

Call for Infantino to resign comes in wake of wave of support

Norwegian FA president Lise Klaveness leads direct calls for Infantino's resignation | P12

No.1 Sabalenka and Pegula advance at Toronto Masters

THE DAILY tribune



Battling Norrie survives match point to oust de Minaur

Trade rebounds as imports, exports surge in June

HM King concludes Egypt visit, hails Bahrain-Egypt ties



TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa concluded an official visit to Egypt on yesterday after reaffirming Bahrain and

Egypt's commitment to closer cooperation and coordination on regional and international issues during talks with President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.

President El-Sisi bid farewell to His Majesty at Cairo Airport



following the visit.

Before departing, His Majesty sent a cable thanking the Egyptian president for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to him and the accompanying Bahraini delegation.

HM the King described the talks as constructive and fruitful, saying they focused on strengthening cooperation between the two brotherly countries while addressing key regional and international developments.



His Majesty also praised Egypt's continued support for Bahrain's security and stability and its commitment to ongoing coordination and consultation to promote peace and security across the region.

HM King Hamad concluded his message by wishing President El-Sisi continued good health and happiness, and the people of Egypt lasting prosperity, stability and progress under his leadership.

Al Saleh congratulates Algeria's first woman parliament speaker

TDT | Manama



Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh has congratulated Dr Khalida Boufdash on her election as President of Algeria's National People's Assembly, making her the first woman to lead the chamber since its establishment in 1977.

Al Saleh praised Dr Boufdash's parliamentary experience and described her election as a milestone for Algerian women and the country's parliamentary history.

Restaurant fire prompts building evacuation

TDT | Manama

Civil Defence evacuated a multi-storey building in Manama yesterday as a precaution and extinguished a fire that broke out in a ground-floor restaurant and spread to two vehicles. No injuries were reported. Investigations are underway to determine the cause of the fire.

Mecca defence pact takes shape

Saudi, Turkey and Pakistan formalise joint defence partnership

TDT | agencies

Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan signed the "Mecca Joint Defence Agreement" yesterday, pledging to strengthen collective security and treat an attack on one member as an attack on all.

The agreement was signed by Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

In a joint statement, the three countries reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing regional security and promoting peace and stability beyond the region. Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said the pact was intended to



strengthen collective deterrence.

The agreement comes as Saudi Arabia deepens ties with Turkey, Egypt and Pakistan amid

Saudi foreign policy at the University of Birmingham, described the agreement as a "highly significant development", saying it was "clearly oriented towards Iran" and aimed at addressing what he described as Tehran's growing strategic ambitions in the Gulf.

He said Turkey and Pakistan's shared borders with Iran could give both countries "a different kind of leverage" over Tehran.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Mecca yesterday, the Turkish presidency said on X. Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Asim Munir also travelled to the Kingdom for the signing.

Umar Karim, an expert on

For regional peace

Bahrain says Mecca pact boosts regional security

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has welcomed the signing of the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement, describing it as a strategic partnership between equal partners that will strengthen regional security and stability.

In a statement, the Minis-

try of Foreign Affairs said the agreement reflected a shared commitment to enhancing collective deterrence and promoting peace and security in the region and beyond.

The ministry highlighted the three countries' defence capabilities, military expertise and contributions to regional se-

curity, saying the agreement would reinforce joint defence efforts.

It added that the pact complements the Gulf Co-operation Council's defence framework by promoting greater solidarity, integration and co-operation among allied nations.

Reaffirming Bahrain's support for the initiative, the ministry stressed that the security of Saudi Arabia is inseparable from Bahrain's own security and reiterated its commitment to efforts that strengthen regional stability, safeguard sovereignty and advance peaceful solutions to regional challenges.

Bahrain condemns Damascus bus bombing

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has condemned the terrorist bus bombing in Jaramana, rural Damascus, which killed and injured several people.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs extended condolences to Syria, the victims' families and wished the injured a speedy recovery.

The ministry reaffirmed Bahrain's solidarity with Syria and its firm rejection of terrorism and attacks targeting innocent civilians.

Kingdom condemns Houthi attack on Saudi civilians

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has strongly condemned the Houthi attack targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure in Najran, Saudi Arabia, calling it a dangerous escalation and a violation of international law.

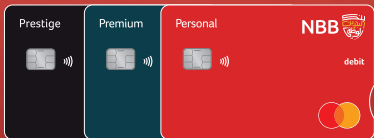
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed Bahrain's solidarity with Saudi Arabia and support for all measures to protect its security, sovereignty and civilian infrastructure. It also wished the injured a speedy recovery and called for international action to hold the Houthi militia accountable and cut off its funding and arms supplies.

The ministry reiterated support for Saudi-led efforts to achieve a political solution to the Yemen crisis based on the Gulf Initiative, the National Dialogue outcomes and relevant UN Security Council resolutions.





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Bahrain Shield showcases GCC defence co-operation

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The Gulf states are capable of defending themselves as a unified military force without relying on outside powers, Shura Council member Adel Al Assoomi said, describing the Bahrain Shield exercise as a strong deterrent to regional threats.

He said the drill, held amid heightened tensions across the Arabian Gulf, demonstrated the GCC's ability to respond collectively to any aggression. His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's participation alongside forces from fellow GCC states underscored the region's commitment to joint defence.

'Bahrain and the Gulf coun-



The goal here is not confrontation, but rather imposing a reality that forces the other party to respect the principles of good neighbourliness

ADEL AL ASSOOMI, SHURA COUNCIL MEMBER

tries possess the will and the ability to protect themselves by themselves,' Mr Al Assoomi said.

He said the exercise showed the GCC had progressed beyond military co-ordination to operational integration, with member states now operating under a unified combat doctrine and joint command.

'The GCC has moved beyond the stage of co-ordination to the stage of operational integration,' he said.

Mr Al Assoomi described Bahrain Shield as a practical demonstration of the GCC's collective security principle, under which an attack on one member is treated as an attack on all.

'The Bahrain Shield exercise is a practical translation of the principle of collective security,' he said.

He said His Majesty the King's remarks on Iran's conduct reinforced the need to strengthen regional defence by integrating land, sea, air, space and cyber capabilities to enhance deterrence.

Despite the military preparedness, he stressed that the GCC remained committed to peace.

'The goal here is not confrontation, but rather imposing a reality that forces the other party to respect the principles of good neighbourliness,' he said.

Military strength would support diplomacy and help preserve regional stability.

'Power here is a tool for peace-making,' Mr Al Assoomi said.

BNA photographer wins Prime Minister's Award for Journalism for Best Photography



The award-winning photograph
TDT | Manama

BNA photographer Mohammed Abdulrahman Al Mulla has won the Prime Minister's Journalism Award for Best Photography in its 10th edition, held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Speaking about the winning photograph, Al Mulla said it captured a significant national moment featuring His Majesty the King, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, during a military event.

He said the award recognised the vital role of press photography in conveying national media messages and



described the honour as an incentive to continue striving for excellence in his profession.

Smart ID now mandatory for non-emergency hospital care

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Patients seeking non-emergency treatment at Government Hospitals must now present a valid smart identity card, either physically or through the Hukoomati app, before receiving healthcare services.

The new requirement, announced on Government Hospitals' official Instagram ac-



count, is intended to strengthen patient verification, improve registration accuracy and support Bahrain's digital transformation. Hospital officials

urged patients to ensure their smart ID is valid and readily available before arriving for appointments, saying the measure would streamline registration, reduce waiting times and improve administrative efficiency.

Patients unable to provide valid identification may not receive non-emergency treatment until their identity is verified in line with regulations.

The requirement does not apply to emergency cases, with hospitals confirming that urgent and life-saving treatment will continue to be provided immediately under existing healthcare laws.

Officials said standardising identity verification through the smart ID would help maintain accurate medical records, simplify hospital procedures and enhance the overall patient experience.

Lost @ sea: Diver recovers 200 phones

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

For most people, a mobile phone slipping into the sea is gone for good. But for Captain Abdulaziz Al Hamad, it is often just the start of a search. Over the past seven years, the Bahraini diver has recovered more than 200 phones, with seven out of every 10 still working when returned to their owners.

A certified diving and first-aid instructor, Al Hamad has also recovered bags, passports and other valuables lost during boat trips and beach outings, often returning belongings

their owners believed were gone forever.

Some searches are over within 10 minutes. Others keep him underwater for as long as three hours.

Success, he said, depends largely on how accurately the owner can identify where the item entered the water. Knowing the boat's position, its direction of travel and the exact point where the object fell can dramatically narrow the search.

One call came from a Saudi family whose bag had fallen overboard during a sea trip. Inside were their passports.

Al Hamad searched the area, found

Seven in 10 recovered phones still worked

the bag and returned the documents.

'It is a great feeling when people think something is gone for ever and you bring it back', he said.

Items whose owners cannot be traced are handed over to the relevant authorities.

Al Hamad has been diving for 14 years. His fascination with the underwater world began when he was 14 after trying scuba diving during a family outing. The experience inspired him to become an instructor.

Requests to recover lost phones came years later. As word spread among boat owners and beachgoers, the calls

steadily increased.

Despite the growing demand, he believes patience is one of a diver's greatest strengths.

'Diving needs calm', he said. 'Most trouble underwater comes from fear or from a diver failing to follow what he was taught.'

Panic, he said, clouds judgement, wastes air and can endanger both the diver and those around them.

He also sought to dispel common fears about sharks and other marine life.

Marine animals do not see divers as prey, he said, but will defend themselves if people venture too close or intrude into their territory.

'Any sea animal will defend itself in its own area', he said. 'The diver must keep a safe distance and show respect.'

Of all the underwater experiences he has had, wreck diving remains his greatest passion.

For Al Hamad, a shipwreck is more than steel resting on the seabed. It is a piece of history that still carries traces of the lives once lived on board.

'Every wreck has a story', he said.

One of his most memorable dives was at the Salem Express, the ferry that sank in the Red Sea in 1991.

Personal belongings still scattered around the wreck serve as poignant reminders of the lives lost, turning the dive into a journey through both history and memory.

Over time, the wreck has also become home to coral and marine life, where nature has transformed tragedy into a thriving underwater ecosystem.

Al Hamad said this hidden world is why diving has never felt like just a sport.

It demands patience, discipline and respect for the sea, while offering a glimpse of places that few people will ever have the chance to see.



A recovered phone: Bahrain Bay



Recovered diamond wedding ring



Trade rebounds as imports, exports surge in June

First-half figures show strong recovery, with aluminium and gold driving trade

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's trade rebounded strongly in June, with imports and exports both rising by more than BD60 million from the previous month, signalling a stronger finish to the first half of 2026.

Imports rose to BD372.47 million in June from BD311.66m in May, their highest level since February. National-origin exports climbed to BD258.99m from BD206.84m, while re-exports increased to BD53.79m from BD42.39m, lifting total exports to BD312.78m from BD249.23m.

The June rebound followed a weaker May and marked the third consecutive monthly rise in imports after the sharp decline recorded in March.

January remained the strongest month of the first half, with imports reaching BD527.83m, national-origin exports BD335.83m and re-exports BD76.77m, taking total exports to BD412.60m.

February followed closely, with imports of BD523.07m, national-origin exports of BD326.38m, re-exports of BD71.3m and total exports of BD396.88m.

Trade fell sharply in March, when imports dropped to BD221.06m, the lowest level of the six-month period. Re-exports also hit a first-half low of BD17.45m, while national-origin exports stood at BD250.25m, bringing total exports to BD267.70m.

Activity recovered in April. Imports rose to BD287.69m, national-origin exports reached about BD265m and re-exports BD51.57m, taking total exports to BD316.58m.

In May, imports increased further to BD311.66m, but exports weakened. National-origin exports fell to BD206.84m, re-exports to BD42.39m, leaving total exports at BD249.23m before June's recovery.

Overall figures

Overall, imports exceeded BD500m in January and February before plunging in March

BAHRAIN TRADE REBOUNDS IN JUNE

Imports and exports rise by more than BD60m from May, ending first half of 2026 on a strong note



Maradona's 'Hand of God' ball heads to US auction

AFP | New York, United States

The soccer ball that Diego Maradona used to score his notorious "Hand of God" goal during Argentina's win over England in the 1986 World Cup is expected to sell for \$10 million at a US auction this month.

Maradona's goal in the quarter-final match saw him illegally punch the ball into the net -- a foul missed by the referee.

After the match, the Argentine star said his goal was scored "a little with the head of Maradona and a little with the hand of God." His nation went on to win the World Cup.

Heritage Auctions, based in Texas, expects the ball will



sell for eight figures when it goes under the hammer from August 21 to 23, with a \$2.5 million opening bid.

Dollar drops, stocks climb as weak US jobs data eases rate fears

Key figures around 1545 GMT

New York - DOW:	▲ 0.2% at 53,988.24 points
New York - S&P 500:	▲ 0.6% at 7,757.62
New York - Nasdaq:	▲ 1.3% at 26,694.00
London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.3% at 10,901.09 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.2% at 8,714.93 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX:	▲ 0.7% at 26,319.45 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 0.1% at 65,606.71 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▲ 0.5% at 25,668.03 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 1.0% at 3,940.04 (close)
Brent North Sea Crude:	▲ 1.4% at \$83.60 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ 1.2% at \$78.25 per barrel

AFP | London, United Kingdom

The dollar fell sharply Friday after the US economy shed thousands of jobs in July, an economic blow that lowered the risk of an interest rate hike by the Federal Reserve that could slow growth in the world's biggest economy.

Stocks gained on the report that showed 23,000 jobs were lost last month, confounding expectations that 80,000 to 100,000 new posts would be created.

Nearly every European market closed higher, with Paris, Frankfurt and Milan again reaching all-time highs, and Wall Street indices once more flirting with records for the Dow and S&P 500.

Combined with steep downward revisions to US jobs readings in May and June, the data is "likely to revive concerns among Fed officials about the

health of the labour market and make them less inclined to commit to near-term tightening", said Thomas Ryan, an economist at Capital Economics.

Stocks have powered ahead in recent sessions, fuelled largely by tech names after corporate earnings beat forecasts and eased fears about when massive AI investments would start paying off.

Hopes for an imminent US-Iran deal to end the blockage of the Strait of Hormuz added to optimism that oil and gas, along with other key products, would again start flowing freely after more than five months of war.

But oil prices turned higher ahead of the weekend in the absence of any confirmation of an accord, amid reports that Iran was planning to block US and Israeli ships from the waterway.

Europe readies for solar eclipse dip in power generation

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

European energy operators are braced for next week's solar eclipse to cause a temporary dip in power generation and have taken steps to keep electricity flowing to businesses and consumers, an industry body said Friday.

While the August 12 eclipse offers a rare spectacle for the general public, it presents a technical challenge for grid operators, which must constantly balance electricity supply and demand to guarantee secure power provision.

"Under clear-sky conditions, photovoltaic (PV) output could decrease by up to 9.7 GW across



Spectators look skyward during a partial eclipse of the sun on August 21, 2017 at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City, New York.

Europe, creating a rapid but predictable change in generation patterns between 19:15-21:30 CEST," said the association representing Europe's power grid operators, ENTSO-E.

It said operators were "ready to ensure the secure and stable operation of the electricity system throughout the event".

They have activated a task force to coordinate preparations, monitor the situation and aid information-sharing before and after the eclipse.

Spain -- where the Moon will completely cover the Sun in a total eclipse -- is expected to experience the biggest solar power reduction, along with

Germany, ENTSO-E said.

The EU had about 406 GW of installed solar capacity at the end of 2025, said SolarPower Europe.

The European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity represents 40 operators representing 36 countries.

With solar now making up about 13 percent of Europe's electricity mix, the group said, its members were "increasingly managing weather-related and natural phenomena that can influence generation patterns over short periods of time".

Proactive steps included briefing control room operators

and warning market participants about the expected dip in solar generation, while "avoiding planned grid outages during the eclipse period to maximise operational flexibility," the body said.

"To support real-time decision-making, local system operators receive additional updated photovoltaic generation forecasts from weather service providers," it added.

The total eclipse is the first visible in mainland Europe since 2006, with the "path of totality" as it is known passing from remote northern Russia over Greenland, Iceland, northern Spain and the northeastern tip of Portugal.

Venezuela's
political
transition talks
wrap first day
in Caracas

AFP | Caracas

US-backed political transition talks between Venezuela's interim government and opposition representatives began in Caracas, a photographer in attendance observed.

The talks are taking place seven months after US forces seized president Nicolas Maduro and as interim leader Delcy Rodriguez governs under Washington's watchful eye.

Venezuelans are hopeful the dialogue will eventually pave the way for holding elections in the crisis-hit South American country.

Notably absent from the talks is opposition favorite and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Maria Corina Machado, who lives in exile and was not invited to join the discussion.

The opposition is instead being represented by Dinorah Figuera, who returned to Venezuela from exile on Wednesday.

Figuera heads the opposition bloc that won a majority in the 2015 National Assembly, the last legislature elected in a vote widely recognized by the international community.

South Korea
recovers
landmines
washed from
North by floods

AFP | Seoul

South Korean authorities have collected 15 landmines believed to have washed over into their coastal territory from the inter-Korean border on monsoon deluges, officials said.

The Demilitarised Zone (DMZ), splitting the Koreas since their 1950-53 war ended with an armistice, is one of the most heavily mined places on Earth.

Some 800,000 are estimated to be buried around the area, according to military data cited by the Yonhap news agency, many from the war – but mine-laying has continued in recent years.

Choi Young-ran, head of civil defence for South Korea's north-western border country of Gwangwha, said 15 "suspected North Korean landmines" were "discovered along coastal areas".

She told AFP the mines "believed to have been washed away during the monsoon season and recent torrential rains" had been found between July 23 and Aug 3.

"We have recovered all 15," she said.

Thailand teen kills seven in home, school shooting

Prime minister says suspect appeared to have planned the shootings in advance

● Teen kills grandparents first

● Five school staff slain

● Suspect dies by suicide

AFP | Bangkok

A 14-year-old boy in Thailand, described as "troubled" and "bullied" by a classmate, killed his grandparents before shooting dead five more people at a school yesterday, police said.

First he shot dead his two grandparents, using his grandfather's handgun, then went to a secondary school in Nonthaburi province, bordering Bangkok, and killed five school staff, national police said in a statement.

The 14-year-old perpetrator also died, the statement said, with a police official telling AFP he had killed himself.

Officials earlier gave a higher toll of eight dead, which had included the suspect, and initially said students were among the victims.

Dozens of police and emergency responders gathered outside the cordoned-off Debsirin Nonthaburi School while parents waited to pick up their children and tearful students and staff comforted each other outside.

"I was afraid that I would die, and I was scared that I wouldn't be able to pursue my dreams,"



Emergency responders stand outside a school following a shooting in Bang Kruai district, Nonthaburi province, Thailand

said Pawarisa Maylissa, a grade 12 student who hopes to attend medical school.

"I heard many gunshots very loudly because it seemed the suspect was on the floor directly above us," she told AFP.

Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul told reporters at the scene that "police interrogated his close friend who said the suspect had been under stress" related to his schooling.

"His actions also suggested that he had clearly planned" the assault, Anutin added.

"The gun was a registered firearm and was kept at a house, but somehow he gained access to it."

The prime minister said more

than 30 people were injured, with around nine in critical condition.

The shooter was identified by local media as a student of the school.

'Trained for a long time'

Purin Khumchoo, 17, said he was among the students who had nearly been shot.

"He was my junior, but I had a feeling that he was a troubled kid. My group of friends who knew him said he was interested in the FBI and guns, and that he was bullied by many other students," Purin told AFP outside his school.

"When I saw him aiming the

gun at me, I thought he looked very professional, as if he had been trained for a long time."

Photos published by local media show the suspect wearing a purple school uniform and carrying a black cross-body bag, with several bullet casings visible on the ground.

Education Minister Prasert Jantararungtong pledged to provide mental health assistance to students and ramp up security measures at educational institutions.

"We haven't checked whether students have brought weapons to school. Our level of security is not that tight," he told reporters at the school.

Floods in India's northeast kill nearly 100

AFP | Bangkok

Floods in India's northeast have killed nearly 100 people, according to an official toll update yesterday, with villages buried in mud after one of Assam state's worst deluges in years.

At least 97 people have died in the floods in Assam that have affected nearly 170,000, including thousands who have been forced into temporary shelters as swollen rivers inundate homes and farmland.

Floodwaters have submerged more than 14,000 hectares of cropland, an area almost one-and-a-half times the size of Paris.

Half-submerged houses, uprooted trees and vehicles buried under mud were visible across the worst-hit district of Sivasagar.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma posted a video yesterday of him consoling the



An elderly woman wades through floodwaters near her partially submerged house

parents of a 13-year-old boy who died while trying to rescue his pet dog from floodwaters.

"No parent should ever have to bid farewell to their child," he wrote.

India's Health Minister J.P.

Nadda, who visited the flood-hit region on Thursday, said the scale of the devastation was "so huge that it will take time" for normality to be restored.

"Village after village has been submerged," he told reporters.

Indonesia traps monkey to end rampage that wounded 18 people

AFP | Jakarta

Animal trappers have cut short the two-week rampage of a monkey that randomly attacked 18 people on Sumatra island in Indonesia, prompting dozens of schools to close in fear.

The animal, an adult long-tailed macaque, wounded 18 residents of the town of Tembilahan, biting and clawing at its victims -- most of whom it targeted when they were alone.

Those hurt included children and elderly people.

"As of today, there were 19 attacks, with 18 victims. One victim was attacked twice," Tembilahan fire and rescue service head Junaidy Ismail said yesterday.

Some required over a dozen stitches and rabies shots.

The monkey was caught late Thursday in a trap set up in town, and the rescue service issued a video yesterday showing it alive, seemingly stressed, behind bars in a cage.

Town official Ari Syuria urged residents to remain cau-

tious as the monkey may have operated as part of a gang.

"The concern is that there may be other monkeys attacking people," Ari said in an Instagram post.

Forty schools remained shuttered yesterday, with three days of online learning ordered for hundreds of Tembilahan pupils.

Doors will reopen next Monday if the situation is deemed safe, the local government said in a statement.

The monkey has been transferred to Pekanbaru, the capital of Sumatra's Riau province, where the nature conservation agency will carry out blood and observational tests.

"We want to establish whether the monkey is carrying any diseases," agency official Ujang Holisudin told AFP.

Human-animal conflicts are common in the vast Southeast Asian archipelago, especially in areas where the clearing of rainforest to make way for palm oil plantations is shrinking the habitats of animals such as monkeys, elephants and tigers.

South Korea vows truth over forced overseas adoptions

AFP | Seoul

South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung promised yesterday to "fully uncover the truth" about the nation's dark history of forced overseas adoptions, months after apologising for the state-sanctioned malpractice.

South Korea was once one of the world's biggest exporters of babies, sending more than 140,000 children overseas between 1955 and 1999, according to official figures.

International adoptions began after the Korean war, sending away stigmatised mixed-race babies fathered by US soldiers and infants born to women ostracised out of wedlock in a conservative society.

It morphed into big business, generating millions of dollars for adoption agencies in South Korea's booming 1970s and 1980s.

Last year, the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission said the government was responsible for abuse in the practice by fabricating records and obtaining inadequate consent from birth parents.

The commission recognised state responsibility in just 56 of the 367 overseas adoption cases flagged for investigation, sparking backlash from adult adoptees and a new probe to revisit those cases, which started on July 21.

"We will thoroughly uncover the truth about... cases of forced overseas adoption that were not fully investigated in previous inquiries," Lee said.



US appeals court orders halt to Trump ballroom construction



Construction of the new helipad on the south lawn and the ballroom that will replace the East Wing of the White House, is seen from the observation deck of the Washington Monument in Washington

● Judges rule project needs approval from Congress

AFP | Washington

An appeals court dealt a blow to US President Donald Trump's prized White House ballroom project yesterday, upholding a judge's ruling that construction must halt since Congress had not approved it.

The appeals court, which had temporarily allowed construction to continue while it considered the case, upheld the lower court's ruling but stayed its own decision for two weeks, giving Trump time to ask the Supreme Court to intervene.

A three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit ruled 2-1 to uphold the

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The ruling allows below-ground work on a planned military bunker to continue while above-ground ballroom construction remains halted

district court order to halt construction above ground, while allowing work to continue below ground, where a military bunker is planned.

"This holding has nothing at all to do with whether the proposed ballroom is desirable, or not, as a matter of policy. This ruling does not even necessarily

mean that the Defendants may not ultimately construct the ballroom," the majority wrote.

"What it does mean is that the Defendants may not do so during the district court's expeditious litigation without securing Congress's authorization, as the Constitution and laws require."

Trump, who has repeatedly complained that the White House lacks sufficient space for grand galas such as state dinners, unilaterally ordered construction of the massive ballroom.

Work on the project began last year with the sudden demolition of the White House's entire historic East Wing.

It is just one of Trump's pet projects to leave his mark on Washington by the time he leaves office in 2029, along with a renovation of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and other parks, as well as the construction of a gigantic arch.

AI Greening & Robotics Can Combat Desertification



KOTA SRIRAJ

Autonomous greening powered by artificial intelligence and complimented by robotics is fast emerging as the new age solution to rapidly restore ecosystems and scale sustainable agriculture. Usually being combined with edge computing and specialised mechanised platforms, autonomous greening initiatives and robotics are helping to combat desertification and mitigate climate change impacts. This shift in environmental conservation engineering has helped make round the clock ecological management a reality. Bahrain can leverage autonomous greening and robotics to obtain control on desertification by deploying large scale initiatives involving autonomous vehicle clusters to halt desert expansion in hyper arid regions.

In order to do this Bahrain can run off grid ground vehicles that run continuously using onboard photovoltaic arrays that are capable of functioning without local grid infrastructure. In addition to this, artificial intelligence driven vehicles can be programmed to evaluate arid terrain, drill optimal seed holes, plant saplings, water roots and compact soil in a synchronised process spread over 5 to 10 second intervals. These efforts can be made more effective by using heavy-lift agricultural drones that can drop seedling bundles across shifting sand dunes, this in turn will keep the autonomous ground vehicles continuously supplied with necessary seed material without depending on manual fossil fuel driven transport trucks. This will keep the carbon footprint under check.

Across the world nations grappling with the debilitating effects of climate change and those having a predominantly desert environment are turning to autonomous greening assisted by robotics in order to keep ahead of the challenges posed by worsening climatic conditions and soaring temperatures. China for instance, is deploying solar-powered autonomous robots in desert regions like Inner Mongolia and the Gobi Desert to plant trees at a rate of one tree every five seconds. The reliance on AI driven greening is helping nations reduce operating costs by approximately 30 per cent as compared to traditional, labour-intensive afforestation methods. Additionally, robotics based processes are ensuring that the productivity is increased by 10 per cent as compared conventional human labour crews. Furthermore, AI guided systems ensure precision depth control for plants and immediate root hydration which helps raise plant survival rates by 80 per cent.

The global autonomous greening and robotics market was valued at \$613 million in 2025 and is projected to reach \$2,832 million by 2034, expanding at a compound annual growth rate of 18.5% during the forecast period. This incredible growth is understandable given the financial savings this concept can generate besides conserving the environment. Bahrain must ride the wave of this emerging trend and leverage the same in order to stem desertification rate and economically accelerate greening initiatives.

(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)

Greek mayor among three charged over wildfire near Athens

AFP | Athens

Greek authorities placed a town mayor who owns an electrical company and two others in pre-trial detention today after charging them with arson over a wildfire that ravaged large areas near Athens last week.

Investigators believe the blaze started on 31 July with a spark from power cables at a wind farm near Agios Vasileios, a seaside village at the foot of a mountain 85km (50 miles) northwest of Athens.

Giannis Apostolou, mayor of the small town of Stylida around 140km northwest of the capital, owns an electrical installation company linked to the wind farm.

Investigators are accusing him, a contractor for his com-



Heavy smoke rises from a wildfire in the area of Porto Germeno

pany and the owner of the wind farm itself of arson and damaging public utilities, Greek media

reported. All three could face more than 10 years in jail if convicted.

Greece's ANA news agency reported today that the authorities had decided to suspend operations at the wind farm, which is on the border between the regions of Boeotia and Attica.

Fanned by wind gusts of up to 130km/h, the fire quickly spread from an overhead medium-voltage power line towards the southern slopes of Mount Kithairon and reached a town about 40km from Athens.

The owner of the wind turbines is accused of failing to clear the vegetation. A fire had already broken out on the same power line on 27 June, according to ANA.

At the time of the wind farm's installation more than 10 years ago, residents had unsuccessfully attempted to block it through

legal action.

In addition to the forest, scrubland and olive groves ravaged by the fire, more than 120 buildings and homes were damaged in the seaside resort of Porto Germeno, on the shores of the Gulf of Corinth.

Since the end of July, Greece has suffered dozens of blazes that have left five people dead, including three firefighters.

Two crew members of a helicopter fighting the flames also perished in a collision with another aircraft.

Scientists have long warned that human-made climate change is making periods of extreme heat and drought longer-lasting, more frequent and more intense, creating tinderbox-like conditions for wildfires to spread in.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Attacks on shipping routes, from the Strait of Hormuz to the Black Sea, are disrupting food supply chains and driving up hunger worldwide. People suffer and humanitarian operations are put at risk. I spoke to @CNN about this worrying trend.

@WFPChief

02



Our immigration system has been exploited by those who treat citizenship as a commercial transaction, not a sacred bond. President Trump is taking bold steps to combat birth tourism and restore our sovereignty. A serious nation owes its citizens nothing less.

@JDVance

03



All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.

@GavinNewsom

04



Europe always chooses science and partnership. Japan too. Japan is now officially associated with Horizon Europe. This means Japanese researchers and organisations can take part in the world's largest public research and innovation programme. Let's break new frontiers together.

@vonderleyen

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

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email : advt@newsofbahrain.com

VACANCIES AVAILABLE

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LULU BAHRAIN HYPERMARKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17558558 or careers@bh.lulumea.com

JAHANZAIB JAHANGIR SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33702159 or usmansanaullah5656@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING COMPANY W.L.L CLEANTEC has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36636640 or HANANKHALAF84@GMAIL.COM

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING COMPANY W.L.L CLEANTEC has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36636640 or HANANKHALAF84@GMAIL.COM

BLUE SWIMMING CRAB FACTORY FOR PRE-SERVING FISH has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(FISH CUTTING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33323235 or clearance@jaradahfish.com

NAYEF AUTO ACCESSORIES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36667546 or nafi77962@gMAIL.COM

LULU BAHRAIN HYPER MARKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RETAIL TRADE SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17558558 or CAREERS@BH.LU-LUMEA.COM

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

HRDCO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13303353 or yzayer@hawarresort.com

ERA CONSTRUCTION WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17500331 or hr@eraprojects.net

ESMAELY LENZOHH ELECTRICAL CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830330 or info@esmaelylenzohm.com

MEGROCE HYPERMARKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34491381 or KHALIL_ASFOOR@OUTLOOK.SA

BAHRAIN CITY CENTER TOWERS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17811616 or BMFAQEEH@GMAIL.COM

Serene Psychiatry Hospital W.I.I has a vacancy for the occupation of LABORATORY TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17686060 or ABDULKARIME@YAHOO.COM

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TAPMAAD INTERIOR DECOR W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33340551 or MANAMABAHRAIN096@GMAIL.COM

LULU CONTRACTING CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17720648 or INFO@LCMWLL.COM

CAR BATH WASHI SHINE RIDE has a vacancy for the occupation of CAR WASHER/CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37554404 or CARSHOWER00@GMAIL.COM

AL FAHAD TRAVEL AND TOURISM has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSULTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39767898 or ALFAHADTRAVEL@HOTMAIL.COM

FEDORA CONTRACTING CO WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39311119 or exp.sev4doc@gmail.com

BREAD VILLAGE has a vacancy for the occu-

pation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17737564 or ABO-MOHAMMED_7@HOTMAIL.COM

WINGMAN BUDAYA W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226616 or govt@zainalent.com

CHATELET CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33330081 or CHATELETDECOR@GMAIL.COM

SPARK LIGHT BAHRAIN CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66627665 or SPEEDTRAVELS.TOURISM@GMAIL.COM

SAUDI GEOPHYSICAL CONSULTING OFFICE COMPANY BRANCH OF A FOREIGN COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33326575 or PUBLICRELATION@SAUDIGEOPHYSICAL.COM

THE KINGDOM UNIVERSITY B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13302967 or NALBASTAKI@KU.EDU.BH

REET MANAGEMENT COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3343238 or HARDEEPSARAI980@GMAIL.COM

SHIN GHAR SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34560116 or WAJAHAT.AMJAD91@GMAIL.COM

RED DUNE CONTRACTING AND CONSULTANTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37358301 or NZU.DEV@OUTLOOK.COM

ARROW EXPRESS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38787504 or ARROWEXPRESS.BH@GMAIL.COM

VINS has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17717101 or MALMEER@BATELCO.COM.BH

MUSTAFA SHAYAN MENS SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER-HAIRDRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33786565 or WHITEDUCK-INTERNATIONAL@GMAIL.COM

AREENA CONTRACTOR GROUP CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17245222 or HR@AREEN-AGROUP.COM

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Aayan repair of Machinery Workshop W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38002132 or AAYAN.COOLAC@GMAIL.COM

KENTUCKY has a vacancy for the occupation of SHIFT LEADER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262998 or SSALTH@AMERCIANA.BH

ANNAI ELECTRO MECHANICAL CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13114678 or INFO@AEMCOBAHRAIN.COM

FLOORING WORLD TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33882162 or COZYD215@GMAIL.COM

ABU BAKAR BASRA REPAIR OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33240774 or BAS-RAABUBAKAR28@GMAIL.COM

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FORGE LINE SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34031687 or SADIQKHANNYB@GMAIL.COM

EXELENCE CARGO SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(HEAVY VEHICLE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66701199 or MADNINIAZI1@GMAIL.COM

ON FIRE FOR RESTAURANTS AND CAFES MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the

occupation of ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33102815 or ISLAM.SALADIN@HOTMAIL.COM

MICHA BEAUTY SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JUICE & SANDWICHES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33547534 or RELIANCECPR@GMAIL.COM

AL MUSHRIF FOR COOLING MAINTENANCE has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34440834 or RAMEDEAB123@GMAIL.COM

666 MENS SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33838515 or QAE-DL100@HOTMIL.COM

EMAMI BOUTIQUE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33896800 or WASEEM.DAWN@GMAIL.COM

NAILORA SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of MANICURIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36804240 or NAH.93@ICLOUD.COM

CEB ELECTRICAL AND BUILDING TECHNICAL has a vacancy for the occupation of PLASTER MAINTENANCE WORKER(BUILDINGS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39665855 or MIRZA1010@HOTMAIL.COM

I K 804 REAL ESTATE has a vacancy for the occupation of RENT COLLECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33311247 or TTF336@GMAIL.COM

BAI BAI GOODS RE-EXPORT SERVICES CO BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66991080 or MIRZAMUBEEN1155@GMAIL.COM

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FEROZPUR INTERNATIONAL TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34226878 or IQBALBATTH@GMAIL.COM

SHAMS AL MAGHRIB SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(HEAVY VEHICLE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39533665 or SHAMS.ALMAGHRIB@GMAIL.COM

GOLDEN BOOR CHIMNEY CLEANING SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39950399 or MAHMOOD.BOOR1986@GMAIL.COM

DELTA SUPPORT SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33999840 or Hr@DELTA-SS.ME

GOLDEN BOOR CHIMNEY CLEANING SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39950399 or MAHMOOD.BOOR1986@GMAIL.COM

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qualified applicants can contact 36484758 or ATTAU3421@GMAIL.COM

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QASWA LAUNDRY CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKERS(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17210666 or SAJDUAFI1@GMAIL.COM

Ramee Grand Hotel & Spa has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17111999 or hrs.bh@rameehotels.com

alyarmook travels has a vacancy for the occupation of TICKETING CLERK, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17325665 or AD-ELALMOOSA@GMAIL.COM

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ALQAISAR STORES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17293779 or gulfcity2019@gmail.com

SHAMAS STYLISH MEN SALOON CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36569604 or SHAMASURREHMAN1@GMAIL.COM

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ALANTABLY FOR PROMOTION AND MARKETING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSISTANT MANAGER(OFFICE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34049421 or MOHAMED.ALANTABLY@GMAIL.COM

ALHAJ HASSAN GROUP B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or hr.admin@hajihassan.com

ALHAJ HASSAN GROUP B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or hr.admin@hajihassan.com

KING HAMAD AMERICAN MISSION HOSPITAL N.P.C has a vacancy for the occupation of NURSE(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39748885 or CATHERINE@AMH.ORG.BH

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HASAN ALI MOHAMMED ASHOOR has a vacancy for the occupation of VEGETABLE SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39086555 or alishoor2020@gmail.com

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AL DEEWAN PACKAGING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33751322 or ALSAHARASPC18@GMAIL.COM

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M E BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38008479 or MADNINIAZI1@GMAIL.COM

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ADAM TOUCH CARPENTRY WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36944460 or DAIHAWY@GMAIL.COM
AIRTECH W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PRODUCTION MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17675599 or admin@airtech.com.bh

ADELENA OUTLET has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33300045 or SALMANS200091@GMAIL.COM

ADEL SALMAN AHMED ALMUDAWIB/ ALJAB-

BAR-10083 has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39988208 or edrisigroup@hotmail.com

KARAK GINGER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37211885 or BH.RASHED12@GMAIL.COM

Free Hand Furniture has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33080779 or FAHD.BAHRAIN89@GMAIL.COM

ALNOOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL has a vacancy for the occupation of TEACHER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17736773 or roonlasc@batelco.com.bh

BRIGHT CASTLES CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17001335 or BRIGHT-CASTLES@HOTMAIL.COM

BLUE PEAK CONTRACTING. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33142479 or Faiza@hawarschool.com

Copart Bahrain Auctions W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of EMPLOYEE(OPERATING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 13609090 or Anas.Alkhabbaz@Copart.Com

AREENA CONTRACTOR GROUP CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17245222 or HR@AREEN-AGROUP.COM

Pride aldiar Hydraulic w.l.l has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17375958 or diyarhyd@gmail.com

ABBAS MAHDI AHMED HUSAIN / KABRIS - 9084 has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39191165 or abbas.mahdi0239@gmail.com

ABAYAT DAFIF has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33868104 or HIH2H3333@GMAIL.COM

YOUSIF QASSIM ARTISTIC CENTRE WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 1774030 or ELRUFA31@GMAIL.COM

EM BODYSHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(CARS ENGINES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17574714 or mirza@alzayani-investments.com

FADHEL ALI EBRAHIM CAR RADIATOR AND SILENCER AND EXHAUST FIXING AND WELDING AND FABRICATION WORK SHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786532 or FADELMALLAH@YAHOO.COM

DAR ALYAQUEEN STATIONARY BUKWARH has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33330363 or MAHMOODESA@YAHOO.COM

NEW GRIFFIN CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33171008 or muhammadarshad76900@gmail.com

Al Muneeb Cool Repairing W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33157153 or zubairhunjr781@gmail.com

MODERN SOURCES STORE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36667606 or MORSLON@HOTMAIL.COM

AL-DERAZI BOAT has a vacancy for the occupation of BOAT MAINTENANCE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17732771 or kazam3993@gmail.com

PEARLISH SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39333183 or MOHD82220@GMAIL.COM

Bubbles Laundry & dry clean has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66665501 or bubbleslaundryclean@gmail.com

RIGHT SPEED DECORE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(PAINT FINISHER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33299526 or RIZWANHAMMED3450@GMAIL.COM

MASHAWEER RESTAURANT & CAFE has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39699991 or sara.rent@hotmail.com

FOX REAL ESTATE AGENCY W.L.L has a va-

cancy for the occupation of MARKETING SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38763615 or hani22panorama10@icloud.com

pretty man gents saloon has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37732772 or khalifa_aman@hotmail.com

ZEEZ CAR SPA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33923307 or tahirha-meed57@hotmail.com

ACTION HOTELS BAHRAIN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17235200 or EMAD@ACTIONKUWAIT.COM

RETRO RIDE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33515042 or RETRORIDE.BH@GMAIL.COM

JARIR MARKETING BAHRAIN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17212572 or SM-15011@JARIRBOOKSTORE.COM

JOSEPHINE FARROVINCE CRUZ CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36484758 or ATTAU3421@GMAIL.COM

ANDRON GENTS SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32111454 or ZAHARA@ANDRON.BH

NEDHAM ABDULHAMEED CARGO HANDLING has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38947878 or NEDHAMABDULBH12@GMAIL.COM

GLAMOUR AND GLOW BEAUTY SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIRDRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77085098 or GLAMOURNGLOW.BH@GMAIL.COM

AL SDDAIS GENTS TAILORING has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33770240 or KHADIJAEBR185@GMAIL.COM

MR. CLEAR LAUNDRY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKERS(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66301366 or RAJENDRAKUMARNAIR@YAHOO.COM

SIGNATURE HOTEL (FOUR SEASONS BAHRAIN BAY) COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (HOTEL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17546000 or ali.baqer@fourseasons.com

AGHLA WATAN TRADING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 65002365 or ALAMRY.OSAMA@GMAIL.COM

THE CLOSET INTERNATIONAL CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER(FURNITURE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17555095 or ALI@THE-CLOSETS.COM

ALUM MIA DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34342079 or BNG.BII.786@GMAIL.COM

NICE STAR RESTURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17241014 or FADHEELA-SAYED@OUTLOOK.COM

AL SHAMAEEL TELCOMMUNICATIONS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34575787 or SALMANZOHAI61@GMAIL.COM

WHITE BIRD FOR CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34571338 or KHALIL_RAEES@YAHOO.COM

8T8 CARGO COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33328694 or DARMAN.CARGO@YAHOO.COM

PRO STRUCTURE BAHRAIN CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66627665 or SPEEDTRAVELS.TOURISM@GMAIL.COM

ALZWENY 111 MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35178871 or SAMYRAZK553@GMAIL.COM

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METRO WELDING & SMITHERY CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17611063 or afzal786781@yahoo.com

SAZ GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39439898 or KHALID111@GMAIL.COM

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

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

JUFFAIR BOULEVARD HOTEL & SUITES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35475656 or HR@JUFFAIRBOULEVARD.COM

LOWZY CORNER CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JUICE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33675919 or FAISALAK007861@GMAIL.COM

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

PRANAH AYURVEDIC CENTER CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MEDICAL SERVICES AIDE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34117537 or boban@anithottam.org

BU MEHR WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37777728 or SHAWQI.ALMEER64@HOTMAIL.COM

FAISAL HAYYAT INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33381465 or FAISAL-HAYYAT0987@GMAIL.COM

DREAM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or HRD@DREAMGROUP.BH

BAHRAIN GUARDING SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77996666 or GOVERNMENT@mmre.co

ALMANARTAIN CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON ASST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17590097 or ALSHAAB@BATELCO.COMM.BH

Basma Security has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY MAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727676 or aqeel@basma.com.bh

NASSER SAEED AL-AHJRI CORPORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17310555 or nshbahrain@alhajri-corporation.com

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

BLACK SWAN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36944714 or OMAR4714OMAR@GMAIL.COM

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region

GCC Secretary-General Condemns Houthi Attack on Saudi's Najran Region

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary-General Jas-sim Mohammed Al-Budaiwi has strongly condemned the Houthi attack targeting Saudi Arabia's Najran region, describing it as a terrorist act that deliberately endangered civilians and reflected the militia's continued criminal conduct.

Al-Budaiwi said the attack, which injured several civilians, constitutes a blatant violation of international law and international humanitarian law. He stressed that the deliberate targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure is an unacceptable act that threatens regional and international peace and security.

The GCC Secretary-General reaffirmed that the security of Saudi Arabia is inseparable from the security of all GCC



member states. He reiterated the Council's unwavering solidarity with the Kingdom and expressed full support for all measures taken by Saudi Arabia to protect its sovereignty, territorial integrity, citizens, residents, and national security. He also called for accountability for those responsible, emphasizing the importance of upholding international norms and ensuring the protection of civilian lives.

Prophet's Mosque Introduces New Digital Services to Enhance Visitor



Saudi Arabia's General Authority for the Care of the Affairs of the Grand Mosque and the Prophet's Mosque has introduced a suite of digital services designed to help visitors plan their trips and navigate the Prophet's Mosque with greater ease.

Accessible through the authority's official website, the platform offers a range of tools before and during visits, supporting a smoother and more convenient pilgrimage experience.

Key features include an interactive map of the Prophet's Mosque, live crowd updates for the route to greet Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), real-time prayer area occupancy information, a visitor services portal, the Manarat Al Haramain platform, a worshipper's guide, and a children's hospitality centre.

The interactive map helps visitors locate facilities and essential services, while live crowd and occupancy updates enable worshippers to choose the best times for visiting the Rawdah and prayer areas. The new digital platform also provides visitors with easy access to guidance, service information and support resources, reducing waiting times and helping them make informed decisions throughout their visit. By integrating multiple services into a single portal, the authority aims to simplify the pilgrimage journey for both local worshippers and international visitors.

The initiative is part of Saudi Arabia's broader digital transformation efforts to improve access to services and enhance the overall experience for visitors to one of Islam's holiest sites.

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Musk Bets Big on AI Chips

Tesla and SpaceX team up on a \$16.8 billion AI chip factory in Texas

Elon Musk's technology giants, Tesla and SpaceX, have announced a joint venture to build a \$16.8 billion semiconductor manufacturing facility in Grimes County, Texas, in a move aimed at securing the future supply of advanced AI chips.

FACT BOX

INVESTMENT:
\$16.8 billion in the first phase of the Terafab semiconductor project.

BUILT FOR:
AI chips to power Optimus robots, Cybercabs and SpaceX's future space systems.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:
The project is expected to create more than 3,000 high-skilled jobs in Texas.

Named Terafab, the mega-project will manufacture custom processors for Tesla's Optimus humanoid robots, autonomous Cybercabs and SpaceX's expanding satellite and space-based computing network. The companies say

growing demand for artificial intelligence is expected to outpace the production capacity of existing global chipmakers, making dedicated manufacturing increasingly important.

The planned 100-million-square-foot facility will integrate every stage of semiconductor production under one roof and is expected to deliver more than one tera-watt of AI computing capacity annually.

Intel will provide manufacturing support during the project's first phase, while Texas has pledged \$30 million through the Texas Enterprise Fund to support the investment. The development is also expected to create at least

3,000 high-skilled engineering and technology jobs.

To reduce environmental impact, the companies plan to use water from the nearby Gibbons Creek Reservoir for industrial cooling rather than drawing on local groundwater.

The \$16.8 billion

investment marks the first phase of a broader expansion strategy that could eventually become one of the world's largest AI semiconductor manufacturing hubs.



Samsung Strengthens Foldable Line-up with Galaxy Z Fold 8

Samsung has expanded its foldable smartphone portfolio with the launch of the Galaxy Z Fold 8, featuring a lighter design, improved durability and new Galaxy AI capabilities aimed at boosting productivity.

Powered by Qualcomm's latest Snapdragon chipset, the Fold 8 offers a larger multitasking experience through its tablet-sized inner display while introducing advanced AI features for note-taking, translation, image editing and productivity. Samsung has also refined the hinge mechanism to reduce the visibility of the display crease and im-

prove long-term durability. The launch reinforces Samsung's leadership in the foldable smartphone market as competition intensifies from Chinese manufacturers and Google. Analysts believe foldable devices are steadily moving into the mainstream, driven by thinner designs, stronger hardware and practical AI features that appeal to both professionals and everyday users.



Google Sets August 12 Event for Pixel 11 Launch

Google has confirmed that its annual Made by Google event will take place on August 12, where the company is expected to unveil the Pixel 11 smartphone series, the Pixel Watch 5, and other AI-powered devices.

The Pixel 11 lineup is expected to include four models: the Pixel 11, Pixel 11 Pro, Pixel 11 Pro XL and Pixel 11 Pro Fold. Although Google has yet to reveal official specifications, industry reports suggest the devices will feature the new Tensor G6 processor, enhanced on-device artificial intelligence, improved

cameras and brighter displays.

Google is also expected to showcase updates to its Gemini AI platform, bringing smarter writing, search and productivity features across the Pixel ecosystem. The company may also preview new Android capabilities designed to deliver faster and more personalised user experiences.

The August launch comes ahead of Apple's expected iPhone announcement later this



year, setting the stage for renewed competition in the premium smartphone market as major technology companies continue to make artificial intelligence a key selling point.

AI CORNER

AI Agents Are Becoming More Than Just Chatbots

Artificial intelligence is entering a new phase, with tech companies developing AI agents that can do much more than answer questions. Unlike traditional chatbots, these advanced systems can browse the internet, analyse documents, write reports, organise calendars and even complete tasks that require several steps—all with very little input from the user.

The goal is to turn AI into a true digital assistant that can help people save time on everyday work. Businesses are already using AI agents to streamline customer support, software development and research, while individuals are relying on them for writing,



trip planning, studying and managing daily schedules.

As competition in the AI industry continues to grow, experts believe these intelligent assistants will soon become a regular part of everyday life.

While the technology promises greater productivity and convenience, developers are also focusing on making AI systems safe, transparent and keeping users in control of important decisions.

The Computer That Took Humans to the Moon Was Less Powerful Than Your Smartphone



When NASA's Apollo 11 mission landed astronauts on the Moon in 1969, the onboard Apollo Guidance Computer (AGC) had just 64 KB of memory and operated at a speed of 1.024 MHz. By comparison, even an entry-level smartphone today has millions of times more processing power and several gigabytes of memory.

Despite its modest specifications, the AGC was one of the most advanced computers of its time. It guided the spacecraft through space, calculated the landing trajectory and helped astronauts safely touch down on the lunar surface. During the final descent, the computer even prioritised critical tasks when overloaded, allowing the mission to continue successfully.

The Apollo Guidance Computer proved that innovative software and efficient engineering can achieve extraordinary results—even with limited hardware. Today, it remains one of the greatest milestones in the history of computing and space exploration.

DID YOU KNOW?

TECH FACTS THAT MIGHT SURPRISE YOU!

UNBOXING

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PROS

- Excellent image quality with 1-inch CMOS sensor
- New 3x telephoto camera adds creative flexibility
- Industry-leading 3-axis mechanical stabilization
- Compact, lightweight and pocket-friendly design
- Bright rotating touchscreen for vertical and horizontal shooting
- Long battery life (up to 210 minutes)
- Supports DJI Mic for professional-quality audio

CONS

- Premium price compared to action cameras
- Limited optical zoom beyond the telephoto lens
- Not ideal for extreme sports without additional accessories
- Internal storage not expandable on the device itself (microSD required)

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No.1 Sabalenka and Pegula advance at Toronto Masters

Sabalenka sets up Alexandrova clash as leading seeds maintain winning runs

- Swiatek dominates Golubic
- Kostyuk upsets Keys

AFP | Toronto

Top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka advanced to the fourth round of the WTA Toronto Masters by defeating China's Zhang Shuai 6-3, 6-4. The 28-year-old reigning US Open champion from Belarus, a four-time Grand Slam winner, dropped only seven points on her first serve to advance in 76 minutes. Sabalenka, with a 38-6 record and three titles this year, struggled to find a rhythm in her return games early. "I was trying to step in and then I would step back and nothing really clicked," she said. "In the end I finally started moving a little bit better and finding my rhythm so I'm really happy at the end it really clicked." Sabalenka said she enjoys being atop the rankings, a spot she has held for more than 100



Aryna Sabalenka is returns a shot to Shuai Zhang of China

weeks in her career. "I love it. It just means I'm ahead and they have to come up with something crazy to play such tennis and I'm only getting better from that," Sabalenka said. "I enjoy being the one being chased. It's really fun. It's tough challenges but I love to go through it and it makes me stronger." Sabalenka next plays against Russian 16th seed Ekaterina Alexandrova, who eliminated Australian Talia Gibson 5-7, 6-1, 6-3.

100

weeks is the milestone career duration top-seeded Aryna Sabalenka has spent atop the WTA world rankings

“I enjoy being the one being chased. It’s really fun. It’s tough challenges but I love to go through it and it makes me stronger”

ARYNA SABALENKA

Sabalenka leads their personal rivalry 5-4 thanks to a victory this year on Berlin grass, but Alexandrova won their most recent hardcourt match in a third-set tie-breaker last year at Doha. "Great player. Super aggressive. Fast game. Always have to stay low," Sabalenka said. "It's always great battles and a lot of things to work on." American third seed Jessica Pegula advanced to the round of 16 by defeating Uzbekistan's Kamilla Rakhimova 6-4, 6-0 in 68 minutes. Pegula will play for a quarter-final berth against Russian 15th seed Diana Shnaider, who eliminated compatriot Anna Kalinskaya 6-3, 6-3, in 77 minutes. Polish seventh seed Iga Swiatek advanced with a 6-2, 6-1 romp over Swiss Viktorija Golubic in 66 minutes, landing 18 winners and losing only 14 points on her serve. "For sure it was a good day and I'm really happy with the way I played," Swiatek said. Swiatek countered Golubic's versatile shots by forcing the match tempo. "I played back her slice pretty well so the change of rhythm didn't bother me that much," Swiatek said. "I tried to pick the right balls to attack because I was controlling the pace. It was just about the decision making." She next faces 10th seed Marta Kostyuk, who dispatched US 19th seed Madison Keys 6-3, 6-1 in 72 minutes.

India's Gill misses warm-up match due to injury



Shubman Gill

AFP | Colombo

India skipper Shubman Gill was yesterday forced to sit out of a warm-up match ahead of the two-Test series in Sri Lanka due to a finger injury, the country's cricket board said. India are led by KL Rahul in the three-day game against Sri Lanka Cricket XI that started yesterday at the Nondescripts Cricket Club Ground in Colombo. The opening Test will begin on August 15 at Galle. The second Test will be played between August 23-27 in Colombo. "Captain Shubman Gill sustained an impact injury to his right ring finger during India's practice on Thursday," the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said in a statement. "As a precautionary measure, he will not take the field on Day 1 of the warm-up game against SLC XI. The BCCI Medical Team is monitoring his progress."

Battling Norrie survives match point to oust de Minaur

- Top seeds continue to exit tournament
- Shelton became the highest seed
- Fils advances past Navone
- Jodar beats Musetti

AFP | Montreal

Cameron Norrie extended the upset chaos at the ATP Montreal Masters, saving a match point in defeating Alex de Minaur 5-7, 7-6 (7/5), 6-1. The battling British winner trailed a set and a double break against the Australian third seed, who folded in the final set of an epic lasting for almost three hours. De Minaur, who had been the highest remaining seed in a depleted draw, could have closed it out in straight sets with a match point chance in the eighth game of the second set. The tournament had already seen an early exit from top seed Alexander Zverev, an injury pullout from Canadian second seed Felix Auger-Aliassime and a loss by fourth seed Daniil Medvedev. The US Open tuneup hardcourt event had already been hit by the absences of world number one Jannik Sinner and 24-time Grand Slam singles champion Novak Djokovic. The result leaves fifth-seed holder Ben Shelton as the



Cameron Norrie of Great Britain celebrates his victory

new man to beat going into the fourth round. Norrie said he had to win a struggle. "It was a great match to win and test my level," said the 2021 Masters champion at Indian Wells. "I can take so much confidence from this one. "The level was so high in the first set. He came out firing and I had to match it. Alex stayed tough and stole the first set but took his foot off the gas just slightly in the second. "I just battled point for point and managed to come out 6-1 in the third set. I was fortunate and I'll take (the win)." De Minaur, losing finalist in Canada three years ago to Sinner, seized a 4-1 first-set lead to take the opener, winning six of seven games. Norrie began turning the tide in the second set, levelling with a winning tiebreaker before running away in the third, taking match point 62 minutes after de Minaur blew his match point. "I was in a good position," de Minaur said. "It's tennis. As we've seen, anything can happen. It's not the easiest of conditions out here. "I gave myself chances early in the third set, and then I just

played some bad points in a row and then got behind. "It all just went very quickly." Norrie will next play Arthur Fils after the Frenchman defeated Mariano Navone 6-3, 6-2, staking his claim for a comeback effort after missing months of play from a year ago and extending to February. The 44th-ranked Argentine Navone lost his 22nd career match against a top-30 opponent. Fils advanced on his second match point, winning as he overcame 30 unforced errors with a solid serving performance that included four aces and four breaks of the Navone serve. "I couldn't put in a serve during warm-up," the 24th-ranked winner said. "But I found my rhythm during the match and hit some good spots." "I enjoy being back" With no top five players left in the depleted draw, the path is opening for the survivors in French-speaking Canada. "It has been a tough time for me, I was injured a lot," Fils said. "But I enjoy being back on the big stage -- it means a lot." Jiri Lehecka, at eighth the highest seed remaining after Shelton, stayed alive with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Belgian Alexander Blockx. He will next face Spanish teen Rafael Jodar, the Washington runner-up who beat 13th seed Lorenzo Musetti 6-4, 6-3. "I did a great job on returns and generally played very solid," Jodar said. "I'm super happy with the performance."

BETTER YOU KNOW

De Minaur could have closed it out with a match point in the eighth game of the second set, but Norrie saved it and won 62 minutes later to take the match

Bouri Club eyes property investment for expansion



Dr Muneer Suroor with Bouri Club board

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bouri Sports Club should put its land and property to work to fund new grounds and facilities for its 300 members, administrators and players, MP Dr Muneer Suroor has said.

The call came as he met the club's board to discuss plans for a new southern entrance, more parking, an expanded site and investment in one of its property assets.

Dr Suroor said clubs needed to build their own income rather than depend heavily on outside support, with property

and business deals helping pay for sport, youth programmes and better facilities.

"The time calls for moving from the club that waits for support to the club that creates opportunities," he said.

He said stronger finances would give clubs more room to train young players, run activities across age groups and compete at a higher level.

The MP also pressed for more sport for young people in Bouri, which has no youth centre. He said that made the club's role all the more important.

Dr Suroor held the talks with club chairman Mohammed

Yousif, with investment and expansion high on the agenda.

They discussed drawing investors to the club's assets, making use of land on the southern side of the clubhouse and building a new entrance and car parks there.

The two sides also spoke about joint sports and community schemes and possible changes to sports laws.

Dr Suroor said the General Sports Authority, clubs, businesses and community groups should work together to help sports clubs earn more of their own income and grow.

Bouri Sports Club has been

active in sport and cultural work for almost 50 years.

Dr Suroor said the village was due for major infrastructure work under the Bouri Detailed Plan and urged the club to seek more space and better facilities as part of those plans.

Mr Yousif said the board wanted to bring investors into the club's property schemes and make use of the southern side of its grounds following the removal of pipes there.

He also called for a new clubhouse and modern playing fields to be included in the detailed plan as Bouri is developed as a model town.

Diaz inspires Bayern to friendly win over Villa



Bayern Munich's captain Manuel Neuer (C) holds the trophy with his team after winning against Aston Villa

AFP | Hong Kong

A wondergoal from Luis Diaz powered a youthful Bayern Munich to a 2-1 win over Aston Villa in a pre-season friendly in Hong Kong yesterday.

Diaz starred in Colombia's run to the World Cup last-16 and the winger lit up a sometimes scrappy game between last season's German double-winners and the Europa League champions.

Bayern hit the front in the 37th minute when South Korean defender Kim Min-jae ghosted in to glance a free-kick into the far corner from the edge of the six-yard box.

The Bavarian club brought some of their big guns off the bench in the second half and started turning the screw, Diaz having a shot cleared off the line.

He stretched the lead in trademark style in the 73rd minute, picking up the ball on the left, jinking inside and cracking a dipping shot in off the crossbar.

It was a superb strike that delighted the majority of the 38,000 fans inside Kai Tak stadium who were mostly cheering for Bayern.

Villa pulled one back in the 83rd minute when new signing Joao Gomes took aim from the edge of the area and left Manuel Neuer with no chance.

Call for Infantino to resign comes in wake of wave of support

Norwegian FA president Lise Klaveness leads direct calls for Infantino's resignation

● **Infantino receives limited support**

● **UEFA maintains lack of confidence**

● **CAF and Mexico back president**

AFP | Paris

Beleaguered FIFA president Gianni Infantino has received some much-needed support, after over a week of scathing criticism revolving around the now shelved private investment plan, but also yesterday there was a call for him to resign.

The 56-year-old Italian-Swiss lawyer's position remains far from assured despite support from friends he has made during his 10 years in power, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and the Mexican and Argentinian football federations.

FIFA said it could raise up to \$4.2 billion based on a valuation of \$20 billion for a new commercial subsidiary, called the

FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE), which it proposed would run events such as the World Cup and Club World Cup.

However, old ties have been cut loose.

European football's governing body, UEFA, who he served as secretary-general from 2009-16, is in open conflict with FIFA and on Thursday doubled down on last Saturday's statement saying it no longer has "confidence" in Infantino.

Its reaction came in the wake of Infantino gaining the full support of senior FIFA directors -- dismissed as those "whose careers depend on his favour" -- and UEFA repeated its threat of boycotting the World Cups.

UEFA's deployment last Thursday of the nuclear option of the boycott is said to have been pivotal in forcing Infantino to shelve the private investment deal.

One of its member associations, the Norwegian Football Federation (NFF), did not beat around the bush and called for him to go immediately.

"We (NFF) are going to ask the FIFA president to resign now," said its straight-talking presi-



Gianni Infantino reacts as he attends a match (file photo)

dent Lise Klaveness yesterday.

Infantino is nigh on certain not to heed such a call and carry on his campaign to be elected for a fourth and final term in Rabat next March.

Infantino, who has spent the past turbulent week amongst friends in Morocco who are co-hosting the 2030 World Cup, is for the moment the only candidate.

The deadline for nominations is November 18.

There is also a mechanism

whereby an extraordinary FIFA congress can be called and a vote of no confidence in Infantino held.

Klaveness, also a lawyer, would be many people's choices as a successor, and also the first woman to be head of world football.

However, Klaveness told AFP her personal ambitions had not played a role in demanding Infantino's resignation.

"We're not there yet," said Klaveness.



Norwegian Football Federation president Lise Klaveness, a former lawyer widely viewed as a potential successor, denied that personal political ambitions motivated her formal call for Gianni Infantino's immediate resignation

"For us, it's now about the issues I just mentioned, and not about particular individuals.

"It would be strange for me to start answering questions about myself, and that goes for everyone," the 45-year-old added.

'Public lynching'

North and Central America's governing body CONCACAF's president Victor Montagliani

has been the most oft-cited name in terms of challenging Infantino.

CONCACAF -- which includes the three co-hosts of the recent World Cup -- had been along with UEFA the most brutal in their taking down of Infantino even after the humiliating climbdown last Saturday when he withdrew the proposal.

CONCACAF had called for "a comprehensive reckoning with this presidency".

However, there has been radio silence from CONCACAF since the latest FIFA statement was issued late on Wednesday following Infantino hosting an emergency meeting of senior directors in Morocco.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) had also been critical of the manner in which the plan had been handled but like CONCACAF kept its own counsel following the FIFA statement.

Far from Infantino keeping the plan to himself some of those FIFA directors present in Morocco are reported by the New York Times to have been made aware of the proposal at a meeting on the eve of the World Cup final last month.