

Oman Oil Leak

A suspected oil leak from a damaged tanker off Oman's coast has raised fears of a major environmental disaster near a protected marine reserve.

| P6-7

Six nations urge global action to halt violations and safeguard Gaza's civilians.

Final training camp set before Bahrain's Asian U19 handball challenge.

NBB Group CEO Named Among Forbes Middle East's Top 100 CEOs

Interior Ministry Digitises Permit Service

Interior Ministry has upgraded its permit service for evening and late-night construction work in residential areas into a fully digital service.

The redesigned service reduces processing time from five working days to two through full automation and a simplified application process.

Assistant Undersecretary for Human Resources Major General Adel Abdullah Amin, who heads the ministry's development team, said the initiative is part of efforts to improve government services, simplify procedures and enhance the customer experience through digital solutions.

UK Appoints New Ambassador to Bahrain



The UK has appointed Thomas Allan as His Majesty's Ambassador to Bahrain, succeeding Alastair Long, who will move to another diplomatic post. H.E. Allan is expected to take up the role in January 2027.

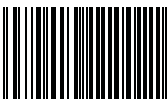
New Police Officers Meet Chief of Police



Chief of Police and Chairman of the Royal Academy of Police Scientific Council Lieutenant General Tariq bin Hassan Al Hassan met with newly graduated officers from the 14th batch of university graduate officer cadets.

Lt. Gen. Al Hassan congratulated the graduates and praised the Interior Minister's directives and continuous support in preparing qualified and professional police personnel to strengthen Bahrain's security system.

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Leaders reaffirm strong Bahrain-Egypt ties during official visit



Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi hosted a lunch banquet in honour of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa during his visit to Egypt. The leaders reaffirmed the strong historic ties between Bahrain and Egypt and their commitment to strengthening cooperation for the benefit of both nations.

Decade of Journalistic Excellence

Deputy King Honours Nation's Press at 10th Journalism Awards



"The award continues to raise professional standards in Bahraini journalism."

- DR. RAMZAN BIN ABDULLAH AL-NOAIMI

TDT | Manama

Deputy King, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, attended the 10th edition of the Prime Minister's Award for Journalism yesterday. The ceremony was held under his patronage and brought together senior officials, journalists, and media professionals from across the Kingdom.

In remarks delivered at the event, HRH Prince Salman praised the national press as an indispensable partner in Bahrain's continued development,

crediting the country's journalists with reinforcing the Kingdom's achievements under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The Deputy King stressed that Bahrain's press plays a vital role in strengthening national unity, raising public awareness, and upholding trust in official sources—responsibilities he said the country's journalists have carried out with professionalism and dedication. He singled out their conduct during hostile Iranian aggression against the Kingdom, commending the media's measured, responsible reporting during a period of acute national challenge.

Marking the award's tenth anniversary, HRH Prince Salman reflected on its legacy, noting that the prize has, since its founding, cultivated a culture of excellence and innovation within Bahraini journalism and provided a platform for recognising outstanding national media talent. He called on recipients to build on their achievements through continued creativity.

His Royal Highness extended personal congratulations to all award winners, expressing confidence in their continued contribution to the Kingdom's media landscape.

Minister of Information, HE Dr Ramzan bin Abdullah

Al-Noaimi, also addressed the gathering, offering his gratitude to His Majesty the King for his steadfast support of the national press and to HRH the Deputy King for his ongoing patronage of the award. He described the tenth edition as a milestone that underscores the prize's growing prestige and its role in advancing professional standards across Bahrain's journalism sector.

The award winners, in turn, expressed appreciation for the Deputy King's commitment to the media industry, describing the recognition as both an honour and a motivation to continue serving the nation with integrity.

Shura Chairman Hails Press Award

Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh said the Prime Minister's Press Award has become an important annual platform for promoting responsible journalism, freedom of expression and media innovation.

Al Saleh congratulated the winners of the award's tenth edition, describing their work as a reflection of journalism's professional and national mission.

Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam praised Bahrain's national press, describing it as a key partner in supporting the Kingdom's comprehensive development under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and with the support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister.



Marking the 2026 Prime Minister's Press Award ceremony, Al Musallam said the award has become a leading professional platform that strengthens journalism and encourages competition among media institutions. He added that this year's edition also helped identify young talent through dedicated university categories.

Martyrs' Children Honoured



Children of Bahrain's martyrs of duty were honoured for their academic excellence during a special event organised by Nad Holding Group in cooperation with the Interior Ministry's Human Resources.

The programme featured entertainment and activities for students and their families, including a Cinnabon "Bake-a-Bone" experience and gifts provided by Mini-so.

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Fellowship Graduates Drive National Progress

Empowering Bahraini talent remains central to the Kingdom’s development and government excellence.



TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Deputy King, received the eleventh intake of the Prime Minister’s Fellowship Program at Gudaibiya Palace, in a ceremony underscoring the Kingdom’s deepening commitment to cultivating national talent for public service.

Addressing the gathering, HRH the Deputy King praised the achievements of Bahrain’s workforce across multiple sectors, describing their competence, diligence and dedication as a cornerstone of the Kingdom’s comprehensive development under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.



HRH Prince Salman reaffirmed that human capital remains Bahrain’s most valuable asset, stressing that investing in national talent is central to sustaining the Kingdom’s competitiveness across all sectors. He commended the eleventh intake specifically, highlighting the creativity and determination that Bahraini professionals continue to bring to the nation’s development agenda.

The Deputy King also emphasised the government’s responsibility to create an enabling environment for future generations, through targeted initiatives designed to open opportunities across public and private sectors alike. He said such efforts are essential to producing highly qualified professionals equipped to meet evolving challenges and

advance Bahrain’s long-term progress.

Reflecting on the nation’s broader ethos, Prince Salman noted that Bahrain has historically drawn its strength from its people — citizens who have embraced excellence and service as guiding principles. He expressed strong confidence in the abilities of Fellowship graduates to continue shaping the Kingdom’s future, describing them as a model of what sustained investment in human capital can achieve.

Members of the Prime Minister’s Fellowship Program’s eleventh intake responded to the royal reception with expressions of gratitude and renewed commitment, describing the meeting with His Royal Highness as both an honour and a powerful source of motivation.

The graduates reaffirmed their pledge to serve Bahrain with dedication and a sense of responsibility, positioning themselves firmly as part of Team Bahrain — a collective national effort to advance the Kingdom’s interests at home and abroad.

The Prime Minister’s Fellowship Program has emerged as one of Bahrain’s most prominent leadership development platforms, designed to groom a new generation of highly capable government professionals. According to HRH Prince Salman, the programme has played a significant role in fostering a culture of excellence and innovation within the public sector, directly supporting improvements in government performance in line with His Majesty the King’s vision and directives.

Tailor Faces Drug Trafficking Trial

A defendant accused of helping distribute narcotics as part of an organised trafficking network is awaiting a court verdict on August 11.



TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

A tailor is standing trial after being accused of becoming involved in a drug trafficking operation, according to court documents.

The case began after police received information from confidential sources that drugs were being distributed in a specific area using the “dead drop” method, in which narcotics are hidden at a location for others to collect. Security authorities subsequently launched surveillance and investigative operations.

During an evening operation, officers observed the suspect behaving suspiciously and attempting to hide an item on the roadside. Police approached him, identified

themselves, and the suspect cooperated with them.

The concealed item was found to be a glass container holding a liquid suspected to be a narcotic, weighing approximately 41.70 grams. A search of the suspect also uncovered a bag containing 29 containers filled with the same suspected substance, with a total weight of approximately 413.52 grams.

Investigations indicated that the case was linked to an organised network involved in smuggling narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances into Bahrain for trafficking. Investigators determined the suspect’s role was to receive, store, divide and distribute the drugs in exchange for money.

The High Criminal Court has scheduled August 11 to deliver its verdict in the case.

Civil Defence Graduates Volunteer Firefighters



TDT | Manama

General Directorate of Civil Defence has concluded its fourth training course to prepare volunteer firefighters under the Civil Defence Service Programme and the National Volunteer Platform, aimed at strengthening community preparedness for emergencies.

The programme concluded in the presence of Brigadier Pilot Ali Mohammed Al Kubaisi, Director-General of the General Directorate of Civil Defence, who praised participants for their commitment throughout the course. He said training qualified volunteers in firefighting, rescue and first aid reinforces community partnership and enhances emergency preparedness and response.

Al Kubaisi encouraged graduates to apply the knowledge and skills they gained in serving the community while adhering to operational guidelines. He



also commended the officers and instructors at the Civil Defence School for their efforts in ensuring the programme’s success.

The training included theoretical lessons and practical exercises covering firefighting, rescue operations, first aid, hazardous materials response, the use of firefighting and rescue equipment, breathing apparatus, and simulated emergency scenarios to improve participants’ readiness to respond to various emergencies.

“Training volunteer firefighters strengthens community safety and emergency preparedness. We congratulate the graduates and encourage them to use their skills with dedication, professionalism and a strong sense of public service.”

MPs Hail Press Award

Lawmakers say the Prime Minister’s Press Award highlights Bahrain’s commitment to responsible journalism and media excellence.

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Lawmakers welcomed the Prime Minister’s Press Award 2026, describing it as a reflection of the Kingdom’s support for journalism and the media’s vital role in public life.

MP Maryam Al Sayegh said the award demonstrated the high value placed on newspapers, journalists and media professionals, while reflecting the leadership’s commitment to developing the sector. She credited His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa’s support for free and responsible journalism with helping create an open environment based on dialogue and transparency.

Al Sayegh also praised His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for backing Bahraini journalism and encouraging the media to contribute to the Kingdom’s development. She said the award recognised journalism’s role in serving the public, raising important issues and promoting constructive discussion.

She thanked Information Minister Dr Ramzan bin Abdullah Al Noaimi, the Bahrain Journalists Association and the National Communication Centre



“A trusted press strengthens public awareness and national unity.”

WALEED AL DOSERI, MP



“The award reflects Bahrain’s commitment to a strong and responsible press.”

MARYAM AL SAYEGH, MP

for supporting the media and strengthening public trust. Congratulating the winners, she said the award would inspire journalists to pursue higher standards and professional excellence.

MP Waleed Al Doseri said the leadership’s support for journalists and responsible free expression strengthened the media’s ability to report professionally while respecting the law. He said the award encouraged journalists to improve their work, adapt to changing

media trends and address issues affecting Bahrain and its people.

Al Doseri also thanked Dr Al Noaimi, the Bahrain Journalists Association and the National Communication Centre for their efforts to raise professional standards and strengthen communication between public institutions and the community. He congratulated the winners, describing the award as an incentive for continued excellence in Bahraini journalism.

Breastfeeding Myths End Nursing Early

Lactation consultant Mariam Al Mahdi says misconceptions about milk supply cause many mothers to stop breastfeeding unnecessarily

● **Traditional Bahraini postnatal foods have long been associated with supporting milk production.**

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Many mothers stop breastfeeding not because they have run out of milk, but because they mistakenly believe they have, according to international and regional lactation consultant Mariam Al Mahdi.

Marking the conclusion of World Breastfeeding Week today, Al Mahdi said the misconception that breast milk is insufficient remains the leading reason mothers give up breastfeeding unnecessarily, even though most babies receive exactly the nutrition they need.

She said a crying baby does not always indicate hunger, milk that appears thin is not neces-



sarily lacking in nutrition, and breasts that feel soft have not stopped producing milk. Despite this, these common beliefs continue to persuade many mothers that breastfeeding is failing when it is not.

Al Mahdi said genuine low milk supply does occur but is often linked to identifiable physical or emotional factors rather than an inability to breastfeed.

She identified psychological stress, exhaustion and sleep

deprivation as some of the most common causes. Medical conditions including an underactive thyroid, polycystic ovary syndrome and diabetes may also reduce milk production, along with retained placenta fragments after birth, heavy bleeding during or after delivery, certain medications, epidural use during labour, previous breast surgery affecting the milk ducts and caesarean delivery.

Breastfeeding practices also



”
Stress can directly reduce milk production by disrupting the hormones needed for breastfeeding.

MARIAM AL MAHDI, INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL LACTATION CONSULTANT

play a significant role, she said. Introducing formula too early, poor latching, feeding too infrequently and repeatedly using the same feeding position can all reduce milk production over time.

According to Al Mahdi, protecting milk supply starts with

feeding babies whenever they show signs of hunger instead of following a strict schedule, ensuring a proper latch and fully emptying the breast through breastfeeding or pumping. She added that a balanced diet rich in protein, whole grains, vegetables, fruit and healthy fats also supports breastfeeding.

She noted that traditional Bahraini postnatal practices continue to be followed by many mothers. Foods such as hasu, jallab, rashoof and fenugreek have long been associated locally with supporting milk production, while staying hydrated with water, aniseed water and coconut water may also help. She added that postnatal massage, adequate rest and reducing stress wherever possible can further support breastfeeding.

Some foods, including mint, parsley, celery, sage and particularly sour or spicy dishes, are sometimes believed to reduce milk supply. Al Mahdi cautioned

against treating these claims as universal, saying every mother responds differently and should observe how her own body reacts.

She advised mothers to seek assistance from a lactation consultant if breastfeeding becomes painful, the baby struggles to latch, nipples become cracked, milk supply appears too low or too high, engorgement or blocked ducts develop, or when caring for premature babies, babies born with cleft lip or certain medical conditions, returning to work or planning to begin pumping.

“Do not allow myths or discouraging comments to determine your breastfeeding journey,” Al Mahdi said. “With the right knowledge and support, many of the problems that convince mothers to stop breastfeeding can be overcome, allowing both mother and baby to benefit for as long as possible.”

FROM COUNCIL

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Residents Raise Housing Concerns

Salman City residents called for better maintenance services and dedicated housing offices during a ministry outreach meeting



Salman City residents raised concerns over maintenance services and called for dedicated housing service offices during a Hayakum outreach session organised by the Northern Municipal Council.

The meeting brought together Housing Ministry officials, MP Jalal Kadhem, councillor

Basem Abu Idrees and Northern Municipality representatives to discuss maintenance, housing regulations and resident concerns.

Residents were briefed on maintenance procedures, safety measures and coordination with Civil Defence. Officials also encouraged residents to submit enquiries and main-

tenance requests through the ministry’s WhatsApp service.

Kadhem proposed stronger communication with residents, a joint committee to monitor service issues and wider awareness campaigns. The council said it would continue following up with authorities to improve housing services.

New Lights Replace Al Ramli’s Dim Solar Lamps

Residents of Al Ramli housing suburb are finally set to see brighter streets as authorities move ahead with replacing the area’s underperforming solar-powered streetlights with a new conventional lighting system.

For nearly five years, residents described the existing lights as being “like candles,” providing limited illumination and leaving some streets in darkness, particularly during cloudy weather when solar panels struggled to generate enough power.

Northern Municipal Council member Abdulla Ashoor said the lighting issue had been among the main concerns raised by residents since he joined the council, alongside other complaints including rainwater accumulation.

He said the problem became more noticeable during winter months, when reduced sunlight and cloudy conditions affected the solar lamps’ performance.



The old solar streetlights in Al Ramli barely charged on cloudy winter days, leaving the area in near total darkness at night.



New high quality solar lights

Maintenance challenges and the quality of the previous installation further contributed to the situation.

Following a request submitted by Ashoor, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning began work to replace the solar lighting system with a more powerful conventional network.

According to the latest progress update from the contractor, cable installation has reached 99 per cent completion, while work on replacing lighting poles and

foundations has started across the suburb’s main avenues.

Around 20 new poles and foundations have already been installed, and the newly installed lights are now operational. In addition, five substations have been energised to provide power to the lighting control panels.

Ashoor praised the ministry’s cooperation and said the project is progressing towards completion, with residents already noticing improved brightness in areas where the new lights have been activated.

Riffa Road Complaints Reviewed

Southern Governorate and Works Ministry inspect Ali bin Khalifa Avenue following residents’ complaints



The Southern Governorate’s engineering and community monitoring team inspected Ali bin Khalifa Avenue in Riffa with representatives of the Ministry of Works to review residents’ complaints.

The visit, attended by Southern Municipal Council member Khalid Shajra, was conducted under the directives of Southern Governor

Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa to monitor service facilities and improve public services.

Officials reviewed maintenance, infrastructure and service-related observations raised by residents. The governorate said the visits help speed up responses to complaints submitted through its weekly majlis and electronic channels.

Road Dips Leave Homes Flooded

Councillor says poor road repairs cause water to collect outside homes, affecting elderly and disabled residents

Residents in parts of the ninth northern constituency are struggling with pools of water outside their homes caused by sunken road surfaces, according to Northern Municipal Council member Abdulla Mubarak Belal Al Qubaisi.

He said the uneven roads, left after previous water leak repairs, trap wash water from homes and cars, making it difficult for elderly people and those with disabilities to reach their vehicles safely.

Al Qubaisi praised the Ministry of Works for repairing potholes but urged it to fully resurface affected roads instead of carrying out patchwork repairs.



He also called on residents to stop allowing wash water to flow onto streets and urged the Northern Municipality to raise public awareness on protecting road infrastructure.

Hamad Town Mosque Plots Still Await Registration



Residents of Hamad Town’s Block 1205 are still waiting for construction to begin on two planned mosques because the plots remained unregistered despite eight years of follow-up.

Northern Municipal Council member Abdulla Mubarak Belal Al Qubaisi said repeated efforts to resolve the issue have failed, even after the matter passed through three successive directors of the Jaafari Waqf Directorate.

The two sites, designated for the Imam Al Mahdi Grand Mosque on Road 536 and the Khatam Al Anbiya Mosque on Road 535, have been the subject of meetings and site visits in-

volving the Jaafari Waqf Directorate, the Urban Planning and Development Authority, the Survey and Land Registration Bureau, and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning.

Al Qubaisi said residents have received repeated assurances over the years, but no concrete steps have been taken to complete the registration process.

He and residents have renewed their call for authorities to finalise the registration of the two plots and issue the necessary documents so construction of the mosques can begin, describing the project as an important religious and community need for Block 1205.

NBB Group Chief Executive Officer Usman Ahmed Named Among Forbes Middle East’s Top 100 CEOs of 2026

TDI | Manama

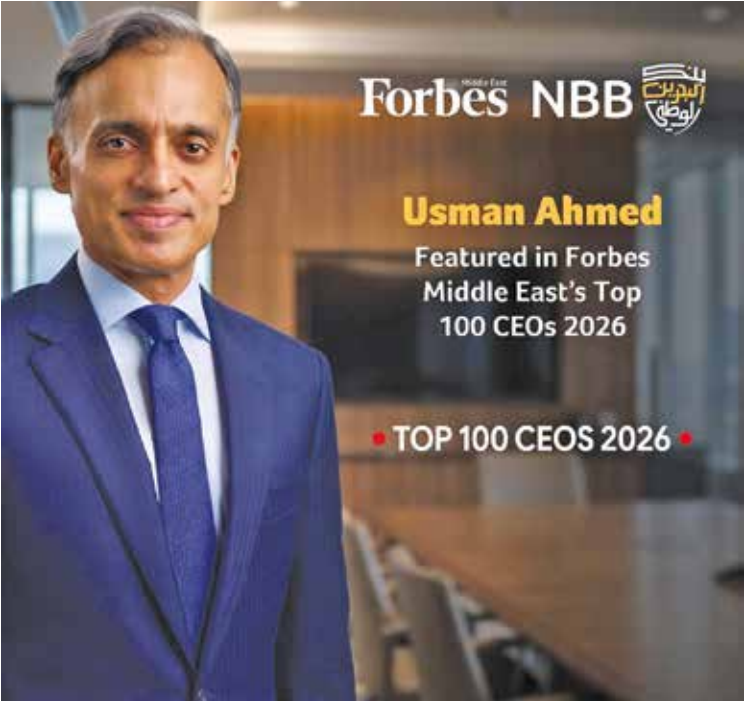
The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has announced that its Group Chief Executive Officer, Usman Ahmed, has been named among Forbes Middle East’s Top 100 CEOs of 2026. This is his second consecutive appearance and third inclusion overall in the coveted list, following his recognition in 2023 and 2025.

Now in its sixth edition, the annual ranking honours executives whose leadership drives strong business performance to achieve meaningful economic and social contribution from their organisation. Candidates are assessed according to their impact across the region and the markets they serve, professional ex-

perience, company scale, recent achievements and the innovations introduced under their direction.

Since assuming his role in January 2023, Usman has led NBB through a period of sustained growth and continued transformation, advancing responsible innovation, strengthening the Bank’s market position and expanding its contribution to Bahrain’s financial sector and national development priorities.

The distinction also reflects the collective expertise and commitment of NBB’s people, whose efforts continue to translate the Bank’s strategic ambition into lasting value for customers, shareholders and the wider community.



U.S. Stocks Edge Lower Amid Oil Rally and Mixed Earnings

Stocks on Wall Street slipped on Thursday as investors weighed rising oil prices, corporate earnings and ongoing concerns about inflation and economic growth. The S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite both eased 0.2%, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.7%, pulling back after record highs earlier in the week.

Several companies posted mixed earnings, with gains in media and beverage stocks offset by sharp declines in aerospace and technology shares. Strong corporate profits overall have continued to support market confidence, with most S&P 500 companies reporting better-than-expected quarterly results.

Oil prices climbed more than 4% as uncertainty sur-



rounding the Strait of Hormuz and tensions involving Iran continued to raise concerns over global energy supplies. Higher crude prices have added pressure to inflation by increasing fuel and transportation costs.

Investors are also closely watching the U.S. labour market and upcoming economic data for clues on the Federal Reserve’s next interest rate decision. Treasury yields moved higher, while European markets advanced and most Asian markets ended the day lower.

New Standard Chartered report highlights Bahrain’s role in connecting Islamic capital with the next generation of growth opportunities

TDI | Manama

As Bahrain continues to strengthen its position as a leading centre for Islamic finance, a new Standard Chartered report highlights a significant opportunity to deepen cross-border connectivity between Islamic capital and high-growth markets. Despite Islamic finance assets approaching USD6 trillion globally, only 6% of global sukuk capital currently reaches South Asia and Africa, underscoring the need for stronger financing and investment corridors to unlock the industry’s next phase of growth.

According to Islamic Banking for Financial Institutions: The Islamic Finance Connector Era, the next phase of Islamic finance will increasingly be defined by its ability to mobilise liquidity, connect regions and facilitate investment across emerging economic corridors. Achieving this will require stronger financial, trade and digital connectivity to enable

Islamic capital to move more efficiently across borders.

These findings are particularly relevant to Bahrain, one of the pioneers of modern Islamic finance, whose well-established regulatory framework and sophisticated financial services ecosystem have helped shape the industry’s development for decades. As regional investment corridors continue to evolve, Bahrain is well positioned to strengthen cross-border Islamic finance by connecting capital with trade and investment opportunities across the GCC, Asia and Africa. This closely reflects the report’s conclusion that stronger connectivity between capital, trade and investment will define the next phase of Islamic finance growth.

Khurram Hilal, CEO, Group Islamic Banking, Standard Chartered, said: “Islamic finance is becoming a critical enabler of cross border connectivity. As its role in facilitating trade, investment and capital flows continues to grow, institutions need recognised fi-



Khurram Hilal, CEO, Group Islamic Banking, Standard Chartered

ancing structures and operational capabilities that enable Shariah compliant capital to move seamlessly across borders as trade routes become increasingly interconnected.”

He added: “The challenge for many markets today is not a shortage of liquidity, but how to connect that liquidity with opportunity more effectively across borders. Financial institutions that build trusted connections between capital, markets and digital infrastructure will be best positioned to sup-



New report finds only 6% of global sukuk capital reaches South Asia and Africa, highlighting a significant opportunity to strengthen cross-border Islamic finance



Bahrain’s established Islamic finance ecosystem and regulatory leadership position the Kingdom to support the next phase of cross-border Islamic finance connectivity



ed by a strong regulatory framework, deep market expertise and a longstanding commitment to innovation. As cross-border trade and investment continue to evolve, the Kingdom is well positioned to help connect Islamic capital with emerging opportunities across the GCC and beyond, reinforcing its role in supporting the continued growth and development of the global Islamic finance industry.”

The report highlights rapidly evolving trade corridors between the GCC, Asia and other emerging markets as creating new opportunities for Islam-

ic trade finance, cross-border investment and capital mobilisation. It also identifies growing demand for private credit, infrastructure finance, digital assets and tokenisation as key areas supporting the next phase of Islamic finance growth.

With one of the world’s leading international Islamic banking franchises, Standard Chartered supports clients across these evolving trade and investment corridors through Shariah-compliant solutions, deep market connectivity and cross-border capabilities, helping connect capital with opportunity across the markets it serves.

Tojjar Talk Discusses the Future of Bahrain’s Pearl, Gold, and Jewelry Sector

TDI | Manama

The Bahrain Chamber held the second session of its Tojjar Talk initiative, dedicated to the Pearl, Gold, and Jewelry Sector, with the participation of Minister of Industry and Commerce, H.E. Mr. Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, and Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, Nabeel Khalid Kanoo, alongside business owners, investors, and sector representatives. The session reviewed the current state of the sector, its development priorities, and concluded with recommendations aimed at enhancing competitiveness, improving the business environment, and supporting sustainable growth.

The Minister of Industry and Commerce emphasized the importance of continued collaboration between the public and private sectors and maintaining direct dialogue



with business owners. He noted that dedicating a Tojjar Talk session to the Pearl, Gold, and Jewellery Sector reflects the shared commitment to advancing this vital industry. He added that the Ministry will continue working with the Bahrain Chamber and the private sector to evaluate and implement practical recommendations that support the sector’s growth, enhance the business environment, and



contribute to Bahrain’s economic development goals.

Kanoo described the Pearl, Gold, and Jewelry Sector as one of Bahrain’s oldest and most distinguished economic sectors, with a rich commercial heritage that has helped establish the Kingdom as a regional hub for the pearl, gold, and jewelry trade. He reaffirmed the Chamber’s commitment to the sector, noting that the establishment

of the Pearl, Gold, and Jewelry Committee during the 31st term of the Chamber’s Board of Directors reflects its focus on strengthening engagement with industry stakeholders, identifying the sector’s needs, and supporting initiatives that enhance its competitiveness.

He further highlighted the sector’s continued contribution to the national economy and Bahrain’s regional and international standing, stressing

the importance of modernizing legislation, encouraging innovation, developing national talent, and fostering an environment that supports long-term growth.

Kanoo confirmed that the Chamber will follow up on the session’s recommendations by referring all proposals to the Pearl, Gold, and Jewelry Committee for review and co-ordination with the relevant government authorities, en-

suring they are translated into practical initiatives.

In closing, Kanoo said that the Tojjar Talk initiative serves as an important platform for engaging directly with Bahrain’s economic sectors, gathering feedback from business owners, and transforming their recommendations into actionable initiatives that strengthen the private sector and enhance the competitiveness of the national economy.



Australia politician admits texting 'my job is boring' during meeting

AFP | Sydney

An Australian politician has been left red-faced after being forced to admit yesterday he texted "my job is boring" and an expletive to a contact during a meeting.

Mark Parton -- who leads the opposition Liberal Party in the Australian Capital Territory -- was subject this week to a complaint alleging he sent the message to a sex worker, local media reported.

"And f--- my job is boring. Wanna swap," Parton reportedly wrote, accompanied by a picture of a committee meeting last month, according to the Canberra Times.

After initially denying the complaint in full as a "smear", he told journalists yesterday that he did send the text but denied that it was to a sex worker.

Landslides kill at least four in northern Philippines



Rescuers working at a landslide site

AFP | Manila

Landslides in the Philippines killed four people, authorities said yesterday, as heavy rains driven by a tropical depression raked the country's north and forced school closures.

The archipelago nation's main island Luzon has been battered by heavy rains over the past four days.

Government offices and schools were ordered closed in the capital and across a swathe of northern provinces due to the rain.

In Benguet province, a six-hour drive north of Manila, a hillside gave way and collapsed on a small restaurant yesterday, burying three employees who had been in the kitchen.

"One is alive. Two were dead on the spot," Colonel Dionisio Bonoy of the Benguet provincial police told reporters.

"At 10:00 am (0200 GMT), the survivor was retrieved. That was our priority earlier. With the help of God, we hope he survives."

Environmental disaster looms as tanker leaks off Oman



Satellite image shows a slick that is consistent with an oil leak emanating from a ship

AFP | Dubai

Oman is facing an impending environmental catastrophe as an alleged Russian shadow fleet tanker leaks oil across hundreds of square kilometres near a nature reserve, NGOs warn.

The ship was rocked by explosions, a maritime security firm said, but the cause of the blasts is unclear.

Russia has built up a ghost fleet of old ships with opaque ownership to get around Western sanctions since its 2022 Ukraine invasion, and experts have said the vessels' poor condition increases the risk of oil spills.

Satellite imagery showed what appeared to be an oil slick spreading from a ship that has been stranded for over a month near al-Qibliyyah island, off Oman's southern coast.

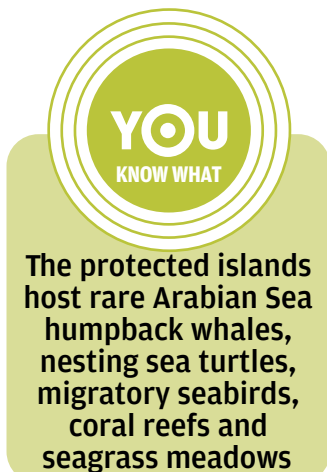
It is far from the Strait of Hormuz, which has seen regular tanker attacks in the Middle East war.

"With oil apparently continuing to leak and the vessel stranded in a difficult location, the risk of an even larger environmental disaster remains serious," Nina Noelle of Greenpeace said.

She warned of a "severe and long-lasting" consequence.

Greenpeace said the oil sheen had expanded from up to 20 square kilometres on July 24 to an estimated 600 on August 4, according to satellite imagery it reviewed.

Environmental open-source investigator Wim Zwijnenburg, from Dutch peace organ-



isation PAX, gave the same estimate for the August 4 sheen.

Kpler data showed that the Caroline Bezengi, which is believed to be the ship leaking off Oman, loaded one million barrels of crude oil at the Russian Black Sea terminal of Sheskhari on May 11.

It still had the oil when its last signal was recorded a month later.

Large stretches of the island's shoreline appear affected and "additional oil slicks extend far out to sea, further polluting and damaging this protected marine ecosystem", Noelle said.

Zwijnenburg added that "a complete break of the ship can cause a regional environmental catastrophe, affecting both the lives of Omani fishing communities and the wider marine and island biodiversity".

Last year, Oman established a marine reserve around the al-Hallaniyat islands, which include al-Qibliyyah and are home to diverse marine life including rare sea turtles.

Trump denies weapon shortages

White House denies clash with Pentagon chief



President Donald Trump takes a look at a Lockheed Martin THAAD anti-ballistic missile launcher (file photo)

● Trump asserts US holds vast munitions stockpiles

● Threatens jail for alleged leakers

● Rejects reports of depleted stockpile

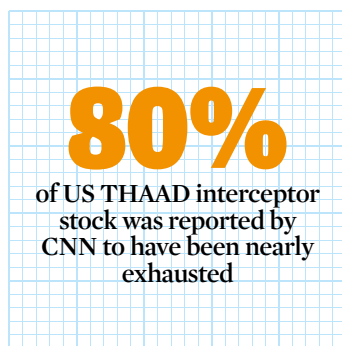
● White House brands coverage fake news

AFP | Washington

President Donald Trump said yesterday the United States has a vast supply of munitions and threatened those who suggested otherwise with jail terms as his frustration with the Iran war boiled over.

The Republican leader lashed out on his Truth Social platform at media reports about the dwindling weapons stockpile, saying that the United States has "massive amounts of 'munitions' especially of certain types," without giving further detail.

"Additionally, large amounts



are being manufactured and shipped to the US as needed. Defense companies are building the largest number of plants and factories in our country's history," he said.

The Washington Post reported that Trump demanded answers about the munitions shortages from Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth last Friday, when they attended a cabinet meeting at the Camp David presidential retreat.

Trump told Hegseth that he thought the munitions issue "had been fixed," the Post reported, citing two unidentified sources familiar with the exchange.

Trump railed against the media reports, threatening yesterday that "the 'leakers' of these

treasonous statements are being hunted down" and "Long term jail sentences will be sought!"

CNN also reported that shortages of long-range guided missiles and air-defense interceptors had affected Trump's strategy in the conflict with Iran, with the US military having "nearly exhausted 80%" of its stock of THAAD interceptors.

The Post also said that the shortages led Trump to call off fresh strikes against Iran, despite having threatened to hit the Islamic republic "very hard".

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt branded coverage of the exchange with Hegseth "FAKE NEWS!"

"I was at Camp David with president Trump and Secretary Hegseth. This literally never happened," she wrote on X.

Chief Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell said the reports about Trump's clash with Hegseth and the weapons shortages were "equally fictional."

Iran's foreign ministry has denied there are any negotiations under way with Washington, even as Trump said Tehran was keen for a deal.

India approves \$2.5 billion scheme to boost biogas output

AFP | New Delhi

India approved a \$2.5 billion biogas programme to sharply expand domestic clean fuel production yesterday.

A government statement said the latest National Circular Bioenergy Scheme "marks a defining moment in India's clean energy journey".

It will back waste collection, manure processing and the expansion of existing biogas plants.

"It will transform the country's abundant agricultural residue, cattle dung, press mud (sugar cane waste), municipal



Residents pour cow dung into their biogas plant at a village in Uttar Pradesh



organic waste and other biomass resources into clean fuel, organic manure, rural income and national economic value," the statement said.

India -- the world's most populous nation, has pushed large-scale biogas production as part of a bid to achieve carbon neutrality by 2070.

Since the 1980s, it has also promoted biogas as a low-cost rural energy source, subsidising more than five million "digester" units that convert farm waste into methane for cooking, and nitrogen-rich slurry for fertiliser.



US Senate panel votes to hold top Covid expert Fauci in contempt

Democrats condemn vote as legally flawed while Justice Department decision now looms

Senate Committee backs contempt vote

Fauci invokes Fifth Amendment

Paul alleges Covid cover-up

AFP | Washington

A Republican-led US Senate committee yesterday voted to hold the country's former top infectious diseases official Anthony Fauci in contempt of Congress, in an escalation of efforts to blame him for potential Covid-19 pandemic missteps.

On the advice of his lawyers, Fauci last week had invoked his constitutional right to stay silent to prevent self-incrimination under antagonistic questioning from Republican senators, as they probed him over unsubstantiated claims that the origins of the pandemic were covered up.

The party-line vote advances the extraordinary effort to prosecute the 85-year-old career government scientist, who spent decades as the nation's top expert in infectious diseases.

It stems from an initiative by Republican Senator Rand Paul, who had subpoenaed the now-retired Fauci to testify before the Senate Homeland Security



Dr. Anthony Fauci is sworn in during a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs committee hearing on Capitol Hill (file photo)

rity Committee.

Prior to the hearing, Paul released thousands of pages of the immunologist's personal diary.

Fauci indicated his lawyers believed Paul intended to entrap him in a slip-up that could result in perjury charges, so Fauci opted to invoke his Fifth Amendment right not to answer.

Paul, the committee's chairman, has signaled he intends to send the panel's recommendation straight to the Justice Department, which can decide

whether to take the case.

Contempt resolutions generally go through the full Senate, and bypassing that route would bring fresh scrutiny on accusations that President Donald Trump's administration aims to persecute its perceived political foes.

Democrats on the panel voiced their disdain over the vote, with Senator Gary Peters accusing Paul of a "rushed investigation."

He said the vote could "harm our ability to conduct future investigations and disregards



Senator Paul released thousands of pages of Fauci's personal diary before the hearing – a move Fauci's lawyers interpreted as a deliberate attempt to provoke a slip-up that could expose him to perjury charges

constitutional protections long recognized by the US Senate, all without making a reliable case that there is a legal basis for holding Dr Fauci in contempt."

Legal maze ahead

Paul has charged that under Fauci's watch at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the US-funded "gain-of-function" research in China triggered the spread of Covid-19.

The senator insists Fauci lied about that to Congress, an allegation which he has repeatedly denied.

More than six years after the pandemic's onset, the debate over whether Covid-19 leaked

from a lab remains intense. Fauci has maintained that the virus had natural origins, even if he's said he is open to the idea of a lab leak.

Paul now says that Fauci is ineligible for protection under the Fifth Amendment, because former president Joe Biden granted the doctor an unconditional pardon for public service actions dating from 2014 through January 19, 2025.

Republicans say the pardon already protected him from perjury.

But law scholars are split on the issue that opens the door to a murky legal maze pitting the reach of a presidential pardon against the scope of the Fifth Amendment.

Law professor Tracey MacLin of the University of Florida told AFP that if the Senate panel had truly wanted Fauci to speak frankly, they would have offered him immunity.

Several Democrats yesterday had unsuccessfully pushed for a delay on the vote, arguing that the panel should hear from legal experts.

Two Trump advisers dating to the president's first term, Steve Bannon and Peter Navarro, served time in prison for failing to comply with congressional subpoenas.

But they did not plead the Fifth, opting instead to refuse to appear.

Israeli settlers attack West Bank Palestinian community, burn homes

AFP | Khirbet al-Tuba

Israeli settlers attacked a small Palestinian community in the West Bank, injuring people, destroying homes and smashing their power source, the military and residents said yesterday, in the latest in a spate of violent confrontations.

Journalists in remote Khirbet Al-Tuba saw buildings blackened by fire and smoke, the interiors of three homes completely burned and graffiti in Hebrew spray-painted on remaining structures.

The dozen solar panels the isolated southern community relies on for power had also been smashed to render them unusable.

The Israeli military said it "strongly condemned" the raid and that it had responded after "homes being set on fire and Palestinians being attacked in the area by Israeli civilians" late Wednesday.

"Several Palestinians were injured, among them a girl and a woman. Several structures were also burned," the military said.

"The suspects fled before the forces arrived."

Radwan Abu Jundi, whose



Palestinians walk past Israeli security forces deployed on a street

house was torched, told AFP that about 40 settlers attacked the hamlet at around 10 pm.

"The settlers started throwing stones. We rushed to protect the women, but they got to my wife and daughter and beat them," he said.

"Then they started spraying something and setting the room on fire. The pictures tell the whole story."

Locals said that five people were wounded in the attack, including Abu Jundi's wife and daughter, as well as another child.

"From the moment the attack began until daybreak, we spent the whole night standing here, putting out the fires and helping the injured," Ali Awad, another resident whose son was injured, told AFP.

Violence by Israeli settlers toward Palestinians in the West Bank has persisted for years, but recent months have seen a surge in attacks.

Excluding Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem, some 500,000 Israeli settlers live in the occupied West Bank among some three million Palestinians.

Explosive drone found near Ukrainian plane at German airport



An Ukrainian "Antonov" cargo plane is pictured at the German airport Leipzig-Halle in Schkeuditz

AFP | Berlin

German police raised the alarm at an airport overnight after an explosives-laden drone was found near a Ukrainian cargo plane and another aircraft collided with an unknown flying object nearby before landing safely.

All flights to Leipzig-Halle airport were diverted for several hours from around midnight as police deployed a bomb-disposal robot to remove the detonator from the explosive in the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) found on the tarmac.

The airport in eastern Ger-

many plays a key role in the transport of military goods by the German armed forces and NATO allies. It also serves as a base for Ukraine's Antonov Airlines.

Video footage from a local news agency showed the bomb disposal robot near an Antonov plane painted with the yellow and blue of the Ukrainian flag. The words "Be Brave Like Kherson" were written on the side -- a reference to a Ukrainian region battered by Russian strikes.

Ukraine's ambassador to Germany Oleksii Makeiev blamed Moscow. "Who else could it be but Russia?" he said on Welt TV.



TOP
3
TWEETS

01



The severe threat of #ElNiño is growing around the world, including in #Uganda. Millions of people are at risk of slipping into worse hunger. @WFP and partners are acting early to help communities prepare, but more resources are needed to scale up.

@WFPchief

02



We mark the 81st anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima at a time when nuclear sabers are rattled once again in the name of power & coercion. But peace is not secured through fear & might. It's built through trust, diplomacy, international cooperation & an unwavering commitment to international law. Let's choose dialogue over division & cooperation over confrontation to move closer to a world where the tragedy of Hiroshima is never repeated.

@antoniogutierrez

03

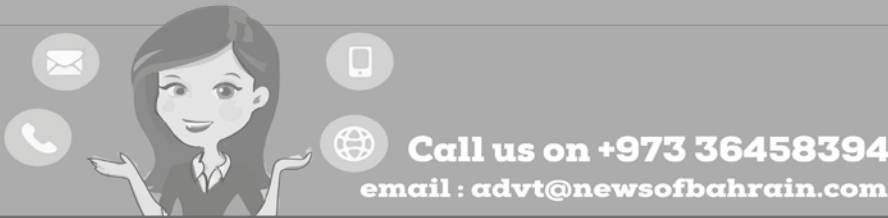


Our hearts are heavy today. LVMPD Officer Austin Abdelnabi was killed in the line of duty while answering a call to protect this community. A Marine veteran, a husband, and a man who showed up every day for the people of Las Vegas. This hits close to home because it happened in my hometown. To his wife Sage, his family, and every member of Metro — we stand with you. We are grateful for his service and we will not forget his sacrifice. Rest easy, Officer. -DKP

@FBIDirectorKash

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

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H.A.B REAL ESTATE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39679678 or INFO@HAFUDHALI.COM

STUDENTS REST PLACE has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17761452 or KHALIDALGHAT-AM5770@GMAIL.COM

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AIRMECH COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORK SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17768200 or AIRMECH.BAHRAIN@AIRMECH.NET

ALMOAYYED SECURITY has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or prof-fice@almoayyedcg.com

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SUPER SWEETS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32731010 or MAHDISAEDI194500@GMAIL.COM

ALKOOHEJI TECHNICAL SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17369993 or ABDULLA@KOOHEJITECHNICAL.COM

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BARAN CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33970777 or LAYLASULTAN08@GMAIL.COM

INTERIOR SOLUTIONS COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of LEADER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832022 or hamida.alhubail@havelockcove.com

AL JAZEERA SECURITY CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36945444 or info@jssbahrain.com

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MAJESTIC TAILOR has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38979767 or MARIARA-SOOL90@GMAIL.COM

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Al Sahel Resort B.S.C. (Closed) has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17561327 or hr@edamah.com

TUBLI AUCTION USED GOODS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17770222 or MOTHANAMMM2022@GMAIL.COM

FIB CONSTRUCTION SOLUTIONS has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33472131 or SALEEMJUTT5588@GMAIL.COM

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Classifieds

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INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES COMPANY LTD has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727662 or Personnel@intercol.com

SUPER SHINE CAR WASH has a vacancy for the occupation of CAR WASHER/CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37016516 or MALHOOTI67@GMAIL.COM

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NAPCO NATIONAL COMPANY FOR GENERAL TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (DATA PROCESSING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17762222 or TONY.ABRAMIA@NAPCOGROUP.COM

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monsoon restaurant W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17710271 or habib@alghalia.com

JAMEELA STOR has a vacancy for the occupation of RETAIL TRADE SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17255266 or J2000@BATELCO.COM.BH

AL QUDOOS GARAGE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35006476 or MUH.KHALIL346@GMAIL.COM

AMANA BAHRAIN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of NURSE(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36393839 or maab-dulla@amanahhealthcare.bh

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EMCE MAINTENANCE & CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700047 or NOOR@EMCEBH.COM

MANAMA SOUQ BUSINESS SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66911807 or ALJNIS53727282@GMAIL.COM

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ISA TOWERS FOR MANUAL WASHING BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33483028 or ESSATOWERS@GMAIL.COM

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QUICK ZEBRA SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

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red mountain restaurant has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38818851 or sfare147@gmail.com

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BEN EID TOWERS CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17250078 or KEHF-2011@HOTMAIL.COM

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ALMOAYYED CLEANING & MAINTENANCE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or proffice@almoayyedcg.com

GULF AIR B.S.C. (C) has a vacancy for the occupation of CABIN CREW / FLIGHT STEWARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17337804 or recruitment@gulfair.com

GALGACHA RC JEWELLERY DESIGN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKERS(JEWELLERY & PRECIOUS METAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36812284 or KESTOG-HOSH14@GMAIL.COM

IMMORTALE GENERAL TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33222100 or khalid_style_9@HOTMAIL.COM

ICG SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of INSULATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17623723 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

LAZER AUTO SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CAR WASHER/CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17744999 or AAREFHEJRES66@GMAIL.COM

SADEQ ALI MOHAMED EBRAHIM (NOOR ALWALI / 13024) has a vacancy for the occupation

of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36199977 or ABOISRA84@GMAIL.COM

AESHA ALSHAIKH ETLAH has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33048383 or BOFASIL45@GMAIL.COM

M J R CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33331276 or RAYWAYBH@GMAIL.COM

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EVIAN MANPOWER has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39822285 or AMEER-ALKHAL@HOTMAIL.COM

APEKO CLEANING COMBINED SERVICES BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33236494 or KHANSTARTUP.BH@GMAIL.COM

NEW DIMENSION CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77999360 or FISHERMANSENSE@GMAIL.COM

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MEHAFIL CAFETERIA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35108786 or MRVILLIYAPPALLY@GMAIL.COM

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ABU NASIR STYLISH SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33801352 or nasirkora8@gmail.com

First Choice Cleaning Services Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36491411 or choicefirst82@gmail.com

NEXT PLAN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17292866 or afrahgulam@gmail.com

MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345051 or info@magicshinebh.com

Pimak Steel Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW). GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32183978 or pimak67@GMAIL.COM

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AL MANSOORI CURTAIN TAILORING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38781349 or HASSAINARVELLANCHERY@GMAIL.COM

SERBIA CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34529911 or MALIKKHOKHARBH97@GMAIL.COM

BLACK CUT SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66604786 or MUHAMMAD-YOUSIF6660@GMAIL.COM

YOKO BY MIRAI RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17828828 or SHARIFALSAMAHJIJ@HOTMAIL.COM

BARKI BUILDING CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33494698 or NIAZBARKI@YAHOO.COM

KHAIR AL MADINA FRUITS AND VEGETABLES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39639797 or sasb9797@GMAIL.COM

JANNAT BABU LADIES SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39006581 or ALJAZAFDOCUMENTS@GMAIL.COM

region

Pakistan PM Begins Three-Day Saudi Visit



Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived in Saudi Arabia for a three-day official visit aimed at strengthening bilateral ties and discussing regional developments. PM Sharif was received at King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah by Prince Saud bin Mishal bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Governor of the

Makkah Region, according to Saudi Press Agency (SPA). He is accompanied by Field Marshal and Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, along with other senior officials. During the visit, Sharif is expected to meet Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to discuss expanding cooperation between the two countries and review regional and international developments. The visit comes as Pakistan continues diplomatic efforts to support dialogue between the United States and Iran, with recent reports indicating progress in negotiations despite remaining differences over maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz.

Saudi-Led Maritime Coalition Expands as More Nations Prepare to Join

The Saudi-led Multinational Maritime Defense Coalition is gaining momentum, with several countries formally joining the alliance and more expected to become members in the coming weeks. Rear Adm. Abdullah bin Salem Al-Shehri, recently appointed commander of the coalition, said participation remains open to all countries committed to protecting international shipping routes. Established by Saudi Arabia and 13 founding nations, the



coalition aims to safeguard freedom of navigation, international trade and global energy supplies across the Red Sea, Bab Al-Mandab Strait and the

Gulf of Aden. Officials stressed that the alliance is purely defensive, operates in line with international law and respects the sovereignty of all states. Saudi Arabia hosted representatives from 43 countries during the coalition's founding meeting in Riyadh, highlighting broad international support for maritime security. A planning meeting scheduled for August 12-13 will focus on strengthening the coalition's operational framework and welcoming additional member states.

Six Nations Condemn Gaza Attacks

Joint statement urges international action to end Israeli violations and protect civilians in the Gaza Strip

The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Egypt and Bahrain issued a joint statement condemning what they described as Israel's continued violations in the Gaza Strip. The ministers rejected what they called the "Policy of Facts on the Ground" and the Republic of Türkiye's rejection of the forced displacement of Palestinians. They also condemned the ongoing Israeli actions in Gaza, particularly the targeting of infrastructure linked to medical institutions, shelter centers and civilians, including women and children, warning of serious humanitarian consequences. The statement said the violations amount to a breach of Israel's obligations under international law and the Comprehensive Plan of Gaza Conflict. The ministers expressed concern over the implementation of the plan, particularly following the announcement by Israeli President Trump that Palestinians would be displaced to areas outside Gaza to make way for



reconstruction, describing the proposal as one that risks reigniting violence and undermining regional stability. The ministers stressed the need to protect civilians, safeguard medical facilities and personnel, and ensure the immediate, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid. They also called for Israel to allow humanitarian organizations unrestricted access to areas in need. The statement further rejected any attempts to separate the Gaza Strip from the occupied West Bank, saying both territories are an integral part of a future Palestinian state. It warned that continued settlement expansion and annexation policies threaten the prospects for a just and

lasting peace. The ministers urged the international community, particularly the United Nations Security Council, to assume its legal and moral responsibilities and take immediate action to stop violations of international law. They also called for accountability for serious violations committed against civilians and for stronger international efforts to support humanitarian relief and reconstruction. Reaffirming their commitment to a comprehensive and lasting peace, the ministers reiterated support for a two-state solution based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as the capital of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state.

celebs

Bella Thorne struggled with child stardom



Bella Thorne
Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Bella Thorne struggled to cope with the pressures of child stardom.

The 28-year-old actress - who lost her dad when she was just nine - admits that she struggled to cope with pressure of fame during her younger years.

During an appearance on the Call Her Daddy podcast, Bella - who originally began working as a child actress to help support her family - shared: "The feeling of going home was literally just wanting to be good at something."

"Felt like I tried so hard to be good at all the things in my life and it was just never enough."

"I try and take some of that pressure off myself now, but it's kind of like, you know, beaten into me in that way, hard to just get away from it, to retrain the brain in new thoughts. I just wanted to be good and I just never was actually good."

As a child actress, Bella was well aware that her family - including her mom and her siblings - were financially dependent on her.

The actress - who starred on Shake It Up, the hit Disney series, between 2010 and 2013 - explained: "When we moved to LA, my father died shortly after when I was nine and he did not leave us with anything or life insurance or anything like that, so my mom was in, I don't even know how she did it."

"Four kids and nothing, and a house in her name that she didn't sign for and foreclosure and he died in a motorcycle accident, so it was quite sudden, and it was just really bad for a long time."

"My mom was working. She was also trying to take us to every audition that she could and you've got four kids all with auditions, all on opposite sides of the town and just kind of running herself ragged as well as us just knowing all the time what was gonna happen if we didn't get that job."

Scarlett Johansson bemoans 'unachievable' beauty standards

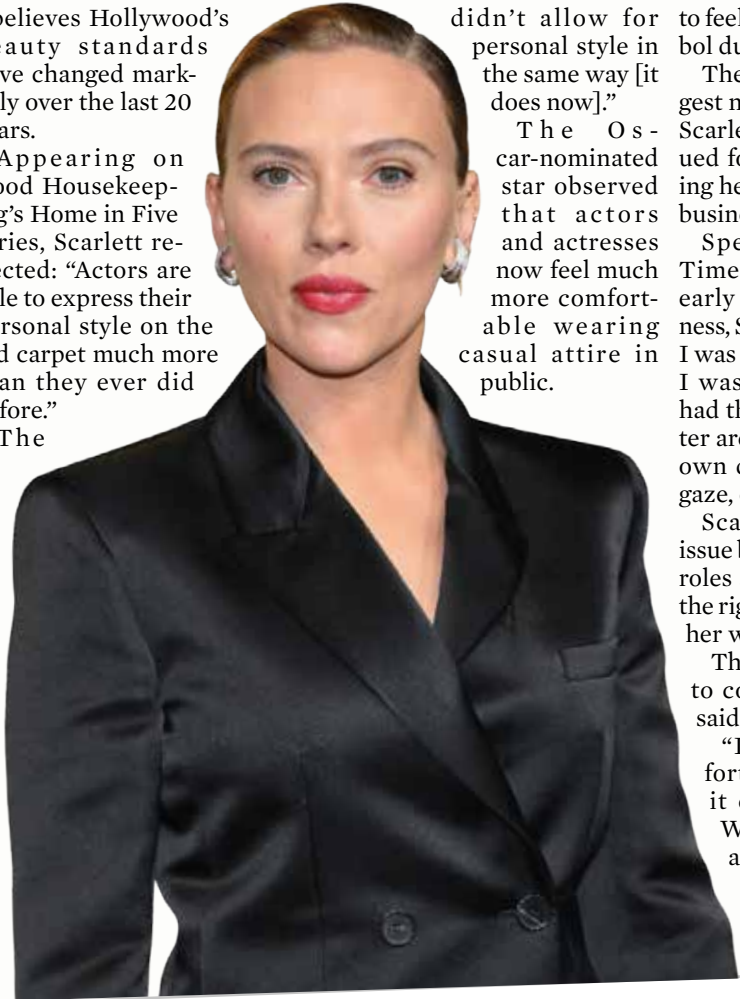
Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Scarlett Johansson has bemoaned the "unachievable" beauty standards she was held to during her younger years.

The 41-year-old actress - who first found fame as a child - believes Hollywood's beauty standards have changed markedly over the last 20 years.

Appearing on Good Housekeeping's Home in Five series, Scarlett reflected: "Actors are able to express their personal style on the red carpet much more than they ever did before."

The



Jurassic World Rebirth star recalled feeling under intense pressure to look a certain way during her younger years.

She said: "There was such a standard on how movies stars were supposed to look. It was unachievable and it didn't allow for personal style in the same way [it does now]."

The Oscar-nominated star observed that actors and actresses now feel much more comfortable wearing casual attire in public.

Scarlett - who is one of the highest-grossing film stars of all time - said: "Now at the airport or on the train, you see people wearing pimple patches and eye masks and whatever they want to feel confident."

Scarlett previously admitted to feeling typecast as a sex symbol during her younger years.

The actress is one of the biggest names in Hollywood - but Scarlett felt she was only valued for her "desirability" during her early days in the movie business.

Speaking to The Sunday Times newspaper about her early days in the movie business, Scarlett explained: "When I was younger, a lot of the roles I was offered, or I went for, had their ambitions or character arcs revolving around their own desirability, or the male gaze, or a male-centred story."

Scarlett has overcome the issue by rejecting "unfulfilling" roles and patiently waiting for the right opportunities to come her way.

The actress - who is married to comedy star Colin Jost - said: "I just waited."

"I had to become comfortable with the idea that it could take some time. Which is hard when you're a young actor, but at that time I didn't have any children."

Scarlett Johansson

Meghan Markle 'opened up about palace visit during private dinner'

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Meghan, Duchess of Sussex reportedly opened up about her recent visit with King Charles and Queen Camilla during a dinner party in California.

The 45-year-old duchess and her husband Prince Harry, 41, recently travelled to the UK with their children, Prince Archie, seven, and Princess Lilibet, five, during a wider European trip, and lifestyle entrepreneur Martha Stewart, 85, has now claimed Meghan spoke about the visit after getting back to America.

Speaking to People, Martha said about how she had recently met Meghan: "I had dinner with Meghan Markle the other night. We were both guests at a dinner party in California."

"And she had just gotten back from the palace. I didn't talk to her really more than to say a couple words, but I know she was talking about it."

Martha was also asked by People what she thought about Meghan moving into the lifestyle and homemaking space following the launch of the Duchess's cooking series, With Love, Meghan Markle

Love, Meghan.

She replied: "If you're an actress, it's hard to then transition to a princess and then from a princess into a home-making guru on a television show."

"It doesn't sort of follow. So go from there."

The comments come during a busy period for Meghan, whose lifestyle projects have continued to attract attention alongside her media ventures with Harry.

The Duchess launched With Love, Meghan as part of her expanding lifestyle brand, while continuing to share glimpses of family life on social media.



Rihanna has always stood by A\$AP Rocky during the "lowest and darkest" moments of his life

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Rihanna stood by A\$AP Rocky during the "lowest and darkest" moments of his life, long before they became a couple.

The 38-year-old singer dropped everything and rushed to the 37-year-old rapper's hotel room in Paris, France, after his dad, Adrian Mayers, died around Christmas 2012, finding him in tears and offering comfort and support.

On the latest episode of The Jason Lee Show, Rocky - real name Rakim Mayers - said: "This don't got nothing to do with her accolades or her money. The truth of the matter is, when my dad died, she was there for me."

"Every time I'm at my lowest and darkest place, rather if we just friends platonically or we in a couple relationship, she always f***** there for me."

The Praise The Lord (Da Shine) hitmaker was celebrating his debut album, Long Live. ASAP, going to number one, while also coping with one of the most devastating moments of his life.

He explained: "My first al-



Rihanna and A\$AP Rocky

bum went No. 1; my dad died on Christmas. I was on my bathroom floor in Paris crying. She called me for some reason to congratulate me."

"We both in Paris... Shorty rushed to [my side]. I don't even know how Rihanna got the key to my room. I stopped

answering my phone, and she walked right in, 'Yo, you good?' That really was my friend."

Rocky and Rihanna went public with their relationship in 2020, and they went on to welcome sons RZA and Riot, as well as daughter Rocki, in 2022, 2023, and 2025, respectively.

Losing Adrian, his brother, Ricky, when Rocky was 13, and A\$AP Mob creative director Steven "Yams" Rodriguez, in January 2015, has given the rapper an even greater appreciation for life and those around him.

The Peso artist said: "All jokes aside, I was really moved, and I know that like my brother and Yams and my dad is just up there working their magic, bro. They got to be. This is just like it's beyond me and beyond my understanding."

"I've been in a lot of situations that I prayed that I would get out of unscathed, and God blessed me like that. That situation taught me don't take life for granted and value your people you love."

Rocky opened up about Ricky, and asked why he rarely speaks about him in public, Rocky insisted it was not a deliberate decision.

The L\$D performer said: "Nah, it's not. I love my brother. That was not only big bro. That was like a person who was like my dad."

Rocky looked up to his brother and even tried to follow his lead, but Ricky pushed him away from the street life and encouraged him to go to school and pursue a different path. The entertainer said: "I thought I wanted to be a baller. I wanted that Chevy. I wanted that Caprice. After I got chased, I was like, 'Yo, I'm not made for this.'"

Police Traffic team wins futsal title

Bahrain’s Chief of Police attended the tournament finale and praised the Interior Ministry’s continued support for police sports

● The championship is part of efforts to strengthen the physical fitness of police personnel

TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s Chief of Police, Lieutenant-General Tariq bin Hassan Al Hassan, attended the closing ceremony of the Police Open Futsal Championship, organized by the Police Sports Federation at the Bahrain Handball Federation Hall. The General Directorate of Traffic won the championship after defeating the Coast Guard team 7-3 in the final.

On the occasion, Lt.-Gen. Al Hassan praised the directives of Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa to provide the resources and facilities needed to organize distinguished sporting events



and tournaments. He said the minister’s continued support for sports and athletes across all Ministry of Interior teams has contributed significantly to achieving advanced positions in numerous local and international sporting competitions.

The Chief of Police also commended the standard of performance, fair competition and sportsmanship displayed throughout the tournament. He thanked the Police Sports

Federation and everyone who contributed to the successful organization and preparation of the championship.

Brigadier Khalid Abdulaziz Al Khayat, President of the Police Sports Federation, expressed his appreciation to the Chief of Police for attending the closing ceremony. He also praised his continued support for the federation’s sporting activities, which are carried out under its sports plan aimed at enhancing



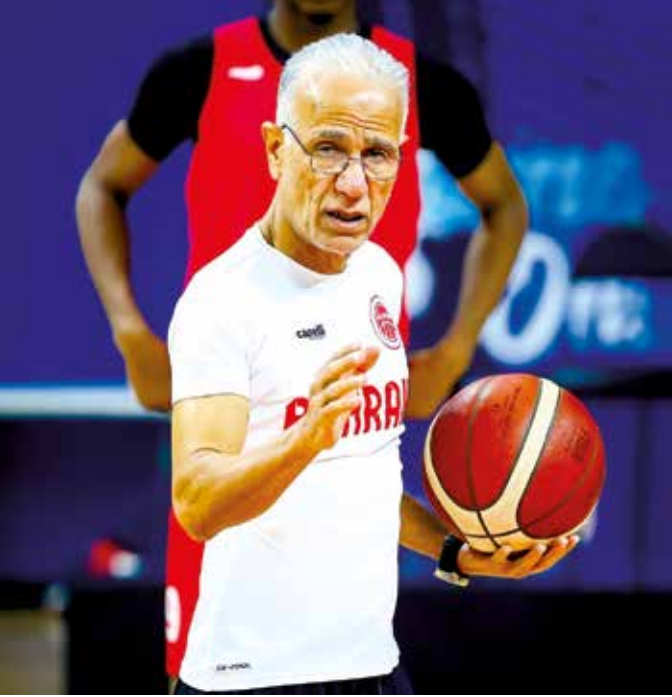
the physical capabilities of police personnel.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Chief of Police presented the championship trophy to the winning team. He

also honored representatives of organizations that contributed to the tournament’s success, including Abdulrahman Sadiq Askar, Chief Executive of the General Sports Authority; Majdi

Mirza Hussain, Secretary-General of the Bahrain Handball Federation; and Abdullah Mansour, Vice President of Al Shabab Sports Club, wishing them continued success.

Bahrain counting down to FIBA U18 Asia Cup



Coach Salman Ramadhan

TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s youth men’s national basketball team are entering the final stages of their preparations for the FIBA U18 Asia Cup 2026, with the continental championship set to tip off in Ahmedabad, India, on August 13.

The reigning Arab and Gulf champions have been training at the Bahrain Basketball Association Arena in Um Al Hassam under head coach Salman Ramadhan and his technical staff as they fine-tune their preparations ahead of the tournament.

The squad is scheduled to depart for India tomorrow, where they will compete against some of Asia’s strongest basketball nations in the 16-team championship.

Bahrain have been drawn in Group B alongside Lebanon, New Zealand and Syria.

Group A consists of defending champions Australia, Chinese Taipei, the Philippines and Thailand. Group C features China, Iran, Qatar and

Sri Lanka, while Group D includes South Korea, Japan, hosts India and Kazakhstan.

The Bahrainis will begin their campaign against Lebanon on the opening day before taking on New Zealand on August 15. They will complete the group stage against Syria on August 17.

The winners of each group will advance directly to the quarter-finals, while the teams finishing second and third will contest a play-in round on August 20 for the remaining places in the last eight.

The quarter-finals are scheduled for August 21, followed by the semi-finals on August 22.

A place in the final four will also secure qualification for the FIBA U19 Basketball World Cup 2027, which will be held in Pardubice, Czechia, from June 26 to July 4 next year.

The tournament concludes on August 23, when the gold and bronze medal games, along with the final classification matches, will be played.

Youth handball team step up Asian Championship preparations

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s U19 men’s handball national team have departed for Kuwait for a week-long overseas training camp as they enter the final stage of preparations for the 11th Asian Men’s Youth Handball Championship.

The camp will provide the national team with valuable match practice, with Bahrain set to play two friendly fixtures against their Kuwaiti counterparts as they continue fine-tuning their preparations for the continental tournament, which will be held in Amman, Jordan, from August 20 to 31.

The Asian championship will also serve as the qualifying event for the 2027 IHF Men’s Youth Handball World Championship, with the top four teams earning places at the global tournament.

Bahrain have been handed a challenging draw, with the two-time champions placed in



Action from a local training session

Group A alongside defending champions Japan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Chinese Taipei. Group B features South Ko-

rea, Kuwait, Iran, hosts Jordan, Syria and India.

The draw was conducted by the Asian Handball Federation after the tournament was relocated from its original host city of Andijan, Uzbekistan, to the Jordanian capital.

Bahrain will be making their 10th appearance at the Asian U19 Championship, having missed only the 2006 edition.

The kingdom has enjoyed considerable success in the competition, winning back-to-back continental titles in 2016 and 2018, while also securing a bronze medal in 2010. Bahrain have finished among the top five in every other appearance, underlining their consistency as one of Asia’s leading youth handball nations.

The Kuwait camp is expected to play a key role in Bahrain’s final preparations as they look to make a strong impact in Amman and secure qualification for the World Championship.

3x3 teams receive boost ahead of Singapore challenge

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain Basketball Association (BBA) president His Excellency Shaikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, accompanied by members of the Board of Directors, visited the training sessions of Bahrain’s national men’s and women’s U23 3x3 basketball teams as they continue preparations for the FIBA 3x3 Youth Nations League 2026.

The visit provided BBA officials with an opportunity to review the teams’ preparation programmes and assess their readiness ahead of the tournament, which will be held in Singapore from August 20 to 26.

Bahrain will compete in the Asia West/Pacific stop alongside Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, Australia and hosts Singapore, with all six nations



BBA officials with Bahrain’s women’s U23 3x3 basketball team

participating in both the men’s and women’s categories.

During the visit, Shaikh Mohammed and the board members met with the technical and administrative staff, as well as the players, reaffirming their support for both teams and wishing them success as they aim to showcase the continued growth of Bahraini basketball.

The tournament will mark

Bahrain’s first appearance in the FIBA 3x3 Youth Nations League, a competition designed by the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) to develop emerging 3x3 basketball talent through international competition.

The Singapore event will also serve as a qualifying tournament for the FIBA 3x3 U23 World Cup, which will be held in Hubei,

China, from September 15 to 19.

Both teams have been following an intensive preparation programme, including participation in the Bahrain 3x3 Summer Tournament, as well as the Lite Quest and Quest competitions. The matches have provided valuable experience as Bahrain look to enter the Asian competition in the best possible shape.

UEFA maintains World Cup boycott despite FIFA retreat

European soccer body dismisses FIFA emergency meeting support for Infantino

- **UEFA demands assurances from FIFA**
- **FIFA directors back Infantino in Morocco**

AFP | Paris

European football's governing body UEFA said they would maintain their boycott of the men's and women's World Cups yesterday despite FIFA withdrawing the plan to open up their competitions to private investment.

UEFA's initial threat issued last Thursday to boycott FIFA competitions is widely credited in being pivotal in the plan being shelved.

Although that was one of their conditions to be met for them to withdraw their threat, they said yesterday the second one had not been met.

"UEFA's associations were very clear about the conditions attached to their non participation in FIFA competitions," read their statement

"First, the proposals to sell off the major competitions had to be withdrawn and secondly, assurances have to be made that such attempts to disfigure the game in this way will never be made again.

"These conditions have not



The UEFA logo is pictured during a UEFA Europa League match

55
UEFA member associations remain aligned behind the boycott of FIFA competitions, including the men's and women's World Cups

been met."

Whilst UEFA had welcomed the withdrawal of the plan last Saturday they had slammed FIFA president Gianni Infantino and his "shabby, backroom, opaque deal."

Their tone had not changed in yesterday's statement.

"UEFA made it abundantly

clear in its statement on Saturday that it has lost confidence in Gianni Infantino's presidency. That position holds," they said.

Infantino had gained some respite on Wednesday when he held an emergency meeting of senior FIFA directors in Morocco.

They had backed him, issuing a statement saying he had their "full support" but apologising "over errors made after the proposal was leaked to media".

UEFA dismissed this show of support, which included FIFA secretary-general Mattias Grafstrom, whose leaked email to staff on Tuesday had criticised the plan.

"Yesterday's announcement that some people employed by the FIFA President (and whose

YOU
KNOW WHAT
UEFA dismissed FIFA's internal show of support for Infantino, arguing that staff members whose careers depend on him could not restore confidence

careers depend on his favour) agree with him changes nothing," said UEFA.

FIFA floated the plan last Tuesday, saying it could raise up to \$4.2 billion based on a valuation of \$20 billion for a new commercial subsidiary, called the FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE), which it proposed would run events such as the World Cup and Club World Cup.

It said that, if approved, the project could provide each of FIFA's 211 member associations with a one-off payment of \$20 million in early 2027, and increase their funding allocation for the 2027-2030 cycle from \$8 million to \$20 million.

However, after a global backlash Infantino was forced into the humiliating climbdown days later.

Salah completes move to Turkey's Trabzonspor



Egyptian forward Mohamed Salah arrives at Istanbul Ataturk Airport

AFP | Istanbul

Former Liverpool star Mohamed Salah yesterday signed a two-year contract with Turkish club Trabzonspor after leaving the Premier League giants at the end of his contract.

The 34-year-old Egyptian international reached "a two-year agreement" with the club on the Black Sea coast who will compete in the Europa League play-off round at the end of August.

The second-highest-paid player in the Premier League last season, Salah will earn 17 million euros (\$19.6 million) per season in addition to bonuses, a record for the Turkish league, his new club said.

Salah will also receive a 20 percent share of revenue from sales of jerseys and merchandise bearing his name.

The Egypt captain was welcomed as a hero by thousands of fans in the northeastern city of Trabzon and is set to take part in a signing ceremony with supporters at Trabzonspor's stadium later yesterday.

"I am really happy... and looking forward to training with the team. Everywhere I go I always win or try to win something. Hopefully we can do something in the league and in Europe as well," Salah, who will wear the number 10 shirt, said on Wednesday.

Salah has previously played in Egypt, Switzerland, Italy, and England.

Salah netted 257 goals for Liverpool in 442 appearances in all competitions during his nine-year spell, making him the third top goalscorer in the club's history, winning two Premier League titles and a Champions League trophy.

BRAVE CF'S Balkan dominance fuels record-breaking viewership surge in India

TDT | Manama

The roar inside Burgas Arena in Bulgaria was impossible to ignore, but the loudest statement from BRAVE CF 107 came from thousands of kilometers away.

As one of Eastern Europe's biggest combat sports spectacles unfolded last Saturday, August 1, millions of viewers across India tuned in to witness another memorable night of elite mixed martial arts.

That overwhelming response transformed the showcase into a watershed moment, producing unprecedented digital numbers that highlighted India's emergence as one of the sport's most rapidly expanding markets.

The card amassed a remarkable 3,684,125 combined live views across YouTube and BRAVE TV, setting a new benchmark for a live MMA broadcast involving the Indian market.

Interest remained exceptionally strong long after the final bell, as highlights, behind-the-scenes footage, fighter interviews, and fan interactions generated an astonishing 200.2 million social media views.



For BRAVE CF President Mohammed Shahid, the achievement reflects India's transformation into one of the sport's most exciting frontiers.

"These record-breaking numbers are a testament to why India is becoming a true hotbed of mixed martial arts," Shahid said.

"The passion, knowledge, and enthusiasm of Indian fans continue to elevate the sport to new heights. Their unwavering

support has become an essential part of BRAVE CF's global journey, and we are proud to grow alongside this incredible MMA community."

Far more than impressive statistics, the accomplishment marks a defining chapter for MMA in India while validating BRAVE Combat Federation's long-term investment through live shows, athlete development, strategic partnerships, and local-

ized content.

It also reinforces the country's growing appetite for world-class competition and its importance to the promotion's continued international growth.

One of the biggest driving forces behind the surge in engagement was Indian sensation Owais Yaqoob, who delivered another statement victory on the supporting card of BRAVE CF 107. Competing before a packed

Burgas Arena, the 28-year-old stretched his winning streak to six by overwhelming hometown favorite Delyan Georgiev in their 68-kilogram catchweight contest.

From the opening bell, Yaqoob dictated the pace with relentless forward pressure and crisp combinations that never allowed Georgiev to establish any rhythm.

The referee stepped in at the 4:00 mark of the opening round, awarding the Indian standout a dominant technical knockout triumph.

The emphatic finish further elevated his status as one of BRAVE CF's brightest emerging talents and placed him firmly in the conversation for a showdown against reigning BRAVE CF Lightweight World Champion Abdisalam "Omok" Uulu Kubanychbek.

Beyond the action inside the cage, the promotion demonstrated the strength of its digital-first strategy.

Connecting with fans through YouTube, BRAVE TV, and multiple social platforms reflects the changing habits of younger au-

diences while making elite MMA accessible to millions around the world.

Such remarkable reach also strengthens BRAVE CF's appeal to broadcasters, sponsors, and commercial partners, reinforcing its standing as the world's fastest-growing MMA organization with a presence spanning multiple countries across several continents.

Those remarkable numbers also provide a powerful springboard for future appearances in India and the organization's continued expansion throughout South Asia.

Shahid concluded by thanking the supporters whose passion helped turn the occasion into a historic success.

"To every fan across India, thank you for believing in BRAVE CF and for making this historic achievement possible," Shahid said.

"Your incredible support motivates everyone in our organization every day. We sincerely hope to return to India soon and bring another unforgettable night of world-class mixed martial arts to this amazing country."