

Houthi forces launched an offensive targeting the government-held port city of Mokha and advancing towards Bab al-Mandab. | P6-7



HM King Issues Order

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued Order (28) of 2026 appointing Bahrain's representatives to the Advisory Body of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The members are Dr. Shaikha Maryam bint Hassan bin Ali Al Khalifa, Sa-beeka Khalifa Al Fadhal, Dr. Mohammed Ali Hassan, Ahmed Sabah Al Saloom and Hassan Eid Bukhamas. They will serve a three-year term, with the order taking effect from its publication in the Official Gazette.

Muharraq Governor Praises



Muharraq Governor Salman bin Isa bin Hindi Al Mannai highlighted the role of sports media in documenting Bahrain's sporting achievements and preserving the history of national teams and clubs.

The governor made the remarks while receiving sports journalist Nasser Mohammed, Head of the Sports Section at Al Ayam newspaper, who presented him with an archival photograph documenting the 2008 King's Cup football final, when Muharraq Club won the title.

Strategic Ties Discussed in Washington



Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United States, participated in a roundtable discussion organised by the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington.

The discussion focused on the strong strategic partnership between Bahrain and the United States and opportunities to further expand cooperation amid current regional and international developments.

Unified Gulf Healthcare

HRH Prince Salman highlights Bahrain's commitment to Gulf integration and urges stronger coordination to improve healthcare quality and medical preparedness

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, met with the heads of delegations participating in the 12th meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Health Ministers at Riffa Palace. His Royal Highness affirmed Bahrain's commitment, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, to supporting initiatives that advance the shared aspirations of GCC countries and strengthen cooperation and integration across the region.

HRH Prince Salman noted that the historic ties and common



ambitions of the GCC countries provide a strong foundation for further advancing Gulf cooperation, aligning with the aspirations of the GCC leaders.

He also stressed the importance of implementing healthcare-related measures put for-

ward by GCC leaders, noting their role in further improving healthcare services and strengthening joint medical preparedness among GCC countries.

The heads of delegations expressed their appreciation for His Royal Highness's support

for joint Gulf action, particularly in the healthcare sector, as well as efforts to further develop healthcare systems and enhance preparedness across the GCC.

They also wished the Kingdom of Bahrain continued progress and prosperity.

Strengthens Fight Against Cross-Border Crime

Bahrain handed over 11 internationally wanted persons and received 19 fugitives in 2026.

Bahrain reaffirmed its commitment to international police cooperation and the exchange of security information to combat cross-border crime, as the Kingdom marks the International Day of Police Cooperation today.

Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa said international security cooperation has become increasingly important as criminal activities extend beyond national borders and evolve with

advances in technology and communications.

The minister highlighted Bahrain's cooperation through the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol), which supports the exchange of information, tracking fugitives and joint security operations.

During 2026, the Directorate of International Affairs and Interpol



handed over 11 internationally wanted persons to requesting countries and received 19 fugitives.

In efforts to combat drug trafficking, the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science exchanged 65 pieces of information with nine countries.

The Financial Intelligence Nation-

al Centre also received 49 requests and issued 30 in cooperation related to money laundering and terrorist financing, in addition to 37 requests through other cooperation mechanisms.

General Shaikh Rashid stressed the importance of modern technologies, artificial intelligence and data analysis in strengthening police capabilities and tackling cybercrime, organised crime and other emerging threats.

Gulf Health Systems Brace for New Challenges

Health ministers discussed strategic stocks, medicine supplies, expatriate screening and joint preparedness amid regional challenges

TDT | Manama

Strengthening Gulf health systems and ensuring the uninterrupted supply of medicines and essential medical supplies took centre stage as GCC health ministers met in Bahrain amid heightened regional security and supply chain concerns.

Dr. Jaleela bint Al Sayed Jawad Hassan, Minister of Health, stressed the need for closer health cooperation and integration among GCC countries, alongside stronger mechanisms for coordination and the exchange of expertise and information.

She said enhanced cooperation would strengthen health system readiness, support sustainable health services and protect vital supply chains, while improving the GCC's ability to respond to rap-



“Stronger coordination will help GCC health systems face emerging challenges.”

DR. JALEELA BINT AL SAYED JAWAD HASSAN

idly evolving health challenges.

The minister also addressed current security and regional developments and their repercussions for the countries of the region.

Dr. Jaleela condemned the Iranian attacks on Bahrain, GCC countries and the Hashemite

Kingdom of Jordan, describing them as violations of international law, the UN Charter and UN Security Council Resolution 2817.

She highlighted the impact of the attacks on lives and infrastructure, as well as transportation and supply chains, including the movement of essential and medical supplies.

The minister further highlighted concerns over threats to the security and safety of maritime navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, warning of potential repercussions for energy security, international trade and the availability of food, medicines and humanitarian aid.

She stressed the importance of strengthening joint Gulf preparedness and coordination to ensure resilient supply chains and the continuity of health services

during regional disruptions.

Dr. Jaleela also called for sustained joint Gulf efforts and greater integration across health sectors in line with regional and international developments.

She said coordinated action would enhance the efficiency and preparedness of health systems across GCC countries and strengthen their ability to maintain uninterrupted services for the health and safety of citizens and residents.

The meeting reviewed the implementation of GCC Supreme Council decisions related to the health sector, strategic stocks of food, medicines and medical supplies, the GCC Strategy to Combat Drugs for 2025-2028, expatriate worker screening and other priority issues related to joint Gulf health cooperation.

Bahrain Greet's Brazil



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa sent a cable of congratulations to His Excellency Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, on the occasion of Brazil's Independence Day.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, also sent a cable of congratulations to the Brazilian President on the national occasion.

Strengthen Maritime Links



His Excellency Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, met with Her Excellency Marina Hadjimanolis, Deputy Minister of Shipping to the President of the Republic of Cyprus, during her official visit to Bahrain.

Following the meeting, the two officials signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on maritime cooperation between Bahrain's Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications and Cyprus' Shipping Ministry.

The MoU covers maritime safety and security, search and rescue, marine environmental protection, training, exchange of expertise, innovation and modern maritime technologies.

Japan Anime Fest



The Embassy of Japan in Bahrain has announced the return of Japan Anime Fest 2026, running from October 1 to 8. The eight-day festival will showcase Japanese animation and storytelling under the theme “Stories Connect, Hearts Heal, and Magic Unfolds.”

The festival will feature eight films at Epix Cinemas in Dana Mall and Bahrain Polytechnic.

A Partnership Built on People

His Royal Highness highlighted the longstanding Bahrain-India partnership and the Indian community's contribution to the Kingdom's development

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, received His Excellency Vinod K. Jacob, the outgoing Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain, at Riffa Palace.

His Royal Highness highlighted the longstanding and strategic partnership between Bahrain and India, supported by broad cooperation and engagement across multiple sectors.



His Royal Highness emphasised the importance of further strengthening bilateral cooperation, noting the strong people-to-people ties between the two countries and the significant contributions of the Indian community to the Kingdom's development.

oment.

The meeting also addressed issues of common interest, as well as the latest regional and international developments.

For his part, His Excellency Vinod Jacob expressed his gratitude to His Royal Highness for his commitment to advancing Bahrain-India relations and wished the Kingdom of Bahrain continued progress and prosperity.

His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, along with senior officials, also attended the meeting.

Diplomatic Farewell



Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani received Ambassador of India to Bahrain H.E. Vinod Jacob at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the occasion of completing his tenure.

Dr. Al Zayani praised the close friendship and cooperation between Bahrain and India, commending Ambassador Jacob's efforts to strengthen bilateral relations and advance shared interests.

Ambassador Jacob expressed his appreciation for the strong bilateral ties and thanked Foreign Minister and officials for their support during his diplomatic tenure, wishing Bahrain continued progress and prosperity.

UK-Bahrain Partnership



Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa received Simon Martin CMG, Chargé d'Affaires of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Bahrain.

Shaikh Khalid highlighted the historic Bahrain-UK relationship and stressed the importance of further strengthening cooperation across various sectors.

The meeting also covered development projects, infrastructure cooperation, and issues of common interest, including regional and international developments.

Türkiye Ties Strengthened



Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa received Dr. Ayşe Hilal Sayan Koytak, the outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Bahrain. The meeting discussed shared interests and regional and international developments. Dr. Koytak expressed appreciation for the support she received during her tenure and wished Bahrain continued progress and prosperity.

Nepal Relations Advance



Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa received Tirtha Raj Wagle, outgoing Ambassador of Nepal to Bahrain. Shaikh Khalid commended the strong Bahrain-Nepal relationship and its continued growth across various fields, while praising the ambassador's efforts to advance bilateral cooperation. The meeting also addressed issues of mutual interest and regional and international developments. Ambassador Wagle expressed appreciation for the support extended to him during his tenure and wished Bahrain continued progress and prosperity.

Regional Issues Discussed



Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani received Egyptian Ambassador to Bahrain Reham Abdelhamid Mahmoud Khalil at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting reviewed the close fraternal relations between Bahrain and Egypt, and exchanged views on a number of issues and developments of mutual interest at the regional and international levels.

Foreign guards 'cash in' on disabled parking

TDI | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Expatriate security guards are making money off parking bays reserved for people with disabilities, MP Hisham Al Awadhi has warned, saying some are letting other drivers take the spaces in return for payment.

He called for tougher checks at hospitals, shopping centres and public places, saying anyone found taking money or using



their position for personal gain should face legal action.

Mr Al Awadhi said the bays

were reserved by law for people with disabilities and should not be treated as a source of



“People with disabilities have a right to these parking spaces. They are not there to be exploited or used to make money”

- HISHAM AL AWADHI, MP

income.

‘People with disabilities have a right to these parking spaces. They are not there to be exploited or used to make money,’

he said.

He urged those responsible for the sites to keep a closer watch on the bays and act against anyone found letting

unauthorised motorists use them for payment or other benefit.

The MP said people entitled to the spaces should find them free when they need them, rather than occupied by drivers with no right to park there.

‘The rights of people with disabilities are not for anyone to profit from,’ Mr Al Awadhi said. ‘Their parking spaces are protected by law, and no one is above the law.’

“Tamkeen” Launches New Initiative to Support the Training and Development of National Talent in the Healthcare Sector

Supporting more than 520 Bahrainis through medical residency programs, specialized fellowships, and nursing qualification and specialization programs



Ms. Maha Abdulhameed Mofeez and Dr. Ibrahim Ali Al Nawakhda at the signing ceremony.



The Labour Fund “Tamkeen” announced a new package of initiatives aimed at supporting the development of national talent in the healthcare sector, in collaboration with the Supreme Council of Health. These initiatives seek to enhance the readiness of Bahraini professionals and equip them with the qualifications required to take on specialized and advanced roles within the healthcare sector.

The initiatives are expected to support more than 520 Bahraini doctors, nurses, and students through specialized programs covering medical residency,

medical fellowships, and nursing qualification and specialization programs.

This announcement builds on ongoing efforts to invest in national talent and provide high-quality opportunities for education, training, and professional development. They also build on the positive outcomes achieved through the two previous cohorts, which were launched under the directives of His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister of the Prime Minister's Court and Chairman of the Board

of Directors of the Labour Fund, contributing to the sustainability of the healthcare sector and strengthening the competitiveness of Bahraini talent in the labor market.

This comes in collaboration with relevant healthcare and academic institutions, reflecting Tamkeen's commitment to supporting national talent working in one of the key sectors contributing to the national economy, while helping meet the healthcare sector's demand for qualified and specialized Bahraini professionals.

The new initiatives cover various bundles of professional development for national healthcare professionals. This includes supporting the qualification and development of Bahraini doctors through medical residency programs, in addition to medical fellowship programs in several priority specializations.

The initiatives also include supporting the qualification of Bahraini professionals through the Bachelor of Nursing program, as well as supporting nurses in obtaining specialized qualifications in a number of

high-demand areas, including midwifery, critical care, neonatal intensive care, and emergency nursing.

On this occasion, Her Excellency Ms. Maha Abdulhameed Mofeez, Chief Executive of the Labour Fund “Tamkeen,” stated: “We continue to invest in developing national talent in line with the needs of priority economic sectors, building on the success achieved through the previous cohorts. Through these initiatives, we aim to enable Bahraini professionals to acquire the specialized qualifications and expertise required and enhance their readiness to take on advanced roles within the healthcare sector. This contributes to strengthening the competitiveness of Bahraini talent and positioning them as the preferred choice of employment in the labor market, while supporting the sustainable growth of the private sector and its positive contribution to the national economy.”

His Excellency Dr. Ibrahim Ali Al Nawakhda, Secretary-Gen-

eral of the Supreme Council of Health, said: “These initiatives reflect the continuation of joint efforts aimed at developing national talent within the healthcare sector by providing specialized pathways for education, training, and professional development in areas witnessing growing demand. These programs contribute to enhancing the readiness of Bahraini healthcare professionals and enabling them to continue their professional development, thereby supporting the quality and sustainability of healthcare services in the Kingdom.”

Tamkeen's support aligns with its strategic priorities for 2026, which focus on supporting initiatives with high economic impact, enhancing the competitiveness of the private sector, connecting skills with the needs of the labor market, and adopting innovative approaches to stimulate the growth and expansion of startups, contributing to the Kingdom's sustainable economic development.

2.23 Million Mangrove Seedlings Planted

Experts hail the initiative as a sustainable investment in Bahrain’s environment and biodiversity.

TDT | Manama
Ashen Tharaka

More than 2.23 million mangrove seedlings have been planted under Bahrain’s “Bahrain Mangrove” initiative, marking significant progress in the Kingdom’s efforts to protect coastal ecosystems, strengthen biodiversity and address climate change.

Launched in December 2024 by His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the initiative aims to quadruple the number of mangrove trees by 2035 and support Bahrain’s goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2060.

Environmental experts said the initiative demonstrates Bahrain’s commitment to turning environmental strategies into practical results.

Professor Asma Ali Aba Hus-sain, Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences and Head



HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa plants a mangrove sapling during the inauguration of the Bahrain Mangroves initiative in December 2024.

of the King Hamad Award for Agricultural Development judging panel, said mangroves are an important nature-based solution to climate change, helping absorb and store carbon while protecting coastlines and pro-

“Bahrain Mangroves translate national environmental visions into tangible achievements.”

PROF. ASMA ALI ABA HUSSAIN

“The initiative is a practical model for turning environmental strategies into results.”

DR. MOHAMMED ALI HASAN ALI

“Mangroves are vital to protecting Bahrain’s coasts and biodiversity.”

HAYA AL DOSERI

“Mangrove planting is an investment in the future of Bahrain’s marine environment.”

ALI MOHAMMED AL QASEER

viding habitats for marine life and birds.

Dr. Mohammed Ali Hasan Ali, Chairman of the Public Utilities and Environment Committee at the Shura Council, said the initiative provides a practical example of translating national environmental strategies into measurable achievements.

He added that mangrove cul-

tivation supports coastal ecosystems, biodiversity and climate resilience.

Environmental consultant Haya Al Doseri highlighted the initiative’s community value, saying it can strengthen public awareness and encourage greater participation in protecting Bahrain’s natural environment. She also pointed to the potential

of mangrove areas to support ecotourism, marine activities and scientific research.

Ali Mohammed Al Qaseer, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Clean Up Bahrain Society, described the initiative as an investment in the future of Bahrain’s marine environment.

He stressed that its success should be measured not only by

the number of trees planted, but also by continued community involvement in protecting and preserving them.

The experts also stressed the importance of continued cooperation between government bodies, the private sector, environmental organisations and civil society to ensure the initiative’s long-term impact.

Back-to-school costs squeeze family budgets

Some parents cross to Saudi Arabia in search of cheaper school supplies

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Families in Bahrain are facing back-to-school bills running into hundreds of dinars, with bags, uniforms and stationery followed by books, transport and private lessons.

A Daily Tribune survey found that preparing one pupil for school costs between BD50 and BD200, before many additional expenses are included. The estimated average is about BD120.

Basic school bags start at around BD3, while branded bags can cost more than BD20. Note-books, pens and other stationery range from BD10 to BD30, while uniforms, shoes and sportswear can add another BD25 to BD70. The final bill depends on the child’s year group, school requirements and what parents choose to buy.

The Education Ministry has worked with shops and companies to provide pupils with vouchers and discounts on school supplies, clothes, computers and other services.

MP Mohsen Al Asbool told The Daily Tribune that ministry teams had spent recent months securing offers from companies, traders and shops ahead of the new school year.

‘The vouchers and discounts on school supplies, clothes, computers and other services have helped ease the pressure on families,’ he said.

“The vouchers and discounts on school supplies, clothes, computers and other services have helped ease the pressure on families”

- MOHSEN AL ASBOOL, MP

Mr Al Asbool said families differed in their ability to use the offers and supported allowing those who did not need their vouchers to pass them to households that would benefit.

For some private-school families, books can significantly increase the bill.

Zahra Riyadh, whose two children attend a private school, said she spends around BD200 on uniforms, bags, shoes, lunch boxes and stationery before buying books.

Books and study booklets then cost about BD200 for each child, she said.

Her children also have their own preferences. Her son wants Spider-Man school gear, while her daughter prefers Barbie.



School bags line the shelves as families shop for the new term

‘They look for certain themes that make them excited about school, so finding everything can be a little tiring, especially when the children are picky,’ Mrs Riyadh said.

Some parents are also crossing the Causeway in search of lower prices.

Ahmed Isa travelled to Saudi Arabia to buy supplies for his son, who is starting Grade One at a government school. He said he spent around BD30 on stationery and another BD30 on a bag and lunch box.

‘The books are heavy, so I had to buy a bag that makes it easier for him to carry and pull,’ he said.

Monthly costs add further pressure. Private school transport typically costs BD25 to BD50 per month per pupil, depending on distance, trips and service. Private lessons can cost from BD15 a month for one subject, with three subjects around BD45 and four about BD60.

Some retailers are offering



Stationery shelves packed with back-to-school supplies

discounts. One bag surveyed fell from BD19 to BD14, while another dropped from BD7 to BD4.5.

Retailers said prices had changed little, but shipping delays had affected supply. Some importers who previously sourced school goods from China and Thailand have turned to Gulf markets such as Dubai because of delivery problems.

For many families, the school bill does not end when the bag is packed, with transport and tuition adding regular monthly expenses after the new term begins.

Proposal seeks to recruit jobseekers and retirees for student transport

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A national transport scheme using qualified jobseekers, retirees and housewives to drive pupils and university students has been proposed as a way to cut family costs and give Bahrainis a new source of income.

MP Dr Muneer Suroor has called for a regulated co-operative model that would bring citizens into the student transport trade, with both drivers and cars required to meet safety, health and technical rules.

He said the scheme would build on transport work already taking place rather than add another layer of rules.

‘Taking children to schools and universities is a daily need for many families, while we have citizens looking for work or extra income,’ Dr Suroor said.

‘Why not bring the two needs together in an organised and safe model that benefits both sides?’

Under his proposal, drivers could be grouped by neighbourhood, school or university, allowing several trips to be planned around the same areas.

Dr Suroor said this could cut the number of cars on the road at busy school times, make journeys work better and bring down what families pay.

Parents could also use an app to see the driver and car assigned to their children, ar-



‘Our aim is not to compete with existing transport companies’

- DR MUNEEB SUROOR, MP

range payments, follow trips and rate the service.

Drivers would have to meet safety and fitness rules, while cars would need to pass the required technical checks.

Training and start-up help could be offered to Bahrainis who want to enter the trade.

Dr Suroor said private firms and the relevant state bodies could work together on the scheme without placing a heavy running cost on the public purse.

‘Our aim is not to compete with existing transport companies,’ he said. ‘It is to widen the market, organise it and give citizens the chance to take part in it and earn from it.’

He added: ‘Every service need in society can, with good organisation, be turned into an economic opportunity for citizens.’

Dr Suroor also praised work by the relevant authorities to license private and individual transport services and raise safety standards.



From
The Court

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

Two Men Face Kidnapping Robbery Charges

The High Criminal Court has begun hearing the case of two 34-year-old men accused of kidnapping and unlawfully detaining two people, assaulting them and robbing one victim of his phone at knifepoint.

The incident began in Salmabad when the first defendant lured a 42-year-old Bangladeshi driver to a meeting. The two defendants then assaulted him and forced him into their vehicle. His colleague was also allegedly assaulted when he tried to intervene.

The first defendant then threatened the victim with a knife, took his phone, and used it to contact a 34-year-old Russian woman to obtain her location.

The woman later arrived in Al Hoora after receiving a message from the victim’s phone. She was assaulted and forced into the vehicle before being taken to the first defendant’s home, where she remained until the police arrived.

Security footage supported the victims’ accounts, while police recovered the first victim’s phone

from the first defendant. Both defendants also admitted participating in parts of the incident during questioning.

The Public Prosecution charged the men with robbery by force, kidnapping, unlawful detention through force and threats of serious harm, and assault.

The court adjourned the case until September 13 to allow the first defendant’s defence to present its arguments. Both defendants remain in custody.

Doctor Faces Trial Over Woman’s Death

The First High Criminal Court heard the case of a doctor accused of causing the death of a Bahraini woman through alleged medical negligence in treating her breast cancer.

The Public Prosecution alleged that the doctor failed to conduct required tests—including a core biopsy and lymph-node biopsy—to properly assess the cancer’s stage before surgery and neglected to provide radiotherapy after breast-conserving surgery.

The woman first discovered



a breast lump in 2021. After undergoing surgery, the cancer recurred in 2022 and later spread to her lungs, bones, head and liver. She died in May 2024 after her condition deteriorated rapidly.

A technical committee from the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) concluded by majority that medical errors had been committed by the doctor.

The defence argued that the patient refused several recommended procedures and treatments, including a core biopsy, PET-CT scan, oncology referral, chemotherapy, radiotherapy and hormonal therapy. The doctor said these refusals were documented in the medical records.

The court set September 13 for the defence to present its pleadings.

Universities to Help Capital Test AI in Parks

TDI | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A push to bring artificial intelligence into parks, housing and municipal services is gaining ground, with the Capital Trustees Board seeking university help to test how AI cameras could track park use, spot safety risks and help decide when gates should open and close.

Capital Trustees Board chairman Saleh Tarradah told The Daily Tribune that the board wants to work with universities in the coming months on ways to use AI in municipal work.

One idea is to link cameras in public parks to software that can study visitor numbers, peak hours, age groups and how long people stay.

The move has won support in Parliament, where Mohammed Moosa, chairman of Parliament's Public Utilities and Environment Committee, called for greater use of AI, smart-city systems and electronic services in running public utilities.

He said AI could help speed up building and urban-planning procedures, as well as municipal and housing services, while cutting waiting times and making public bodies work better.

'We support all initiatives that



use modern technology and artificial intelligence to manage public utilities and improve municipal and housing services,' Mr Moosa said.

Tarradah said park cameras could show how long visitors spend walking, which parts of a park draw the heaviest use and which food outlets or services prove most popular.

'You could take a park and ask: what are the peak hours and who comes here?' he said.

'The cameras can analyse that through artificial intelligence and give you a management report. That helps you decide opening and closing times and tells you if the facilities are fit for purpose.'

The technology could also be used to pick out safety risks.

Steps, children's play equipment and other park features

could be watched for signs that a certain spot or piece of equipment is putting visitors at risk.

'If you analyse it through artificial intelligence, you can see if there is a safety problem in a certain part of the park,' Tarradah said.

Mr Moosa said the next stage should bring greater use of smart systems across public infrastructure, helping services keep pace with population growth and new building.

But Tarradah acknowledged that cameras and AI analysis in public spaces would raise questions over privacy.

'There is, of course, concern about privacy if this system is used,' he said. 'You have to balance the benefit you get from these systems with people's privacy.'

He said clear signs should tell



Saleh Tarradah, Chairman of the Capital Trustees Board



Mohammed Moosa, chairman of Parliament's Public Utilities and Environment Committee

park users when cameras and AI processing are in use and explain that the technology is there to improve public services.

Tarradah said the board did not want to fall behind as AI tools become easier to put to work.

'There are applications out there that we can make use of,' he said.

UNEECO Group conducts Blood Donation Drive



UNEECO Group, in association with the Royal Medical Services (King Hamad University Hospital), organized a blood donation drive. Company CEO Jayashankar Viswanathan and staff members actively participated in the initiative, demonstrating their commitment to social responsibility and community service.

Fight Against Human Trafficking



Bahrain is strengthening its national and regional approach to combating human trafficking, with greater emphasis on research, coordination and the exchange of international expertise. The National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons discussed these efforts during its regular meeting, held via videoconference and chaired by Nibras Mohammed Taleb, Chief Executive of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) and Chairman of the Committee. Taleb stressed the importance of building on the progress achieved through national efforts to combat trafficking in persons, while enhancing coordination among the authorities involved in prevention and protection. He also called for continued efforts to keep pace with developments in trafficking-related crimes and improve response mechanisms. Highlighting research's role in strengthening the fight against trafficking, Taleb pointed to the Ministry of Interior's launch of a Scientific Research Award dedicated to the field. He said the initiative would support specialised studies, contribute to developing national policies and encourage innovative solutions to address trafficking crimes. The Committee also reviewed the implementation of decisions and recommendations from its previous meeting, including measures taken by relevant authorities to improve coordination and strengthen the overall national response.

Ethiopian New Year Celebrated in Bahrain

More than 500 guests gathered to celebrate culture, diversity and friendship

TDI | Manama

The Consulate General of Ethiopia in Bahrain celebrated Ethiopian New Year 2019 with over 500 members of the Ethiopian community, Bahraini friends, members of the African Women Association and other guests.

Ethiopia will enter the year 2019 on Friday, September 11, according to the Gregorian calendar.

The event held under the national theme "Diversity: The Beauty of Ethiopia," the celebration highlighted Ethiopia's cultural diversity, traditions and spirit of peaceful coexistence.



The event featured Ethiopian music, traditions and hospitality, providing an opportunity for the Ethiopian community and Bahraini guests to celebrate together and strengthen ties between the two communities.

The celebration also emphasized messages of peace, unity, dialogue and national renewal,

while highlighting the importance of cooperation and mutual respect in addressing differences.

The Consulate General reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Ethiopian citizens in Bahrain and improving consular services through technology, transparency and streamlined procedures.

Pakistan Club marks Defence Day with patriotic fervour

Pakistan Club Bahrain Chairman Mr. Afzal Bhatti led the celebrations marking Pakistan Defence Day on September 6, with senior members of the club joining the occasion in a spirit of patriotism and solidarity.

The gathering was organised to commemorate the courage and sacrifices of the armed forces and the people of Pakistan who stood together in defence of the country.

Mr. Afzal Bhatti, along with senior members of the Pakistan Club, participated in the cake-cutting ceremony held to mark the occasion. The celebration reflected the strong sense of national pride and unity among members



of the Pakistani community in Bahrain.

The participants paid tribute to the martyrs and heroes of Pakistan and remembered their sacrifices with respect and gratitude.

The event also highlighted the longstanding bonds of friendship between Pakistan and Bahrain,

while members expressed their prayers for peace, prosperity and continued progress for Pakistan.

The celebrations concluded with a renewed commitment to preserving national unity and the spirit of patriotism among the Pakistani community in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

BIS Honours Its Educators with a Joyful Teachers' Day Celebration

TDI | Manama

Bhavans Bahrain Indian School (BIS) celebrated Teachers' Day with warmth, exuberance and heartfelt appreciation, paying tribute to the educators whose dedication, passion and perseverance continue to shape young minds and inspire the next generation.

The celebration commenced with an inspiring address by the Principal, Mr Saji Jacob, who eloquently highlighted the profound and transformative role of teachers in shaping not merely academic achievers, but responsible, compassionate and confident citizens. Applauding the teachers for their unwavering commitment to academic excellence and holistic development, he encouraged them to continue nurturing every learner with compassion, creativity, purpose and conviction.

The spirit of the occasion was further enriched by thoughtful reflections from the Heads of De-



partments, who spoke about the dignity, responsibility and privilege of being an educator. Their messages celebrated teachers as mentors who guide, motivators who inspire and lifelong learners who continually evolve—leaving an impact that reaches far beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

Adding a vibrant and celebratory dimension to the event, executives from Malabar Gold & Diamonds joined the BIS fraternity and engaged the teachers in an exciting array of fun-filled activities and games. Laughter,

enthusiasm and friendly competition filled the venue as teachers enthusiastically participated in the celebrations. Winners were felicitated and rewarded, adding to the excitement of the occasion.

A special cake-cutting ceremony added a festive touch, symbolising the joy of togetherness and the shared spirit of the BIS family. The celebrations also featured a Teachers' Oath led by the Principal, reaffirming the educators' collective commitment to their noble responsibility—to inspire, empower, nurture and prepare

young learners to become confident contributors to the future.

The Directors, Mr Himanshu Verma and Mrs Ritu Verma, addressed the gathering with words of wisdom, encouragement and appreciation. Recognising the teachers as the driving force behind the school's culture of excellence, they expressed their gratitude for the educators' resilience, dedication and wholehearted contribution to the growth of the institution. Their message reaffirmed the school management's deep respect for



the teaching fraternity and its continued commitment to fostering an environment that supports both the professional growth and personal well-being of its educators.

As a heartfelt expression of gratitude, the Directors presented every teacher with a token of love and appreciation, acknowledging the countless efforts that often extend beyond the classroom and far beyond the school day.

The celebration concluded on a joyful and deeply meaningful

note, leaving the educators feeling valued, appreciated and inspired.

The Teachers' Day celebration at BIS was more than an occasion of recognition—it was a celebration of the people behind every lesson, every achievement and every transformed life. It beautifully reflected the school's enduring belief that when teachers are inspired, students flourish; when teachers are valued, institutions thrive; and when teachers lead with purpose, they shape the future.

Taxi Link to Boost Bahrain-Saudi Business and Tourism

Bahrain Chamber welcomes wider travel options and calls for continued efforts to improve Causeway crossing efficiency

TDT | Manama

The introduction of licensed taxi services across the King Fahd Causeway will give travellers between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia greater flexibility while supporting the growing movement of people and businesses between the two kingdoms, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chairman Nabeel Khalid Kanoo said.

Mr. Kanoo welcomed the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications’ decision to allow licensed taxis from Bahrain and Saudi Arabia to transport passengers across the causeway, describing it as an important development that strengthens land connectivity and improves transportation options between the two countries.

He said the move would go beyond making travel more convenient, contributing to smoother movement between the Bahraini and Saudi markets as citizens, residents, visitors and businesspeople continue



to travel between the two kingdoms.

“Diversifying transportation options and improving accessibility will support trade, tourism, services and investment,” Mr. Kanoo said, adding that greater mobility would also contribute to a more flexible and competitive business environment.

He highlighted the economic importance of the King Fahd Causeway, describing it as a key land gateway for Bahrain and a major artery for economic activity.

Mr. Kanoo said improved services for people crossing the causeway would benefit sectors

that depend heavily on visitor movement, including tourism, hospitality, retail, restaurants, exhibitions, events, transportation and other services.

The Bahrain Chamber has worked with relevant authorities to identify ways to facilitate movement across the causeway and has put forward several proposals aimed at addressing the needs of businesses and supporting market activity.

Looking ahead, Mr. Kanoo said the Bahrain Chamber supports further improvements to transportation across the King Fahd Causeway. These improvements include regulatory and technological solutions aimed



Diversifying transportation options and improving accessibility will support trade, tourism, services and investment.

NABEEL KHALID KANOO

at reducing crossing times, expanding transportation choices, increasing capacity and facilitating the movement of people and goods.

Such measures, he said, would strengthen Bahrain’s economic competitiveness and further advance economic integration between the two kingdoms.

Wall Street Falls as Strong Jobs Report Fuels Rate Hike Fears

TDT | Agencies

Wall Street ended lower on Friday after a stronger-than-expected U.S. jobs report raised concerns that the Federal Reserve could keep interest rates higher for longer.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 271.86 points, or 0.51%, to close at 53,414.25. The S&P 500 declined 0.38% to 7,718.60, while the Nasdaq Composite dropped 0.29% to 26,506.99.

The main pressure came from August employment data, which showed the U.S. economy added 162,000 jobs, well above economists’ expectations. The stronger labour market prompted investors to reassess the outlook for monetary policy and increased expectations of a



possible rate hike at the Federal Reserve’s September meeting.

Higher interest rates could increase borrowing costs for businesses and consumers, while putting pressure on high-growth technology stocks.

Treasury yields and the U.S. dollar also strengthened following the jobs report.

Oil prices remained elevated, with crude trading between \$91 and \$96 a barrel amid continuing geopolitical tensions

involving the United States and Iran. Higher energy prices have added to concerns about persistent inflation.

Corporate developments also influenced trading. Nvidia gained 0.84%, while Tesla fell 5.92% following a new regulatory investigation involving its autonomous vehicle programme. Lululemon plunged 17% after lowering its financial outlook.

With U.S. markets closed Monday for the Labor Day holiday, investors will turn their attention to inflation data later in the week. The Producer Price Index and Consumer Price Index are expected to provide further clues about the Federal Reserve’s next move.

The combination of strong employment and persistent inflation could keep markets volatile in the weeks ahead.

KFH -Bahrain Joins Fintech Forward 2026 as a Diamond Sponsor

TDT | Manama

Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain (KFH-Bahrain) has joined Fintech Forward 2026 (FF26) as a Diamond Sponsor. The event, hosted by the Bahrain Economic Development Board (Bahrain EDB) and supported by the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), Bahrain Tourism & Exhibition Authority (BTEA), and Bahrain Fintech Bay, is programmed by Forbes Middle East, and will take place on 7-8 October 2026 at Exhibition World Bahrain (EWB).

KFH-Bahrain joins the growing network of organizations sponsoring FF26, alongside industry leaders, innovators, and policymakers coming together to exchange perspectives and explore the opportunities shaping the future of finance. As part of its participation in the forum, the bank will host a pavillion within the exhibition area, providing attendees with an opportunity to learn more about its digital banking services.



Dr. Shadi Zahran, Group CEO of KFH - Bahrain

cial services and bring together experts and decision-makers to discuss opportunities and challenges facing the sector. KFH – Bahrain continues to invest in developing our digital capabilities and banking solutions to meet our customers’ needs and support the Kingdom’s aspirations for a more innovative and competitive economy.”

KFH-Bahrain continues to advance its digital transformation agenda, investing in technology and digital solutions to enhance customer experience, operational efficiency, and accessibility, with its KFHonline platform expanding to offer more than 200 digital services. The Bank has continued to strengthen its digital infrastructure through artificial intelligence, automation, and cybersecurity initiatives, reflecting its focus on developing secure and seamless banking experiences.

On this occasion, Dr. Shadi Zahran, Group CEO of KFH – Bahrain, stated, “We are witnessing rapid developments in financial technology, making innovation and keeping pace with digital transformations essential for developing banking services and meeting customer expectations. It is from this perspective that we are sponsoring Fintech Forward 2026, a vital platform for exploring the latest trends in the financial sector.”

He added, “We are proud to support specialised forums that enhance Bahrain’s position as a regional hub for finan-

FF26 provides a platform for global and regional industry leaders to connect with Bahrain’s financial services ecosystem, share insights, and explore emerging opportunities under the theme “Finance in the Age of Intelligent Infrastructure”.

GCC Firms Post Record \$74.8bn Profit in Q2

GCC-listed companies recorded a record \$74.8 billion in net profits during the second quarter of 2026, up 31.3% year on year, according to Kamco Invest.

Higher oil prices and strong banking performance drove the gains, offsetting lower crude exports. Saudi Arabia led the region, with listed companies posting profits of \$45.3 billion, up 36.7%.

Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Oman



also recorded strong growth, while Dubai posted moderate gains. Qatar and Bahrain reported declines of 20% and 0.4%, respectively.

Aggregate revenues rose 17% to \$381.6 billion, while first-half profits reached \$142.8 billion, up 23.1%.

July Brings BD103m in Contract Awards

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Government contract awards swelled 30.4pc in July to BD103.56 million, pushing the seven-month total past BD632m as housing and oil contracts drove the rise.

A total of 139 tenders were awarded across 34 public bodies during the month, covering new contracts, change orders, extensions and auctions.

The Housing and Urban Planning Ministry led by value with two tenders worth BD19.6m. Bapco Upstream was second with seven worth BD17.8m.

The Works Ministry issued 22 contracts worth BD13m. Bapco Refining awarded nine worth BD12.3m.

The Electricity and Water Authority recorded 15 tenders



worth BD11.4m, while Government Hospitals had 16 worth BD11.2m.

Gulf Air awarded eight contracts worth BD8.2m.

Exhibition World Bahrain had two tenders worth BD1.4m, Bahrain International Circuit three worth BD1.2m and the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority six worth BD1m.

Six Transportation and Telecommunications Ministry contracts came to BD767,000. The National Bureau for Revenue awarded one worth BD601,000 and the Information Ministry five worth BD589,000.

The Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Ministry issued five tenders worth BD559,000. Edamah awarded two worth

BD479,000 and the National Audit Office one worth BD448,000.

The Interior Ministry had a BD405,000 contract, Tamkeen one worth BD400,000 and the Survey and Land Registration Bureau two worth BD307,000.

Bahrain Polytechnic awarded two tenders worth BD301,000. The Bahrain Institute for Political Development issued one worth BD228,000, while eight Finance and National Economy Ministry contracts came to BD224,000.

Mumtalakat had two awards worth BD167,000, the University of Bahrain one worth BD155,000 and Al Dana Amphitheatre one worth BD150,000.

The Health Ministry award-

ed a BD116,000 contract and the Social Development Ministry two worth BD115,000. Bahrain Airport Company had one worth BD101,000.

The Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs awarded one tender worth BD73,000 and the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority one worth BD66,000.

Three Information and eGovernment Authority contracts came to BD56,000.

Customs Affairs had one worth BD43,000. The Social Insurance Organisation and General Sports Authority each recorded BD38,000,

while the Foreign Affairs Ministry awarded one worth BD35,000.

The first six months of 2026 had already produced BD528.8m in awards across 69 bodies.



Germany ‘wants war again’, Russia FM says

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Germany “wants war again”, the Russian foreign minister said in an interview published yesterday, dismissing Berlin’s accusation that Russia was to blame for a drone attack on Leipzig airport.

The German government blamed Moscow for the incident, saying Russia sent “low-level agents” for an attempted “hybrid attack” involving an explosive-laden drone at the strategic airport in eastern Germany.

Moscow and Berlin closed each other’s cultural centres this week, with EU countries summoning Russian envoys.

“This is, by and large, the start of a real war. They expelled the consulate general from Bonn. They’re closing the Russian House (cultural centre) in Berlin. I remember that before the start of the Second World War... They want war again,” Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told a state TV reporter.

He accused Germany of Nazism and said: “The Russian leadership will draw the appropriate conclusions.”

Part of the interview was published by Russia’s Vesti TV channel.

Germany is one of Ukraine’s main allies in the war against Russia.

Iran arrests alleged opposition supporters after video circulates

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iranian authorities have arrested a number of people accused of appearing in a rare video waving the flag of an outlawed opposition group, state television said yesterday.

Videos circulating online in recent days showed individuals riding motorbikes on

empty streets in Iran while waving the white-and-red banner of the banned People’s Mujahedin Organisation of Iran (MEK). Yesterday, state television said authorities had identified and arrested “all the individuals who appeared in this clip” and that they were “associated” with MEK, without specifying how many.



An aerial view shows Army personnel building a bridge over the Tadi River in the aftermath of flash floods in Devighat, Nepal’s Nuwakot district

Nepali rescuers buoyed by miracle finds but tough conditions persist

AFP | Kathmandu, Nepal

Nepali rescuers faced challenging conditions on Sunday as search operations after catastrophic floods entered a 12th day, buoyed by the extraordinary rescues of four survivors.

The glacial and mountain collapse on the China-Nepal border killed at least 1,385 people and left more than 5,500 missing across the two countries.

Rescuers found two more people alive on Saturday, joining two saved the day before in what have been described as miraculous tales of survival.

Three of those have been found in hydropower tunnels where the government initially said it believed more than 100 workers could be alive.

“Search and rescue is going on at the tunnels despite geography, adverse weather and lack of connectivity,” Energy Minister Biraj Bhakta Shrestha told AFP.

Rescue workers were experiencing “multiple challenges”, he said.

The wall of icy water and debris tore through mountain districts on August 26, destroying roads, bridges and other infrastructure.

The United Nations chief in Nepal issued an emotional plea for aid, saying survivors of the catastrophic flooding had seen their lives transformed in just “one to two minutes”.

“You lose your home, you lose your livelihood, you lose your loved one and you lose the breadwinner of your family,” UN Resident Coordinator Lila Pieters Yahia told AFP in Kathmandu on Sunday.

On Saturday, rescuers pulled a Chinese man alive from deep inside a hydropower tunnel, and a 64-year-old Nepali woman, Chandrika Shrestha, from her mud-covered home.

Prime Minister Balendra Shah said Shrestha’s rescue had “given hope to the entire nation”.

US envoys hold talks with Zelensky on first Kyiv visit

● Like all visiting officials, the pair arrived by train, with “Peace Express” written on the platform at Kyiv Central Station.

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

US envoys Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff began talks Sunday with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on ending the war with Russia, making their first visit to Kyiv a day after meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin.

Witkoff and Kushner, US President Donald Trump’s business ally and son-in-law, have been to Moscow several times but had never held talks in the Ukrainian capital -- hit by deadly Russian strikes for more than four years -- until now.

“It is very important that the delegation has arrived to see us. We have been waiting a long time for Steve and Jared, Witkoff and Kushner,” Zelensky said, thanking Trump for “allowing them to come” amid the war.

Like all visiting officials, the pair arrived by train, with “Peace

Talks with Kyiv ‘substantive’, will continue ‘as long as it takes’: Witkoff

Kyiv, Ukraine

US envoy Steve Witkoff said talks he held with Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky and his team in Kyiv Sunday on ending the war with Russia were “substantive” and would

continue.

“We’ve had a very meaningful discussion, substantive, important, and we are very encouraged and we look forward to continuing this as long as it takes,” Witkoff said after the talks.



Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine Kyrylo Budanov, Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelensky, Head of Ukraine’s Foreign Intelligence Service Rustem Umerov, Ukrainian politician David Arakhania attend a meeting with US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff (3rd R), US President Donald Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner (2nd R) and representatives of Britain, France and Germany in Kyiv

More than 140 killed in latest Yemen clashes

● Two military officials with government forces told AFP that 84 of their troops were killed

● Houthis launched an offensive aiming to cut off the government-held port city of Mokha

● Fighting had subsided in the early hours of Sunday morning

AFP | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Fighting between Yemeni government forces and Houthis in southwest Yemen killed more than 140 combatants between midday Saturday and early yesterday morning, military sources said.



Yemen’s latest clashes are happening near one of the world’s most important shipping chokepoints – the Bab al-Mandeb Strait.



Internally displaced (IDP) Yemenis who fled their homes due to renewed clashes between Yemen’s Saudi-backed government forces and the country’s Houthi rebels drive to the safety of al-Kadah in the Taiz Governorate, Yemen

Two military officials with government forces told AFP that 84 of their troops were killed, mostly in missile attacks, while four Houthi military sources said 57 fighters were killed in the same period.

Days-long clashes have erupted in Yemen over control of a gateway to the Red Sea in the deadliest fighting in the Arabian Peninsula country since a 2022 ceasefire between the two sides collapsed in July.

Beginning on Thursday, the Houthis launched an offensive aiming to cut off the government-held port city of Mokha, under fire for weeks, and advance towards areas bordering the Bab al-Mandab chokepoint

at the southern entrance to the Red Sea.

According to an AFP tally compiled using various military and medical sources from both sides of the conflict, more than 300 combatants and some civilians have been killed since the start of the Houthi assault on Thursday.

One military official with the internationally recognised government based in Aden said fighting had subsided in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The military official said government “forces were able to establish positions for themselves north of Hays after advancing in the area”, referring to a frontline district less than 30 kilo-

Express” written on the platform at Kyiv Central Station.

Zelensky said Kyiv had “prepared everything to make our airports operational”, but that Russian strikes made arriving by plane impossible.

Ukrainian airspace has been closed since Russia launched its invasion in 2022.

Zelensky also said European national security advisors would take part in some of the talks.

Russia and Ukraine have vowed not to strike each other’s capitals during the US envoys’ trip.

Ahead of the talks, Zelensky showed the Americans Kyiv’s historic Saint Sophia’s Cathedral. ‘Idea for peace’

Putin on Saturday told the US envoys that Moscow would ensure their safety in Kyiv.

Just days ago, Russia struck the headquarters of the SBU security building in central Kyiv.

Of the envoys’ trip to Kyiv, the Russian leader said: “No matter what happens next, contacts of this kind are undoubtedly always beneficial.”

Trump has said his envoys were bringing a “proposal” to end the fighting.

“We have an idea for peace,” he said, without elaborating.

metres inland from the Red Sea coast.

But the official added the Houthis had advanced west of Taiz, south of Hays, in their push towards the Bab al-Mandab.

With Iran’s closure of the Strait of Hormuz to commercial ships, the Bab al-Mandab chokepoint has gained importance as a transit route for oil from Saudi Arabia, the world’s biggest exporter of crude.

In July, a fragile truce between the Houthis and Yemen’s government fell apart after Houthis welcomed an Iranian plane to the capital Sanaa, setting off a spate of attacks.

Battle of Borodino: Napoleon Bonaparte wins a Pyrrhic victory against Russian General Mikhail Kutuzov in the most ferocious battle of the Napoleonic era; 70,000 casualties.

Pedro I, son of King John VI, declares Brazil's independence from Portugal (Independence Day)



Edith Eleanor McLean is the first baby placed in an incubator at State Emigrant Hospital on Ward's Island, New York

Eugene Lefebvre becomes the first pilot to die in an aircraft while test piloting a new French-built Wright biplane at Juvisy



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



We are proud to partner with @EconforHealth in launching the Alcohol Tax Scoreboard, as part of the @WHO's 3 by 35 initiative aiming to help countries accelerate implementation of health taxes.

@DrTedros

02



When I was here two years ago, I said that Greenland already felt like home. Today, I am very happy to be back in Nuuk. We are family. I'm also back to make our unique partnership even stronger. With a Partnership Package we worked on together.

@vonderleyen

03



My heart is united with the suffering of the people of #Ukraine, who have lived in anguish and fear for years. I renew my appeal to put an end to the violence, halt the destruction, and open hearts to dialogue and #peace!

@Pontifex

04



Europe is taking its destiny into its own hands, including in the space sector. Following the success of Ariane 6 and those of Vega, Isar Aerospace has now written history in its turn.

@EmmanuelMacron

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

Israeli ministers' Gaza expulsion plans threaten Trump peace

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Eight Islamic and Arab countries yesterday condemned plans voiced by Israeli government ministers for the removal of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, saying the designs jeopardise a US-backed peace in the territory.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said Wednesday Israel had plans to remove Palestinians from Gaza but was waiting for US approval on where to displace the territory's population.

A day later, Israel's National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir said the plan aimed to remove 250,000 Palestinians from Gaza in the first year, fol-



Mourners gather for a mass burial of around 100 Palestinians, including 62 children, whose remains were recovered from rubble, in Gaza City

lowed by the rest of the roughly two million residents over the following six years.

The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Pakistan, Indonesia and Turkey said they condemned in "the strongest terms" the "plans and mechanisms they proposed aimed at forcibly expelling Palestinians from their land".

The ministers warned of "grave consequenc-

es of transforming calls for forced displacement into declared policy or practical measures".

"Such measures directly challenge international efforts to achieve peace, particularly President Donald Trump's comprehensive plan to end the conflict in Gaza, which includes a firm rejection of forced displacement," they added referring to a US-backed, October 2025 peace plan for Gaza.

Cape Verde in mourning after children killed in bus crash



An aerial view of residents and relatives of the victims killed in a bus crash gathering during their funeral at Sao Lourenco Church in the town of Sao Lourenco, on the island of Fogo,

AFP | Praia, Cape Verde

Cape Verde's government announced two days of mourning yesterday after 25 people, mostly children and teenagers, were killed in a bus crash.

The west African country's leaders joined a Mass on Sunday at a local church on the island of Fogo, where 18 coffins were on display.

Such accidents are rare in the Atlantic archipelago, where roads are generally in good condition.

Officials said the bus veered off the road and plunged into a deep ravine late on Saturday, following an excursion to a village inside a volcanic crater.

The dead included the bus driver, who organised the excursion every year as a present for the pupils he drove to school during term time.

Prime Minister Francisco Carvalho told public television station TCV he had ordered two days of mourning and promised further measures would be taken.

Indonesia's main airport suspends operations after volcanic eruption

AFP | Jakarta, Indonesia

About 170,000 passengers were left stranded yesterday as Indonesia shuttered its main international airport and seven others, cancelling hundreds of flights after Mount Anak Krakatoa spewed a plume of volcanic ash and lava from more than 150 kilometres away.

Mount Anak Krakatoa erupted on Saturday, producing a fountain of lava and booming sounds that could be heard up to a few hundred kilometres away, the geology agency said in a statement.

Two new eruptions were recorded on Sunday, the volcano-logy agency warned.

Ash from the volcano was detected in the airspace surrounding Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, prompting authorities to initially suspend operations from 1:30 am on Sunday (Saturday 1830 GMT) to 5:30 am.

The suspension was extended



several times, with the latest extension set to last until midnight, the transportation ministry said in a statement.

Operations have also been suspended at seven other airports, including the Husein Sasranegara airport in Bandung and Radin Inten II airport near Bandar Lampung on Sumatra, the ministry added.

"To date, 1,558 flights have been delayed at the eight affected airports, with 170,000 passengers stranded," the min-

istry said.

More than 900 affected flights were to and from the Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, it added.

Several airports in cities including Semarang and Surabaya have been prepared as "alternatives for landing," Transportation Minister Dudy Purwagandhi said.

Hazard warning

Anak Krakatoa, which means Child of Krakatoa, sits in a strait that separates the islands of Java

and Sumatra.

Ships passing through the strait were asked to increase vigilance for possible disruption to navigation safety due to volcanic activities.

Vessels are prohibited from approaching an exclusion zone of three kilometres radius from the volcano, local port authorities said in a statement.

The volcano has been sporadically active since it emerged from the sea at the beginning of last century in the caldera that formed after the 1883 eruption of Mount Krakatoa.

That disaster was one of the deadliest and most destructive in history with an estimated 35,000 people killed.

A 2018 tsunami triggered by a collapse of parts of Anak Krakatoa killed 429 people and left thousands displaced.

Indonesia, a Southeast Asian archipelago nation, sits on the Pacific Ring of Fire, where the meeting of continental plates causes high volcanic and seismic activity.

Susan Sarandon says still losing roles over Gaza stance



AFP | Venice, Italy

US actress Susan Sarandon said yesterday she was still having roles "taken away" from her in Hollywood because of her outspoken criticism of Israel's war in Gaza.

The "Thelma & Louise" star was dropped by her agency UTA in November 2023 over controversial remarks at a pro-Palestinian rally which she later said she regretted.

Speaking at the Venice Film Festival, where she has a role in Italian film "The Echo Chamber", she claimed the "narrative" around the Gaza war and the United States' support for Israel had "completely changed".

"There's a lot of things that people are aware of now," the Oscar winner told a press conference, referring to the extent of US financial and military aid for Israel.

"I've still had movies taken away recently because there are agencies that are telling people not to hire me still. But that's the power structure," she added.

Netanyahu orders evacuation of some West Bank settler outposts

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has ordered the evacuation of some West Bank settlements deemed illegal under Israeli law, Finance Minister Bezalel

Smotrich said yesterday.

"To my knowledge, Netanyahu has given the instruction to evacuate" certain settlements, Smotrich said, adding that he did not approve of the measure.

While all Israeli settlements in the

West Bank are considered illegal under international law, some established without government approval -- often consisting of just a few prefabricated homes -- are also considered illegal by Israel.

Classifieds

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region

Syria Signs DCO Charter, Advances Toward Full Membership



The Syrian Arab Re-public has signed the Charter of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO), becoming a Signatory Member and taking a signif-icant step toward full mem-bership in the organization.

The signing follows the DCO Council’s recent ap-proval of Syria’s candidature, alongside seven other coun-tries, as part of a process that could expand cooperation in the digital economy.

H.E. Eng. Abdulsalam Haykal, Minister of Commu-nications and Information Technology of Syria, formally handed the signed Charter to DCO Secretary-General Ms. Deemah AlYahya at the or-ganization’s headquarters in Riyadh.

The move is expected to create broader opportuni-ties for cooperation in areas including digital capability development, talent devel-opment, startups, innovation and digital investment.

Syria’s digital sector cur-rently includes more than 200 active technology start-ups, approximately 19.5 mil-lion mobile subscribers and around 9.01 million internet users, providing a growing base for greater participation in the digital economy.

DCO Secretary-General Deemah AlYahya said Syria’s participation in multilateral digital cooperation would add a new perspective to efforts to build a more con-nected and inclusive digital economy.

Lebanon Urges US to Stop Israeli Attacks After Deadly Strikes



Lebanese President Jo-seph Aoun has urged the United States and the international community to intervene and stop Israeli attacks after strikes in southern Lebanon killed at least four people on Sun-day, despite a ceasefire.

Lebanon’s Health Ministry said two women were among those killed, while six others were wounded, including two girls.

Aoun described the strikes as a “dangerous escalation”, particu-larly after government facilities and an unused hospital were damaged.

Israel said its forces targeted Hezbollah operatives and sites following a drone attack by the

Iran-backed group on Israe-li troops in southern Lebanon. Hezbollah has not claimed re-sponsibility for the alleged attack.

Tensions have intensified after Israel announced that its forces had taken control of the strategic Ali Al-Taher ridge near Nabatieh, within a self-declared security zone.

The latest strikes have raised concerns over the durability of the US-brokered ceasefire and prompted renewed calls for inter-national intervention to prevent further escalation.

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TechZone

Are Phone Upgrades Worthwhile?

As Apple and Samsung unveil new flagships, consumers are questioning whether yearly upgrades still deliver enough to justify the price

Place two smartphones side by side — one from 2022, one from 2026, both priced above \$1,000. Ask anyone in the room to identify the newer model. Most cannot. That quiet, uncomfortable experiment captures one of the most significant shifts in modern consumer technology: the era of the transformative smartphone upgrade is over, and what has replaced it is something far more calculated.

From Apple's iPhone to Samsung's Galaxy series, the world's two dominant smartphone brands have presided over a period critics are increasingly calling 'incremental theatre' — marginal improvements dressed in premium pricing

and billion-dollar keynote events. Tech reviewers assessing the Galaxy S25 series this year reached for a word once unthinkable for a flagship device: safe. The tactics sustaining this cycle are well documented. In 2016, Apple deployed a software update that secretly reduced the performance of older iPhones, prompting millions to replace devices that were functioning without fault. The company settled with attorneys general from more than 30 US states for \$113 million. Camera megapixel counts have climbed from 12 to 200, despite



optical engineers confirming that the human eye cannot distinguish the difference on a phone screen. Annual launch events are engineered as psychological resets — research found that nearly half of iPhone users planned to upgrade a working handset after watching Apple's September keynote. Even the trade-in programme, marketed as consumer benefit, is structured so that manufacturers profit on both the new sale and the refurbished resale of the surrendered device. Consumers are quietly recalibrating. The global average smartphone replacement cycle has extended from 2.4 years in 2014 to 3.5 years in 2025 — a shift that manufacturers are acutely aware of and commercially dependent on reversing. Mid-range handsets priced between \$300 and \$500 now deliver performance within ten percent of flagship models costing three times as much, a gap that the majority of everyday users cannot perceive in daily use.

From Apple's iPhone to Samsung's Galaxy series, the world's two dominant smartphone brands have presided over a period critics are increasingly calling 'incremental theatre' — marginal improvements dressed in premium pricing

Apple Sets September 9 Launch Event

Apple has confirmed a major September 9, 2026 launch event at Apple Park in Cupertino, with the company expected to unveil its next generation of premium devices. The event, titled "Sur-

prise and Shine," is anticipated to focus on the iPhone 18 Pro and iPhone 18 Pro Max, with reports also pointing to Apple's first foldable iPhone.

Apple is also expected to introduce updates to the Ap-

ple Watch and AirPods, while new AI capabilities and camera improvements could feature prominently. The event will be particularly significant as one of the first major product launches under new CEO John Ternus.



Google Introduces WeatherNext 3

Google has unveiled WeatherNext 3, its latest AI-powered weather forecasting model, designed to deliver faster, more detailed and accurate predictions. The model uses real-time satellite data and provides forecasts that are refreshed hourly, with resolution up to five times sharper than previous versions.

WeatherNext 3 is now being integrated into Google Search, Gemini, Google Maps, Google Maps Platform and Google Cloud. It is also designed to



improve rainfall and snowfall predictions and provide more localized forecasts.

Google says the technology could support a range of applications, from daily planning and agriculture to renewable energy and extreme-weather preparedness.

Xiaomi Unveils the 'Passport' Foldable

Xiaomi is preparing to launch its new 18 Fold on September 7, introducing a wider, passport-inspired design to the foldable smartphone market.

The device features a 5.38-inch outer display and a 7.58-inch inner screen, offering a compact form factor when folded while providing a tablet-like experience when opened.

The phone is expected to



be powered by Xiaomi's XRING O3 chipset and feature next-generation LPDDR6 RAM. It is also tipped to pack a 6,000mAh battery and a Leica-developed camera system with a high-resolution main sensor and periscope telephoto lens.

The Xiaomi 18 Fold is expected to launch first in China, with a starting price of around 12,000 yuan (\$1,650). Global availability is expected to be announced later.

RØDE Introduces the DS3, a New Professional Desktop Studio Arm



RØDE has today introduced the new DS3, the next generation of its professional desktop studio arm, building on the popular DS2 with greater load capacity, improved adjustability and enhanced stability for today's creator setups.

With a 1.5kg payload capacity, DS3 supports heavier equipment for the modern-day creator, from broadcast-grade XLR microphones like RØDE's Pod-Mic to other large-diaphragm microphones, cameras, lights and accessories. An integrated, precision-engineered ball head delivers smooth, controlled and virtually silent positioning, allowing on-the-fly adjustments without disrupting a recording or broadcast in progress, while a central locking mechanism secures equipment at the desired angle in a single motion.

Like DS2, DS3 uses a weighted base instead of a traditional desk clamp, allowing it to be positioned anywhere on a flat

surface, independent of a desk edge, with no wobble or risk of tipping. The redesigned base delivers greater stability for heavier setups while keeping a compact footprint, leaving more desktop space free for other equipment.

Each finish features its own acoustic isolation pad, designed to dampen vibration as much as elevate the DS3's aesthetic. The Classic Black variant is finished with a soft-touch silicone pad inlaid on and beneath the base, while the Crisp White variant features natural cork on both sides. Cable clips keep XLR and USB cables neatly routed and out of sight, reducing desk clutter for a cleaner workspace.

Included 3/8", 1/4" and 5/8" thread adaptors ensure broad compatibility across microphones, cameras, lights and accessories, providing everything needed to mount mics and creator equipment straight out of the box.

Adobe Announces New CEO

Adobe has named Anil Chakravarthi as its next President and CEO, marking a major leadership transition for the software giant. Chakravarthi will take over from Shantanu Narayen on December 1, 2026, while Narayen will become executive chair.

Chakravarthi has been with Adobe since 2020 and currently leads its Customer Experience Orchestration business and worldwide field operations. He has played a key role in developing Adobe's AI-powered products and customer experience technologies.

The leadership change



comes as Adobe accelerates its focus on AI and agentic software, while facing growing competition from AI-driven creative platforms. Chakravarthi said his priority will be driving Adobe's growth and leadership in the next era of AI-powered creativity, productivity and customer experiences.

AI CORNER

AI is learning to work, not just answer

Artificial intelligence is moving beyond chatbots that simply respond to questions. A new generation of AI agents is being designed to complete tasks on a user's behalf — from researching information and organising files to writing code and managing multi-step workflows.

Instead of waiting for instructions at every step, these systems can break a goal into smaller tasks, choose the right tools and adjust their approach when something goes wrong.

The shift could change how people use computers. Rather than opening several apps and completing each step manually, users could increasingly tell an AI what



they want and let it handle the process.

But greater independence also brings new challenges. AI agents need access to data, software and online services, raising important questions

about privacy, security and human oversight.

The future of AI may therefore be less about smarter answers — and more about smarter actions.

DID YOU KNOW?

TECH FACTS THAT MIGHT SURPRISE YOU!

The first text message was sent in 1992.



It simply said "Merry Christmas" and was sent by British engineer Neil

Papworth to a Vodafone executive in the UK. At the time, mobile phones could receive

messages but were not yet able to send them.

The message was sent using a computer because mobile phones did not yet have the technology to type and send SMS messages. What began as a simple holiday greeting went on to become one of the world's most widely used forms of communication.

Today, text messaging has evolved into a much broader mobile communication ecosystem, with smartphones offering instant messaging, voice notes, video calls and file sharing alongside traditional SMS.

Bahrain bow out after Afghan defeat

Junior men miss Asian Cup qualification following 3-1 loss



Osama scores Bahrain's short-lived equaliser

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's hopes of reaching the AFC U20 Asian Cup 2027 came to an end last night after a disappointing 3-1 defeat to Afghanistan in their final Group D qualifier at Khalifa Sports City Stadium in Isa Town.

Ali Aamer's side needed victory to keep their qualification hopes alive but were punished by an Afghan team that had entered the contest without a point from their opening two matches.

The result left the kingdom's youngsters on three points from three games, having beaten Tajikistan 3-2 before losing 2-1 to Jordan.

The visitors stunned the hosts after just six minutes when a long clearance dropped into Bahrain's defensive third. Captain Habibullah Hotak outmuscled Bader Al Asam as he attempted to deal

with the ball, evaded a challenge from Adam Farid and fired into the roof of the net.

The Bahrainis enjoyed plenty of possession afterwards but struggled to create clear-cut opportunities. Ali Mahran, who scored a hat-trick against Tajikistan, volleyed over from close range in the 27th minute.

Ali Nasser then whipped a dangerous free-kick across the face of goal shortly before half-time, but it evaded everyone when only a touch was needed to turn it in.

The nationals finally drew level in the 59th minute. Abdulla Osama met a corner with a low header that took a deflection on its way into the bottom corner.

Their momentum was short-lived, however, as substitute Yaser Safi restored Afghanistan's lead 10 minutes later. The winger created space just inside the penalty area before curling a fine effort into the corner, past goalkeeper Abdulla Abdo.

Mahran found the side-netting in the 75th minute before the Afghans put the contest beyond reach six minutes from time. A long kick from their goalkeeper was flicked into the path of Farzad Tajik. He raced through, rounded the keeper and rolled into an empty net for 3-1.

Tempers flared during the celebrations, with the two benches clashing after Bahrain took exception to the reaction to the goal. Unused substitute Karar Hussain was shown a red card.

The defeat ended the hosts' bid to return to the AFC U20 Asian Cup for the first time since 2016.

Earlier yesterday, Tajikistan defeated Jordan 1-0 to leave both teams on six points, with the Central Asians finishing top of Group D on goal difference.

The eight group winners and seven best runners-up advance to next year's finals in China.

Sensational Antonelli wins Italian GP from back of grid

AFP | Monza

Championship leader Kimi Antonelli delivered one of the most sensational triumphs in the long history of the Italian Grand Prix on Sunday when he became the first home winner in 60 years after starting from 19th on the grid.

The 20-year-old Mercedes driver, from nearby Emilia Romagna, claimed his seventh win of the season to extend his lead in the drivers' title race as he seeks to become Italy's first world champion since Ferrari's Alberto Ascari in 1953.

He is the first domestic winner of the Italian GP since Ludovico Scarfiotti



in 1966.

In a thrilling, helter-skelter race of wild yo-yo overtaking moves, Antonelli came home 3.857 seconds ahead of his teammate and title rival George Russell, who is now 66 points adrift in the championship, with four-time

champion Max Verstappen third for Red Bull.

For the impassioned Italian crowd, his win was some consolation for their disappointment in seeing Ferrari endure a disappointing flop with Charles Leclerc crashing out on lap two, and seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton finishing sixth behind the McLaren pair of world champion Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri.

Antonelli had started at the back of the grid after taking penalties for power-unit changes, but showed searing pace throughout as he carved through the field – benefitting from an early red flag stoppage -- before outracing Russell to win.

Kimi Antonelli kisses his trophy

FIFA confirms Infantino will run in presidential election

AFP | Paris

Gianni Infantino will stand in next March's FIFA presidential election, despite the backlash over his now-abandoned plan to bring private investment into the World Cup, football's global governing body announced yesterday.

"The FIFA President announced in April that he will stand for re-election in 2027," a FIFA spokesperson said. "Of course, nothing has changed. Mr Infantino will be standing for re-election."

The 56-year-old Swiss has taken a pummelling since the announcement in late July of his short-lived FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) plan to bring private investment into FIFA events.



Gianni Infantino

But now for the first time since the plan became public, FIFA has reiterated Infantino's intention to run for a fourth and final term in next year's elections.

Should he be re-elected, he will continue to serve as head of

world football until 2031.

Infantino is in Poland for the Women's Under-20 World Cup, but refused to answer queries about his future when questioned by journalists on Saturday.

Cagers depart for Japan

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's basketball team departed for Japan last night ahead of their campaign at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya.

The kingdom's cagers head into the continental showpiece in good form after sweeping through Group A of the opening round of Fiba Asia Cup 2029 pre-qualifying unbeaten in Dubai last week.

Nine players from that campaign have made the trip, with big men Uros Ilic and Elijah Thomas and guard-forward Kelechi Ajukwa added to strengthen Greek-Slovenian head coach Slobodan Subotic's side.

The trio join Ahmed Alderazi, Ahmed Bindayneh, Ahmed Haji, Ali Rashed, Ali Al Haddad, Mustafa Rashed, JaKarr Sampson, Mohammed Juma'a and Mohammed Buallay in the 12-man squad.

The Bahrainis have been handed a challenging Pool C assignment in the 12-team tournament, which will be played at the 15,000-capacity Aichi International Arena.



Bahrain's basketball team depart for their Asiad challenge in Japan

Subotic's men begin against defending champions the Philippines on Friday at 1pm before taking on China on Saturday at 10am and Kazakhstan on September 14 at 4pm. All times are Bahrain.

Pool A features Japan, South Korea, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia, while Iran, Jordan, Chinese Taipei and Qatar make up Pool B.

Bahrain Basketball Association vice-president Nader Al Awadhi heads the delega-

tion, which also includes team manager Mohammed Al Omairi and administrator Moosa Jaffar. Subotic is assisted by Leon Subotic and Ahmed Aziz, with Isa Al Rumaihi serving as fitness coach and Ebrahim Jawhar as physiotherapist.

The quarter-finals are scheduled for September 16, followed by the semi-finals on September 18 and the gold and bronze medal games on September 20.

The basketball squad join

a sizeable Bahrain contingent already confirmed for the Games. Said Sadrudinov, Askerbii Gerbekov, Ruslan Poltoratskii, Mukhamed Al-oev, Gadzhidavud Gasanov, Israpil Sagaipov and Sukhrob Boqiev will compete in men's judo, while Ahmed Madan and Ahmed Naser have been selected for men's cycling.

Maryam Hassani, Maryam Alasam, Maryam Sulaiti, Marwa Bu Araki, Shaikh Khalifa

Al Khalifa, Tammar Alwatt and Saeed Hassan will represent the kingdom in shooting, with reigning Olympic champion Akhmed Tazhudinov and Alibeg Alibego named for men's wrestling.

Fatema Kalawadh and Ola Aldoseri will compete in women's taekwondo, Khalid Faraj and Abdulla Alshaikh in men's jiu-jitsu, and Adnan Ebrahim in men's badminton.

The esports contingent features Mohamed Hujairi, Fadhel

Taher, Hassan Ebrahim, Hussam Al Ansari, Mohammed Darbas and Yousef Bahram.

Olympic champion Winfred Yavi, meanwhile, will spearhead Bahrain's 34-member athletics squad as the kingdom targets further success on the continental stage.

The 20th Asian Games run from September 19 to October 4, with more than 11,000 athletes from 45 nations set to compete across 469 medal events in 43 sports.

EXCLUSIVE

Talajic backs Bahrain to retain Gulf crown

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain head coach Dragan Talajic believes his players have what it takes to defend their Gulf Cup crown, but expects a stern test when the kingdom begins its campaign in Jeddah later this month.

Speaking exclusively to TDT ahead of the 27th Arabian Gulf Cup, the Croatian reflected on lessons from the past year and the importance of bringing through younger players.

The tournament runs from September 23 to October 6, with the Reds opening Group B against Qatar on September 24 before meeting the UAE three days later and Yemen on September 30.

"It will be difficult, but we will enjoy it," Talajic said.

Family mentality

His side travel to Saudi Arabia aiming to lift the trophy for a third time after dramatically securing their second in Kuwait in January 2025, coming from behind to defeat Oman 2-1 in the final.

For Talajic, however, that achievement belongs first and foremost to his players.

"I don't want to talk about what it means to me personally. I'm not here to think about myself," he said. "I'm the head coach of Bahrain, of the beautiful kingdom of Bahrain."

"I'm so proud of this trophy, but the credit goes to my players."

Their character was evident in the final, when they trailed



A jubilant Talajic celebrates Bahrain's Gulf Cup success in Kuwait

for more than an hour before two late goals completed the turnaround.

"I really like all my players like my sons," he said. "I always say we are like one family, and we have to be."

That bond will be tested again in Jeddah, although the circumstances have changed. This time, they arrive as defending champions rather than challengers, placing a target on their backs.

"We need to protect our trophy and bring it back home again," Talajic said. "It will be very difficult."

Yet the 61-year-old remains comfortable with the underdog tag, describing his team as a "dark horse" and insisting they will take the competition one game at a time.

Since their triumph in Kuwait, the nationals have gained valuable experience through the 2026 World Cup qualifying campaign, despite ultimately falling short.

"We have learned we can play good football against big teams, but we need to improve," he said.

"We have quality. But the most important thing is the mind. Winning mentality. We have to trust in ourselves."

That belief also shapes how he views his leading players. Mohamed Marhoon was instrumental in their previous title success, but the coach does not want the team's fortunes resting on one individual.

"Maybe Marhoon will be there again. Maybe it will be someone else," he said. "We need some

players individually to do something extra. But I don't believe in individuals. I believe in groups."

World Cup dream

While the immediate challenge is retaining their crown, Talajic also has one eye on the longer-term ambition of finally reaching a World Cup.

Part of that challenge will be managing the transition to a new generation as several of his experienced players get older. The coach revealed that four or five youngsters are already pushing for places in the senior side, with others coming through the youth ranks.

"The future is bright. We are on the right path," he said.

For that progress to continue, though, young players also need



Bahrain head coach Dragan Talajic ahead of his interview at the BFA headquarters

opportunities at club level.

Talajic understands why top clubs like Muharraq, Al Khaldiya and Riffa recruit foreign players, but admitted the limited opportunities for local talent concern him.

"When you see so few Bahraini players on the pitch, imagine how I feel," he said. "This is my job as the national team coach."

"Please, give my boys a chance. They also deserve to be part of the success."

He stressed that those opportunities must also be earned, challenging his players to fight for regular starting places at their clubs.

"Our dream cannot only be a dream. It must be our target," he said.

Making history

Before then comes the chance to make more history.

Talajic was keen to credit former coach Helio Sousa for delivering the country's breakthrough title in 2019, saying the Portuguese was the first to "put his name in the history of Bahrain".

Having added a second crown under his own reign, the Croatian now has the opportunity to become the first coach to win the Gulf Cup twice in a row with Bahrain.

"Two times in a row will be something special," Talajic said. "But we have to be honest. Go step by step."

"I believe in big support from Bahraini people. Bahraini people deserve to be happy."

Balew makes athletics history

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Birhanu Balew made history on Saturday by winning the men's 5,000 metres title at the 2026 Diamond League final in Brussels.

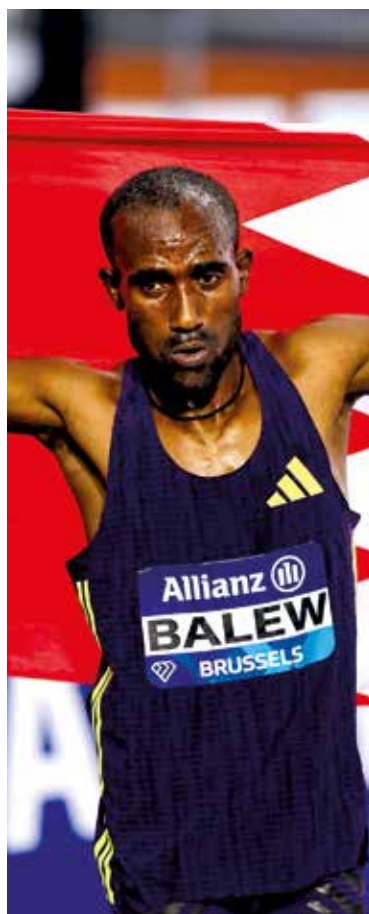
The 30-year-old crossed the line in 12 minutes 45.70 seconds, setting new Asian, Arab and Bahraini records while also clocking the fastest time in the world this year.

The kingdom's distance-running star improved his previous Asian record of 12:47.73, set in Oslo in June, and finished ahead of Burundi's Egide Ntakirutimana, who ran 12:46.73. Kenya's Cornelius Kemboi placed third in 12:47.29.

The victory earned him the first Diamond Trophy of his career and made him the first Bahraini male athlete to win a Diamond League title.

Balew joins Salwa Eid Naser, Ruth Jebet and Winfred Yavi among Bahrain's Diamond League champions.

He will now turn his attention to the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, later this month.



Birhanu Balew celebrates with the Bahrain flag after his victory in Brussels

Spikers beaten again in Japan

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain suffered their second successive defeat at the AVC Men's Continental Championship after going down 0-3 (15-25, 15-25, 23-25) to hosts and defending champions Japan yesterday.

The kingdom's spikers faced a formidable challenge against the world number six side at Kitakyushu City Gymnasium in Fukuoka, with 6,639 spectators in attendance.

Japan controlled the opening two sets, winning both 25-15, before Ivan Joksimovic's men produced a much stronger showing in the third.

The Bahrainis stayed with the home side throughout the frame and pushed them until the closing stages, but Japan eventually held firm to take it 25-23 and complete the straight-sets victory.

The Japanese enjoyed a clear advantage in attack, scoring 45 points to Bahrain's 29, while also leading 9-3 in blocks and 5-1 from serve.

Mahmoud Abdulwahed was once again Bahrain's leading scorer with 10 points, matching his tally from their opening defeat to Australia.

Hashem Mohamed and Abdulla Mohammed added seven points apiece, while Ran Takahashi led all scorers for Japan with 19. Captain Yuki Ishikawa contributed 12.

The defeat leaves Joksimovic's side without a win after their opening two Pool A matches, having also lost 0-3 to Australia on Friday. Japan, meanwhile, sit top of the group with two wins from two.

Bahrain now turn their attention to their final preliminary-round encounter against Oman on Wednesday at 4am, Bahrain time, as they look to keep alive their hopes of reaching the quarter-finals.

The top two teams from each of the three pools advance automatically, along with the two best third-placed sides.

Elsewhere yesterday, Iran defeated India 3-0 (25-20, 28-26, 25-18) in Pool B, while Chinese Taipei recorded a 3-0 (25-19, 25-22, 28-26) victory over Qatar in Pool C.

The quarter-finals will be played on September 10 and 11, followed by the semi-finals on September 12 and the medal matches a day later.



Bahrain's Ahmed Saleh serves against Japan

Arsenal deliver statement fightback to end Chelsea's flying start

AFP

Arsenal delivered an emphatic response to Chelsea's emergence as potential Premier League title contenders with a 2-1 win that ended their rivals' unbeaten start yesterday.

Mikel Arteta's side trailed to Morgan Rogers' second-minute goal in a pulsating London derby at the Emirates Stadium.

But the champions showed why they are firm favourites to retain the title with a blistering response to that early setback.

Kai Havertz bagged the equaliser against his former club midway through the first half and Martin Odegaard netted Arsenal's winner soon after the interval.

It was a statement of intent from second-placed Arsenal, who have won all three league matches to sit behind leaders Manchester City on goal difference.

The Gunners' mature display underlined their desire to win the club's first back-to-back titles since the 1930s.

For Chelsea boss Xabi Alonso, the defeat ended his three-game winning run in all competitions since taking charge at Stamford Bridge in the close-season.

Alonso will realise just how much work Chelsea still have to do before they are in position to end a title drought dating back to 2017.

Chelsea's shaky defence is prone to costly miscues, while their vaunted attack found it harder to flourish against Arsenal than in their free-scoring wins over Ful-



Arsenal's English defender #04 Ben White (L) vies with Chelsea's Spanish defender #29 Pep Chavarria (R) during the English Premier League football match.

ham, Luton and Brighton.

Arteta and Alonso have known each other since their days as childhood friends in the Basque region of Spain.

The chaotic matches of their youth on a gravel pitch in the Berio district of San Sebastian would have seemed calm in comparison to the blood and thunder their teams brought to a raucous corner of north London.

Chelsea beat Arsenal in the race to sign Rogers from Aston Villa in the close-season after the Gunners refused to match the Blues' £117 million (\$158 million) bid for the England midfielder.

Rogers showed why Chelsea made him the most expensive British player in history as he put the Blues ahead after just 77 seconds.