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# UN Resolution Blocked

Council Fails to Pass Bahrain-Led Maritime Security Resolution

- GCC statement warned of risks to global energy
- Council's credibility is at stake due to inaction
- Protect maritime freedom under international law

Ashen Tharaka  
TDT | Manama

The United Nations Security Council yesterday failed to adopt a draft resolution aimed at strengthening maritime security and ensuring freedom of navigation in the strategic Strait of Hormuz, after it was blocked by vetoes from Russia and China, with Colombia and Pakistan abstaining.

The Kingdom of Bahrain formally presented the resolution during its presidency of the Security Council in April 2026. The proposal was developed in close coordination with the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Jordan.

The draft called for coordinated "defensive measures" to safeguard navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical energy and trade corridor linking global markets through the Arabian Gulf and the Arabian Sea.

**After the Vote**

Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al



UN Security Council members cast their votes

Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is leading Bahrain's presidency of the United Nations Security Council for April following the vote. "Bahrain, along with other GCC states and Jordan, expresses regret that the resolution presented today was not adopted," he said. He added that the Council failed "to shoulder its responsibility regarding illegal conduct that requires urgent action without delay," stressing that the draft intends to be a step toward a lasting solution to guarantee freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz under international law.

The statement further called for full compliance with inter-

**#Vote Result**

- 11 votes in favor
- 2 votes against (Russia, China - veto)
- 2 abstentions (Colombia, Pakistan)

national legal obligations and referenced previous Security Council resolutions, including Resolution 2817, urging immediate enforcement.

**Global Impact**

The Gulf-led statement stressed that disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz could have far-reaching consequences for the global economy, including

energy market instability, disruptions to global trade routes, impacts on food and medical supply chains, and increased risks to international shipping security.

It also highlighted the role of Gulf states as key global energy suppliers and stabilizers of international markets, noting their importance to both developed and developing economies.

**Credibility of the Council**

Dr. Al Zayani warned that the Council's failure to act decisively raises serious questions about its effectiveness in maintaining international peace and security. "The credibility of the Council is today at stake. It is not an abstract concept. It is measured



H.E. Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs speaks at the United Nations Security Council

*The credibility of the Council is at stake. It is measured by its ability to act decisively when circumstances require it.*

DR. ABDULLATIF BIN RASHID AL ZAYANI, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

by the ability to act decisively when circumstances require it," he stated.

He further stressed that failing to adopt the resolution does not change realities on the ground, nor does it weaken existing international legal obligations or the right of states to defend their sovereignty under Article 51 of the UN Charter.

**US Envoy: 'Enough is Enough'**



U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Michael Waltz

During the Security Council session, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Michael Waltz accused Iran of escalating regional instability and threatening civilian life and international shipping, alleging it places military assets in civilian areas. "Iran hides military hardware in hospitals, in schools, in civilian neighborhoods... Enough is enough," he said.

He reaffirmed U.S. support for Bahrain and Gulf partners, calling the situation "a moment of reckoning" and "a time for choosing" for the international community.

**UAE criticizes Security Council inaction on Iran**

The UAE deeply regrets that the UN Security Council failed to endorse a clear framework for international cooperation in ending Iran's illegal attacks and threats to the global economy by adopting a draft resolution demanding the immediate cessation of all attacks on vessels and attempts to impede freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.

No country should have the power to shut down the arteries of global commerce and drive the world to the brink of economic calamity.

## China: "Root Causes Are Clear"

Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations Fu Cong said at the council that China views the root causes as "clear," alleging that the United States and Israel carried out strikes against Iran without Security Council authorization during ongoing negotiations, actions he said



Fu Cong addresses the UN

violate the UN Charter alongside United States, Israel, and

Iran. Fu also stressed the need to respect Gulf sovereignty and protect civilians and infrastructure, highlighting the importance of safeguarding maritime security and energy routes around the Strait of Hormuz, ensuring uninterrupted global shipping.

## Why Pakistan Abstained?

Explaining Pakistan's position, Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said Diplomatic space must be preserved for ongoing mediation efforts, which the UN Secretary-General and Security Council members have



recognized. Pakistan also pointed to a joint five-point initiative calling for an immediate ceasefire, protection of civilians and infrastructure, resumption of maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz, and full adherence to the UN Charter.

## Sea Link Approved as Causeway Backup

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Bahrain's Parliament has approved an urgent proposal to establish a backup passenger sea link with Saudi Arabia, aimed at ensuring travel continuity during disruptions.

The plan calls for coordination with Saudi authorities to launch a regular ferry service that can serve as an alternative when the King Fahd Causeway or air routes are unavailable due to congestion, emergencies, or



**This proposal ensures Bahrain always has a reliable alternative to keep people moving during emergencies**

SPEAKER AHMED SALMAN AL MUSALLAM

security concerns. Speaker Ahmed Salman Al Musallam said the proposed route would provide a flexible and reliable transport option for citizens and residents, including access to regional airports such as King Fahd International Airport. MPs noted the service could also ease pressure on the causeway during peak periods and support marine transport, tourism, and investment opportunities.

**Focus on Iranian aggression, labour market**



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, remotely chaired the 527th Government Executive Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed plans implemented to address the impact of hostile Iranian aggression against the Kingdom of Bahrain, alongside proposals aimed at developing labour market procedures and updates related to draft laws.

# Trade Unions Call for Crisis Committee as Gulf War Hits Jobs

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's main trade union federation has called for a joint crisis committee bringing together government, employers and unions, while urging the return of key transport links and strict observance of safety measures as the war around the Arabian Gulf hits jobs, livelihoods and basic services.

In a statement issued on Monday, the General Federation of Bahrain Trade Unions said the events that began on 28 February had spread beyond military targets and were now striking health, education and infrastructure, including bridges and power stations. It said the strain was being felt across the Gulf and beyond, with supply chains hit, prices rising and the lives of citizens and residents thrown off course.

The federation said Bahrain had already seen harm in oil, gas, metals, trans-



**The strain is being felt across the Gulf and beyond, with supply chains hit, prices rising and the lives of citizens and residents thrown off course**

GENERAL FEDERATION OF BAHRAIN TRADE UNIONS

port and tourism, with material damage, injuries and deaths.

**Meetings**

Since the crisis flared, the federation said it had held a series of meetings in Bahrain and with Arab and international labour groups to discuss the danger and press for an end to it. It said all sides hoped to see it stop 'today, not tomorrow' in order to save lives and protect gains built over decades by

millions of workers, alongside the vast sums spent on roads, services and key sites across the region.

Amid that strain, the federation praised the efforts led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to press for calm, support de-escalation and keep lines of contact open with Gulf, Arab and international leaders.

# MP Urges Unified Autism Strategy

**Families 'struggling' to cope with limited support, rising costs, and delays in accessing care**

Hasan Barakat  
TDT | Manama

Families of children with autism in Bahrain face growing pressure due to limited support, rising costs, and delays in accessing care.

MP Mariam Saleh Al Dhaen called for a unified national strategy to address the issue, warning that current efforts remain fragmented. "The issue can no longer be handled through partial measures," she said, stressing the need for a

**The goal is stability and dignity for individuals, while easing the burden on families.**

MP MARIAM SALEH AL DHAEN



system that connects health-care, education, rehabilitation, and employment.

**Rising Burden**

Families often face long waiting times for early diagnosis, followed by a confusing, uncoordinated system. Many turn to private services, which increases financial strain. "Costs quickly build, placing both fi-

nancial and emotional pressure on families," she noted.

Dr. Al Dhaen emphasised that parents must be supported and trained as part of the care system, and public and non-profit services should be expanded.

She urged stronger coordination across ministries to create a clear pathway from early diagnosis to education, inclusion, and employment.

# Tourism Impact

**GCC Reviews Tourism Sector Resilience**



H.E. Fatima bint Jaffar Al Sairafi chairs the virtual meeting

TDT | Manama

Under the presidency of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the 46th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the Minister of Tourism chaired an extraordinary virtual meeting of GCC tourism ministers to assess the impact of recent regional developments on the tourism sector across member states.

The meeting was led by Bahrain's Minister of Tourism, Fatima bint Jaffar Al Sairafi, and brought together ministers responsible for tourism across GCC countries to discuss the implications of recent attacks targeting security and stability in the region and their potential effects on tourism activity.

In her remarks, Al Sairafi

stressed that convening the emergency meeting reflects the strong fraternal relations and continuous coordination among GCC states. She highlighted that the session embodies the principles of joint Gulf action in addressing emerging developments and shared challenges.

**Cooperation**

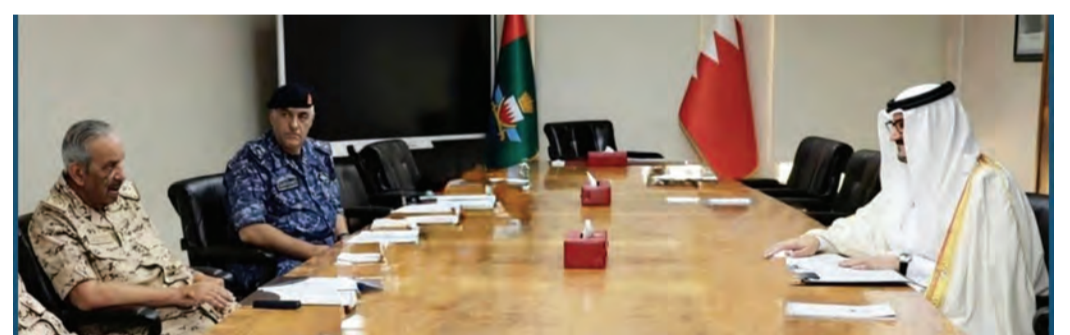
The Secretary-General of the GCC, Jasim Mohammed Al-Budaiwi, also addressed the meeting, stating that GCC states have consistently demonstrated their ability to navigate crises effectively through deep cooperation and integration. He noted that this unified approach has helped maintain stability and ensure the continuity of vital sectors across the region.

**Our region possesses the infrastructure, expertise, and capability to adapt to challenges**

FATIMA BINT JAFFAR AL SAIRAFI, MINISTER OF TOURISM

During the session, ministers reviewed several agenda items, including the impact of current developments on tourism flows within GCC states, opportunities to enhance sector resilience and sustainability, and mechanisms to further strengthen joint initiatives.

**Coordination of National Efforts**



The Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force, H.E. Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, received HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister of the Prime Minister's Court, yesterday and highlighted the importance of continuing to coordinate and integrate efforts across all state institutions.

# Trapped by False Promises

Rehab Mohammad  
TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court of Appeals has set April 27 to issue its verdict in the appeal of two defendants previously sentenced to five years in prison each, fined 2,000 dinars, ordered to cover repatriation costs, and to be deported after serving their sentences. The case involves the trafficking of two women in their twenties.

According to the Public Prosecution, a 51-year-old man and a 36-year-old woman recruited, transported, and harboured the victims with the intent of exploiting them in prostitution. The victims were allegedly deceived, detained,

and coerced through threats and manipulation.

The case began when one victim, 23, responded to a Facebook advertisement offering a job in Bahrain as a restaurant worker. A second victim was also approached with a similar offer, and both travelled believing they were taking up legitimate employment.

However, upon arrival in Bahrain, they were taken to an apartment and later forced into prostitution, with clients brought to them. The victims said their earnings were taken by the defendants, with only small amounts given back under the pretext of visa and travel expenses.

Investigators from the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit

confirmed that the victims were recruited through fake job offers and placed under strict control after arrival. The defendants allegedly arranged their travel, accommodation, and confinement as part of the operation.

During questioning, the first defendant admitted to issuing visas and communicating with the victims via Facebook, while also acknowledging involvement in recruiting women for exploitation. The second defendant admitted her awareness of the operation and her role in collecting money.

What began as a promise of work is now before the court, as the final verdict is expected on April 27.

# Steady Food Availability

● Food supply in Bahrain remains stable with no disruption reported.

TDI| Manama  
Neethu V

Food supply and logistics in Bahrain continue to function without disruption, despite ongoing regional uncertainties, according to officials and market vendors.

Recent geopolitical developments have prompted some public concern regarding the supply of essential food items. To gauge the situation, The Daily Tribune spoke to several vendors and local markets, all provided reassurance that supply has not been disrupted.

A vendor at Manama's Central Market said vegetables such as tomatoes, cabbage, onions, lettuce, and others continue to arrive via Saudi Arabia, ensuring steady availability. He added that supply movement has remained consistent, with goods reaching the market without delays.

Other retailers and local markets across Bahrain echoed the



MOIC teams conducted an inspection visit to Bahrain Flour Mills Company to assess food security readiness and supply stability.



Officials from the Inspection and Consumer Protection Directorate conducted field visits across warehouses and markets, confirming the availability of essential food products.

same sentiment, confirming that supply has so far remained undisrupted. They noted that essential food items continue to arrive regularly, supported by stable distribution centres and well-coordinated logistics networks operating at normal capacity.

A local water supplier also confirmed that raw materials for small bottled water, sourced from Saudi Arabia, remain sufficiently stocked, with current supplies enough to sustain production for the next couple of weeks. The supplier added that there have been no supply issues so far, with operations and distribution continuing as normal.

However, consumers continue to report normal availability of everyday essentials across outlets, with shelves remaining well-stocked in key grocery categories.

Meanwhile, His Excellency Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce, and the ministry team conduct regular inspection visits to markets, production facilities, and warehouses to ensure supply chain continuity and stability.

## Major Legislative Push

MPs weigh the cost of living, urban policy, and economic reforms in a key parliamentary session

TDI| Manama  
Mohammed Darwish & Hasan Barakat

### Joint Committee Leads Manama Souq Redevelopment Efforts

Private-sector representatives are actively involved in plans to redevelop the historic Manama Souq, Tourism Minister Fatima Al Sairafi told MPs.

She said traders were consulted from the early planning stage, and their feedback and proposals were incorporated to ensure strong outcomes for the project.

The redevelopment is part of a broader national effort, carried out under directives from King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and overseen by Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, aimed at preserving the souq's heritage while enhancing its appeal for tourism and business.

A joint committee led by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning is coordinating the project, ensuring alignment among government entities and



**“This project is not just about upgrading infrastructure, but about protecting the soul of Manama Souq and strengthening its role as a cultural and commercial landmark.”**

FATIMA AL SAIRAFI, TOURISM MINISTER

accelerating progress. Officials confirmed that the urban design guide has been completed and parts of the redevelopment are already under way.

The committee is also ad-

ressing issues related to the fire-damaged section of the souq, reviewing proposals and coordinating solutions in line with the overall development vision.

### MPs Call for Cap on Petrol Prices

MPs have submitted an urgent proposal to cap the prices of regular (Jayyed) and premium (Mumtaz) petrol to shield households from global fuel price swings.

Led by MP Abdulhakeem Al Sheno, the proposal calls for a maximum price limit, a pricing formula linked to income and inflation, and temporary support for low- and middle-income groups.

Lawmakers warned that since fuel price liberalisation in January 2026, families have been exposed to rising costs driven by global markets. They stressed that fuel is a key household expense, directly impacting transport and overall living costs.

The proposal also seeks quarterly government reports on fuel pricing and its effect on inflation, urging swift action to balance economic sustainability with public welfare.



**“The current system places the entire burden of international market volatility on citizens, and that is neither fair nor sustainable.”**

MP ABDULHAKEEM AL SHENO

### Tour Guide Row Over 28% Foreign Share in Bahrain

A parliamentary debate has been sparked after MP Mahdi Al Shuwaikh revealed that expatriates make up 28% of licensed tourist guides in Bahrain, despite rules prioritising Bahrainis.

Al Shuwaikh raised concerns over national identity, calling tour guides “the first face” visitors see, and questioned possible violations of licensing rules.

Tourism Minister Fatima Al Sairafi denied any breaches, stating foreign guides are only licensed when needed for rare languages such as Chinese and Russian.



**“The current system places the entire burden of international market volatility on citizens, and that is neither fair nor sustainable.”**

MP ABDULHAKEEM AL SHENO

## Parliament eases path for questioning ministers

A proposal to amend key provisions of its internal regulations, lowering the threshold required to proceed with ministerial questioning and strengthening oversight approved by Parliament.

The amendment reduces the majority needed to determine the seriousness of an interrogation from two-thirds of members to a simple majority, making it procedurally easier for MPs to activate one of Parliament's most powerful accountability tools.

MPs Ahmed Salman Al Mus-



allam, Abdulnabi Salman Ahmed, Ahmed Abdulwahid Qarata, Mahmood Mirza Fardan, and Zainab Abdulameer Khalil submitted the proposal as part of efforts to en-

hance parliamentary scrutiny.

Under the revised framework, the process of initiating an interrogation is expected to become more accessible, aligning voting thresholds with other parliamentary decisions and addressing what MPs described as procedural barriers in the current system.

The proposal also introduces a provision allowing the government, the Speaker, or at least ten MPs to request that interrogation sessions be held in closed sessions. If two-thirds of members reject the request, the session proceeds publicly.

She confirmed that Bahrainis remain the priority, with new regulations, training programmes, and awareness campaigns planned to increase local participation in the sector.

# BD120,000 housing finance cap

● For purchasing or constructing residential properties

Hasan Barakat  
TDT | Manama



The Ministry of Housing will determine financing amounts based on the applicant's monthly income, according to a prepared financing schedule.

Parliament approved a proposal to amend provisions of the Housing Law, introducing a new article that sets a maximum financing limit of BD120,000 for purchasing or constructing residential properties.

The amendment stipulates that the Ministry of Housing will determine financing amounts based on the applicant's monthly income, according to a prepared financing schedule.

The proposal is part of efforts to regulate housing finance and align funding levels with income criteria and market conditions.

**Amendment**

The Financial and Econom-

ic Affairs Committee said the amendment would help reduce financial obligations for Housing Bank service beneficiaries and limit reliance on alternative financing sources.

The committee added that the proposal supports developing financing solutions in coordination with Bahrain's financial sector.

The Ministry of Housing had expressed reservations on the proposal, stating that setting fixed minimum and maximum financing limits could impose additional financial burdens on the state budget.

# Month-Long Social Assistance Drive



Volunteers distribute sweets, snacks, and water bottles to workers

Pradeep Puravankara  
TDT | Manama



The initiative highlighted the organization's ongoing commitment to community service and the well-being of the labor force in the Kingdom.

Marking its sixth anniversary, the prominent social organization 'Lights of Kindness' concluded its month-long social assistance drive with a grand finale at Andalus Garden. The initiative, aimed at supporting low-income workers across Bahrain, featured welfare activities throughout the past month.

During the closing ceremony, volunteers distributed sweets, snacks, and water bottles to workers as a gesture of appreciation and solidarity. The event highlighted the organization's ongoing commitment to community service and the well-being of the labor force in the Kingdom.

The distribution drive included several notable figures: Dr. Subramaniam (Associate Professor at Ahlia University), vlogger Jesna, and Lights of Kindness representatives Sayyid Hanif, Fazlur Rahman, Aisha Nihara, and Amina Zulaiha. The organizers expressed gratitude to the supporters and volunteers who helped make the month-long anniversary celebrations a success.

# Seven Years, One Dream

Bahrain's First Licensed Korean Teacher Shares Inspiring Journey

● Success story of Bahraini language enthusiast Zahra Al-Safi

Ghadeer Abdulla  
TDT | Manama



One of my goals was to help connect Bahrain and Korea, so being able to contribute was a great honor

ZAHRA AL-SAFI

What began as a casual interest has evolved into an inspiring success story for Bahraini language enthusiast Zahra Al-Safi, who has represented the Kingdom internationally and returned as a licensed instructor.

Speaking to TDT, Al-Safi said her journey into learning Korean started informally.

"At the beginning, I was not very serious about learning Korean. I picked it up naturally through listening, especially

from media, which made me curious to understand more. So I started using online resources and YouTube videos," she explained.

**Curiosity**

Her growing curiosity soon developed into a clear ambition. "I realized I needed proper guidance and a more systematic approach," she said, noting that joining the King Sejong Insti-

tute marked a turning point in her learning experience. "It was my first time studying the language in a formal setting. It felt like it completed the missing pieces for me."

Her dedication paid off when she represented Bahrain at an international Korean language competition and secured first place. Following her achievement, Al-Safi was awarded a six-month language scholarship in

South Korea, where she further strengthened her skills.

**Grammar**

She noted that while Korean grammar posed challenges, pronunciation came more naturally. "Korean has two systems of speech, formal and casual. Once students get used to it, switching becomes easier," she explained. Beyond academics, Al-Safi has also contributed professionally as an interpreter. She recently translated during official meetings at Bahrain's Council of Representatives and Shura Council involving a delegation from South Korea's National Assembly. "I started as a student seven years ago, and now I have returned to the same institute as a licensed teacher." It feels like my journey has come full circle," she said.

# Stage set for 'National Pathways' training programme

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The Bahrain Institute for Political Development will

launch its "National Pathways" training programme next Sunday to develop national talent across the public and private

sectors.

The programme aims to enhance institutional performance and strengthen professional

skills for employees at different levels, including staff and department heads. It will run throughout 2026.

# Parliament Backs Tax Relief, Housing Crackdown, and New Tax Deal

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

## Tax Deadline Extension



MP Mohammed Mousa

Bahrain's Parliament on Tuesday backed an urgent proposal to extend the tax return filing deadline after widespread technical issues disrupted the National Bureau for Revenue's online system.

MP Mohammed Mousa, who submitted the proposal, said repeated website faults prevented many taxpayers from filing on time, exposing them

to potential fines despite no fault of their own. He called for postponing the deadline until the system is fully restored and stable.

The proposal also urges authorities to suspend penalties, extend the filing window, and introduce temporary alternatives for submissions while technical issues are resolved.

## Misuse of Family Housing



MP Dr. Munir Seroor

In the same session, MPs approved a law allowing municipalities to fine landlords or tenants who misuse family-designated housing. The



MP Zainab AbdulAmeer

measure targets properties used for purposes other than family accommodation, with penalties capped at the property's annual rental value.

## Double Taxation



MP Ali Saqer Al Dosari

Separately, Parliament passed a government-drafted law ratifying a tax agreement with Jersey aimed at preventing double taxation and tackling tax evasion. MP Ali Saqer Al Dosari supported the move but called for stronger

safeguards in future agreements to protect Bahrain's interests.

The deal with Jersey is meant to give firms and investors clearer tax rules when income is earned across both places.

# 'Thank You, Health Workers'

Bahrain Marks World Health Day with Focus on Science and Readiness

Neethu V  
TDT | Manama

On World Health Day 2026, the World Health Organization calls for global unity under the theme "Together for health. Stand with science," highlighting the



**The dedication of our doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers reflects true national responsibility**

LIEUTENANT GENERAL DR. SHAIKH MOHAMMED BIN ABDULLAH BIN KHALID AL KHALIFA

science and cooperation in protecting people, animals, plants, and the planet. The campaign also underscores the importance of prevention, strong health systems, and global teamwork in tackling health challenges.

In Bahrain, the message is echoed strongly across the health sector and academic institutions.

His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr. Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah bin Khalid Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health said Bahrain's health sector is highly competent and fully prepared to serve the country in all circumstances. He said the Kingdom continues to provide healthcare services at the highest standards, supported



Professor Dr. Mohammed Madadin

**Efforts**

He praised the efforts of doctors, nurses, and support staff, saying their dedication reflects true national responsibility, especially during challenging times. He also highlighted the importance of this year's theme, stressing that "supporting science" means investing in research, innovation, and training national medical talent to further improve healthcare quality and sustainability.

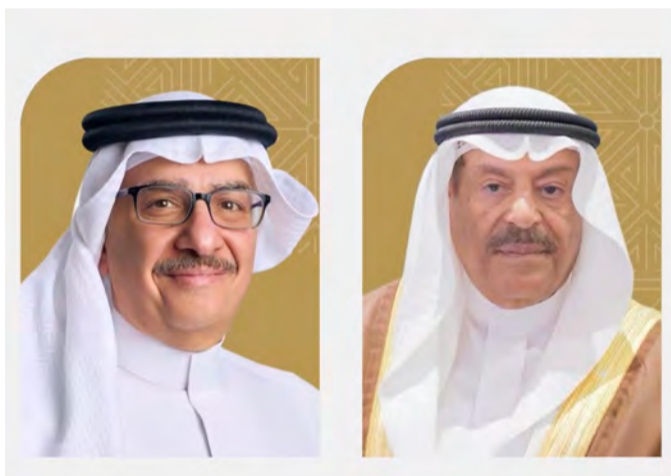
At the academic level, Professor Dr. Mohammed Madadin, Dean of the College of Medicine and Health Sciences at the Arabian Gulf University, stressed the importance of health awareness and collective action to pro-

tect community well-being. He highlighted the university's role in promoting health education, preventive practices, and scientific thinking, noting that awareness begins with education and extends into daily life. He also emphasised rebuilding trust in science through community engagement, with students actively leading initiatives that promote healthy lifestyles and disease prevention.

**Voices**

Together, these voices reflect a shared message in Bahrain: a strong health system, guided by science and supported by people, is the foundation of a safer and healthier future for all.

**Congratulations**



H.E. Ali bin Saleh Al-Saleh, Speaker of the Shura Council, congratulated Nabeel Khaled Kanoo on his election as Chairman of the Board of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its 31st term. He wished Kano and the board members continued success in fulfilling their national responsibilities and building on the chamber's achievements over its 85-year history.

## Family Awarded BD 5,400 in Medical Negligence Case

**Surgical error in foot surgery**

Rehab Mohammad  
TDT | Manama

The Second High Civil Court of Appeal awarded a family 5,400 Bahraini dinars in compensation for a medical negligence case, despite the earlier acquittal of the involved doctors in criminal proceedings. The ruling overturned a lower



Lawyer Thar Allah Salim

court decision that had rejected the family's civil claim related to a surgical error during foot surgery at Salmaniya Medical Complex, which left the patient with a permanent 12% disability.

According to the case details, the injury occurred in August 2022 during the removal of metal implants from the patient's foot, resulting in nerve damage and long-term pain. Medical committee reports confirmed that negligence contributed to the injury, although they did not establish which doctor was

directly responsible.

**Acquittal**

The court found that the criminal acquittal did not prevent civil liability and held the hospital responsible for the damage. It awarded the patient 4,500 dinars for material and moral damages, along with additional compensation for family members.

The ruling confirmed that the family was entitled to damages based on medical findings, despite the earlier criminal verdict.

## Court Orders Insurance Firm to Pay BD 5,500

**Victim sustains permanent injuries in traffic accident**

Rehab Mohammad  
TDT | Manama

The High Civil Court ordered an insurance company to pay 5,500 Bahraini dinars in



Lawyer Sumaya Abdullah

crash caused by the negligence of a driver operating an insured vehicle.

Court documents showed the driver had previously been convicted in relation to the accident, while medical reports confirmed the extent of the victim's injuries.

The court ruled that the insurance company is legally responsible for covering damages under the insurance policy, which includes both material and moral harm.

The compensation includes 5,000 dinars for material damages, 500 Bahraini dinars for moral damages, and additional legal costs and interest.

compensation to a man who sustained permanent injuries in a traffic accident.

The victim suffered an 11% permanent disability after a

**Healthcare innovation**



The Shura Council Services Committee underscores Bahrain's dedication to healthcare advancement and scientific research on World Health Day.

**Diplomatic talks**



Ahmed Abdulrahman Al Saati, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Russian Federation and Dean of the Arab Diplomatic Corps, and Mohammed Ahmed Al Jaber, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Russia, met with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister for International Organizations, Alexander Alimov, in Moscow. They discussed Bahrain's draft UN Security Council resolution on freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, a key international maritime route.



The insurance company is legally responsible for covering damages under the insurance policy, which includes both material and moral harm, according to court ruling.

# Turn points into purpose

IMTIAZ Partners with Royal Humanitarian Fund for Charity Giving



Abdulla Abdulrazaq Bukhwa, CEO of BCFC, and Ibrahim Dalhan Al Dosari, Acting Secretary-General of the Royal Humanitarian Fund, announced the IMTIAZ initiative enabling cardholders to convert loyalty points into charitable donations.

● **Move allows cardholders to convert loyalty points into RHF donations**

● **Creating a positive impact in the community with every transaction**

● **Effective model of community partnership**

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IMTIAZ, the commercial brand under Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company (BCFC), has announced a strategic part-

nership with the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) to integrate charitable giving into the IMTIAZ loyalty programme. The partnership allows cardholders to convert their loyalty points into charitable donations to RHF through the Sahel application.

#### Points to support

Through this initiative, IMTIAZ cardholders can seamlessly donate their accumulated points to support the Foundation's charitable programmes. The new feature enables users to contribute to meaningful causes and create a positive impact in the community with every transaction.

Commenting on the partnership, Mr Abdulla Abdulrazaq

Bukhwa, Chief Executive Officer of BCFC, said: "We are honoured to partner with the Royal Humanitarian Fund, an organisation dedicated to humanitarian efforts and community welfare. Through this collaboration, our valued customers will be able to transform their everyday spending into meaningful contributions that support those in need. This reflects our commitment to empowering IMTIAZ cardholders to give back to the community while enjoying the benefits of our loyalty programme. We believe enabling charitable giving through IMTIAZ points will resonate with our customers and strengthen our collective impact."

Ibrahim Dalhan Al Dosari,



The Royal Humanitarian Foundation was established in 2001 under the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to provide care and support primarily to orphans and widows, and it has since expanded its role to include major international humanitarian relief efforts.

Acting Secretary-General of the Royal Humanitarian Fund, commended the collaboration with Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company through the launch of the initiative, which enables IMTIAZ cardholders to convert their loyalty points into donations supporting the Foundation's projects and initiatives.

#### Model of community

#### partnership

Mr Al Dosari said the initiative represents an effective model of community partnership between private sector institutions and humanitarian work overseen by the Foundation. He noted that enabling the conversion of points into donations helps foster a culture of giving, reinforces social responsibili-

ty, and positively impacts the sustainability of programmes implemented for beneficiaries.

He added that the Royal Humanitarian Fund remains committed to building strategic partnerships with national entities, helping diversify support sources and develop innovative mechanisms that enable community members to participate in charitable work more easily.

## Supermarket deal tops BD1.7m as Tender Board opens bids

Wide-ranging public works worth millions on way

● **Retail and infrastructure tenders progress**

● **Utility fencing tender attracts multiple bids**

● **Coastal development moves toward execution**

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

The Tender Board opened bids for three public tenders and one auction. Projects ranged from a major supermarket lease in Madinat Salman to infrastructure consultancy work, a municipal market development, and security fencing for a utility site in Ras Abu Jarjur.

The highest-value item was an Eskan Bank auction for a 3,535-square-metre retail unit in Madinat Salman, which includes a 2,805-square-metre supermarket and a 730-square-metre service area. The property attracted

### Karzakan coast project set for rollout, work to begin in May

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Progress has been reported on the Karzakan coastal development project, which is moving into its implementation phase following the completion of tendering procedures.

Northern Municipal Council member Zainab Al Durazi said work on the project is expected to begin in May, with completion targeted for Febru-

ary 2027. The tender closed in April after securing approvals from the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture.

The project will feature a seafront promenade, landscaped green areas, family seating zones, children's play spaces, and dedicated pedestrian and cycling paths. Supporting infrastructure will include public amenities such as toilets, kiosks, lighting, drainage systems and parking facilities, along with accessibility features for

people with disabilities and enhanced safety provisions.

Al Durazi noted that the project has been in development since earlier municipal terms and is now advancing to execution. She described it as a significant addition to public lei-

sure spaces in the Northern Governorate, with a focus on safety, environmental sustainability and improved access for residents.

by BD341,000. Separately, the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture advanced plans for a new Friday Market project in Hoorat Aali, Block 741. The scheme aims to create an organised, shaded open-air trading space through a design-and-build framework using a prefabricated steel structure. The tender attracted 10 bids, with the lowest valued at around BD93,000.

Meanwhile, the Electricity and Water Authority received 10 bids for a project to supply, deliver, and install chain-link fencing around its Ras Abu Jarjur site. The work is intended to enhance site security, prevent unauthorised access, and clearly define boundaries. The lowest bid was BD35,432,430 submitted by Raouf Contracting Est., while other bids ranged up to BD104,280,220. One bid was marked as suspended during evaluation. The Tender Board stated that all bids remain subject to technical and financial assessment, and the lowest price is not automatically selected unless all requirements are met.

Mohammed Darwish

TDT | Manama a single bid from Alsater Markets valued at BD1,789,911,900, which the board accepted upon opening.

Eskan Bank said development work at the site is scheduled to begin in the second quarter of 2026. The lease structure includes monthly payments via post-dated cheques or bank transfer, alongside additional service and municipal charges

the tenant must cover from the contract date.

In another tender, Eskan Bank also sought consultancy services for the masterplan and infrastructure design of the Al Sayah Greens project, which received two bids, with the lowest valued at approximate-

Zainab Al Durazi,  
Northern Municipal  
Council member



# Oil rises, stocks fall ahead of Trump's Iran deadline

● The three main US stock indexes were all lower in mid-morning trading, while Paris, London and Frankfurt all closed around 1% lower

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Oil prices jumped and stocks slumped yesterday after US-Israeli strikes on the key Iranian oil export terminal of Kharg island, with investors bracing for US President Donald Trump's looming deadline for Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz or face devastating attacks.

"The market remains on tenterhooks as ceasefire hopes flagged and Trump threatened to destroy Iran's infrastructure," said Joe Mazzola, an analyst at Charles Schwab.

The US crude benchmark, West Texas Intermediate for delivery in May, jumped almost 4% to over \$116.50 a barrel, while Brent North Sea crude, for delivery in June, gained almost 1% to just under \$111 a barrel.

The three main US stock indexes were all lower in mid-morning trading, while



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks during a news conference in James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House in Washington, DC.

Paris, London and Frankfurt all closed around 1% lower. The dollar was little changed against most of its peers.

"The conflict in the Middle East is one long deadline after another and there is a constant stream of promises to end the war coming out of the White House," said Kathleen Brooks, research director at XTB.

"Ultimately no one knows what the president will do next, and this is causing tensions to

remain high in financial markets," she said.

Trump has warned Tehran that unless it allows free passage through the strait by midnight GMT, the United States will unleash what he called the "complete demolition" of Iran's critical infrastructure.

He doubled down on that Tuesday, warning that "a whole civilization will die" if Iran does not accept US demands, though he added that he "hopes" that

## Key figures at around 1540 GMT

West Texas Intermediate:	▲ 3.3% at \$116.13 a barrel
Brent North Sea Crude:	▲ 0.7% at \$110.48 a barrel
New York - Dow:	▼ 0.8% at 46,290.69 points
New York - S&P 500:	▼ 0.9% at 6,553.80
Nasdaq Composite:	▼ 1.2% at 21,725.05
London - FTSE 100:	▼ 0.8% at 10,348.79 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.7% at 7,908.74 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX:	▼ 1.1% at 22,921.59 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	■ at 53,429.56 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 0.3% at 3,890.16 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng Index:	Closed for holiday
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1577 from \$1.1543 on Monday
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.3251 from \$1.3236
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 159.90 yen from 159.68 yen
Euro/pound:	▲ at 87.36 pence from 87.27 pence

does not happen.

"The market has some hope that it won't come to that either, yet that is running in tandem with a fear that it just might," said Patrick J. O'Hare, an analyst at Briefing.com.

"Today is a hand-wringing day if there ever was one," he added.

The hit to fuel supplies from the Middle East has forced governments around the world to unveil economic support measures amid fears of another spike

in inflation.

On Tuesday, the Philippines said inflation jumped to a forecast-topping 4.1% in March, the highest level in nearly two years.

Away from the war, shares in Samsung Electronics rallied around one% after the technology giant estimated that first-quarter profit soared 755% to an all-time high of \$38 billion on strong sales of chips crucial for artificial intelligence.

## Air India CEO Campbell Wilson resigns



Campbell Wilson, chief executive officer (CEO) of Air India  
AFP | New Delhi, India

Air India chief executive Campbell Wilson has resigned, the airline said Tuesday, adding fresh uncertainty to a carrier struggling with rising costs and a string of safety-related incidents.

New Zealand-born Wilson, appointed in 2022 after the Tata Group took over the loss-making former state carrier, left before the end of his five-year term but will remain in charge until a successor is appointed, Air India said in a statement.

Wilson had informed group chairman N. Chandrasekaran in 2024 of his intention to step down this year and had been preparing the organisation for a smooth transition, the airline said.

"Campbell and his team have demonstrated tenacity and resolve and have aligned an organization drawn from many backgrounds behind the shared goal of building the new Air India that is now emerging," Chandrasekaran said.

A committee has been formed to select a new CEO "in the coming months", the statement added.

# Italy's ENI announces gas discovery off Egypt coast

● Preliminary estimates indicate about 2 trillion cubic feet of gas

AFP | Cairo, Egypt

Egypt and Italian energy giant ENI announced on Tuesday a "significant" natural gas discovery off Egypt's Mediterranean



Representative picture courtesy of Haaretz

coast, as the North African country struggles to secure its energy needs due to the US and Israel's war with Iran.

"Preliminary estimates indicate about 2 trillion cubic feet of gas" in the Eastern Mediter-

anean Tamsah oil and gas field, the company said in a statement.

Egypt's petroleum ministry said the discovery includes "130 million barrels of petroleum condensates" and is part of a slate of policies to "support

increased production, offset natural decline and reduce the import bill".

Egypt's natural gas supplies from Qatar and Israel have been significantly disrupted due to the Middle East war, leading

Cairo to enact energy-saving measures including a business curfew, raising fuel prices and slowing government projects.

Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly said last month the war had nearly tripled the country's natural gas import bill, from \$560 million to \$1.65 billion per month.

The petroleum ministry said the Denise W well is now being prepared for testing, after which more wells will be drilled and an offshore production platform built, before the well can be brought online.

Last month, Egypt announced another new discovery, with Apache Corporation, in its Western Desert, which the petroleum ministry said would yield 26 million cubic feet per day.

Egypt has struggled with energy supplies in recent years, having sought to both meet its domestic needs and position itself as a regional energy hub.

## Samsung Electronics expects record \$37.9 billion profit in Q1

AFP | Seoul, South Korea

Tech giant Samsung Electronics yesterday estimated its first quarter profit had soared 755% annually to a record high of 57.2 trillion won (US\$37.9 billion), driven by strong sales of chips crucial for AI.

The South Korean firm also said in a regulatory filing that its sales were expected to reach 133 trillion won in the three months to the end of March, a 68% increase compared to the same period last year.

Samsung has emerged as a key player -- along with fellow South Korean firm SK hynix -- in the supply of high-performing chips in high demand to keep up with AI industry.

# Australia, China agree to seek regional energy security

AFP | Sydney, Australia

Australia and China agreed yesterday to back regional energy security as the world faced rising oil prices sparked by war in the Middle East, both governments said.

Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese held a telephone call with Chinese Premier Li Qiang to discuss the importance



**90**  
Australia relies on imports for an estimated 90% of its refined petroleum products, most of it coming from Asia

of energy security "in light of the current global challenges", according to a Canberra summary of their conversation.

"The Prime Minister and Premier Li agreed to increase government-to-government communication so that Australia and China are both working in support of regional energy security," it said.

The two sides agreed that

high-level engagement was central to a "mature, stable and constructive relationship".

Li said that their economic cooperation has "enormous potential in the long run", adding that "both sides should accelerate the review and upgrading of the bilateral free trade agreement".

"China is willing to import more high-quality products from Australia" while there is

"great potential" for deeper cooperation on clean energy, Li said, according to a Chinese foreign ministry readout.

Australia relies on imports for an estimated 90% of its refined petroleum products, most of it coming from Asia.

China is a major source of aviation fuel for Australia while also being a big importer of Australian liquefied natural gas

(LNG). Albanese said he would travel to Singapore on Thursday to discuss trade in essential supplies such as diesel and LNG.

Singapore is Australia's largest single supplier of refined petroleum products.

Last week, the Australian government halved its fuel tax on petrol for three months to help alleviate rising costs for motorists and truck drivers.

## French couple leave Iran after more than three years in detention



Cécile Kohler, 41, and Jacques Paris, 72, had been under house arrest at the French embassy in Tehran ever since they were freed in November

● **Kohler and Paris -- both teachers, although Paris is retired -- were arrested in May 2022**

● **An Iranian court in October sentenced them to jail on espionage charges**

● **It jailed Paris for 17 years and Kohler 20 years for allegedly spying for France and Israel**

AFP | Paris, France

Two French nationals, who spent more than three years in an Iranian prison on espionage charges, headed home from the war-stricken country yesterday, President Emmanuel Macron said.

Cécile Kohler, 41, and Jacques Paris, 72, had been under house arrest at the French embassy in Tehran ever since they were freed in November, with their fate even more uncertain after US-Israeli strikes on Iran started on February 28.

"Cécile Kohler and Jacques Paris are free and on their way to France, after three and a half years in detention in Iran," the French president wrote on X.

A French foreign ministry source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the couple

left Iran at dawn Tuesday in a diplomatic convoy with the French ambassador and "are currently in Azerbaijan".

Kohler and Paris -- both teachers, although Paris is retired -- were arrested in May 2022 at the end of a trip to Iran that their families say was purely touristic in nature.

At the end of a closed-door trial, an Iranian court in October sentenced them to jail on espionage charges their families say were fabricated.

It jailed Paris for 17 years and Kohler 20 years for allegedly spying for France and Israel.

They were released the following month.

### 'Tears in my eyes'

Officials and their supporters celebrated the news.

"We are waiting for their return to France so we can give them a big hug," Anne-Laure Paris, Jacques Paris's daughter, told AFP.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said the couple were "free at last" and that he spoke with them on the phone.

"They told me of their emotion and joy at soon being reunited with their country and their loved ones," Barrot wrote on X.

The lawyer for their support committee, Thierry Moser, told AFP that he was "overjoyed".

"I have tears in my eyes, I'm almost struggling to speak," he said.

## Lebanon death toll in Israel-Hezbollah war surpasses 1,500

Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanon's health ministry said yesterday that the death toll in more than a month of war between Israel and the Iran-backed militant

group Hezbollah had reached 1,530. The toll includes 102 women and 130 children, as well as 57 health workers, a ministry statement said, adding that 4,812 people have been wounded.

## UN chief 'very troubled' by Trump threats

United Nations, United States

UN chief Antonio Guterres expressed alarm Tuesday at President Donald Trump's dire warning that "a whole civilization will die" in Iran if the country does not meet an ultimatum to accept US war demands.

"The secretary-general is very troubled by the statements that we've heard yesterday and again this morning, statements suggesting that an entire people or an entire civilization may be made to bear the consequences of political and military decisions," spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters.



## United for land, identity, and the future

Indigenous people march towards the Congress building during the annual Indigenous gathering Acampamento Terra Livre (ATL) in Brasilia. Around 7,000 indigenous people from several ethnic groups take part in the week-long protest to demand land rights, justice, and equal treatment.

Trump has announced a deadline of midnight GMT Tuesday for Iran to end its de facto closing of the Strait of Hormuz

# 'Whole civilization will die' In Iran

● **Trump did not give details**

AFP | Washington, United States

President Donald Trump warned that "a whole civilization will die" in Iran on Tuesday if the country does not heed his ultimatum to accept US war demands.

"A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again. I don't want that to happen, but it probably will," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

Trump did not give details but he has already said the US military could bomb Iran's bridges, power plants and other civilian infrastructure into the "stone age."

Trump has announced a deadline of midnight GMT Tuesday for Iran to end its de facto closing of the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow, strategic waterway used to transport oil and other commodities. On Monday, he said a temporary cease-fire proposal being circulated was insufficient.

## Iran reports strikes on bridges, key highway and railway

Tehran, Iran

Iranian officials reported damage to at least two bridges, railway infrastructure and a key highway on Tuesday as part of a wave of deadly US-Israeli airstrikes on infrastructure targets.

A bridge near the holy city of Qom and another carrying a rail-

way line in the central city of Kashan were struck, according to regional officials quoted by state media.

Two people were killed and three were injured in Kashan, senior regional security official Akbar Salehi said, according to Iran's IRNA news agency.

A key highway in northern Iran connecting the

main northern city of Tabriz with Tehran via Zanzan was also closed after a hit around 90 kilometres (55 miles) outside of Tabriz, an official told IRNA.

A Telegram channel of Iran's Revolutionary Guards said the strike hit an overpass bridge.

The Mizan news agency also reported a strike on railway tracks in Karaj, outside Tehran, with images showing Red Crescent rescuers carrying an injured man on a stretcher.

All trains were cancelled to and from Iran's second city of Mashhad on Tuesday following a warning from Israel against using the railways.

According to the ISNA news agency, there was a power outage in parts of the cities of Karaj and Fardis outside Tehran after power transmission lines and a power substation were knocked out of service by airstrikes.



Smoke rises following an Israeli airstrike on the village of Arnoun in southern Lebanon as seen from nearby Marjeyoun (Marjayoun)

Isaac Newton reads his first optics paper before the Royal Society in London

Battle of Eylau ends inconclusively between Napoleon's forces and the Russian Empire, first battle Napoleon isn't victorious



Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom issues an Order-in-Council stating that she and her family will be known as the House of Windsor and that her descendants will take the name "Mountbatten-Windsor"

NASDAQ Composite stock market index debuts with 50 companies and a starting value of 100



A collapsed building is pictured following overnight Israeli bombardment in Nabatieh in southern Lebanon. Lebanon was drawn into the Middle East war in early March when Hezbollah attacked Israel

### Three lightly injured in Israel after repeated missile, rocket alerts

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel's emergency services said three people were lightly injured yesterday after over 20 alerts sounded throughout the day, warn-

ing of incoming missiles from Iran or rocket fire from Lebanon.

In the coastal town of Nahariya, less than 10 kilometers (six miles) from Israel's northern border with Lebanon,

the Magen David Adom emergency service said it treated a woman approximately 20 years old "in mild condition with a head injury from debris thrown by the blast," following rocket fire.

# If ultimatum fails: Trump

AFP | Washington, United States

Iran has rejected US pressure, with state media reporting that the authorities are insisting that instead of just a cease-fire it wants a full end to the war.

In his Truth Social post, Trump left the door open for a last-hour agreement.

"Now that we have Complete and Total Regime Change, where different, smarter, and less radicalized minds prevail, maybe



something revolutionarily wonderful can happen, WHO KNOWS? We will find out tonight," he wrote.

Trump said Monday that starting late evening in Washington, DC on Tuesday, US forces would destroy "every bridge in Iran" and cripple "every power plant" in the country -- something that many experts say would be a blatant war crime.

## Israel army chief vows to 'intensify damage inflicted on regime' in Iran

## White House denies considering nuclear strikes on Iran

AFP | Washington, United States

The White House denied yesterday that remarks by Vice President JD Vance about military operations in Iran had contained any suggestion of a US nuclear strike against the

Islamic republic.

After Vance said US forces have tools they "so far haven't decided to use" to enforce a dramatic ultimatum from President Donald Trump, the White House said on X: "Literally nothing @VP said here

'implies' this, you absolute buffoons."

The post was in response to one from an account associated with former vice president Kamala Harris that said Vance implied Trump "might use nuclear weapons."



TOP  
3  
TWEETS

01



Heartiest congratulations to Mr. To Lam on his election as President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. I am confident that under his leadership, the time-tested friendship between our two countries will continue to grow from strength to strength. I look forward to working closely together to further deepen our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership for the progress and prosperity of our people and the region.

@narendramodi

02



On the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda, we mourn the victims & pay tribute to the survivors. We must learn from past failures & protect the living -- by rejecting hatred, inflammatory rhetoric & incitement to violence.

@antonioguterres

03



Thank you, @sudarsansand

@DrTedros



On #WorldHealthDay We Salute to the all health warrior around the globe. My sand art at Puri Beach with the message: "Together for Health, Stand with Science."

@sudarsansand

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

### WIDE ANGLE

## Rules of War: Does Anyone Care?



JOEL INDRUPATI

Despite the popular adage—that we often use without much thought—all is not fair. Neither in love nor in war. So, are there really 'rules of war'?

Yes, absolutely, says Amnesty International. Today, the codification of these rules is known as 'International Humanitarian Law,' which includes the Geneva Conventions recognized by 196 countries, according to its website. Applicable in armed conflicts, the rules are intended to be universal and neutral.

The main objective is clearly to reduce human suffering caused by war. But we can see that it is largely going unheeded.

The fundamental principles of the rules of war—humanity, military necessity, distinction, proportionality, and precaution—are often ignored, if not totally violated.

The principle of 'humanity' forbids unnecessary suffering, injury, and destruction, while 'military necessity' permits only the force required to achieve legitimate military objectives.

And while the 'distinction' principle requires parties to differentiate between civilians and combatants, allowing attacks only on military targets and never intentionally on civilians, 'proportionality' prohibits attacks on military targets if the expected civilian harm would be excessive compared to the anticipated military advantage. The fifth principle, 'precaution,' obliges constant care to minimize harm to civilians and civilian objects.

Together, these principles form the core framework guiding conduct in war. But how do they translate into practical obligations?

First, civilians must be protected at all times. Even when attacking legitimate military targets, all parties are required to take every possible precaution to avoid or minimize harm to civilians and damage to civilian property. This includes careful targeting and restraint in the use of force.

Second, anyone who falls into the hands of a party to the conflict must be treated humanely. This applies to prisoners of war, detainees, and the wounded or sick, regardless of which side they belong to.

Third, victims of war must be protected through the delivery of humanitarian aid such as food, water, and medicine. Parties must allow and facilitate such assistance.

Finally, these rules must be applied without discrimination—no one should be treated differently based on race, religion, nationality, or political beliefs.

In modern times, for this framework, we must acknowledge the work of at least four individuals or entities—Henri Dunant, Francis Lieber, the ICRC, and Fyodor Fyodorovich Martens. They turned moral concern into legal norms.

Henri Dunant, moved by the suffering after the Battle of Solferino, wrote A Memory of Solferino. His work led to the founding of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 1863 and to the first Geneva Convention in 1864.

Meanwhile, Francis Lieber drafted the Lieber Code (1863) during the American Civil War under Abraham Lincoln, marking the first comprehensive codification of wartime conduct.

The ICRC, since 1864, has been guiding the development of international humanitarian law, linking humanitarian ideals with state adoption of treaties.

Fyodor Fyodorovich Martens further strengthened this framework through the Martens Clause at the Hague Peace Conference, affirming that even without specific laws, all remain protected by principles of humanity and public conscience.

The most remarkable outcomes from their work are the four 1949 Geneva Conventions, adopted in response to the inhumanities of World War II. They mainly updated and added to previous Geneva Conventions (1864, 1906, 1929).

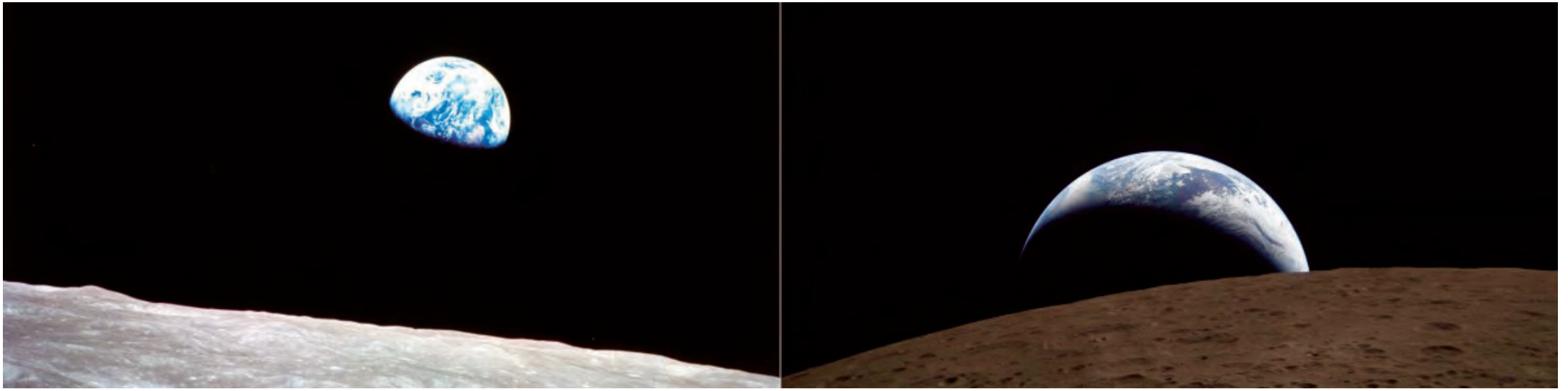
Today, these four Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols, as international treaties, protect people who do not take part in the fighting (civilians, medics, aid workers) and those who can no longer fight (wounded, sick, and shipwrecked troops, prisoners of war).

Yes. This law exists—but without enforcement, it is hollow. War may be complex, but humanity is not negotiable. These rules must be upheld, and those who violate them must be held accountable—firmly and without exception.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

*The fundamental principles of the rules of war—humanity, military necessity, distinction, proportionality, and precaution—are often ignored, if not totally violated.*





This combination of pictures shows (L/R) a NASA handout image showing Earthrise over the Moon made on Christmas Eve, from Apollo 8, the first manned mission to the moon, as it entered lunar orbit and a NASA handout image showing Earth as it dips beyond the lunar horizon, also known as "Earthset," as seen from the Orion spacecraft.

# After milestone-rich lunar flyby, astronauts start trip home

The Orion capsule will now travel back to Earth in "free-return trajectory"

● Glover was the first person of color to fly around the Moon, Koch was the first woman, and Canadian Hansen the first non-American

AFP | Houston, United States

The Artemis II astronauts wrapped up their lunar flyby as they continue their journey back to Earth yesterday, bringing with them rich celestial observations including little-known lunar craters, a solar eclipse and meteor strikes that scientists hope will open doors.

Their eyes glued to the spacecraft windows for nearly seven hours, the team of four who spent their day breaking records and making history were treated to a view of the Moon unlike any other.

"Humans probably have not evolved to see what we're seeing," said Victor Glover. "It is truly hard to describe. It is amazing."

The crew reported in vivid detail features of the lunar surface and later witnessed a solar eclipse, when the Moon passed in front of the Sun.

They also described flashes of light -- meteor strikes -- on the Moon's surface.

"I can't say enough how much science we've already learned," Kelsey Young, lead scientist for the Artemis II mission, told the



Artemis II crew members (L/R) Pilot Victor Glover, Mission Specialist Jeremy Hansen, Commander Reid Wiseman, and Mission Specialist Christina Koch taking a selfie together inside the Orion spacecraft

astronauts. "You really brought the Moon closer for us today, and we cannot say thank you enough." Trump praises 'modern-day pioneers'

But even after becoming the furthest humans ever to travel from Earth, their day was not over: the bleary-eyed astronauts remained in good spirits as they took a late-night call from US President Donald Trump.

Unlike the Artemis astronauts and NASA administrator Jared Isaacman, Trump at age 79 is old enough to remember the Apollo program.

"You've really inspired the entire world," Trump said, calling them "modern-day pioneers" who have "a lot of courage doing what you're doing."

"America will be second to none in space and everything we're doing, and we will continue to lead the whole thing into the stars, this incredible journey into the stars."



The Artemis II team broke the distance record set by the 1970 Apollo 13 mission—which they surpassed by more than 4,000 miles (more than 6,000 kilometers)—when they reached the journey's furthest distance from Earth 252,756 miles (406,771 kilometers).

He probed the astronauts about their favorite moments and asked what it was like to lose connection with Earth for some 40 minutes during an expected communications blackout and even experienced his own signal glitch while calling into space.

"Might have gotten cut off," Trump said as he waited a full minute for the signal to return. "It is a long distance."

## Historic trip

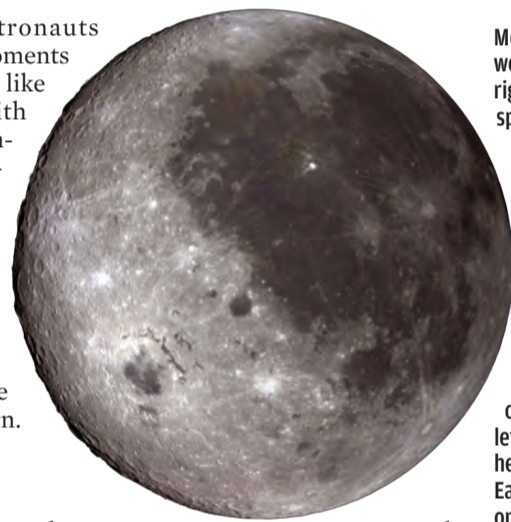
The journey wrapped up late Monday and had plenty of milestones including when the Artemis II team broke the distance record set by the 1970 Apollo 13 mission, which they surpassed by more than 4,000 miles (more than 6,000 kilometers) when they reached the journey's furthest distance from Earth 252,756 miles (406,771 kilometers).

Astronaut Jeremy Hansen said the moment should "challenge this generation and the next, to make sure this record is not long-lived."

And as noted by Trump, the crew lost contact with planet Earth for about 40 minutes as their spacecraft passed behind Earth's satellite.

The blackout period was expected but still notable: they were the first people in more than 50 years to lose contact with the rest of humanity.

"It is so great to hear from



Moon, the near side (the hemisphere we see from Earth), is visible on the right. It is identifiable by the dark splotches that cover its surface.

These are ancient lava flows from a time early in the Moon's history when it was volcanically active. The large crater west of the lava flows is Orientalis basin, a nearly 600-mile-wide crater that straddles the Moon's near and far sides. Orientalis's left half is not visible from Earth, but in this image we have a full view of the crater. Everything to the left of the crater is the far side, the hemisphere we don't get to see from Earth because the Moon rotates on its axis at the same rate that it orbits round us.

Earth again," said astronaut Christina Koch, as the crew regained connection with their home planet.

"We will always choose Earth."

Moon memorials

The Orion capsule will now travel back to Earth in a so-called "free-return trajectory," a trip that will take about four days.

Adding to the historic nature of the mission led by Reid Wiseman, the Artemis II crew includes several firsts.

Glover was the first person of color to fly around the Moon, Koch was the first woman, and Canadian Hansen the first non-American.

The celestial workday Monday included a poignant moment just after the crew broke the distance record, when they proposed designating two previously unnamed craters.

The first they requested to name in honor of their spacecraft's nickname, "Integrity."

They offered a second name, "Carroll," for another crater, which they asked be named after the late wife of mission commander Reid Wiseman, who died of cancer.

"It's a bright spot on the Moon," said Hansen, his voice breaking with emotion. "And we would like to call it Carroll."

The astronauts embraced, and mission control in Houston held a moment of silence.

"Integrity and Carroll crater, loud and clear. Thank you," said Gibbons.

NASA said they would formally submit the name proposals to the International Astronomical Union, the body charged with naming celestial bodies and surface features.

## Google adds Gemini crisis features amid lawsuit over user's suicide

AFP | San Francisco, United States

Google yesterday announced updates to the mental health safeguards on its Gemini artificial intelligence chatbot, as the company faces a wrongful death lawsuit alleging the chatbot aided a user in his suicide.

The tech giant said Gemini would now show a redesigned "Help is available" feature when conversations signal potential mental health distress, to provide faster connections to crisis care.

When the chatbot detects



signs of a potential crisis related to suicide or self-harm, a simplified interface will offer users the ability to call, text, or chat with a crisis hotline in a single click — a

The tech giant said Gemini would now show a redesigned "Help is available" feature when conversations signal potential mental health distress, to provide faster connections to crisis care.

feature Google said would remain visible for the remainder of the conversation once activated. Google's philanthropic arm Google.org also committed \$30 million over three years to help scale the capacity of global crisis hotlines, and \$4 million toward an expanded partnership with AI training platform ReflexAI.

"We realize that AI tools can

pose new challenges," Google said in a blog post announcing the measures. "But as they improve and more people use them as part of their daily lives, we believe that responsible AI can play a positive role for people's mental well-being."

The announcements come months after a lawsuit filed in a California federal court accused

Gemini of contributing to the October 2025 death of Jonathan Gavalas, a 36-year-old Florida man.

His father alleges the chatbot spent weeks manufacturing an elaborate delusional fantasy before framing his son's death as a spiritual journey.

Among the relief sought in the suit is a requirement that Google program its AI to end conversations involving self-harm, a ban on AI systems presenting themselves as sentient, and mandatory referral to crisis services when users express suicidal ideation.

In the same blog post, Google said it had trained Gemini to avoid acting as a human-like companion and resist simulating emotional intimacy or encouraging bullying.

The case against Google is the latest in a widening wave of litigation targeting AI companies over chatbot-linked deaths.

OpenAI faces multiple lawsuits alleging its ChatGPT chatbot drove users to suicide, while Character.AI recently settled with the family of a 14-year-old boy who died after forming a romantic attachment to one of its chatbots.

# Picasso's 'Guernica' at heart of battle in Spain over location

AFP | Madrid, Spain

Pablo Picasso's anti-war masterpiece "Guernica" is swept up in a conflict in Spain, where Basque leaders want the government in Madrid to move the painting to their region, whose 1937 bombing inspired it.

The mural-sized painting has been on display since 1992 at the Reina Sofia museum in the Spanish capital, and repeated requests for it to be moved to Spain's Basque Country have been refused.

The latest demand was made by the head of the regional Basque government, Imanol Pradales, during talks with Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez.

The Basque government wants the painting to be hung in the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the April 26, 1937 bombing, in which forces from Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy razed the town of Guernica to help General Francisco Franco in the Spanish Civil War.

Bringing the painting to Bilbao from October until June would be a form of "reparation and historical memory", the Basque government said.

Sanchez -- whose minority government depends on the support of two Basque parties in parliament to pass laws -- did not reject Pablo Picasso



German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier (L) and her wife Elke Budenbender stand in front of Picasso's masterpiece 'Guernica' at the Reina Sofia museum in Madrid

the proposal outright, instead referring it to the culture ministry.

The ministry asked the Reina Sofia museum for a technical report on the viability of the request, which once again "strongly advised" against moving the painting.

The report said the painting is too fragile to travel, citing risks of damage from vibration or movement.

Picasso's black-and-white masterpiece is the highlight of the Reina Sofia museum, which welcomed around 1.6 million visitors last year. The outspoken head of the region-

al government of Madrid, Isabel Diaz Ayuso of the conservative Popular Party (PP), weighed in on Monday, calling the request to move the painting "provincial".

"It makes no sense for everything to be returned to its origin. In that case we should send all of Picasso's works to Malaga," she said, a reference to the southern Spanish city where Picasso was born.

## Return from New York

Asked about the controversy on Tuesday, Spain's central government spokeswoman Elma Saiz said the government relies on the advice of "professionals", referring to the museum report, and "never resorts to insults".

Painted in 1937 in the aftermath of the bombing, "Guernica" debuted in Paris at the

World's Fair, then was placed in the care of the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

When Franco's forces overthrew the Spanish republic, Picasso stipulated that the painting should not return to Spain until democracy had been restored.

The work was moved to Spain in 1981, six years after Franco's death.

It was first displayed at the Prado museum, then moved to the Reina Sofia in 1992.

Picasso, who died in 1973, never lived to see the painting on exhibit in Spain.

In 1995, Spanish authorities refused to lend it to the Pompidou Centre in Paris, citing the damage the work could suffer during its transport.

# UK govt vows to cut knife crime within 10 years

AFP | London, United Kingdom

The UK government yesterday unveiled a plan to "halve knife crime within a decade" by increasing police deployment and targeting the most affected areas.

Knife crime has risen sharply over the past 15 years, particularly among young people, with Prime Minister Keir Starmer describing the scourge as a "national crisis".

To tackle the issue, the Home Office said in the statement that it would identify the most affected knife crime hotspots with precision down to small geographical areas.

"The vast majority of knife crime happens in the same place and same street, over and over again," the ministry said, announcing some 26 million pounds (\$35 million) in funding to support 27 police forces covering areas that account for 90 percent of such offences in England and Wales.

Those hotspots will see a "dramatic surge in police activity", including additional patrols, new CCTV coverage, the rollout of live facial recognition, and the installation of knife arches to detect weapons. No timeline has been set for these measures.

The government would "deploy state of the art mapping" to pinpoint high-risk areas and direct resources more effectively, said crime and policing minister Sarah Jones.

The strategy also includes prevention measures, with plans to establish 50 youth clubs by 2029 aimed at steering young people away from crime.

"Knife crime creates a profound and often location-based

fear among young people, shaping how they move, socialise and experience their own neighbourhoods," said Patrick Green, a member of the government's Coalition to Tackle Knife Crime.

Additional funding will be directed towards school-based prevention programmes.

Last week, police launched a National Knife Crime Centre in London to crack down on the sale of banned knives and machetes, including online sales of weapons.

The government has already introduced legislation banning so-called "zombie knives" and machetes, often associated with gang culture, which came into force in September 2024.

In the year ending September 2025 there were about 50,000 knife crimes in England and Wales, according to the Office for National Statistics, with the highest rates in London

According to the Home Office, knife crime has fallen by 8 percent since July 2024, with more than 63,000 weapons seized, surrendered, or confiscated, the majority of them zombie-style knives and machetes.



# AI-generated artists break through in country music

AFP | New York, United States

AI-generated singers routinely rank among the top-streamed country music artists in the United States -- a trend that for now is limited to a genre that industry observers fear is becoming too formulaic.

Breaking Rust, Cain Walker, Aventhis, and Outlaw Gospel have more in common than cowboy hats, denim and leather. They are all completely computer-generated, from their faces to their melodies.

And they are all hitmakers. "That's a phenomenon I didn't see coming," said Jennie Hayes Kurtz of the country music band Brother and The Hayes.

"I thought AI was going to be curing cancer or something."

Many of the AI country tunes tap into the genre's archetype of the lone cowboy: a rugged, taciturn, plain-spoken man who, above all, refuses to apologize for simply existing.

Lyrics are delivered in raspy, gravelly voices that sound as authentic as the real thing.

"It's scary as songwriters," said Kassie Jordan, who forms the singing duo Blue Honey with her husband Troy Brooks.

"We are starting to see a lot of people just putting words into these chatbots and it is writing songs for them," she said. "As a songwriter, it's kind of like, is anyone going to even think I

really wrote this?"

Berklee College of Music professor Joe Bennett noted that a sampling of AI singers suggests that the words used to "prompt" AI songs were "not particularly detailed."

None of the producers behind AI-generated music projects responded to AFP's requests for comment.

So how did AI find a place in a genre that is fundamentally rooted in the human experience and storytelling, blending

folk, blues, and even gospel influences?

For Bennett, the emergence of modern country music in the early 2000s -- with a highly polished, more pop sound and repeated "melodic shapes" -- is key. AI models could become adept at replicating such a

sound, when fueled with those elements, he explained.

## 'Superficial'

Once overshadowed by rap and Latin music, and hindered by the industry's shift to digital music formats, country music has nevertheless staged a comeback thanks to a generation of artists with stronger pop, not folk, sensibilities.

Following in the footsteps of country-turned-pop megastar Taylor Swift, today's headliners are more likely to sport baseball caps than wide

Stetsons. Their music breaks

genre boundaries, while artists such as Beyonce and Post Malone win fans and sell albums with their crossover efforts.

Last year, country stars Morgan Wallen and Zach Bryan were both in the top 10 most streamed artists on Spotify.

Some in the industry believe country's rebirth signifies a dulled-down formula designed to appeal to the widest possible audience. "The lyrics aren't as deep as they used to be," Jordan said.

"A big portion of popular country music has become kind of shallow, so that is pretty easy to duplicate."

Bennett says the industry must do a better job of identifying AI-generated music, noting that Deezer is the only major streaming platform to clearly label such material.

"We need AI detection," Bennett maintained.

"It will happen, and there is a consumer demand for it."

Hayes Kurtz said there is a large audience of "passive" listeners who don't care whether music is made by AI, but there are also "active listeners" who attend con-

certs, buy band merchandise, and deeply respect the integrity of the artists.

"That audience seems to really care it the music is made by the actual humans they are going to see," Hayes Kurtz said.

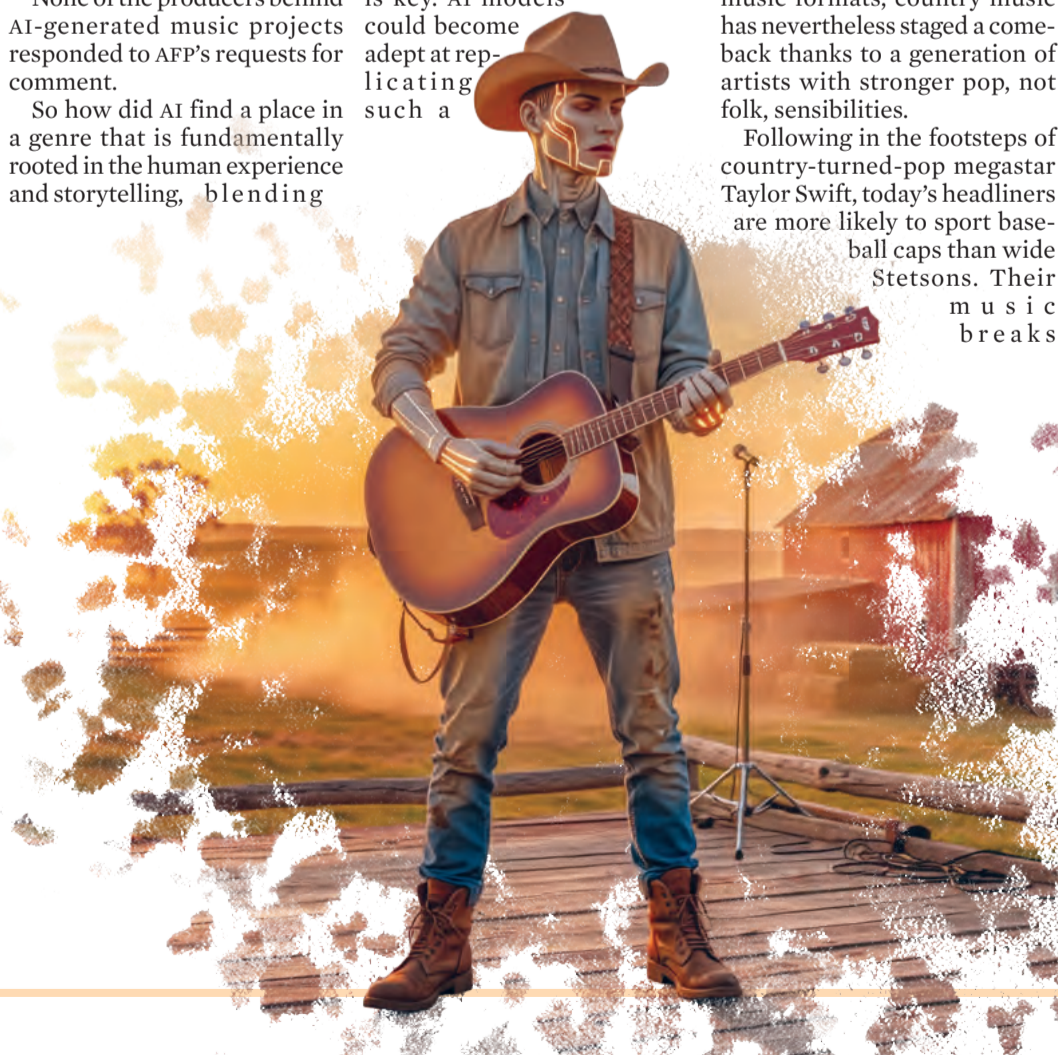
Jordan says she remains optimistic about the future.

"There's another wave of country artists that are coming that is really into doing it the old school way and showing emotion," she said.

"That will be harder for AI to duplicate. That might save the genre."



AI-generated singers use advanced models such as deep learning and voice synthesis to replicate or create human-like voices, allowing them to perform songs in multiple languages, styles, and even mimic real artists with striking accuracy--often without ever recording in a physical studio.



# celebs

## Daniel Radcliffe's younger self wouldn't recognise him now

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Daniel Radcliffe has found "profound happiness" since becoming a father.

The 36-year-old actor - who shot to fame when he was just 11 years old playing the titular boy wizard in the Harry Potter movie series - doesn't think his younger self would recognise the person he is today because he used to be "deeply unhappy" but he now relishes the time he spends with his and partner Erin Darke's three-year-old son.

Speaking on a panel discussion with Project Healthy Minds after a performance of his Broadway play *Every Brilliant Thing*, he said: "There have been times in my life when I have been deeply unhappy, particularly when I was much younger.

"I spent today with my 3-year-old son walking along the street, with him just holding my hand and being gorgeous and fun and silly - and I'm so happy.

"If you showed [current photos] to me when I was 20, I would not have recognised myself.

"There is such potential for profound happiness in the future, even if it's not where you are right now. It's always worth giving the future a chance to prove you wrong."

Every Brilliant Thing centres on depression and mental health struggles, and Daniel feels privileged to be part of the production, particularly be-

Daniel Radcliffe

cause of its interaction with the audience.

He said: "It's the most profound, meaningful show I have ever done.

"The chance to connect with people about [mental health] is really rare. As a performer in this show, you get such an amazing view of how brilliant and kind people can be.

"It's so special and unique. I get to meet a bunch of people before we even start, have a little chat, and then come back to those people throughout the show. I think being able to care about an audience in this way is something I'll never get again."

Daniel previously admitted his son had been a big incentive for him to quit smoking.

He told *Vulture*: "I have just quit smoking - not just anymore, but I'm going to talk about

it, because I would like to mention this book to anybody who's interested in quitting smoking.



## Carrie Underwood stays grounded with faith

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Carrie Underwood believes "faith" is the "only" way to stay grounded.

The *Before He Cheats* hitmaker - who has sons Isaiah, 11, and Jacob, seven, with husband Mike Fisher - thinks it is easy to get swept away by the "self-serving" entertainment business but her Christian beliefs help to remind her about what matters.

She told Fox News Digital: "Faith is the thing that can keep you grounded. When you're in the entertainment industry, there's a lot of things that, and I've said this before, it's just not real life. You can get caught up in a lot.

"You're kind of in a self-serving business. Everybody around you is there to make sure you're good, and you're happy, and

you have everything you need, and I feel like you can start to... you can lose your roots real fast, you know. So I think faith is the only way to keep you grounded."

The *American Idol* judge praised the talent show for having a faith-themed week this week and giving contestants a space to express their own beliefs.

She said: "I think it's for me personally being here on our songs of faith night. It was just joyful, you know, it was happy.

"It was people up there sharing their heart, and whatever that was to them, whether it was some song that, you know, touched them that was inspirational to them or whether it was something that they got to praise the Lord with. It was just a joyful, happy, lovely night."

Carrie, 43, shot to fame when she won the fourth season of

*American Idol* in 2005 and she can see herself in some of the hopefuls that audition for the show, so she loves being a part of their journey.

She said: "Every once in a while, I will see glimpses of myself in a hopeful, whether it's somebody being super nervous or sometimes stylistically, just navigating this.

"This is weird, let's be honest. Being up on stage, singing in front of a whole bunch of people on TV, it's not your everyday kind of thing.

"So everybody's figuring out how to navigate all of it. But I'm just glad that we get to be a part of somebody's journey, lots of people's journeys."

Carrie Underwood



## Blake Lively issues response to judge's ruling in Justin Baldoni case

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Blake Lively has stated that she is "grateful" for the judge's ruling despite having 10 out of the 13 allegations in the lawsuit she filed against her *It Ends With Us* co-star Justin Baldoni thrown out.

The 38-year-old star posted a response to the ruling on her Instagram Stories on Friday (03.04.26) and also hit out at the "online abuse" she has faced amid the bitter legal dispute that dates back to the making of the 2024 movie.

Along with Blake's sexual harassment claims, Judge Lewis Liman also dismissed fat-shaming allegations that the *Gossip* star

had made against Baldoni.

However, Lively can still proceed with claims of retaliation, aiding and abetting retaliation and breach of contract at a civil trial that will begin in New York on May 18.

Blake wrote: "I'm grateful for the Court's ruling which allows the heart of my case to be presented to a jury next month, and for the ability to finally tell my story in full at trial, for my own sake, but also for those who don't have the same opportunity to... many of whom I have known and loved deeply in my life, and the countless I'll never know."

The *Age of Adaline* star explained that it was an "unfathomably painful" decision to file the lawsuit against Baldoni, 42, and urged the public not to be "distracted by the digital soap opera" surrounding the case.

Blake said: "The last thing I wanted in my life was a lawsuit, but I brought this case because of the pervasive RETALIATION I faced, and continue to, for privately

and professionally asking for a safe working environment for myself and others.

"I hope the Court's decision shows others that, as unfathomably painful as it is, you can speak up."

She continued: "Don't be distracted by the digital soap opera. The constant packaging of this lawsuit as a 'Celebrity Drama' is not only irresponsible, but it is by design: to keep you from seeing yourselves in my story.

"The physical pain from digital violence is very real.

"It is abuse. And it's everywhere. Not just in the news, but in your communities and schools.

"If you're looking, my claims won't be the first or last time you'll see example of the extreme dangers of retaliation and digital warfare. And it often won't be directed at those who may be able to speak up."

Lively concluded her statement by vowing to keep "fighting" and thanked those who have expressed their support for her.



## 'It's not happening': Mel B dismisses hopes of Spice Girls 30th anniversary tour

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Mel B has shut down the prospect of a Spice Girls reunion tour to mark the band's 30th anniversary.

There has been plenty of speculation about how the group will commemorate three decades since the release of their debut single *Wannabe* this year but the 50-year-old star has dismissed hopes of performing on stage with her bandmates Geri Horner, Emma

Bunton, Melanie C and Victoria Beckham for the first time since the *Viva Forever* hitmakers performed a series of shows sans Victoria in 2019.

Mel told *HELLO!* magazine: "I can tell you that it's not happening. If it does, it'll be a shock to me, let's put it that way. When I look at that (tour) and at the feeling it gave me, I was in my element, but there comes a time... I'm 50. You can't

be nagging everyone to go on tour if they don't want to. I laid that to rest when I turned 50."

The star - who was nicknamed *Scary Spice* in the band - even suggested that she might not be tempted to tour even if her bandmates did sign up for more concerts.

Mel said: "I honestly don't know. I've got a lot of respect and love for those girls. I wouldn't be sitting

here if it wasn't for me being part of the Spice Girls. They've done a lot for me as a person and in my life. I've got fond memories, but I don't know if I would want to go back up on stage."

She continued: "I can't even begin to tell you what our bond is - it's just something that will always be there. We're like family, our umbilical cords are all tied together."

Mel also discussed claims

that the Spice Girls are set to take part in a documentary - akin to the Netflix series on Victoria Beckham - but cryptically suggested that it will only materialise if it is an "honest" depiction of life in the *2 Become 1* band.

She said: "I think we've all been asked and were all thinking about it at some point. But it has to be done in the right way, and it has to be honest - and not everybody wants to be honest."



Mel B

# “No winners if the war continues”

Qatar warns Middle East war is nearing the “point of no control.”

● Calls for urgent de-escalation

● Warns of regional risks

● Urgent political solution

Qatar warned that the ongoing Middle East conflict is approaching a dangerous, uncontrollable point, urging all parties to urgently seek a political resolution before the situation further deteriorates.

Advisor to the Prime Minister and Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed Al-Ansari said Qatar has repeatedly cautioned since 2023 that unchecked escalation could push the region beyond the point of stability.

“We have been warning since



2023 that escalation left unchecked will get us into a situation where it cannot be controlled, and we are very close

to that point,” Al-Ansari said, stressing the need to end the war “before it’s too late.”

He warned that the continu-

ation of the conflict would have serious repercussions on the region as well as global economic and energy markets, adding that

“there are no winners if this war continues.”

Al-Ansari also called for restraint, urging all sides to avoid actions that could further dam-

”

**“We have been warning since 2023 that escalation left unchecked will get us into a situation where it cannot be controlled, and we are very close to that point”**

MAJED AL-ANSARI,  
ADVISOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER  
AND FOREIGN MINISTRY  
SPOKESPERSON

age regional security and worsen humanitarian and environmental conditions.

He highlighted concerns over attacks on critical infrastructure since the conflict began, warning of growing risks to food security, water security, and environmental stability.

“The attacks on certain critical infrastructures since the war has begun has taken us to the brink,” he said, adding that further escalation could deepen multiple crises across the region.

Expressing concern over the uncertainty of the situation, Al-Ansari said, “We are all waiting for what’s going to happen in the next couple of hours.”

He reaffirmed Qatar’s commitment to defending its sovereignty against any aggression, while also expressing support for mediation efforts led by Pakistan and other regional and international actors aimed at resolving the crisis.

## Jordan King briefed on air operations and surveillance systems



His Majesty King Abdullah II, Supreme Commander of the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army, visited the Royal Jordanian Air Force (RJAF) Command, accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein.

During the visit to the RJAF Command and Control Centre, His Majesty was briefed on the

operations of the Air Operations Department, including its advanced surveillance and monitoring systems.

Officials presented an overview of how these systems contribute to improving operational readiness and enhancing the efficiency of threat detection and response mechanisms within the Royal Jordanian Air Force.

## Cyprus role in strengthening EU-Gulf dialogue

The Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Jassim Mohammed Al-Budaiwi, received the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Charis Moritsis, at the GCC General Secretariat headquarters in Riyadh.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed recent regional developments, including the implications of escalating tensions and attacks attributed to Iran against several GCC member states. The talks highlighted concerns over growing instability and its potential impact on regional and international security.

The GCC Secretary-General praised Cyprus for its efforts during its current European Union presidency in promoting dialogue and strengthening cooperation between the GCC and the EU. He also appreciated Cyprus’ supportive positions toward GCC states in addressing regional security challenges.

The meeting further reviewed GCC-Cyprus relations and broader GCC-EU ties, exploring ways to enhance cooperation in areas of mutual interest. Both sides also exchanged views on the latest regional and international developments, emphasizing the importance of continued dialogue and diplomatic engagement.



## Oman, Kuwait Discuss De-escalation Efforts

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik of Oman received Kuwait’s Foreign Minister, Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, at Al Barakah Palace today, where they discussed the latest regional developments and their wider implications.

The discussions focused on the ongoing conflict in the region, with the Kuwaiti side presenting its assessment of the situation and highlighting its negative impact on regional countries and the global economy.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, reiterated Oman’s consistent approach, calling for intensified diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions and prevent further escalation.

He also emphasized the importance of addressing the crisis’s root causes through peaceful and comprehensive solutions aimed at strengthening regional security, stability, and the safety of all peoples.



## Talks Focus on Gaza Situation

A meeting was held between Ambassador Dr. Faid Mustafa, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Palestine and Occupied Arab Territories Sector at the League of Arab States, and Her Excellency Fouzia bint Abdullah Zainal, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to Egypt and Permanent Representative to the Arab League.

The discussions focused on the latest developments in the Arab region, with special emphasis on the ongoing situation in Palestine.

Ambassador Mustafa reaffirmed the Arab League’s position in full support of the Kingdom of Bahrain and its Gulf Cooperation Council partners in confronting repeated Iranian attacks, which he described as unacceptable and strongly condemned.

The two sides also reviewed



the worsening humanitarian conditions in Palestine amid continued Israeli military operations in Gaza and escalating tensions in the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem.

They further exchanged views on regional political issues of shared concern, emphasizing the importance of strengthening Arab coordination and unified positions on key regional challenges.

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# Departing Griezmann back at Barca in search of Atletico grand finale

Veteran forward eyes historic farewell amid high-stakes clash



Real Madrid's Spanish defender #20 Francisco Garcia (L) and Atletico Madrid's French forward #07 Antoine Griezmann fight for the ball

## ● Griezmann set for Camp Nou return

## ● Frenchman leaving for MLS soon

## ● Barca past still haunts forward

AFP | Barcelona

Antoine Griezmann's Barcelona story ended in the depths of misery but as he returns to Camp Nou in the Champions League quarter-finals, the French forward is desperate to close out his time with Atletico Madrid on the greatest of highs.

Diego Simeone's side, defeated in the 2014 and 2016 finals, have never lifted the trophy and veteran forward Griezmann, who will move to MLS side Orlando City at the end of the season, has not won a trophy with Atletico since the 2018 Europa League and subsequent UEFA Super Cup.

Griezmann switched Atletico for Barca in 2019, lasting just two years in the Catalan capital before returning to Simeone's side on loan, and making the return permanent in 2022.

During that short stint in Barca colours Griezmann missed out on Atletico's La Liga title win in 2021, a trophy that has eluded him through his career.

At Barca he was on the receiving end of the brutal 8-2 thrashing by Bayern in the 2020 Champions League quarter-finals, and failed to fit into the team alongside Lionel Messi.

Griezmann wants to leave Atletico, where he is the all-time top scorer with 211 goals, with major silverware in his hands at last, to add to the 2018 World Cup he won with France.

The first step towards that, since announcing the decision to depart last week, is at Camp Nou on Wednesday in the fifth



meeting between Atletico and Barca this season.

Orlando wanted him to join by the end of March, but Griezmann said he would stay at Atletico, in no small part for a final shot at biggest trophy in the club game, as well as the Copa del Rey final.

The 35-year-old, one of Simeone's very greatest soldiers during the coach's 14-year reign, combined the work ethic the Argentine demanded with immense skill and quality.

"Griezmann is a maverick, it's unbelievable how he plays football," enthused Barca coach Hansi Flick last week. "It seems so light, it's like he's dancing."

## 'Something big'

Griezmann may not have won as many trophies as he would have liked, but has often dazzled with his elegance and vision.

"I hope we can do something big," said Griezmann after helping Atletico crush Spurs 5-2 in



Griezmann delayed his MLS move past March specifically for one final shot at the Champions League trophy, plus the Copa del Rey final

the last 16 first leg, netting his side's second goal.

Griezmann has rocked Barca before, scoring twice in the 2016 quarter-finals a decade ago to send Atletico through and knock out Messi, Luis Suarez, Neymar and Co, although that campaign ended in tears in the Milan final at the hands of rivals Real Madrid.

After Griezmann started in the 2-1 La Liga defeat by Barca on Saturday, there is the chance he may be used from the bench on Wednesday.

For much of this season Simeone has been sparing with his minutes, perhaps tipping him towards the decision to leave.

Another Atletico player who might one day follow the Frenchman's path to Barcelona is striker Julian Alvarez, who is likely to start at Camp Nou and has been frequently linked with the Catalans.

The Argentine caused consternation in the Spanish capital earlier this season when he said "maybe yes, maybe no" over whether he was planning to stay at the club beyond the summer.

Barca, still not in a healthy financial position, may not be able to produce the hefty transfer fee the Rojiblancos would demand, after Alvarez arrived from Manchester City for £81.5 million (\$108m) in 2024.

Alvarez has had a mixed bag of a season, but Simeone has repeatedly backed the forward who is in better form after a winter drought.

"Thank God he is back," said Simeone after Alvarez netted against Barca in a 4-0 win in the Copa del Rey semi-final first leg in February, with Griezmann also on target as Barca collapsed at the Metropolitan stadium.

Five-time winners Barca may be favourites for the tie but between Griezmann's desire for a grand finale and Alvarez's chance to dazzle his suitors, Atletico have the tools they need to cause an upset.

# Bahrain announces handball squad for Asian Beach Games

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain has announced its men's beach handball squad for the sixth Asian Beach Games in Sanya, China, from April 21 to 30. Head coach Hussain Al Qaidoum will lead goalkeepers Ali Ghassan and Abdulla ALZemor, alongside field players Bilal Askani, Ali Al Hayki, Ali Al Malooni, Komail Mahfoodh, Mehdi Ali, Komail Ali, ALSayed Ahmed Faeq, and Adam Nasheet.

The team has been drawn in a competitive Group A with hosts China, Iran, the Philippines, Hong Kong, India, and Sri Lanka. Al Qaidoum described the draw as "balanced," noting the seven-team group offers more flexibility than Group B's eight sides.

He stressed that the early fixtures will help the squad build match rhythm and aim for a semi-final berth, though the later rounds are expected to be tough, with experienced sides like Qatar, Oman, Jordan, and Pakistan waiting in Group B.

Bahrain's group-stage schedule is packed: they open against China on April 21 at 7am, face India later the same day at 12pm,



Bahrain's beach handball team on the sand at last April's GCC Beach Games



The Kingdom's handball team secured silver at the 3rd GCC Beach Games in Oman

then meet the Philippines on April 22 at 5am. Matches continue against Sri Lanka on April 24 at 1pm, Iran on April 26 at 11am, and Hong Kong on April 27 at 6am. Semi-finals are set for April 28, with the final scheduled for April 30.

The Kingdom boasts a proud history at the Asian Beach Games, with 11 medals across five editions, including seven golds.

Their standout performance came in 2014 in Phuket, Thailand, where they won five golds and two silvers. The men's beach handball team has also shown promise, finishing fifth in 2016 in Da Nang, Vietnam, behind Qatar, Oman, Pakistan, and China.

## Olympic champion Evenepoel to skip Paris-Roubaix



Team Bora's Belgian rider Remco Evenepoel in action (file photo)  
AFP | Paris

Olympic gold medallist Remco Evenepoel will skip the cobbled Paris-Roubaix one-day race this Sunday and instead focus on his favoured Liege-Bastogne-Liege later this month.

The Belgian Red Bull rider hinted after his impressive third-place showing at the Tour of Flanders at the weekend that he could take part at Paris-Roubaix.

But Red Bull said on Monday he would stick to his original plans and target Liege-Bastogne-Liege, which he won in 2022 and 2023, to be raced on April 27.

"Remco will stay focused on the Ardennes, as planned," a team spokesperson told Belgian television channel Sporza.

# Maguire signs one-year Man Utd contract extension

AFP | London

Manchester United defender Harry Maguire is set to remain at Old Trafford for at least another season after signing a new one-year contract.

The 33-year-old England centre-back was in the final months of his current deal but Maguire, who joined United from Leicester in an £80 million (\$106 million) move in 2019, has agreed new terms that include an option for a further year.

"Representing Manchester United is the ultimate honour," Maguire said in a statement issued yesterday. "It is a responsibility that makes myself and my family proud every single day."

"I am delighted to extend my journey at this incredible club to at least eight seasons and continue to play in front of our special supporters to create more amazing moments together."

He added: "You can feel the ambition and potential of this exciting squad. The determination throughout the whole club to fight for major trophies is clear for everyone to see and I am confident that our best moments together remain ahead of us."

Maguire has been ever-present for United since former Old Trafford favourite Michael Carrick took caretaker charge after Darren Fletcher was briefly at the helm following the end of Ruben Amorim's turbulent 14 months' reign in January, with the Red Devils rising to third in the Premier League and a return



Manchester United's English defender #05 Harry Maguire controls the ball during a match (file photo)

## 266

appearances have been made by Harry Maguire for Manchester United since his arrival from Leicester, a tenure that includes both FA Cup and League Cup trophies

to the Champions League now in sight.

His form earned Maguire an England recall last month as he made his first international appearances in 18 months, when he played both friendlies

at Wembley, to put himself in contention for a place at this year's World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Maguire has so far made 266 appearances for United, including winning the FA Cup and League Cup with the English football giants.

United director of football Jason Wilcox said: "Harry represents the mentality and resilience required to perform for Manchester United."

"He is the ultimate professional who brings invaluable experience and leadership to our young, ambitious squad."

"Harry, like everyone at the club, is completely determined

**You can feel the ambition and potential of this exciting squad. The determination throughout the whole club to fight for major trophies is clear for everyone to see and I am confident that our best moments together remain ahead of us**

HARRY MAGUIRE

to help Manchester United to achieve regular and sustained success."

## Ex-Arsenal midfielder Ramsey retires at 35



Pumas' Welsh midfielder Aaron Ramsey reacts during a match (file photo)

AFP | London

Former Wales captain and Arsenal regular Aaron Ramsey announced his retirement from football at the age of 35 yesterday.

The midfielder, who spent over a decade in London with Arsenal before spells at Juventus, Nice and Cardiff, has been without a club since leaving Mexican side Pumas at the end of last year.

A combination of injuries and limited match time meant Ramsey won the last of his 86 Wales caps in 2024 and he was overlooked for his nation's agonising penalty shoot-out loss to Bosnia and Herzegovina in a World Cup qualifier last month.

Defeat in that game ended any hopes Ramsey had of bowing out on football's biggest stage.

"This has not been an easy decision to make," he said on Instagram.

"After a lot of consideration, I have decided to retire from football."

"Firstly, I want to start with Wales. It has been my privilege to wear the Welsh shirt and experience so many incredible moments in it. It would not have been possible without the incredible input of all the managers I have played under and all the staff who have helped me in many ways."

"To the Red Wall (Wales fans). You have been there through thick and thin! You have been there through the highs and lows, and you have been an essential and indispensable part of our success. I can't thank you enough. We've been through everything together and it's been an honour to represent you. Diolch (thank you)."

# Manama chases 26th title against dominant Muharraq

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

The 2025-26 Zain Bahrain Basketball League finals tip off tonight at 7pm, as defending champions Muharraq face rivals Manama in a best-of-five series at Khalifa Sports City.

Muharraq, chasing a fifth national title, enter the finals in dominant form after sweeping past Al Ahli in three straight games under German coach Peter Schomers. Manama, the league's most decorated club, are aiming to extend their record as they seek a 26th crown. Led by Bahraini coach Salman Ramadhan, they booked their place after a hard-fought 3-1 semi-final series win over Al Najma, sealing three consecutive victories after dropping the opener.

Manama's route to the final was anything but straightforward. The semi-final series was tightly contested, with just a nine-point total differential across four games and 35 lead changes. Their transition play proved decisive, outscoring Najma 90-32 on fast breaks, while contributions came from across the roster, with different players stepping up in each of their wins.

At the heart of their comeback was regular season MVP Ali Jaber. His presence on the offensive glass proved vital: he averaged 5.3 offensive rebounds per win, scored 80% of his 67 points in the paint, and created crucial second-chance opportunities. Jaber also ranked second in points, offensive rebounds, and second-chance scoring, while leading the series in steals and fast-break points.

The Red Wolves, however, have had the upper hand in the rivalry. They have won all five meetings against Manama this season, including the Khalifa bin Salman Cup final. This result adds extra motivation for Manama heading into the series.

The defending champions also completed a domestic double last season



New signing Donovan Smith trains with Manama

and are now aiming for a treble, having already secured the Bahrain Super Cup and the Khalifa Bin Salman Cup this campaign.

Following qualification, Manama's Mohammed Buallay acknowledged the

challenge ahead, describing Muharraq as a tough and experienced side that "doesn't like to lose." He emphasised that the semi-final series had been demanding from start to finish, highlighting the team's fighting spirit.



Muharraq's Wayne Chism and coach Peter Schomers upbeat ahead of finals

While pleased to reach the final, Buallay stressed that the focus now shifts fully to the title series, with the team set to study Muharraq's strengths and weaknesses in preparation for the series.

Game two of the finals will be played on Saturday, followed by game three next Tuesday, with all matches scheduled for 7pm at Khalifa Sports City. Games four and five, if required, are set for April 17 and 20.

## Sinner and Alcaraz start fast on Monte Carlo clay in race for No.1

AFP | Monte Carlo

Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz continued their duel for the world number one ranking before the French Open as they opened their clay court seasons by crushing their opponents into the red Monte Carlo dirt yesterday.

With Usain Bolt in the crowd, the world's top two sprinted to second-round victories at the Masters event.

No. 2 Sinner took one hour and four minutes to dispatch Frenchman Ugo Humbert 6-3, 6-0. He was followed onto centre court by top-ranked Alcaraz, who took five minutes longer to beat Argentine Sebastian Baez 6-1, 6-3.

Sinner is chasing a first significant clay court title and seeking to dethrone defending Monte Carlo champion Alcaraz as world number one, although the Spaniard said after his match that it was inevitable the 24-year-old Italian would take



Italy's Jannik Sinner plays a backhand return to France's Ugo Humbert

top spot in the next few weeks. Sinner came into the season's first clay court event following his impressive "Sunshine Double" in March at the Indi-

an Wells and Miami Masters 1000 tournaments, winning the two titles without dropping a set.

His victory yesterday ran his

winning streak in 1000-level events to 18 matches.

"It was a good performance from my side," Sinner said, adding the first clay event "is never easy".

"You have to change your game style a little bit, how you approach certain situations," he said.

"I come here with good feelings but, at the same time, not many expectations."

Alcaraz had no such reservations.

"It's been almost one year the last match I played on clay," he said. "To be honest, I missed it. I missed getting myself dirty a little bit."

Last season, Alcaraz entered four clay-court tournaments, winning three, including Monte Carlo, and losing the final in Barcelona.

Sinner missed the start of the 2025 clay season as he finished a ban, but returned to reach the finals in Rome, where he fell to Alcaraz, and at Roland Garros,



where he led the Spaniard by two sets and had three championship points before losing a five-set, five-hour marathon.

Ranking points are wiped out after a year, but as Sinner has none to lose in Monte Carlo, Alcaraz said the Italian's return to the top is inevitable.

"I'm going to lose the number one in the world," said Alcaraz after his win. "I don't know if it's going to be in this tournament or the next one."

"It is going to be really difficult to defend all the points and even if I do, Jannik is going to add some points in this tourna-

ment. Number one is not on my mind but to be my best on clay and let's see how the clay court season is going to be."

**'I surprised myself'**

Sinner took a few games to find his rhythm against Frenchman Humbert, whom he had faced only twice, the last time five years ago, but broke serve in the fifth game before holding to love and taking a 4-2 lead.

Humbert saved a double break point but eventually lost his serve again and the first set 6-3.

The second set was a one-way affair. The Italian did not concede a single game to the Frenchman, sweeping him aside 6-0 in 23 minutes.

Sinner will face either Argentine Francisco Cerundolo or Czech Tomas Machac in the next round.

Alcaraz raced through the first set but stuttered in the second before winning the last seven points to surge to victory.