, from sustainable finance to sustainable deposits and treasury products built around the same principles.

Read this way, sustainability becomes a platform for innovation, a way to further strengthen customer relationships and a practical route for the Bank to support Bahrain’s wider economic and environmental priorities. For NBB, the

value lies not only in reducing impact, but in successfully serving customer needs in a market that is increasingly asking for financial solutions underpinned by responsible practices.

Serving the Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and UAE corridor

NBB’s growth ambitions do not stop at the causeway. The Bank’s presence in the UAE and Saudi markets forms part of a wider effort to support customers across key Gulf economies and strengthen its regional position.

“The presence of NBB as a national institution plays a very important role in Gulf expansion, especially in key markets and economies such as the UAE and Saudi Arabia,” Alzayani says. “This expansion reflects our ambition and determination to strengthen our regional position.”

The logic is closely tied to trade. Commercial relationships between Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the UAE are strong, and many customers operate across more than one market. A Bahraini bank with a presence across this corridor can serve clients as their business activity moves across borders.

For NBB, the opportunity is twofold. It allows the Bank to tap into segments with cross-border business requirements, while also diversifying its income geographically across the Gulf region. Alzayani

describes the expansion as more than a matter of reach. It is a window towards the creation of a more integrated regional growth platform, shaped around the commercial activity taking place between the three states.

The promise behind the relationship

When the conversation turns specifically to NBB’s customers, Alzayani’s tone settles into something closer to a promise. She wants them to know that the Bank’s position remains steady, whatever the conditions.

Perhaps the line that best captures how she sees the relationship is this: “We have grown alongside the growth of our customers.” This is the kind of claim an institution with nearly seven decades of history behind it can make with conviction, and one that has become central to its identity.

As NBB continues to strengthen its governance framework, deepen its sustainability agenda and expand its regional reach, Alzayani’s message is ultimately one of confidence. The Bank is building on the trust it has earned over generations, while preparing itself for the next phase of its growth. And as NBB pursues its long-term transformation ambitions, its promise remains rooted in the same principle: to stand beside customers, support them through change and grow with them over the long term.

Strategic Thinking Group reactivated to guide economic policy work

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry has moved to strengthen its research and analytical capabilities by reactivating its Strategic Thinking Group, a step aimed at improving evidence-based decision-making and anticipating economic shifts affecting the private sector.

Mr. Mohammed Adel Fakhro, a board member of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said enhancing studies, research and strategic analysis has become essential to keep pace with rapid economic and legislative developments. He stressed that stronger analytical foundations would enable the chamber to develop more informed positions and recommendations supporting Bahrain’s business community.

Fakhro noted that the chamber’s board, chaired by H.E. Nabeel Khalid Kanoo, has decided to reactivate the Strategic Thinking Group and assign coordination of its work to support the preparation of strategic studies and initiatives. These efforts, he said, will align with the board’s priorities and the evolving needs of the private sector.



He added that the real value of research lies not only in producing studies, but in translating their findings into practical initiatives and policy recommendations. This, he said, would help improve the business environment, address challenges, and better capture emerging economic opportunities.

According to Fakhro, the reactivated group will focus on analysing key economic and legislative issues, assessing the impact of economic, technological and trade developments, and contributing to consultations on draft laws, regulations and economic policies

affecting the private sector. It will also work to identify emerging trends, promising sectors, and the implications of digital transformation and global trade shifts on Bahrain’s economy.

He further explained that the group will operate in coordination with the executive office, the board, and the chamber’s research and studies department. It will also draw on expertise from chamber members, specialists and external experts depending on the subject matter, ensuring that outputs are grounded in both technical knowledge and practical experience.



Strong research is the foundation of informed decisions and sustainable growth. Strategic thinking enables us to anticipate change and create opportunity.

MR. MOHAMMED ADEL FAKHRO

Fakhro said the initiative reflects the chamber’s broader direction towards strengthening institutional work based on analysis, research and forward-looking assessment. He said this approach would enhance the board’s ability to respond effectively to economic challenges and reinforce the chamber’s role in supporting the private sector and contributing to Bahrain’s economic development.

Blockchain Finance Insights



The Bahrain Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) held the second edition of its CA Masterclass series on Friday, focusing on the emerging field of real-world asset (RWA) tokenisation.

The event brought together finance professionals and ICAI members for an in-depth session on blockchain-enabled finance and digital assets.

The masterclass was led by CA Narayanan Ganapathy, who outlined how tokenisation is reshaping global financial systems by bridging traditional finance with decentralised technologies.

Participants discussed the evolving regulatory and investment landscape, emphasizing the potential of digital assets to transform the ownership, trading, and liquidity of real-world assets.

VKL Holdings Chairman meets CM V. D. Satheesan



Bahrain-based prominent businessman Dr. Varghese Kurian, Chairman and Managing Director of VKL Holdings and Al Namal Group of Companies, met Kerala Chief Minister V. D. Satheesan. His son, Vishakh Varghese Kurian, Executive Director, also attended the meeting. The discussions focused on engagement between business and leadership circles, reflecting ongoing ties between the Gulf-based Indian business community and Kerala.

Wolf that bit woman in German mall likely dead

AFP | Berlin, Germany

A wolf that bit a woman at a shopping mall in Hamburg, northern Germany, in late March -- in the first such incident since the species returned to Germany some 30 years ago -- is likely dead, local authorities said yesterday.

Based on available evidence, the animal is likely dead," city environmental authority Bukea told AFP, confirming several news reports to that effect. A few days after its capture following the mall incident, the animal was released into the wild but fitted with a tracking device. Since then, it left Hamburg for a rural area more than 150 kilometres (90 miles) away, Bukea explained.

But the signal from the tracking collar "abruptly stopped" late last month, Bukea added, noting it consid-

ered "a malfunction or simple loss of the collar unlikely".

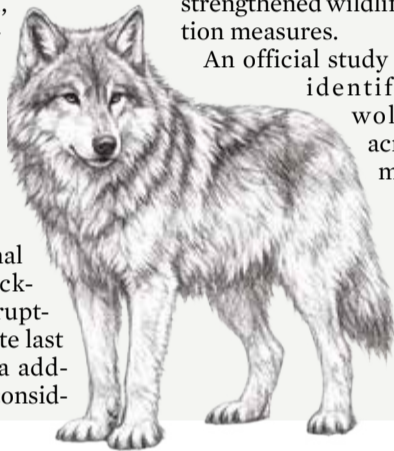
Experts have "searched a wide area" several times based on the geolocation, but "without success," the organisation added.

Regional public broadcaster NDR raised the possibility the animal could have been shot.

Wolves had virtually disappeared from Germany by the mid-19th century, mainly due to rewards being offered for their capture and to habitat destruction.

However, some wolves from Poland began to settle in eastern Germany after reunification in 1990, amid strengthened wildlife protection measures.

An official study last year identified 219 wolf packs across Germany.



Russia says downed hundreds of drones from Ukraine

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russia said yesterday it intercepted hundreds of Ukrainian drones including near Saint Petersburg, where Moscow is hosting a major economic forum, as Ukraine reported at least three people killed by Russian strikes.

Moscow and Kyiv have intensified drone strikes on each other in recent months as US-led diplomatic efforts to end the war, now in its fifth year, remain stalled over the conflict in the Middle

East.

The Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) -- once dubbed "Russia's Davos" -- ends on Saturday, a day after the event featured a speech by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"Eighty-six UAVs have been shot down over Leningrad region. Combat operations continue," said Aleksandr Drozdenko, governor of the region whose major city is Saint Petersburg and which also includes key Bal-



tic ports. On the first day of the summit, Ukrainian drones hit an oil complex and military base in Saint Petersburg, which is also Putin's home city.

Overnight, Russia's defence ministry said its air defence

downed a total of 376 Ukrainian drones "over Belgorod, Bryansk, Kaluga, Kursk, Leningrad, Novgorod, Oryol, Pskov, Rostov, Ryazan, Smolensk, Tver, and Tula regions, Moscow region, Crimea Republic, Abkhazia Republic, and over the waters of the Azov and Black Seas".

US strikes radar installations in Iran

Trump says Iran has '22 percent' of missiles left

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States military said it attacked radar sites on Iran's southern coast Friday in the latest flare-up to threaten the ceasefire in the Mideast war.

US Central Command said in a statement that its forces shot down four Iranian one-way attack drones launched toward the Strait of Hormuz, then attacked Iranian coastal surveillance radar sites in the city of Gorkuk and on

Frozen funds key to progress in US talks

AFP | Tehran, Iran

The release of frozen Iranian funds has become a key issue in negotiations between Tehran and Washington aimed at ending their war, a senior Iranian official said. Iran has been subject to asset freezes and

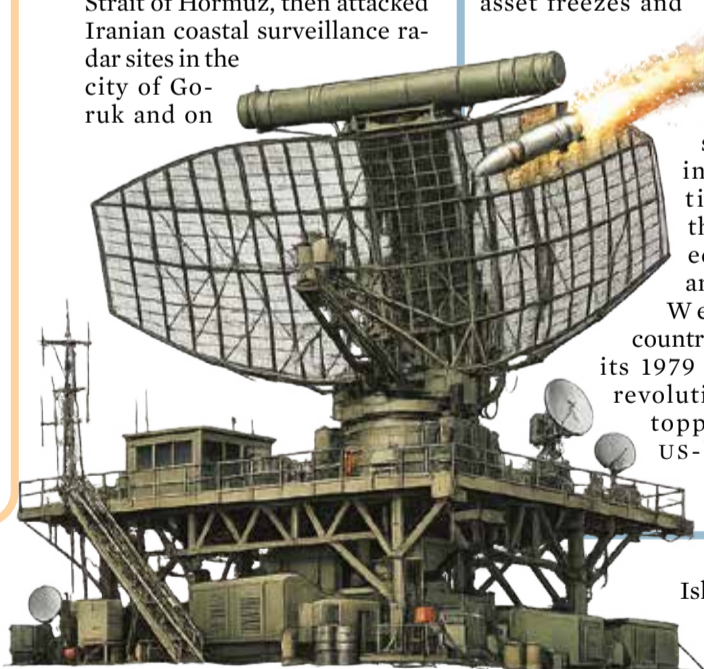
hammad Reza Pahlavi.

In an interview broadcast on Friday, Mohsen Rezaei, a former commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and an adviser to Iran's supreme leader, said the talks were failing over the release of Iranian assets.

"If he (Trump) wants to reach an agreement with Iran, this \$24 billion is a test of trust that Iran wants to have with Trump," he told CNN, according to an English translation of his remarks provided by the channel.

"This is a test that America must pass and the path will be opened," he said, adding that "this is our own money, not America's money".

While there is no official figure for the total amount of frozen Iranian assets, media reports have estimated the sum at between \$100 billion and \$123 billion.



sweeping sanctions by the United States and other Western countries since its 1979 Islamic revolution that topped the US-backed Shah, Mo-

Qeshm Island. "The

attack drones posed an immediate threat to regional maritime traffic," while the strikes on ra-

dar installations "defend against further attacks," the statement said.

Iranian state broadcaster IRIB reported on Saturday that "several explosions were heard" in Sirik in southern Iran at around 2:30 am (2300 GMT Friday).

"No official source has commented on the origin of the sound or its details," the broadcaster said on Telegram.

A ceasefire has been in place between the United States and Iran since April 8, but subsequent talks to try to put a more permanent end to the conflict have so far been unsuccessful.

US President Donald Trump acknowledged in an interview with NBC News late Friday that Iran still has war-fighting capacity.

"They have some missiles, they have some drones. I would say, percentage wise, maybe 21, 22 percent of their missiles," Trump said.

Iran's military said Friday it had fired "warning missiles" at two US destroyers in the Gulf of Oman -- a claim promptly denied by the US military.

SpaceX signs pre-IPO deal to provide AI computing to Google

AFP | Washington, United States

SpaceX on Friday signed a blockbuster cloud computing agreement under which Google will pay the Elon Musk-founded rocket company \$920 million per month for access to a massive cluster of AI chips, according to a disclosure in its initial public offering filing.

The deal, which will bolster SpaceX's finances ahead of its IPO on June 12, covers a computing infrastructure of approximately

110,000 Nvidia GPUs -- the crucial hardware needed to power Google's Gemini AI models.

The filing says Google will begin paying the full monthly rate in October 2026, with a reduced fee applying during a ramp-up period until then.

The agreement runs through June 2029, implying total payments of roughly \$30 billion over the life of the contract.

The deal resembles one struck with AI giant Anthropic, in which SpaceX leased compute capacity at its Colossus data centers in Memphis, Tennessee for \$1.25 billion a month.

The facilities were originally built to power Musk's rival AI venture, xAI



Putin rules out meeting Zelensky and vows to pursue war goals

AFP | Saint Petersburg, Russia

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday ruled out meeting his Ukrainian counterpart any time soon, a day after Volodymyr Zelensky called for a sit-down between the leaders to end the four-year war.

Speaking at an economic forum in his home city of Saint Petersburg, Putin said he saw "no point" in meeting Zelensky

until a possible peace deal had been agreed. Zelensky hit back saying the Russian leader was "weak" and "choosing war again".

Putin also vowed to press on with Russia's military offensive until its war goals had been achieved. Russia has demanded control of Ukraine's eastern Donbas region as well as sweeping political and military restrictions on its neighbour.



North Korea's Kim stresses stronger naval nuclear deterrent

AFP | Seoul, South Korea

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited the naval destroyer Kang Kon to oversee a navigation test, state media said yesterday, stressing the need to enhance the navy's capability to deter a nuclear war.

The Saturday report came as Beijing and Pyongyang announced Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit North Korea

from June 8 to 9, after Xi hosted back-to-back summits with US President Donald Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin last month.

Kim has in recent years vowed to strengthen North Korea's naval capabilities, and in May last year oversaw the botched launch of the destroyer Kang Kon, which was later repaired and relaunched a month later.

During the trip on Thursday,

Kim stressed the importance of rapidly developing the naval force into a force "capable of reliably taking charge of a part of the nuclear war deterrent", Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

Building a navy capable of delivering a "deadly blow" to enemies above and

below the water is a core goal of the ruling party's current five-year defence development plan, Kim said.

The North Korean leader visited the vessel with top officials and his daughter, Ju Ae, images released by Pyongyang's state media showed.



Treaty of Tordesillas: Spain and Portugal divide the New World along a meridian 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde Islands off the west coast of Africa

English King Charles I ratifies the Petition of Right



Louis XIV is crowned King of France

British Museum is founded by an Act of Parliament with royal assent from King George II, opens in 1759

Nearly 500 confirmed cases in Central Africa Ebola outbreak: WHO



Ebola, which is spread through close contact and bodily fluids, has killed more than 15,000 people in Africa over the past 50 years.

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland



Nearly 500 Ebola cases have now been confirmed in the deadly outbreak raging in central Africa, a WHO overview showed Saturday, amid mounting concern over the swelling scale of the epidemic.

In its daily update on the situation, the World Health Organization tallied 452 confirmed cases, including 82 deaths, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the outbreak was declared three weeks ago.

In neighbouring Uganda, meanwhile, it counted 19 confirmed cases, including two deaths.

The total of 471 cases and 84 deaths, based on numbers reported by the DRC and Ugandan governments, marked a hike of 100 cases and 20 deaths from a day earlier.

The increase came amid warnings that the outbreak, which the WHO has declared

US warns Ebola outbreak on scale of largest 'is possible'

AFP | Washington, United States

The US CDC on Friday urged strong public health interventions against the current Ebola outbreak, citing their models that show it could otherwise rival the scale of the 2014 West Africa outbreak.

That eruption of the virus resulted in more than 28,000 cases and more than 11,000 deaths. "That scale is possible," said Jason Asher, director of CDC's Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics, during a press briefing.

The US projections from the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention were part of Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report documents published Friday.

The worst outcomes could be avoided if "a larger proportion of patients were identified, isolated, and treated," the agency said in its reports.

But "the public health response to control this outbreak will likely need to be of similar magnitude to the response for the 2014-2016 West Africa Ebola outbreak."

Asher emphasized the models were "not a forecast" but "a planning tool."

"They're designed to support action, not to generate alarm."

an international public health emergency, could eventually swell to become the largest on record.

Rescuers halt search for last men lost in Laos cave

AFP | Vientiane, Laos

Rescuers called off their search yesterday for two men trapped in a semi-submerged cave in Laos for more than two weeks, as the site became unstable and survival hopes faded.

Seven villagers became trapped in the cave in central Xaysomboun province on May 20 when flash floods blocked their exit as they hunted bats for food and searched for gold in old mining areas, state media said.

Rescue teams located five of the men alive a week later, with one extracted by divers on May 29 and four guided out the following day after water was pumped from the flooded cavern.

The two others remained missing despite intensive searching by Laos and international rescue teams.

Lee Kian Lie, a Malaysian cave diver who joined the operation on May 28, told AFP it was at an "end" as the risks of continuing outweighed the slim chances of the men's rescue.

"We were so close," Lee said. "The water in the cave was already manageable, but the cave



A rescue team freeing one of seven men (L) trapped inside a semi-submerged entrance started to become unstable."

"To continue the operation is high risk," he added. "They will continue to manage the water by pumping and digging at possible resurgence points to let the water flow out faster. Perhaps a miracle will happen."

"Everyone tried. We tried. I am sorry for the family."

Lee described the mission as the most dangerous rescue operation he had experienced, saying the team faced flooding, unstable cave structures, tight restrictions and poor air quality.

Thai lead rescuer Kengkad Bongkawong said in a social

media post on Saturday that "no one is allowed inside the cave" because "it is too risky for anyone to enter", but water pumping operations would persist outside.

"Even though we don't know the current condition of those two individuals, reducing the water level inside the cave is the best approach right now," he posted on Facebook.

"There are still food rations and survival supplies that we have placed at various points inside the cave. If miracles exist, I believe their expertise will guide them out safely."



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Congratulations to our @UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year, Major Abhilasha Barak of India, who is #ServingForPeace with @UNPeacekeeping in Lebanon. Her work shows the critical role that @UNIFIL plays & how its presence is transforming the lives of women & girls, even under the most challenging circumstances. Major Barak, you are a role model to those you serve & those you serve with. Thank you for your service.

@antonioGuterres

02



We are building a more independent European Union. A Union that's more secure, resilient and complete. And it will not be complete without the Western Balkans

@vonderleyen

03



My wife and I learned with great sadness of the passing of Bernadette Chirac. First Lady, she marked our History alongside President Jacques Chirac, the life of Corrèze where she was elected, and the fate of millions of anonymous patients as well, thanks to her intimate and steadfast commitment. Bernadette Chirac changed so many lives with discretion and obstinacy. A great lady of the heart has departed. The Nation shares the grief of her family, her loved ones, and all those who cherished her.

@EmmanuelMacron

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

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Looking at macro solutions for micro-plastics



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

Bahrain is aggressively expanding its environmental strategy to address the unseen, toxic threat of microplastics. While global headlines focus on macroscopic items like plastic straws and shopping bags, the Kingdom recognises that macroscopic breakdown leads directly to health-altering microparticles.

These microscopic fragments infiltrate marine food chains, drinking water, and human tissue. To safeguard public health, Bahrain is shifting its focus from basic litter management toward a comprehensive, health-centric preventative framework.

Rather than just managing visible waste, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC) targets the structural vulnerabilities that create microplastics. High-heat exposure accelerates plastic polymer degradation, shedding millions of microparticles directly into food.

Parliament recently approved a critical proposal banning the packaging of hot bread and fresh baked goods in plastic wrappers. Bakeries must transition to paper and eco-friendly alternatives to stop chemical and microplastic leaching at the consumer level.

Under Decision No. (7) of 2026, Bahrain prohibited the manufacturing, import, or distribution of single-use plastic bags less than 57 microns thick. Ultra-thin bags fragment rapidly under the harsh Gulf sun into airborne and aquatic microplastics. Forcing a shift to sturdy, multi-use alternatives drastically cuts down on this rapid fragmentation loop.

The Kingdom has banned pre-packed plastic water bottles smaller than 200 millilitres. Small, flimsy bottles pose a dual threat: they are rarely recycled and are primary culprits for leaching microplastics directly into drinking water under high temperatures.

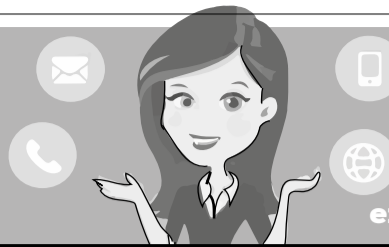
Bahrain tackles microplastics as a profound public health crisis, not just an aesthetic issue. Through its active participation in the UN Environment Programme's #CleanSeas campaign, the Supreme Council for the Environment (SCE) coordinates closely with research bodies. They actively monitor plastic particle toxicity within local fish stocks and marine ecosystems.

By combining rigorous port inspections, strict market compliance tracking, and targeted awareness campaigns, Bahrain is establishing a robust blueprint. The objective is clear: cut off plastic pollution at the source before it degrades into the invisible, health-altering particles that threaten human biology.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

Bahrain tackles microplastics as a profound public health crisis, not just an aesthetic issue. Through its active participation in the UN Environment Programme's #CleanSeas campaign, the Supreme Council for the Environment (SCE) coordinates closely with research bodies. They actively monitor plastic particle toxicity within local fish stocks and marine ecosystems.

Classifieds



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Airport Blast Survivor Thanks Kuwaiti Rescuer

A panic swept through Kuwait International Airport following the June 3 attack, Egyptian expatriate Mamdouh Abdel Aleem said survival became his only focus.

"I didn't feel any pain," Mamdouh recalled from his hospital bed. "I was only focused on surviving. Later, I discovered I had been bleeding from the injury without even noticing."

In the immediate aftermath of the explosion, a Kuwaiti citizen rushed to help him, providing first aid and securing his injured arm until emergency responders arrived.

"I will never forget what he did for me," Mamdouh said. "He stood beside me from the very beginning and even visited me later in the hospital to check on my condition."

Mamdouh, who has under-

gone three surgeries since the attack, praised the support and medical care he has received during his recovery.

"I have not experienced any shortcomings from any side," he said. "The medical care has been exceptional, and the support I received from Kuwait, both the government and the people, has meant a great deal to me."

He also denied rumours circulating on social media claiming that his arm had been amputated as a result of the injuries. While confirming that he sustained serious shrapnel wounds requiring multiple operations, he described the reports as inaccurate.

Beyond the physical injuries, Mamdouh said the attack left a deep psychological impact on many workers at the airport.



Kuwait Airport situation after the attack on June 03



One of his colleagues escaped without physical harm but suffered severe emotional distress after witnessing the scenes unfold.

As he continues his recovery, Mamdouh said he remains

grateful for the care and solidarity shown to him in the aftermath of the attack. His experience reflects the human cost of conflict, where ordinary lives can be permanently changed in a matter of moments.

India, Kuwait discuss expanded sports and youth cooperation



India and Kuwait discussed ways to deepen cooperation in sports and youth engagement during a high-level meeting between Indian Ambassador Paramita Tripathi and Kuwait's Minister of State for Sports and Youth Affairs, H.E. Dr. Tareq Al-Jalalma.

The talks focused on strengthening bilateral collaboration through the implementation of the Executive Programme on Sports Cooperation, which was signed during the visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Kuwait in December 2024.

Both sides explored future

opportunities for exchanges, training programmes, sporting events, and youth-focused initiatives aimed at enhancing people-to-people ties and professional development in the sports sector.

The discussions also included cooperation on the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026 in Kuwait, highlighting a shared commitment to promoting sports, holistic health, and wellness initiatives.

Officials from both countries reaffirmed their interest in expanding collaboration in areas that support youth empowerment and strengthen cultural and sporting connections.

Youth are "pillar of Gulf future"

GCC stresses long-term investment in youth empowerment

● Youth seen as key to sustainable development goals

● Initiatives aim to boost skills, entrepreneurship and participation

● GCC Secretariat continues coordination of youth-focused policies



pillar" in shaping the future of Gulf states and achieving their national visions.

Speaking on the occasion of Gulf Youth Day, observed annually on 6 June, GCC Secretary-General Jassim Mohamed Al-Budaiwi highlighted the growing role of young peo-

ple in driving development across member states.

He said the day represents an important opportunity to recognise the contributions of Gulf youth in various fields, describing them as key partners in the region's comprehensive development journey.

Al-Budaiwi noted that GCC countries, guided by their leaders, continue to place strong emphasis on empowering young people through laws, policies, and national initiatives aimed at developing skills and strengthening capabilities.

He added that these efforts are designed to prepare youth to respond to emerging chal-

lenges while taking advantage of opportunities across different sectors, including economic and social development.

The GCC Secretariat, he said, is continuing its work to support joint Gulf youth initiatives by improving coordination between member states, sharing expertise, and organising programmes that encourage innovation, entrepreneurship, and community engagement.

He also pointed to significant achievements across GCC countries in the youth sector, saying they reflect the leadership's commitment to investing in young people as a driving force for sustainable development.

UAE, South Africa discuss regional tension

Abu Dhabi's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, held a phone call with South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ronald Lamola, to review recent regional and international developments.

According to official sources, the two ministers discussed the broader implications of Iranian attacks targeting civilian sites

and infrastructure. The conversation highlighted concerns over the potential impact on maritime security, global energy supplies, and the wider international economy.

Both sides reportedly expressed concern about rising tensions and their possible effects on international shipping routes and stability in the Gulf region and beyond.

The call also included a re-



view of bilateral relations between the United Arab Emirates and South Africa. The two ministers reaffirmed the

importance of continued cooperation and dialogue between the two countries across political and economic fields.

Officials said the discussion reflected shared interest in maintaining regional stability and supporting global efforts to reduce escalation risks.

Lebanon launches redevelopment of Qlayaat airport in north

● First aircraft lands at airport as rehabilitation work officially begins

● Initiative comes amid ongoing regional security tensions

Lebanon has officially launched the redevelopment of Rene Mouwad Airport in Qlayaat, a long-unused facility in the country's north, as authorities move towards reopening it as a second civilian airport.

The project is seen as an effort to reduce reliance on Beirut's Raf-

ic Hariri International Airport, which has long been Lebanon's only operational passenger gateway amid years of political instability and security concerns.

Officials say the reopening of the northern airport could improve connectivity and restore some of Lebanon's regional aviation standing, which declined sharply following the outbreak of the civil war in 1975.

Prime Minister Nawaf Salam attended the launch ceremony in Akkar, arriving at the airport alongside Public Works and Transport Minister Fayed



Prime Minister Nawaf Salam aboard the flight to Rene Mouwad Airport at Qlayaat. (Photo: Lebanese Government)

Rasamny. Government media said their aircraft was the first to land on the runway as part of the inauguration of rehabilitation works.

Interior Minister Ahmad Hajjar and Defence Minister Michel Menassa also attended the event, arriving separately by military helicopter.

The redevelopment comes at a sensitive time for Lebanon, as the country continues to face security tensions linked to the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, although large-scale strikes have recently subsided in the capital.

Beirut airport itself has remained operational but is located near southern suburbs that have been repeatedly targeted in past conflicts, raising long-standing concerns over vulnerability and disruption.

Kuwait foils new drug trafficking method using A4



Kuwait's General Department for Drug Control arrested an Egyptian national after seizing 140 A4 sheets soaked in psychotropic substances and narcotic materials, which authorities described as a new drug trafficking method.

Security officials said the operation is part of ongoing efforts to combat drug promotion and distribution using unconventional techniques aimed at evading

detection. According to authorities, the suspect possessed the sheets, which were prepared for trafficking and consumption. The case is now being referred to the relevant legal authorities for further action.

Officials said the operation reflects continued vigilance against emerging drug smuggling methods and reiterated their commitment to dismantling narcotics distribution networks.

Qatar condemns Israeli strike on Lebanese Army patrol

The State of Qatar strongly condemned an Israeli attack that targeted a Lebanese Army patrol on the Khardali-Nabatieh road in southern Lebanon, killing two officers and a soldier.

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar described the strike as a "dangerous escalation" and a "flagrant violation" of Lebanon's sovereignty, as well as a breach of international law.

The ministry urged the international community to assume its responsibilities and pressure Israeli authorities to halt what it called repeated attacks on Lebanon. It also called for accountability in line with international agreements and



full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701.

Qatar reaffirmed its support for Lebanon's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and expressed solidarity with the Lebanese government and people.

It also extended condolences to the families of those killed in the incident.

Seef exit after quarter-final defeat

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Seef saw their Sofia Open 3x3 Palms Lite Quest campaign end yesterday in Sofia, Bulgaria, after a hard-fought quarter-final defeat in a tightly contested knockout run.

Seef had kept their momentum alive earlier in the day with a dramatic 21-20 win over hosts 3X3 Sofia in the last-16 stage.

The victory, sealed in the closing moments, sent the Bahraini side into the quarter-finals after a tense contest that went right down to the wire.

Their knockout journey ended later that evening when they fell 21-18 to Serbia's Uzice Zlatiborac. Despite staying within reach for much of the match, Seef couldn't respond to the Serbians' late push, ending their



Bogdan Dragovic

tournament in the last eight.

Seef's run in Sofia had already been shaped by fine margins from the opening day. They began Pool F with a narrow 13-12 defeat to Bulgaria's Levski Palms Bet before bouncing back strongly with a 20-17 win over Dublin to stay in contention.

Their progression was confirmed only after Dublin defeated Levski 21-19, allowing Seef to

advance as group runners-up on standings, underlining how closely contested the group phase proved to be.

The Bahraini quartet of Bogdan Dragovic, Austin Ajukwa, Uros Ilic and Isa Jasim then carried that resilience into the knockout rounds, producing a statement win in the last 16 before eventually falling short against experienced Serbian

opposition.

The Sofia Open is part of the FIBA 3x3 Lite Quest circuit on the Road to the World Tour pathway, offering ranking points and qualification opportunities for Challenger-level events.

For Seef, the campaign ends with positives from a competitive showing in Europe, even though their run finished just short of the semi-finals.

Teen queen conquers Roland Garros

● 19-year-old Mirra Andreeva beat Chwalinska 6-3, 6-2 to become the youngest Roland Garros women's singles champion since Monica Seles

● The world number 114's career will now be on a different stratosphere as she will climb to 21 in the rankings

AFP

Mirra Andreeva won her first Grand Slam title on Saturday by downing Polish qualifier Maja Chwalinska in straight sets in the French Open final.

The 19-year-old Russian beat Chwalinska 6-3, 6-2 to become the youngest Roland Garros women's singles champion since Monica Seles, then aged 18, won her third straight title in Paris in 1992.

With her first-ever major crown, Andreeva also became the first player, man or woman, born after 2005 to win a Grand



Russia's Mirra Andreeva poses with the Coupe Suzanne Lenglen (Suzanne Lenglen Trophy) and her dog after winning the French Open tennis tournament women's singles final match against Poland's Maja Chwalinska (left) on day 14 of the French Open tennis tournament on Court Philippe-Chatrier at the Roland-Garros Complex in Paris

Slam.

The Coupe Suzanne Lenglen will now take centre spot in Andreeva's burgeoning trophy cabinet, which already features two WTA 1000 titles.

Defeat at the final hurdle

brought to an end an astonishing run which started in qualifying for Chwalinska, who won nine matches in the French capital to become the first qualifier to reach the final in the Open era.

However, the world number

114's career will now be on a different stratosphere as she will climb to 21 in the rankings and be assured of competing regularly in tennis' biggest tournaments.

Bahrain shift focus to Syria friendly



Bahrain national team line up ahead of their previous fixture



Coach Talajic directs his players from the technical area

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national team has moved its training base to Antalya, Türkiye, as they prepare for their upcoming international friendly against Syria, scheduled for Tuesday at 5pm Bahrain time at the Gloria Sports Arena.

The squad resumes training today after a 2-0 defeat to Georgia in Tbilisi on Friday. In that match, Bahrain faced a strong European side in the first of two fixtures during their camp.

Georgia opened the scoring in the 51st minute through defender Luka Lochoshvili, who finished with a volley from a well-delivered cross by captain Khvicha Kvaratskhelia.

The hosts doubled their lead in the 77th minute when Kvaratskhelia converted from the penalty spot. Bahrain were unable to respond and finished the match without registering a shot on target.

Attention now turns to the Syria fixture, with Bahrain continuing preparations in Antalya. The friendly will offer a different tactical challenge as the team adjusts after facing high-intensity European opposition in Georgia.

Team officials have stressed the importance of the camp in refining tactical structure and building cohesion ahead of upcoming regional competitions, including the defence of their Gulf Cup title (23 September-6 October) and the AFC Asian Cup (7 January 2027-5 February 2027).

Bahrain Celebrates Bay City Roller's Win at Epsom

TDT | Manama

Bay City Roller, owned by Victorious Forever – the Bahraini-led racing operation associated with Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa – and trained in Newmarket, United Kingdom, by George Scott, delivered a dominant performance to win the Group One Coolmore Coronation Cup over 1½ miles (2,400 metres) on turf at Epsom.

The race featured a high-class field, including multiple Group One winner Calandagan, last year's winner Jan Brueghel, and Epsom Derby winner Lambourn. Bay City Roller asserted control in commanding fashion, pulling clear to win by 10 lengths from Jan Brueghel, with Lambourn finishing third.

The performance marked a first domestic Group One suc-



Bay City Roller, ridden by Oisin Murphy, on the way to winning the Coolmore Coronation Cup at Epsom Racecourse

cess for trainer George Scott and highlighted Bay City Roller's rise as a leading contender in the staying division at the highest level of international flat racing.

His Excellency Shaikh Duaij bin Salman bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Horse Racing Affairs Authority, extended his congratulations, noting that the achievement

reflects the continued development of Bahraini sport under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the sustained support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

He said this support has played a key role in enabling consistent Bahraini success on the international sporting stage.

Shaikh Duaij also praised Bay City Roller's performance, describing it as a commanding Group One display that reflects the horse's quality, progression, and elite capability.

He concluded by wishing continued success to HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and the Victorious Forever team in future international engagements.

India name Sooryavanshi in T20 squad

AFP | Mumbai, India

India named Vaibhav Sooryavanshi in their T20 squad on Saturday, handing the 15-year-old sensation his maiden international call-up after a string of breathtaking performances in the domestic league. Selectors also fired Suryakumar Yadav as captain and following a poor run of form,

just three months after he led the country to World Cup glory at home.

Shreyas Iyer, who last played a T20 for India in December 2023, was named as the new skipper for the upcoming two T20 internationals in Ireland, five matches in England and the Asian Games to be held in September and October in Japan.

Bahrain stands tall in British ring

Limbu defeats British fighter at UK charity boxing event

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Royal Guard boxer Prakash Limbu secured a split-decision victory over British Army fighter Dylan Swales at the Special Air Service (SAS) Charity Boxing event held in Hereford, United Kingdom.

The 65kg bout, staged last Friday, continued Bahrain's strong presence at one of the most respected events on the British military boxing calendar. This year's edition supported the Clocktower Foundation, a charity dedicated to improving the welfare and morale of members of the British Armed Forces.

Representing the Royal Guard Special Forces (RGSF), Limbu overcame the hometown favourite in front of a distinguished audience, adding another notable success for Bahrain's contingent at the competition. His victory follows Hamza Zrire's win in last year's edition, further extending the Royal Guard's successful run at the event.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Limbu expressed pride in the achievement.

"It was a tough fight and a real test, but I felt strong throughout," he said.

It was a tough fight and a real test, but I felt strong throughout. This victory means a great deal to me and ranks among the most important moments of my boxing career

PRAKASH LIMBU



Former professional boxer Scott Welch (left), Limbu, and coach Davis with the Pilgrims title belt



"This victory means a great deal to me and ranks among the most important moments of my boxing career."

"Competing in my opponent's hometown brought its own pressure, but I stayed focused and pushed hard from start to finish. Winning this fight was extremely important to me."

Limbu also paid tribute to coach Tony Davis, with whom he has worked closely in preparation for the bout.

"We've been working one-on-one for the past three months," he said. "This time I made a point of fully trusting Tony's instructions and putting in the work required. He deserves enormous credit for this result. I may be the one in the ring, but he is the one steering the journey."

Looking ahead, the Nepali-born boxer said he is focused on future opportunities in the sport.

"Tony and I are excited about the next chapter, including exploring opportunities in professional boxing while continuing to help develop the Royal Guard boxing team," Limbu said.

Coach Tony Davis praised his fighter's dedication and highlighted the significance of the win.

"He has worked incredibly hard for this result and it means a lot to all of us," Davis said. "It's now two victories in two consecutive years for Bahrain's Royal Guard team at this event, which is a fantastic achievement and one we are proud to continue."

"It was also a special moment to receive personal congratulations from the Commanding Officer of the SAS. Bahrain's Royal Guard has fully cemented itself in SAS history."

Fighter Prakash Limbu (right) celebrates with English coach Tony Davis (left)

Teenager Antonelli claims Monaco pole for Mercedes after 'magic lap'



Teenager Antonelli claims Monaco pole for Mercedes after 'magic lap'

AFP

Kimi Antonelli produced a "magic lap" to edge Max Verstappen in the dying seconds of Saturday's qualifying and claim pole for the Monaco Grand Prix.

The 19-year-old Italian clocked one minute and 12.051 seconds in his Ferrari for his fourth pole this year, extending Mercedes run to six out of six, and putting him in position to become the first Italian since Alberto Ascari of Ferrari in 1952 to win five consecutive F1 Grands Prix.

"It was one of those laps that we call a magic lap," said a beaming Antonelli, after hugging his father, Marco.

"I was able to put it all together and it was such a close qualifying with Max."

"I think the first run off in Q3, there was just one millisecond between us. I knew the last lap was good, I was just hoping that it would be enough! But it was very close."

Antonelli's sensational lap came at the end of a sequence of dramatic laps in the final seconds of a classic session as, in turn, Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, Verstappen and then the precocious Italian clocked pole laps.

"I am very happy with that and massive thanks to the team because yesterday we struggled a little bit and today we were able to improve massive-

ly," said Antonelli, who last year finished 18th, three laps down on a triumphant Lando Norris of McLaren.

"I think this is one of the most intense, if not the most intense qualifying of the year and it takes a massive effort - and also the practices because you just keep trying to get close to the limit."

"When it is about finding the last two tenths, it is not easy because the walls start to come closer and it is not easy to gain the confidence, but I felt great this morning and I am happy that we could finish the job today."

He said despite mounting media attention and speculation, he had not felt any increased pressure.

"For sure, I am just enjoying the driving, enjoying the car, enjoying the weekend," he said, with a customary grin.

"That was a big step compared to last year, it is really nice to be able to enjoy the sessions and now I am looking forward to tomorrow."

Seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton was third for Ferrari. "Congrats to Kimi," said Hamilton, who had recommended the Italian as his successor before he left Mercedes for Ferrari last year.

"A mega, mega job. Having your first pole here is so special. We've got such a great crowd here, it's such a beautiful day."

Najma begin Asian campaign in Kuwait

TDT | Manama

The 28th Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship began in Kuwait yesterday, with Bahrain's Al Najma set to open their campaign today under the competition's revised format.

Al Najma arrive at the continental tournament aiming to make a strong start after a mixed domestic season, where they topped the regular-season standings but missed out on the league final and failed to complete a title defence.

They begin their campaign this evening against hosts Kuwait Sports Club at 6pm Bahrain time. The match marks their first step in a bid to secure a third Asian club title and qualification for the 2026 IHF Men's Club



Al Najma's squad during a pre-tournament training session

World Championship in Egypt.

This year's competition features a reduced field of seven teams following the withdrawal of China's CHA, and has shifted to a single round-robin preliminary stage. All teams compete in one standings table, with the top four advancing to the semi-fi-

nals. Al Najma have strengthened their squad ahead of the tournament, including the loan signing of Bahrain international Jassim Khamis from Al Shabab. He is expected to add experience and control during a demanding schedule.

Further additions include Al Dair goalkeeper Hesham Isa and several overseas players, among them Uros Mitrovic of Serbia, Radojica Cepic of Montenegro, and Daniel Neves of Portugal.

The club is also under new leadership, with Abdulrahman Mohamed taking over

MATCH	OPPONENT	DATE	TIME (BAHRAIN)
1	OPENING MATCH		
2	KUWAIT SC	6 JUNE	6 PM
3	AL DUHAIL (QATAR)	7 JUNE	4 PM
4	SHARJAH (UAE)	8 JUNE	8 PM
5	AL ARABI (QATAR)	11 JUNE	4 PM
6	BURGAN (KUWAIT)	12 JUNE	4 PM
7	AL KHALEEJ (SAUDI ARABIA)	14 JUNE	8 PM

as head coach from Ali Al Falahi.

Al Najma remain one of Asia's most successful clubs, having won the continental title in 2017 and 2023, finished runners-up in 2015 and 2022, and placed third in 2001.

After their opening match against Kuwait SC, they will face Qatar's Al Duhail on Monday at 4pm, followed by Sharjah of

the UAE on Wednesday at 8pm. They then meet Al Arabi of Qatar on June 11 at 4pm, Burjan of Kuwait on June 12 at 4pm, and conclude the preliminary round against Saudi Arabia's Khaleej Club on June 14 at 8pm. All matches are in Bahrain time and will be played at the Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salim Al Sabah Covered Halls Complex in Kuwait.

Arab football heads into historic 2026 World Cup



Morocco celebrate landmark 2022 World Cup run



Saudi Arabia stun Argentina in famous upset

TDT | Manama
Hussain Almaskati

As the 2026 FIFA World Cup prepares to kick off across the United States, Canada and Mexico, Arab football is set for its most significant global presence in history, with an unprecedented number of nations competing in the expanded 48-team tournament.

The move from 32 to 48 teams has reshaped the international football map, widening qualification pathways and bringing new voices into the global conversation. For Arab nations, it has created a stage defined by contrast: first-time entrants, returning sides, and established contenders all arriving in North America with different histories but shared ambition.

Jordan's Historic Debut

Jordan will step onto the FIFA World Cup stage for the first time after a historic qualification campaign. They finished their AFC first-round group with four wins, one draw, and one defeat, including a 7-0 win over Pakistan. In the final round, they placed second to secure automatic qualification from a highly competitive group featuring South Korea, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, and Kuwait. Ali Olwan scored 9 goals during the qualification campaign, including a critical hat-trick against Oman, making him one to watch on the global stage.

They now face a demanding Group J featuring Argentina, Algeria, and Austria

Morocco Lead Arab Hopes

Morocco enter the tournament as the highest-ranked Arab side and arguably its most complete team on paper, arriving on the back of a near-perfect qualifying campaign: eight wins from eight matches, with only two goals conceded.

Their rise remains anchored in their landmark 2022 World Cup run, when they became the first Arab and African nation to reach the semi-finals and finish fourth, permanently shifting expectations around what is possible for the region on the world stage.

Since then, the Atlas Lions have remained firmly in the global spotlight. Their Africa Cup of Nations campaign was equally eventful. Months later, they were awarded the title after Senegal were deemed to have forfeited the final they had originally won against Morocco at the start of the year.

At the heart of their ambitions once again is Achraf Hakimi, who arrives at the tournament fresh from a Champions League-winning season with Paris Saint-Germain, further underlining his status as one of world football's elite full-backs. Now led by coach Mohamed Ouahbi following Walid Regragui's departure earlier this year, Morocco enter a new cycle of scrutiny, with their group placing them alongside Brazil, Scotland, and Haiti in Group C.

Qatar Return

Qatar returns for a second-ever World Cup appearance, this time having qualified through the standard pathway after hosting in 2022. Their journey began with early dominance, comfortably topping their second-round group, before a tougher third round in which they finished fourth. They recovered in the fourth-round playoffs, sealing qualification with a 2-1 victory over the United Arab Emirates to confirm their place at the finals.

The Maroons now face a challenging Group B featuring Switzerland, hosts Canada, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Algeria Eye Deep Run

Algeria return to the World Cup for the fifth time after an impressive qualifying run of eight wins, one draw and one defeat.

Their last real deep impression at the tournament came in 2014, when they pushed eventual champions Germany into extra time in the knockout stages.

This current squad blends experience and emerging talent, with Riyad Mahrez providing leadership alongside Ibrahim Maza and Anis Hadj Moussa.

They begin in Group J against Argentina, Jordan and Austria.

Egypt Built Around Salah

Egypt arrive with momentum from a strong qualifying campaign led by Mohamed Salah, who scored nine goals as they topped their group with 26 points.

Despite being Africa's most decorated national team, their World Cup history still lacks a defining deep run, adding pressure and anticipation around this squad.

They enter Group G with Belgium, New Zealand and Iran, where expectations once again rest heavily on Salah's influence and leadership.

Tunisia Target Breakthrough

Tunisia arrive in strong defensive form, having qualified without conceding a single goal and finishing top of Group H with 28 points.

Consistency has long defined their international presence, yet a first-ever knockout stage appearance remains elusive.

Their group-stage clash with Japan also marks the tournament's 1,000th match, adding historical weight to their campaign. Tunisia will face Japan, the Netherlands and Sweden in Group F.

Green Falcons Return

Saudi Arabia return for their seventh World Cup appearance after a challenging qualification journey that saw them finish third in a difficult Asian group before advancing through the final phase.



Jordan seal first-ever World Cup qualification



Iraq celebrate long-awaited World Cup return

Their best performance remains their 1994 debut, when they reached the Round of 16, a benchmark still referenced in discussions about their World Cup potential.

They now face Spain, Uruguay and Cape Verde in Group H.

Iraq's Fairytale Return

Iraq round out the Arab contingent after a dramatic qualification campaign that ended with a play-off victory over Bolivia.

It marks their second World

Cup appearance and their first in 40 years, completing one of the most emotionally significant qualification stories in the region.

They now enter Group I alongside Norway, Senegal and tournament favourites France.

Arab Teams at a Glance

NATION	Morocco	Algeria	Egypt	Jordan	Qatar	Iraq	Tunisia	Saudi Arabia
FIFA RANK	7	28	29	63	55	56	46	61
WC APPEARANCES	7	5	4	1	2	2	7	7