

Bahrain fall to Japan after strong start

Bahrain's youth men's basketball team lost 79-90 to Japan yesterday in their penultimate preliminary-round game at the 31st Albert Schweitzer Tournament in Germany. | P15

WORLD 8 Two-week Truce, What next?

Bayern's Kompany praises 'special' Neuer display in win at Real Madrid

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BUSINESS 6

Al Salam Bank wins Gold Award at AVA Awards for Al Salam Takaful Campaign Film

Key routes restored



"Look forward to gradually restoring our full network, while expressing our deep gratitude to the leadership of Bahrain, our partners, and our passengers for their continued trust and support."

- KHALID TAQI, CHAIRMAN OF GULF AIR GROUP

Limited flight operations from BIA

TD | Manama

Gulf Air has announced the resumption of limited flight operations to and from Bahrain International Airport following approval from Bahrain Civil Aviation Affairs.

The move marks a gradual step toward restoring its full international network.

The airline will restart direct services to selected destinations across the Middle East, Europe, Africa, and South Asia, while operations from King Fahd International Airport in Dammam will continue as normal.

Destination List

- Middle East**
- Dubai
- Jeddah
- Riyadh
- Europe**
- London (Heathrow)
- Africa**
- Nairobi
- South Asia**
- Dhaka
- Mumbai
- Delhi
- Kochi
- Hyderabad
- Islamabad
- Lahore
- Thiruvananthapuram

220 fils (includes VAT)



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Kingdom welcomes breakthrough deal

Praises Pakistan's mediation role

Need for lasting peace and regional stability

Halt missiles, drones, and proxy activities

TD | Manama

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain welcomed the announcement by US President Donald Trump regarding a two-week ceasefire agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran, alongside understandings to ensure the full, immediate, and

safe reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

The Ministry said the announcement represents a positive step toward creating a constructive environment that supports diplomatic efforts and de-escalation in the Middle East. It also praised the constructive mediation efforts undertaken by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which contributed to reaching this understanding.

Cessation

Bahrain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed the importance of ensuring that this development leads to the immediate and comprehensive cessation of all hostile and unjustified Iranian attacks against the Gulf Cooperation Council states and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution (2817) of 2026.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Ministry further emphasized the need for full Iranian compliance with good-neighbourliness principles, international law, and relevant UN resolutions. It called for a sustainable solution that guarantees

Iran does not acquire nuclear weapons, and halts the development and proliferation of ballistic missiles and drones. It also urged Iran to refrain from any activities that could undermine the security of the Arabian Gulf or threaten regional and global stability, including the use of

proxy groups and interference in the internal affairs of states.

Appreciation

Reaffirming its position, Bahrain expressed appreciation for regional and international diplomatic mediation efforts and supported all initiatives aimed at consolidating the ceasefire and achieving a lasting peace agreement in the Middle East. Such an agreement, the Ministry noted, should ensure the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, safeguard international maritime and air navigation, and secure vital waterways—including the Strait of Hormuz—thereby contributing to global energy stability, free flow of trade, and broader regional and international peace, security, and sustainable development.

Restores Full Operation

Coordination maintained with local and international authorities

Priority remains passenger, crew, and aircraft safety

TD | Manama

Civil Aviation Affairs Bahrain at the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications has announced the reopening of airspace over Bahrain, following a temporary closure introduced as a precaution amid recent regional developments.

The authority stated that suspending air traffic was a proactive measure to ensure the highest levels of safety and security for all aviation operations. With conditions stabilising, normal flight movements have now resumed across the



Bahrain International Airport Kingdom's airspace.

Decision

Officials highlighted that the decision to both close and reopen the airspace was made in close coordination with relevant national and international entities, ensuring a unified approach to aviation safety.

The authority reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining smooth and secure air traffic flow, while prioritising the safety of passengers, crew, and aircraft at all times.

The reopening signals a full return to regular aviation operations in Bahrain after the temporary precautionary measures.

Unified Government Effort

TD | Manama

The Interior Minister, H.E. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, conducted an inspection visit to the National Ambulance Operations Centre and the General Directorate of Media and Security Culture, commending their high level of preparedness and coordinated response to recent regional developments.

He highlighted that, under the directives of the HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister, government entities operated as a unified system, enabling swift and effective handling of the repercussions stemming from Iranian aggression. He noted that the Ministry of Interior played a central role in maintaining public reassurance, ensuring rapid outreach to the community, and preserving stability.

At the National Ambulance Operations Centre, the minister reviewed enhanced emergency readiness measures, including



H.E. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa visits the National Ambulance Operations Centre and the General Directorate of Media and Security Culture

the deployment of more than 176 ambulances and strengthened coordination with relevant authorities. He praised the National Ambulance for successfully reducing response times and ensuring the timely transfer of injured individuals to hospitals, describing this efficiency as a reflection of strong field capabilities and national commitment.

The visit also focused on the vital role of Police Media in crisis response. The Interior

Minister commended its professional performance, particularly in delivering accurate, timely, and credible information, while supporting front-line personnel and reinforcing public confidence.

Police Media activity included releasing 354 media items through international channels and generating a total of 1,858 news and media outputs. Social media platforms recorded record engagement, surpassing 128 million views.

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Royal approval for Highway Phase 2

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa ratified and issued a law approving a framework agreement to finance the second phase of the Shaikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Highway development project, following its approval by both the Shura Council and the Parliament.

The law formalises an agreement between Bahrain and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, aimed at supporting the continued expansion and upgrading of the strategic



highway.

According to the law, Article One approves the framework agreement related to the financing contribution for the project's second phase. The agreement was signed on 23 March 2025 and is attached to the law as an official document.

Article Two stipulates that the Prime Minister and ministers are each responsible for implementing the law's provisions within their respective jurisdictions. It will come into effect the day following its publication in the Official Gazette.



Defence Diplomacy



The Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force, Field Marshal Sheikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, received the Italian Ambassador to Bahrain, Andrea Catalano, in the presence of the Minister of Defence Affairs, Lt. Gen. Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi.

Sheikh Khalifa welcomed the ambassador and highlighted the continued growth of Bahrain-Italy relations under the leadership of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and support of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.



The Chief of Staff of the Bahrain Defence Force, Lt. Gen. Dhiyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, received the Egyptian Ambassador to Bahrain, Reham Abdelhamid Mahmoud Khalil.

Infrastructure panel reviews real estate development progress



Bahrain's Ministerial Committee for Development Projects and Infrastructure convened its latest meeting on Tuesday, reviewing national infrastructure progress, digital transformation initiatives, and measures to support citizens affected by recent events.

The 298th meeting of the committee was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, Sheikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

On the agenda, the committee reviewed progress on requests submitted by the Real Estate Registration Directorate, following the launch of the electronic title deed service by the Survey and Land Registration Bureau. The new digital service was welcomed as a key step in enhancing efficiency, improving access to property documentation, and advancing Bahrain's digital transformation agenda.

The meeting also reviewed ongoing real estate development projects and initiatives

The committee praised directives by HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa to compensate citizens for homes and vehicles damaged in recent Iranian attacks.

across the Kingdom, underscoring their importance in supporting economic growth and advancing national development objectives.

At the outset, the committee praised the directives of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the order issued by HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, to provide compensation for citizens whose homes and vehicles were damaged as a result of recent Iranian attacks.

Hasan Barakat

113,328 emergency calls handled



Emergency services received 113,328 calls on the 999 hotline amid recent regional tensions following Iranian aggression, authorities confirmed.

The Ministry of Interior said all police, civil defence, and ambulance units remain fully operational, responding swiftly to incidents and ensuring public safety.

Emergency operators handled each call by providing immediate reassurance, guidance, and directing cases to specialised response teams.

Authorities said the Main Operations Room continues to monitor field activity in real time, ensuring a unified national response and minimising risk to people and property.

Officials highlighted that rapid response and constant communication helped turn public concern into calm and structured action on the ground.

How Force Majeure Safeguards Businesses?

As regional instability continues to disrupt supply chains and business operations in Bahrain, companies are increasingly questioning how legal contracts hold up during crises.

Legal expert Afaf Tarada said the concept of force majeure is often misunderstood and does not automatically cancel contractual obligations during difficult times.



Legal expert Afaf Tarada

She explained that only situations where performance becomes "absolutely impossible" may qualify, while delays or increased costs are not sufficient grounds.

Businesses facing disrupted shipments and operational delays are now carefully assessing whether to invoke such clauses, though experts warn that misuse could lead to legal consequences.

Ultimately, courts determine whether force majeure applies based on the specific facts of each case, reinforcing it as a strict legal safeguard rather than an easy exit from obligations.

Force majeure, experts note, protects companies in true crises—but only when obligations cannot genuinely be fulfilled.

Bahrain Heads to IPU Forum with Regional Security Agenda



Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, Speaker of the Parliament and Chairman of the Executive Committee of Bahrain's Parliamentary Division, chaired a coordination meeting with the Kingdom's parliamentary delegation. This meeting was in preparation for their participation in the 152nd General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), scheduled for Istanbul, Türkiye, from April 15 to 19.

Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam stressed that Bahrain's parliamentary delegation will prioritise clarifying the facts and consequences of unjustified Iranian attacks against Bahrain,

other Gulf Cooperation Council states, and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

He underscored that these actions represent a direct threat to regional security and stability, calling for transparent and responsible communication of these developments to parliaments around the world.

The Speaker highlighted that the delegation will also draw attention to attacks targeting civilian facilities and infrastructure, describing them as a serious violation of international laws and conventions and an infringement on state sovereignty. He called for a unified international stance to reject and confront such actions.

Heroic rescue effort

Over 138,000 received cost-of-living allowance

“We only thought of saving lives,” says Sitra rescuer after Incident

TDT Manama

A Bahraini resident recounted the moments he and others rushed to rescue families from a house affected by an explosion in the Al Giriya area of Sitra, after debris from an intercepted drone strike caused damage to nearby homes.

Speaking in an interview with Al Ayam, Hussain Abu Ali described how he immediately rushed to the scene after hearing the blast and helped evacuate residents before emergency teams arrived.

“When the explosion happened and I went outside, I saw the house opposite had been hit. The first thing we did was call 999 and report a direct explosion in the area,” he said.

Rescue

He explained that he and others entered the damaged home to rescue those inside, first bringing out an elderly man and woman before learning that more family members, including children, may still have been upstairs.



Firefighters come to the rescue immediately after the explosion



“With discipline, sacrifice, and patriotism, the Bahrain Defence Force remains the nation’s first line of pride and protection.”

— HUSSAIN ABU ALI

“We went upstairs despite the smoke and destruction. The smell was strong, visibility was low, and we used phone lights to search. We were choking, but we kept going because we believed people might still be trapped,” he said.

Abu Ali said he eventually lost consciousness due to smoke inhalation and was later taken to Sitra Hospital before being transferred to Salmaniya Medical Complex for further treatment.

Recovery

He added that he received medical attention from hospital staff and that senior officials followed his condition closely during his recovery, including Bahrain’s Health Minister Dr Jaleela Al Sayed, who personally reassured him during treatment, and MP Jaleela Alawi, who also monitored his condition and arranged for additional care.

Despite the danger, Abu Ali said he did not hesitate when entering the damaged building.

“In that moment, I didn’t think about myself. I only thought about saving lives. Of course there was fear, but there was no time to step back,” he said.

Incident

He also recalled a previous incident in Mahazza, where he and others helped evacuate children from another affected area before official teams arrived.

“These are our homes and our country. We grew up here in safety and peace. All we want is safety for everyone,” he added.



MP Ali Saqer

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

More than 138,900 people were receiving Bahrain’s low-income family allowance up to the March 2026 payment, according to the Ministry of Social Development in a reply to MP Ali Saqer.

The ministry said the monthly cost-of-living support reaches up to 130 dinars for households where the breadwinner earns 300 dinars or less. A total of 44,780 beneficiaries fall under this lowest income category.

Eligibility is based solely on the breadwinner’s income.

Bahrain, UAE Sign BHD 2 Billion Swap Deal

TDT Manama

Reinforcing financial stability and deepening economic cooperation, the Central Banks of Bahrain and UAE have signed a bilateral currency swap agreement valued at BHD 2 billion (AED 20 billion). The agreement, finalized during a virtual signing ceremony, establishes a five-year framework for currency exchange cooperation between the Bahraini dinar and the UAE dirham.

His Excellency Khaled Mohamed Balama, Governor of the UAE Central Bank, and His Excellency Khalid Ibrahim Humaidan, Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain, signed the deal, with senior officials and deputy governors from both institutions in attendance.

Speaking on the occasion, HE Khaled Mohamed Balama highlighted that the agreement reflects the shared commitment of the UAE and Bahrain to strengthening financial cooperation and expanding economic ties.

HE Khalid Ibrahim Humaidan described the agreement as a reflection of the strong relations between the two countries.

Legal Safeguards Keep Salary Protected

TDT | Manama

Wages in Bahrain are legally protected and considered a fundamental right under the Labour Law, ensuring employees cannot have their pay reduced except under specific legal conditions.

Lawyer Atefa Yaqoob explained that wages are agreed upon by both employer and employee. Any reduction of a worker’s rights is considered void even if mutually accepted, giving workers the right to



Lawyer Atefa Yaqoob

seek compensation or end their contract.

However, the law allows flexibility in exceptional circumstances such as economic crises, natural disasters, or other force majeure events. In such cases, employers and employees may renegotiate temporary adjustments to wages or benefits to help sustain business continuity.

Overall, Bahrain’s wage framework aims to strike a balance between protecting workers’ rights and ensuring business stability during extraordinary situations.

Another 59,258 beneficiaries receive 97 dinars per month in households where the breadwinner’s income ranges between 301 and 700 dinars, while 34,871 people receive 75 dinars in the 701 to 1,000 dinar bracket.

This brings the total number of beneficiaries under the low-income family support scheme to 138,909 as of the March 2026 payment cycle.

The ministry clarified that eligibility is based solely on the breadwinner’s income, with the wife’s income not included in calculations. Households earning above 1,000 dinars are excluded from the scheme.

Abuse of Power

Two Public Employees Jailed for Stealing Passengers’ Money

● BD500 fine for each defendant

● Court orders them to jointly repay 3,500 Saudi riyals to the victim

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court of Appeals upheld a five-year prison sentence against two public employees who abused their positions at Bahrain International Airport to unlawfully detain a passenger and steal his money.



The accused admitted to conducting an unauthorized search outside approved procedures.

The court also imposed a 500 dinar fine on each defendant and ordered them to jointly repay 3,500 Saudi riyals to the victim.

The incident occurred when the victim was taken

to a closed airport restroom, where officials searched him before he continued his journey. He later discovered that 3,500 Saudi riyals were missing and filed a complaint upon returning to Bahrain.

Footage

Investigations confirmed the abuse through surveillance footage and witness statements, while the accused admitted to conducting an unauthorized search outside approved procedures.

The court found them guilty of unlawful detention, abuse of power, and embezzlement committed during their official duties, bringing the case to a final conclusion.

غرفة البحرين
BAHRAIN CHAMBER

Invitation to the members of Bahrain Chamber to attend in the Meeting of the Ordinary General Assembly

The Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry is pleased to invite the registered members of the Chamber to attend in the Meeting of the Ordinary General Assembly, in accordance with Article (15) of the Decree Law No. (48) of 2012 with regard to Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

📅 Saturday 25th April 2026

🕒 4:00 p.m

📍 Kingdom Hall of Bahrain Chamber’s building “Bait Al Tijjar”

This Meeting will be held to discuss the items listed in the agenda, as mentioned in Article (17) of the law, these are as follows:

- 1) Ratification of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Ordinary General Assembly held on 5h April 2026.
- 2) Discuss and approve the Annual Report of the Board of Directors on the activities of the chamber for year 2025.
- 3) Discuss and approve the financial position and the report of the External Auditor for the Financial for year 2025.
- 4) Appointment of the External Auditor for the year 2026.
- 5) Any other business, subject to Article (18) of the Executive bylaw of the Chamber.

According to Article No. (19) of the Chamber’s Law, this meeting will be valid with the presence of 200 members or 10% of the total number of the registered members, whichever is lower. If there is no quorum at the first meeting, the second meeting for Ordinary General Assembly Meeting will be held at 4.00 p.m. on Sunday 26th April 2026 in the Kingdom hall in Bahrain Chamber building “Bait Al Tijjar, this meeting will be valid with any number of the members who attend. The decision shall be taken in both meetings by a majority of the present members, and if the votes equaled, the side of the chairman of the meeting will be casted.

All the registered members who paid their annual participation fees and any financial dues to the Chamber 7 days prior to the Meeting will be entitled to attend in the meeting to exercise their right to vote according to Article No. (14) of the Chamber’s Law. The member himself/herself attending the General Assembly Meeting represents their own establishment (Sole Proprietorship) or the legal representative for companies. In cases where there are multiple representatives, they should nominate one of them to represent the company and vote in the meeting. Delegating others to attend the meeting or vote is not permitted. Each member shall have a number of votes according to his/her capital registered in the Chamber’s records.

Nabeel Khaled Kanoo
Chairman of Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry

2,200 Autism Cases Recorded in Bahrain

Cases Reveal Need for Unified National Response

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Around 2,200 autism cases have been recorded in Bahrain, Parliament was told during a session that saw renewed calls for a comprehensive national strategy to support individuals with autism and their families.

MP Hassan Ibrahim said the figures include about 1,700 males and 500 females, highlighting growing concern over gaps in diagnosis, care, education and long-term support. He noted that many families continue to face high costs, limited access to services and unclear pathways from early signs to proper diagnosis and treatment.

Rehabilitation fees ranging between BD250 and BD1,000 per month, coupled with limited availability and concerns over oversight of some private centres, are placing added pres-



“All children have been screened for autism signs at the age of two since 2021”

- HEALTH MINISTER JALEELA AL SAYED



“Bahrain needs accurate national data on autism.”

- MP JALEELA ALAWI



“Families are being worn down by high costs.”

- MP HASSAN IBRAHIM



“Care plans are continuously updated to match the child’s development and needs.”

- MARYAM AL JALAHMA, CEO OF GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

port. Maryam Al Jalahma, Chief Executive of Government Hospitals, added that diagnosis is carried out through detailed assessments by specialists, while treatment focuses mainly on behavioural, social and educational support rather than medication.

Services

Meanwhile, MP Jaleela Alawi stressed that services must be backed by strong legislation rather than individual efforts. She called for expanding inclusion classes, improving early intervention services and conducting a comprehensive national study to better understand autism cases in Bahrain.

MPs agreed that while progress has been made, more coordinated efforts are needed to ease the burden on families and ensure long-term care, education and employment opportunities for people with autism.

sure on families, he said. He also stressed the need for specialist-led diagnosis, regular reassessments and stronger training

for Bahraini professionals. Responding to the debate, Health Minister Dr. Jaleela Al Sayed said Bahrain already has

a structured pathway in place, with early screening introduced at primary health centres for children as young as two years

old. Cases showing signs of autism are referred to specialist teams in government hospitals for further evaluation and sup-

‘Insurance Is Not Enough’

Call to Fix Healthcare Gap in Southern Governorate

TDT | Manama

Dr. Ali bin Majed Al-Nuaimi, a Member of Parliament, urged the government to acquire a private hospital in Riffa and transform it into a government-run facility specializing in maternity and healthcare services.

Al-Nuaimi said the move would help bridge a significant

gap in healthcare provision in the Southern Governorate, which currently lacks a government maternity hospital. As a result, residents are often forced to rely on private healthcare services, placing additional financial strain on families.

He stressed that health insurance should not justify the absence of essential public healthcare services. He questioned



why residents of the Southern Governorate are treated differ-

“Health insurance should not justify the absence of essential public healthcare services.”

- MP DR. ALI BIN MAJED AL-NUAIMI

ently from those in other parts of the Kingdom where government

hospitals and health centres are readily available.

According to Al-Nuaimi, residents of Riffa and nearby areas face increasing difficulty accessing maternity care, which adds pressure to existing government hospitals and potentially affects service quality.

He emphasized the importance of the government and the local community cooperation.

Exposed Manhole in Hamala Raises Safety Concerns



Northern Municipal Council member Mohammed Saad Al Doseri



A manhole creates navigation challenges for pedestrians

● Call for cautious driving

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

An exposed manhole on an unpaved road in Hamala forces residents to slow down and stay alert during daily travel, highlighting ongoing infrastructure concerns in the area.

Northern Municipal Council member Mohammed Saad Al Doseri has drawn attention to Road 1010, noting that while sewage works are complete, the unfinished road surface creates safety and navigation challenges.

The sandy, uneven terrain combined with the poorly visible manhole has led to cautious driving, particularly at night, with some residents reporting minor vehicle damage.

The issue has been formally raised through council channels, with calls to prioritise paving work and complete the remaining infrastructure to improve safety and ease of movement in the neighbourhood.

NATIONAL HOTELS COMPANY B.S.C.



ANNOUNCEMENT FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CASH DIVIDENDS FOR 2025

The Board of Directors of National Hotels Company B.S.C. is pleased to invite the shareholders whose names are registered in the Share Register as of the Record Date on **Sunday 5 April 2026** to arrange a prior appointment through the Hotline indicated below or via (Skiplino) with the Company's Share Registrar and Dividend Agent, Messrs. Bahrain Clear B.S.C.(C) to receive the cash dividends for the financial year ended 31 December 2025 from **Thursday 16 April 2026**. The shareholders shall carry with them on the date of the appointment their ID card, passport and original share certificates. For shareholders who have previously made arrangement for the transfer of dividends via bank transfer to their IBAN, the cash dividends shall be deposited directly into their bank accounts.

Share Registrar and Dividend Agent

Messrs. Bahrain Clear B.S.C.(C)
Bahrain Financial Harbour, Harbour Gate
4th Floor, King Faisal Highway
Building No. 31, Road 383, Block 305
P.O. Box 3203
Manama – Kingdom of Bahrain
Hotline: +973 17108786
WhatsApp: +973 33510008
Email: edividend@bahrainclear.com

Faisal Ahmed Al Zayani
Chairman

Fixed Pitches and E-Booking System for Food Trucks



Muharraq Municipality Director-General Khalid Al Qallaf outlines the municipality's position in an official letter responding to the Municipal Council's proposal.

● Structured licensing process set to be introduced

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain is preparing a new system to regulate food trucks through fixed pitches across all governorates, along with an electronic booking and licensing system, according to the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture.

Under the proposed plan, food truck owners will be able to reserve designated locations via an online platform based on availability



and preferred sites. The system will also introduce a structured licensing process once all technical and regulatory requirements are finalised.

However, Muharraq Municipality has stated it does not support a separate new proposal to regulate mobile food sales, noting that the sector is already governed by existing regulations, including decisions issued in 2017 and 2020.

Housing revocation overturned over lack of evidence

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The High Civil Court of Appeal overturned a lower court ruling that had revoked a citizen's entitlement to a housing unit and ordered him to vacate the property, after finding no evidence that he had abandoned it for six consecutive months.

The court confirmed that the legal condition for revocation—continuous absence from the property for more than six months—had not been met.

According to case details, the Ministry of Housing issued a decision in 2025 to withdraw the unit, claiming the beneficiary had violated housing regulations. However, the court found that official movement records showed the citizen remained in Bahrain during the disputed period.

The appellant's lawyer, Reem Al Mahari, argued that her client continued paying utility bills and carrying out maintenance work, further proving the property was not abandoned. She also requested official travel records to support the case.

Wheels Without Borders

A Porsche Cayman R Journey from Bahrain to Norway

● **Fahad Eid Adam explores the world in his own vehicle**

Ghadeer Alkumaish
TDT | Manama

A Porsche Cayman R, 22,000 kilometres, 22 countries, and one ambitious driver—Fahad Eid Adam. From the deserts of Bahrain to the snowy peaks of Norway, Fahad's Grand Tour pushed the limits of endurance, passion, and engineering.

"I couldn't believe that my dream was now a reality. That I had driven all the way from my home in Bahrain to Norway in my own Porsche," he said. Adam's journey is not just about distance; it's about exploring the world in his own vehicle, connecting with people, and proving the Cayman R's versatility across extreme climates and terrains.

The toughest challenge came during a non-stop 26-hour drive across Iraq. "I had no idea what

"I couldn't believe that my dream was now a reality. That I had driven all the way from my home in Bahrain to Norway in my own Porsche."

— FAHAD EID ADAM

we might have to face," he said. Despite the uncertainty, he and co-driver Hamad Ramadhan pushed forward, experiencing generosity and warmth from locals along the way.

Milestones

Europe offered breathtaking roads and milestones. Driving Romania's legendary Transfagarasan highway, parking at the Porsche Museum in Germany, and staying at unique accommodations in Norway created unforgettable moments. "I decided to drive it myself and, in a Porsche, and it was incredible!"

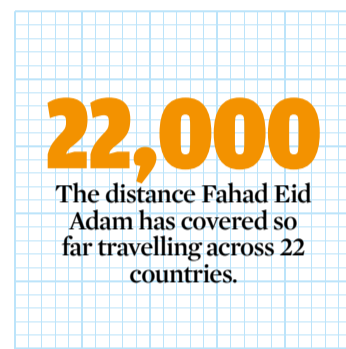
Yet the adventure was not



Fahad Eid Adam with his Porsche Cayman R in Turkey



The Bahraini Cayman R Across 22 Countries



without setbacks. Switzerland brought a major mechanical issue. "The last country I had the issue in the car... it was the most

expensive country. This is something I will not forget because it was a really bad moment for me."

Challenges

Even with challenges, Adam's ambitions continue to grow. "It would be one million kilometers."

So far, he has covered 22,000 kilometers across 22 countries, gaining international attention. Future plans include routes to Japan and the USA, aiming to cross 100 countries. Beyond mileage, he seeks human con-

nection. "I don't just want to have fun... I want to meet people, bring cultures together and share experiences."

Every kilometer reinforces his love for Porsche and fuels a mission to explore continents, meet fellow enthusiasts, and inspire others in the global Porsche community.

With thousands of kilometers still ahead, Fahad Eid Adam continues to chase a dream powered by passion, resilience, and a vision without limits. His journey proves that ambition knows no borders.

New 2026–2036 strategy to transform Bahrain's universities

● **Study in Bahrain drive**

● **Global university partnerships**

● **Higher education reforms**

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain is moving forward with plans to strengthen its position as a regional and international hub

for higher education, according to the Ministry of Education and the Higher Education Council.

The update was provided in response to a parliamentary question submitted by Nancy Dina Eily Khaduri regarding national initiatives aimed at improving the quality, competitiveness, and global reach of the Kingdom's higher education sector.

National strategy

Officials highlighted the National Strategy for Higher Education and Scientific Research (2026–2036) as the key framework guiding development in the sector. The strategy focuses



Nancy Dina Eily Khaduri

on building a globally competitive academic system, expanding international partnerships, and strengthening Bahrain's aca-

The National Strategy for Higher Education and Scientific Research's strategy focuses on building a globally competitive academic system, expanding international partnerships, and strengthening Bahrain's academic reputation

dem reputation abroad. Among the major initiatives is the Global Standards Index, which encourages Bahraini universities to improve their

standing in international rankings such as QS World University Rankings and Times Higher Education (THE).

The "Study in Bahrain" campaign was also highlighted as a key effort to position the Kingdom as a safe and high-quality education destination, aimed at attracting outstanding international students.

Academic Cooperation

The authorities noted ongoing efforts to strengthen partnerships with leading global institutions, expand joint degree programs, and support the establishment of international

university branches in Bahrain.

The introduction of student visa facilities has further supported the growth of international enrolment and helped create a more diverse academic environment.

Bahraini higher education institutions are increasingly participating in international education exhibitions, conferences, and research forums, enhancing the Kingdom's visibility in the global academic community.

Universities are also being encouraged to host international conferences and engage more actively in global research collaboration platforms.

Hope to Young Boy

● **Story of inspiration**

TDT | Manama

As part of the "Rest Assured, Bahrain Is Safe" initiative, the Royal Humanitarian Foundation, in collaboration with the UAE-based Make-A-Wish Foundation, fulfilled the wish of 8-year-old Zain Saleh Adnan, who suffers from cystic fibrosis.

The initiative aims to promote reassurance in society and strengthen national solidarity, coinciding with the Foundation's 25th anniversary.

Wish

The wish was granted in the presence of senior officials, and the child received the gift he had long hoped for, bringing him and his family great joy. Despite his health challenges, Zain's courage continues to inspire those around him.



Zain Saleh Adnan receives the gift from senior officials

Special prayer meeting



The Kerala Christian Ecumenical Council (KCEC) organised a special prayer meeting at St. Paul's Mar Thoma Parish in Bahrain, praying for global peace and the continued safety and stability of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The gathering included special prayers for HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, members of the Royal Family and the Bahrain Defence Force. (By Pradeep Puravankara)

Al Salam Bank wins Gold Award at AVA Awards for Al Salam Takaful Campaign Film

● The AVA Awards is an international competition that recognizes excellence in digital creativity, branding, and communication, and is administered by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals (AMCP).

TDT | Manama

Al Salam Bank is proud to announce that it has received the Gold Award for Best Film at the AVA Awards for its promotional film created for the "Al Salam Takaful 2025-2026" campaign. This achievement reflects the Bank's commitment to delivering impactful, purpose-driven marketing campaigns that en-



hance the value of its products and services for residents in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The AVA Awards is an inter-

national competition that recognizes excellence in digital creativity, branding, and communication, and is administered

by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals (AMCP).

The award-winning film brings to life Al Salam Bank's vision of going beyond traditional banking by offering solutions that genuinely support and protect clients at every stage of their lives. By placing families at the heart of the narrative, the campaign presents Al Salam Takaful as more than an insurance offering; it is a promise of protection, reassurance, and peace of mind. Through a blend of emotional storytelling and clear messaging, the campaign successfully raised awareness of Al Salam Takaful, while reinforcing the Bank's position as a client-centric institution with a forward-looking vision.

This achievement underscores Al Salam Bank's dedication to creative excellence and meaningful communication, delivering content that connects with audiences, inspires confidence, and creates a lasting positive impact.

Trafco Group Strengthens Workplace Safety with Accredited First Aid Training



TDT | Manama

As part of its commitment to implementing the requirements and instructions of the relevant ministry in the field of occupational safety and health, Trafco Group has conducted an accredited first aid training programme for a number of its employees. This initiative aims to enhance their readiness to respond to emergency situations in the workplace.

The training programme covered key topics, including the principles of first aid,

methods for handling injuries and critical cases, as well as practical training in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), in accordance with standards approved by the relevant official authorities. This training comes as part of the group's ongoing efforts to comply with regulatory requirements and its commitment to raising preventive awareness among its employees, thereby ensuring a safe working environment and reducing potential risks.

The Human Resources Manager, Ms. Layla Darwish, confirmed that this program is part

of the group's strategy to invest in human capital development and promote a culture of occupational safety. She emphasized the importance of equipping employees with essential skills that enable them to respond effectively to emergencies, contributing to saving lives and minimizing the impact of accidents.

Trafco Group reaffirms its continuous commitment to implementing best practices in occupational safety and to delivering the necessary training programs in line with applicable laws and regulations.

Bahrain Chamber appoints Shaker Alhelli to 31st Board

● The Board of Directors of the Bahrain Chamber has approved the appointment of first reserve member, Mr. Shaker Alhelli

● The Board also formally accepted the resignation of Mr. AlKooheji in accordance with approved procedures and regulations

● The Board underscored the importance of the next phase, which calls for stronger collaboration among all stakeholders

TDT | Manama

The Board of Directors of the Bahrain Chamber has approved the appointment of first reserve member, Mr. Shaker Alhelli, to its 31st Board following the vacancy left by Mr. Mohammed AlKooheji, who resigned for personal reasons. The appointment is in line with Article (27) of the Chamber's Law, which stipulates that the candidate who secured the highest number of votes among non-elected candidates in the most recent elections shall fill any vacant seat and complete the remaining term.

On this occasion, the Board extended its congratulations to Mr. Alhelli, expressing confidence in his ability to contribute effectively to advancing institutional performance and strengthening the Chamber's



role as a leading representative of the private sector. The Board highlighted his distinguished professional and economic expertise, along with his proven track record in supporting the private sector and contributing to the development of the business environment and economic initiatives. It further noted that his appointment reflects the Chamber's commitment to adhering to established legal and regulatory frameworks, while reinforcing transparency and governance in its operations.

Next phase

The Board underscored the importance of the next phase, which calls for stronger collaboration among all stakeholders within the economic ecosystem to support the national economy and enhance its resilience amid ongoing regional and international developments. In this context, the Board reaffirmed the private sector's alignment with the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, emphasizing the importance of maintaining national stability and safeguarding development achievements. It also commended the Government of Bahrain, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for its prudent and balanced approach in addressing regional developments, ensuring the continued protection and sustainable growth of the national economy.

The Board also formally accepted the resignation of Mr.

AlKooheji in accordance with approved procedures and regulations. It expressed sincere appreciation for his dedicated efforts and valuable contributions during his tenure, which played a meaningful role in strengthening the Chamber's position as a representative of the business community and a supporter of economic development in the Kingdom. The Board wished him continued success in his future endeavors.

Commitment

Reaffirming its commitment to a structured institutional approach, the Board emphasized its dedication to upholding regulations that ensure efficiency, sustainability, and responsiveness to the evolving needs of the business community. It also stressed its ongoing efforts to enhance its services, strengthen private sector representation, and foster a more competitive business environment that supports investment, economic diversification, and long-term growth in Bahrain.



The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry was established in 1910, making it one of the oldest chambers of commerce in the Gulf region and the main representative of Bahrain's private sector.

Oil prices plunge, stocks surge on US-Iran ceasefire

The most widely traded oil contracts fell some 15% to around \$95 a barrel

● The dollar slid against the euro

● Energy majors slumped

● The strongest gains on equity markets came from mining groups, banks and airline

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Oil and gas prices plunged, stock markets soared and the dollar retreated Wednesday after the United States and Iran agreed a temporary ceasefire that could lead to the Strait of Hormuz reopening.

"A wave of relief has hit financial markets after threats of a devastating escalation of the war were replaced by a temporary truce," said Susannah Streeter, chief investment strategist, Wealth Club.

The most widely traded oil contracts fell some 15% to around \$95 a barrel, after a month of conflict that killed thousands and hammered the global economy.

Stock markets soared, with Wall Street's three main indexes more than 2% higher in late morning trading.

Europe's main continental bourses all closed up more than three%. Frankfurt led the way with a five-percent gain. London gained 2.5%, held back by weak oil companies.

Earlier, Tokyo's stock market closed up 5.4% and Chinese indices jumped around 3%.

The dollar, a safe haven in times of market turmoil, slid against the euro, yen and British pound as investors returned to

Key figures at around 1540 GMT

Brent North Sea Crude:	▼ 13.0% at \$95.05 a barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▼ 15.2% at \$95.65 a barrel
New York - Dow:	▲ 2.3% at 47,649.73 points
New York - S&P 500:	▲ 2.1% at 6,755.68
Nasdaq Composite:	▲ 2.5% at 22,576.95
London - FTSE 100:	▲ 2.5% at 10,608.88 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ P 4.5 percent at 8,263.87 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX:	▲ 5.1% at 24,080.63 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 5.4% at 56,308.42 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▲ 3.1% at 25,893.02 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 2.7% at 3,995.00 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1692 from Tuesday's \$1.1585
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.3440 from \$1.3274
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 158.38 yen from 159.70 yen
Euro/pound:	▼ at 86.98 pence from 87.28 pence



A currency dealer monitors exchange rates as a screen shows South Korea's benchmark stock index (KOSPI) in a foreign exchange dealing room at the Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul

riskier assets.

But traders warned that the euphoria could be short-lived. Both sides have threatened to resume hostilities if the two-week pause does not lead to an agreement.

"In reality, the markets are not pricing in peace but a window for negotiation," said John Plassard of Cite Gestion.

"And that is precisely the issue: in two weeks, either this window will lead to a lasting agreement, or it will only postpone and amplify the energy shock that everyone fears."

Oil prices remain much higher and equity prices lower than before the United States and Israel attacked Iran on February 28.

"I don't think we're going to (quickly) go back to the levels we were at before the war," said Kathleen Brooks, research director at XTB traders. "Energy infrastructure across the Gulf has been targeted."

Maritime monitor Marine Traffic noted that two ships had passed through the waterway since Iran agreed to reopen it, through which much of the world's oil, gas and fertiliser passes.

But one major German shipping company, Hapag-Lloyd, said it was too early for its trapped ships to set sail out of the Gulf.

Shipping journal Lloyd's List estimated that around 800 ships have been stuck in the Gulf since the end of February.

The International Air Transport Association said that it would take months for jet fuel supplies and prices to normalise.

"Should talks falter or activity through the strait remain subdued, oil prices and the dollar could reverse course fairly quickly," said Matthew Ryan, head of market strategy at global financial services firm Ebury.

The strongest gains on equity markets came from mining groups, banks and airlines.

Delta Airlines was up more than 6% after reporting better-than-expected earnings and saying that demand for flying was holding up.

Energy majors slumped, however, having made huge gains over the past few weeks.

Shell fell almost six% in London even as it said first-quarter earnings were set for a "significant" boost from higher oil prices. BP also fell almost six% and TotalEnergies more than 3%.

US Fed policymakers flag possible rate hikes

● Officials flagged one expected cut by the end of the year

Washington, United States

Many US central bank policymakers cited the possible need for interest rate hikes to counter the risk of sustained inflation from high oil prices, minutes of their recent meeting showed yesterday.

The US Federal Reserve has been battling to bring inflation down to its long-term two percent target since the pandemic.

In March, the Fed chose to extend a pause on interest rate cuts -- after three reductions in late 2025 -- and raised its inflation forecast.

At the meeting, officials flagged one expected cut by the end of the year, and cit-

ed an "uncertain" economic outlook due to the war in the Middle East.

The US-Israeli war on Iran, launched on February 28, has engulfed the region in violence, with Tehran sending oil prices skyrocketing by virtually closing the vital Strait of Hormuz.

The US Fed has a dual mandate of keeping inflation to its long-term target while ensuring maximum employment.

Minutes of its last meeting, which took place March 17-18, showed there was concern about the lack of progress in bringing inflation down.

"Some participants noted that the rate of increase in core goods prices remained well above the pace likely to be consistent with the sustainable achievement of the Committee's inflation objective, at least in part reflecting the effects of tariffs," the minutes said.

India pulls bid to host 2028 COP33 climate summit: Indian govt source

AFP | Paris, France

India has withdrawn its bid to host the 2028 COP33 climate summit, sources told AFP on Wednesday.

A government source and another source familiar with the talks confirmed a report by Climate Home News that India had quietly dropped out.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had proposed India as host country in 2023.

The withdrawal -- the reasons for which were not specified -- has not yet been officially announced by the Indian government.

Harjeet Singh, an Indian climate activist and COP vet-

eran, lamented the move as a "strategic missed opportunity" to champion the Global South.

"The global climate narrative must be framed around the needs of the developing world," Singh, director of the Satat Sampada Foundation, added in a statement.

India previously hosted COP8 in New Delhi in 2002. Its selection to host another COP would have required the agreement of other nations within the Asian bloc.

The annual climate gatherings, held under the auspices of the UN, rotate among regional blocs, which must reach a consensus on a host candidate.

Latest Anthropic AI model finds cracks in software defenses

AFP | New York, United States

Anthropic on Tuesday said its yet-to-be-released artificial intelligence model called Claude Mythos has proven keenly adept at exposing software weaknesses.

Mythos has laid bare thousands of vulnerabilities in commonly used applications for which no patch or fix exists, prompting the San Francisco-based AI startup to form an alliance with cybersecurity specialists to bolster defenses against hacking.

"We have a new model that we're explicitly not releasing to the public," Mike Krieger of Anthropic Labs said at a HumanX AI conference in San Francisco.

Instead, Anthropic is letting cybersecurity specialists and engineers in the open-source community work with Mythos to use the model as a defensive weapon "sort of arming them ahead of time," Krieger explained.

Leaps in AI model capabilities have come with concerns about hackers using such tools



(L-R) Mike Krieger and Ed Ludlow speak onstage during the "The Best AI Products Haven't Been Built Yet" panel at the HumanX Conference San Francisco 2026 at Moscone Center South on April 07, 2026 in San Francisco, California

for figuring out passwords or cracking encryption meant to keep data safe.

The oldest of the vulnerabilities uncovered by Mythos dates back 27 years, and none were ostensibly noticed by their makers before being pinpointed by the AI model, according to Anthropic.

Mythos is the latest generation

of Anthropic's Claude family of AI, and a recent leak of some of iFixests code prompted the startup to release a blog post warning it posed unprecedented cybersecurity risks.

"AI models have reached a level of coding capability where they can surpass all but the most skilled humans at finding and exploiting software vulnerabil-

ities," Anthropic said in a blog post. "The fallout -- for economies, public safety, and national security -- could be severe."

Software vulnerabilities exposed by Mythos were often subtle and difficult to detect without AI, according to Anthropic. As an example, it said Mythos found a previously unnoticed flaw in video software that had been tested more than 5 million times by its creators.

Project Glasswing

As a precaution, Anthropic has shared a version of Mythos with cybersecurity companies CrowdStrike and Palo Alto Networks, as well as with Amazon, Apple and Microsoft in a project it dubbed "Glasswing."

Networking giants Cisco and Broadcom are taking part in the project, along with the Linux Foundation that promotes the free, open-source Linux computer operating system.

"This work is too important and too urgent to do alone," Cisco chief security and trust officer Anthony Grieco said in a joint

release about Glasswing.

"AI capabilities have crossed a threshold that fundamentally changes the urgency required to protect critical infrastructure from cyber threats, and there is no going back."

Approximately 40 organizations involved in the design, maintenance or operation of computer systems are said to have joined Glasswing.

Project partners are to share their Mythos findings, according to Anthropic, which is providing about \$100 million worth of computing resources for the mission.

Early work with AI models has shown they can help find and fix software and hardware vulnerabilities at a pace and scale not previously possible, according to Grieco.

"The window between a vulnerability being discovered and being exploited by an adversary has collapsed -- what once took months now happens in minutes with AI," said CrowdStrike chief technology officer Elia Zaitsev.

"Claude Mythos Preview

demonstrates what is now possible for defenders at scale, and adversaries will inevitably look to exploit the same capabilities."

Anthropic said it has had discussions with the US government regarding Mythos despite a decree by the White House in February to terminate all contracts with the startup.

That directive was put on hold by a federal court judge while a legal challenge by Anthropic works its way through the courts.



Anthropic was founded in 2021 by former OpenAI researchers, including Dario Amodei and Daniela Amodei, with a core focus on building safer and more ethical AI systems.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

APPEAR WEAK WHEN YOU ARE STRONG, AND STRONG WHEN YOU ARE WEAK.
SUN TZU, THE ART OF WAR

Trump says countries that supply weapons to Iran will face 50% US tariffs

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump yesterday warned against supplying weapons to Iran, threatening immediate 50% US tariffs on any country that does so.

"A Country supplying Military Weapons to Iran will be immediately tariffed, on any and all goods sold to the United States of America, 50%, effective immediately. There will be no exclusions or exemptions," Trump said on his Truth Social platform.

He also said in a separate post that his administration is "talking Tariff and Sanctions relief with Iran," several hours after he announced a temporary ceasefire with Tehran which had agreed to temporarily reopen the critical Strait of Hormuz.

Trump says US will work 'with Iran' to extract buried nuclear 'dust'

Iran Guards say have 'no trust' in US, 'finger on trigger'

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran's Revolutionary Guards warned on Tuesday that they had "no trust" in promises from the United States despite a two-week ceasefire deal, adding that their "finger was on the trigger".

"The Iranian nation's dedicated guards are listening to the orders of the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, His Holiness Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, and their finger is on the trigger," read a statement on their Telegram channel.

Calling on Gulf countries to end their "cooperation" with the United States, the Guards added: "The enemy has always been deceitful, and we have no trust in its promises, and we will respond to every aggression at a greater level."

Trump says US will work 'with Iran' to extract buried nuclear 'dust'

What has the US said?

Trump said the ceasefire deal was a "total and complete victory" for Washington.

The US president said the agreement was reached after he spoke to leaders in Pakistan, which has played a key role in mediating the war launched by the US and Israel on February 28.

Trump also told AFP that Iran's enriched uranium would be "perfectly taken care of" under the two-week truce.

He has justified the war by

accusing Tehran of enriching uranium with the aim of building an atomic weapon, an assertion not backed by the UN nuclear watchdog and which Iran has denied.

The US in a previous plan to

end hostilities -- which Tehran did not agree to -- demanded Iran stop further enrichment, agree to limits on its missile program and cease support for militant groups in the region.

Those requirements have not been detailed in the latest truce.

Trump has been inconsistent in his conditions for ending fighting, regularly backtracking from hardline demands.

Last month, the US leader said Iran's "unconditional surrender" would be the only acceptable outcome to end the war.



What has Israel agreed to?

Israel said it supported Trump's decision to suspend his bombing of Iran, but maintained the ceasefire "does not include Lebanon."

Yesterday, it renewed strikes on southern Lebanon despite the ceasefire, Lebanese state media reported.

Pakistan's Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif earlier claimed the truce deal covered "everywhere including Lebanon."

Israel has been battling Iran-backed Hezbollah since the group launched rocket fire at Israel in March. Israel's subsequent retaliation has led to more than 1,500 deaths, according to Lebanese authorities.

Uranium 'taken care of'

Trump insisted that the nuclear material would be covered by any peace deal.

"That will be perfectly taken care of, or I wouldn't have settled," Trump said, without giving any specifics about what would happen to the uranium.

Trump said that he believed China had played a role in get-

ting Iran to the negotiating table.

"I hear yes," Trump said when asked if Beijing was involved in getting key ally Tehran to negotiate on a truce.

The US president is due to travel to Beijing in mid-May to meet Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, in a crucial summit between the two superpowers.

Two-week Truce

Pakistan claimed the truce deal covered "everywhere including Lebanon"

The US will suspend attacks on Iran for two weeks, and Tehran will in turn temporarily reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a vital global oil thoroughfare, according to Washington. Tehran agreed to the "COMPLETE, IMMEDIATE, and SAFE OPENING of the Strait of Hormuz," Trump said in a Truth Social post.

US military ready to resume attacks if ordered by President Donald Trump

The US military is prepared to resume attacks on Iran if ordered by President Donald Trump, the top US general said yesterday.

"Let us be clear, a ceasefire is a pause, and the joint force remains ready, if ordered or called upon," General Dan Caine told a press conference. US Secretary of Defense Pete

Hegseth also warned that "we stand ready in the background to ensure that Iran upholds" the terms of the truce agreed to on Tuesday.

"The United States and Iran agreed overnight from Tuesday to Wednesday to a two-week ceasefire, during which passage through the Strait of Hormuz "will be possible via coordination with Iran's Armed Forces

IRAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER ABBAS ARAGHCHI SAID ON X.

China helped get Iran to the negotiating table: Trump

US will help with 'traffic buildup' in Hormuz Strait

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump said yesterday that the United States will help with traffic buildup in the Strait of Hormuz, hours after Washington and Tehran agreed to a truce.

Tehran later said it had agreed to safe passage in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital shipping route for oil which has been virtually paralysed for weeks by the Middle East war, pushing up prices for crude and related products worldwide.

"The United States of America will be helping with the traffic buildup in the Strait of Hormuz," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

"There will be lots of positive action! Big money will be



made. Iran can start the reconstruction process."

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi had said hours earlier that safe passage through the Strait will be possible "via coordination with Iran's Armed Forces and with due consideration of technical limitations."

Trump said in his Truth Social post that the United States will be "loading up with

supplies of all kinds, and just 'hangin' around" in order to make sure that everything goes well. I feel confident that it will." The US president's tone contrasted starkly with his threat last week to bomb Iran "back to the Stone Ages."

"Just like we are experiencing in the U.S., this could be the Golden Age of the Middle East!!!" Trump wrote on Wednesday.

Ceasefire plan published by Iran not the one agreed by US: White House

The statement adds to concerns over the fragility of the truce declared late Tuesday

AFP | Washington, United States

A US official said Wednesday that a 10-point ceasefire plan published by Iran is not the same set of conditions that were agreed to by the White House for pausing the war.

"The document being reported by media outlets is not the working framework," the senior official said on condition of anonymity.

The official gave no further comment, saying, "We're not going to negotiate in public out of respect for the process."

The statement adds to con-

cerns over the fragility of the truce declared late Tuesday -- hours before a deadline set by President Donald Trump for Iran to meet US demands or face what he called an end to its "whole civilization."

Trump had said in his declaration of a two-week truce for further negotiations that "we received a 10-point proposal from Iran, and believe it is a workable basis on which to negotiate."

Iranian state media then published a 10-point plan that notably included continued Iranian control over the strategic Strait of Hormuz, an end to international sanctions on the country, and "acceptance" of uranium enrichment.

These items would run contrary to Washington's public statements about what it wants Iran to do.

1731

British mariner Robert Jenkins' ear is cut off by Spanish Guarde Costa in the Caribbean, catalyst for a later war between Britain and Spain

1768

John Hancock refuses to allow two British customs agents to go below deck of his ship, considered by some to be the first act of physical resistance to British authority in the colonies



1865

Confederate General Robert E. Lee and 26,765 troops surrender at Appomattox Court House to U.S. Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant, ending the Civil War in Northern Virginia

1992

John Major is elected Prime Minister of the United Kingdom after his Conservative Party wins the most votes in British electoral history

Pakistan PM says US-Iran ceasefire violations reported, urges restraint



Violations of ceasefire have been reported at (a) few places across the conflict zone which undermine the spirit of peace process,

PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER SHEHBAZ

Islamabad, Pakistan

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said yesterday that violations of the ceasefire between the United States and Iran "have been reported" and pressed countries to respect the truce.

"Violations of ceasefire have been reported at (a) few plac-

es across the conflict zone which undermine the spirit of peace process," Sharif said on X.

"I earnestly and sincerely urge all parties to exercise restraint and respect the ceasefire for two weeks, as agreed upon, so that diplomacy can take a lead role towards peaceful settlement of the conflict."

What is Iran saying?

● Iran has proposed a 10-point plan

AFP

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi confirmed that Tehran would allow safe passage for two weeks through the Strait of Hormuz, through which one-fifth of the world's oil passes. Iran has proposed a 10-point plan for securing an end to the war, which Trump said was "workable".

While the plan could form the basis of potential negotiations later this week, it includes several sticking points which Washington has

previously said were unfeasible. The plan would require "continued Iranian control over the Strait of Hormuz, acceptance of enrichment, lifting of all primary and secondary sanctions," according to a statement released by the Islamic republic. While the uranium enrichment demand was not included in Tehran's English-language statement shared by the UN, it was part of the Farsi release circulated by Iranian state media. Other demands include: US military withdrawal from the Middle East, an end to attacks on Iran and its allies, the release of frozen Iranian assets and a UN Security Council resolution making the deal binding.

U-TURN WITH UK

The Power of togetherness



P. UNNIKRISHNAN

Like many sectors, the life of journalists and media professionals was thrust into a relentless 24/7 cycle from the very first day of the recent escalations. In times of uncertainty, the media's responsibility extends beyond reporting—it becomes a duty to inform, guide, and reassure.

As frontline communicators, we found ourselves not only covering developments but also closely monitoring the pulse of society—particularly the anxieties, questions, and reactions unfolding across social media. What stood out was not just the volume, but the urgency of public sentiment.

In a single day, our WhatsApp channels received thousands of messages. Over 39 days, our digital platforms recorded more than 2.5 million interactions—each reflecting real human concerns.

We answered calls patiently—even as we wrote this column, we received queries about the airport reopening.

Some tenants had relocated to safer areas but were still being asked to pay the full rent. Others worried about overstaying due to flight disruptions. Some messages were deeply personal—questions as simple, yet profound, as: "Is it safe to sleep tonight?"

Even within our newsroom, amid long hours, moments of humanity stood out. A reader suggested replacing the siren with music to make it less distressing. It was a simple thought—but it reflected something deeper: even in tense times, people seek ways to make life gentler.

We responded to each concern with care and responsibility. What humbled us most was the trust people placed in us as a credible source during confusion.

As days passed, the tone began to shift. Alongside serious concerns came everyday queries—chartered flights, employment rights, routine clarifications. It was a quiet but powerful sign: life was finding its rhythm.

Perhaps the most remarkable takeaway was the resilience of Bahrain's expatriate community.

Despite alerts and anxiety, the overwhelming majority chose to stay. Travel was limited to emergencies or prior commitments. There was no widespread panic-driven exodus. On the contrary, many expressed a sense of safety in Bahrain—often more than in their home countries.

This confidence reflects deep trust in Bahrain's leadership and governance. Messages of appreciation for the Kingdom's preparedness and frontline efforts were consistent and heartfelt.

Bahrain once again proved it is more than a nation—it is a model of coexistence, where people of different backgrounds feel equally protected and valued. Having lived here for over three decades, I say with conviction that few places inspire such a sense of belonging.

As the region steadies, the economic impact remains. Yet recovery depends not only on policy, but on people. Expatriates are a vital pillar of Bahrain's economy, and their decision to stay, work, and contribute during uncertainty is itself a stabilising force. At this moment, their role becomes even more significant—by enhancing productivity, strengthening commitment, and prioritising overall wellbeing. Bahrain's true strength lies not just in its systems, but in its people.

(The author is the Chairman & Managing Director of The Daily Tribune)

Bahrain once again proved it is more than a nation—it is a model of coexistence, where people of different backgrounds feel equally protected and valued. Having lived here for over three decades, I say with conviction that few places inspire such a sense of belonging.

What next?

Pakistan to host US-Iran ceasefire talks on Friday

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the ceasefire would start immediately, and the capital Islamabad would host delegates from both countries for talks due to begin on Friday.

The talks would be aimed at reaching a "conclusive agreement," he said.

Iran said it would allocate two weeks for the negotiations.

The White House was considering talks in Pakistan but plans were not finalized, Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said.

Oil and gas prices plunged on Wednesday after the announcement that the Strait of Hormuz would reopen under the truce, with global supplies squeezed since Iran effectively closed the passage.

US President Donald Trump is sending Vice President JD Vance and other negotiators to the Pakistani capital for talks

European, Canadian leaders urge 'swift and lasting end' to Iran war: statement

AFP | Rome, Italy

The leaders of France, Italy, Germany, Britain, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain and the European Union welcomed yesterday the US-Iran ceasefire and urged a "swift and lasting end" to the war.

"The goal must now be to negotiate a swift and lasting end to the war within the coming days. This can only be achieved through diplomatic means," read a joint statement. The leaders said they en-

couraged "quick progress towards a substantive negotiated settlement" to protect civilians, ensure regional security and avert a global energy crisis.

"We call upon all sides to implement the ceasefire, including in Lebanon," they said. Israel has said Lebanon was not included in the US-Iran truce. The two-week ceasefire between Washington and Tehran began early Wednesday, but talks between the parties are expected in Pakistan on Friday.

The statement was published in the names of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen and European Council president Antonio Costa.

with Iran that will begin on Saturday, the White House said.

Trump "is dispatching his

negotiating team led by the vice president of the United States, JD Vance, special envoy (Steve) Witkoff and Mr (Jared)

Kushner to Islamabad for talks this weekend," Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told a news conference.

Trump says will be 'no enrichment' of uranium in Iran

US will 'take' uranium if Iran does not give it up: Hegseth

AFP | Washington, United States

Iran will have to give up its stockpile of highly enriched uranium or the United States will "get it," Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said yesterday, while remaining unclear on how that would be done.

The Pentagon chief said the United States has Iran's stockpile under observation and suggested that another bomb-

ing attack like one conducted against the suspected sites in

June could be carried out. "We're watching it. We

know what they have, and they will give it up, and we'll get it, and we'll take it. If we have to, we can do it in any, any means necessary," Hegseth said.

"They'll give it to us voluntarily, we'll get it, we'll take it, we'll take it out, or if we have to do something else ourselves, like we did Midnight Hammer or something like that, we reserve that opportunity."



They'll give it to us voluntarily, we'll get it, we'll take it, or if we have to do something else ourselves, like we did Midnight Hammer or something like that, we reserve that opportunity.

DEFENSE SECRETARY PETE HEGSETH

Iran deal 'total and complete victory' for US

AFP | Washington, United States

President Donald Trump told AFP on Tuesday that the United States had won a "total and complete victory" after agreeing a two-week ceasefire deal with Iran.

In a telephone call, Trump said he believed China had persuaded Iran to negotiate, and said Tehran's enriched uranium would be "perfectly taken care of."

"Total and complete victory. 100 percent. No question

about it," Trump told AFP in the brief call when asked if he was claiming victory with the ceasefire.

"We have a 15 point transaction, of which most of those things have been agreed on. We'll see what happens. We'll

see if it gets there," Trump said.

Trump would not say whether he would go back to his original threats to lay waste to Iran's civilian power plants and bridges if the deal fell apart.

"You're going to have to see," Trump told AFP.

Panic in Lebanon as Israel carries out **most violent** strikes on capital

Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz said the military had carried out a surprise attack yesterday on Hezbollah members

● It came despite a deal for a two-week ceasefire between the United States and Hezbollah's backer Iran

● Israel renewed an evacuation order for an area more than 40 kilometres (25 miles) inside Lebanon, saying "the battle in Lebanon is ongoing"

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanon's government said yesterday Israeli strikes killed dozens and wounded hundreds across the country, with the capital Beirut hit by the most violent bombardment since the start of the war with militant group Hezbollah.

AFP TV's live broadcast showed plumes of smoke rising over Beirut and the suburbs, while AFP journalists saw panic in the streets before the Lebanese health ministry issued an emergency call for the capital's roads to be cleared for ambulances.

"In a very serious escalation, Israeli warplanes launched a wave of simultaneous airstrikes on several Lebanese areas, resulting in, in an initial count, dozens of martyrs and hundreds of wounded," the ministry said



Firefighters attempt to extinguish a fire following an Israeli strike at the Corniche al-Mazraa neighbourhood of Beirut

Lebanon president says wants to include country in 'regional peace'

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun welcomed on Wednesday the two-week ceasefire agreed by the United States and Iran, saying he hoped his country would be

included in the regional truce.

Aoun said Beirut "continued efforts to ensure that the regional peace includes Lebanon in a stable and lasting manner", according to a statement from the presidency.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had said earlier that the truce excluded his country's fight with Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, with Israeli strikes continuing to hit the country.

in a statement.

Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz said the military had carried out a surprise attack on Wednesday targeting hundreds

of Hezbollah members across Lebanon, calling it the largest blow against the group since a 2024 operation involving pager bombs.

It came despite a deal for a two-week ceasefire between the United States and Hezbollah's backer Iran.

Simultaneous strikes on Bei-

rut came without warning, prompting people on the street to start running and motorists to honk their horns in an effort to clear the way, according to AFP journalists.

"I saw the blast, it was very strong, and there were children killed, some with their hands cut off," Yasser Abdallah, who works in an appliance store in central Beirut, told AFP. One of the strikes hit Corniche al-Mazraa, one of the main roads in the capital.

Displaced warning

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had said earlier that the truce excluded his country's fight with Hezbollah.

Israel renewed an evacuation order for an area more than 40 kilometres (25 miles) inside Lebanon, saying "the battle in Lebanon is ongoing", before also reiterating its call for residents of Beirut's southern suburbs to leave.

It also issued a warning for a building in the coastal city of Tyre, after striking another one near it.

The state-run National News Agency (NNA) reported several strikes across the south.

On Wednesday an AFP correspondent in southern Lebanon saw small numbers of people heading south, some in cars and others carrying their children on motorcycles.

But Lebanon's military warned displaced people against

returning south "since they may be exposing themselves to the ongoing Israeli attacks".

Hezbollah meanwhile said displaced people must "not head to the targeted villages, towns, and areas in the south, the Bekaa, and the southern suburbs of Beirut before the official and final ceasefire declaration in Lebanon is issued".

'Regional peace'

In a statement, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun welcomed the two-week truce between Tehran and Washington, and said his government "continued efforts to ensure that the regional peace includes Lebanon in a stable and lasting manner".

Aoun noted that "the decision regarding war and peace ... rests solely with the Lebanese state".



Netanyahu said Lebanon was excluded, and a Lebanese official told AFP that authorities "have not been informed" of Lebanon being included in the truce.

A fragile pause: World voices **hope**

Paris, France

The United States and Iran agreed to a two-week ceasefire, with both sides claiming victory.

Here are reactions from across the globe:

Pakistan

"I am pleased to announce that the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America, along with their allies, have agreed to an immediate ceasefire everywhere including Lebanon and elsewhere, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY," Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on X.

Israel said later, however, that the two-week ceasefire "does not include Lebanon."

United Nations

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the ceasefire, his spokesperson said in a statement, adding that the UN chief "calls on all the parties to the current conflict in the Middle East to comply with their obligations under international law and to abide by the terms of the ceasefire in order to pave the way toward a lasting and comprehensive peace in the

region."

Pope

"I welcome with satisfaction, and as a sign of real hope, the announcement of an immediate two-week truce. Only by returning to negotiations can we reach the end of the war," the Catholic leader said at the end of his weekly audience at the Vatican.

Lebanon

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun welcomed the truce, adding that Beirut "continued efforts to ensure that the regional peace includes Lebanon in a stable and lasting manner."

Qatar, UAE, Oman

Qatar's foreign ministry said the truce was "an initial step toward de-escalation" and urged Iran "to immediately cease all hostile acts and practices that undermine regional stability."

United Arab Emirates presidential adviser Anwar Gargash said in a post on X that "The UAE emerged victorious from a war we sincerely sought to avoid."

Oman's foreign ministry underlined "the importance of intensifying efforts at this

junction to identify solutions capable of resolving the crisis at its roots and achieving a permanent cessation of the state of war."

Saudi Arabia

The Saudi foreign ministry said it hoped the truce "will represent an opportunity to achieve a comprehensive and sustainable de-escalation, enhancing the security of the region, and that any attacks or policies that undermine the sovereignty, security and stability of the countries in the region will cease."

Iraq

Iraq's foreign ministry said on X it welcomed the ceasefire and "calls for building upon this positive step by launching serious and sustainable dialogue tracks that address the root causes of the disputes and strengthen mutual trust."

The president of Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region said "I hope all parties will uphold this commitment in good faith and work towards a lasting peace that promotes stability, security, and prosperity throughout the entire region."

Turkey

"We insist on the fact that the temporary ceasefire be fully implemented on the ground and hope that all sides abide by the agreement," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Egypt

In an overnight call with US envoy Steve Witkoff, Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty "expressed his deep appreciation for this important American step to give diplomacy a chance and start a serious process of American-Iranian negotiations."

Israel opposition

Israel's main opposition leader Yair Lapid sharply criticised the ceasefire with Iran, accusing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of failing to achieve the war's objectives.

"There has never been a political disaster like this in our entire history. Israel was not even close to the table when decisions were made concerning the core of our national security," Lapid wrote on X.

The head of the left-wing Democrats party, Yair Golan, called the truce a "strategic

failure" by Netanyahu, a "total failure that endangers Israel's security for years to come."

European Union

The truce "creates a much-needed chance to tone down threats, stop missiles, restart shipping, and create space for diplomacy towards a lasting agreement," EU top diplomat Kaja Kallas wrote on X.

Britain, France, Germany

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the truce "will bring a moment of relief to the region and the world" as he headed to the region.

French President Emmanuel Macron called the ceasefire "a very good thing" and that Paris hoped it "will be fully respected throughout the region" and that it "fully includes Lebanon."

Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz urged a "durable end to the war in the next days," adding "this can only be achieved by diplomacy."

Spain

Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez welcomed the US-Iran ceasefire as "good news" on X but said Spain would not "applaud those who set fire to the

world because they show up with a bucket".

Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares told public radio RNE that: "All fronts must cease, and all fronts also means Lebanon."

Ukraine

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Wednesday that Ukrainian military teams helping Middle East countries counter Iranian drone attacks would stay in the region.

Ukraine's foreign minister wrote on social media that "American decisiveness works. We believe it is time for sufficient decisiveness to force Moscow to cease fire and end its war against Ukraine."

Japan

"The most important thing is that concrete steps will be taken to de-escalate the situation, including ensuring the safety of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz," Japanese government spokesman Minoru Kihara said.

The world's fourth-largest economy is the fifth biggest importer of oil, with around 70 percent coming through the vital waterway before the war.

The sticking points in the US-Iran ceasefire talks

AFP | Paris, France

The United States and Iran have agreed a ceasefire and are due to launch talks in Pakistan on Friday aimed at reaching a longer-term deal, but crucial sticking points remain.

Iran has presented a 10-point plan as the basis for talks, but it includes maximalist positions previously rebuffed by Washington.

Here are the key issues:

Control over the Strait of Hormuz

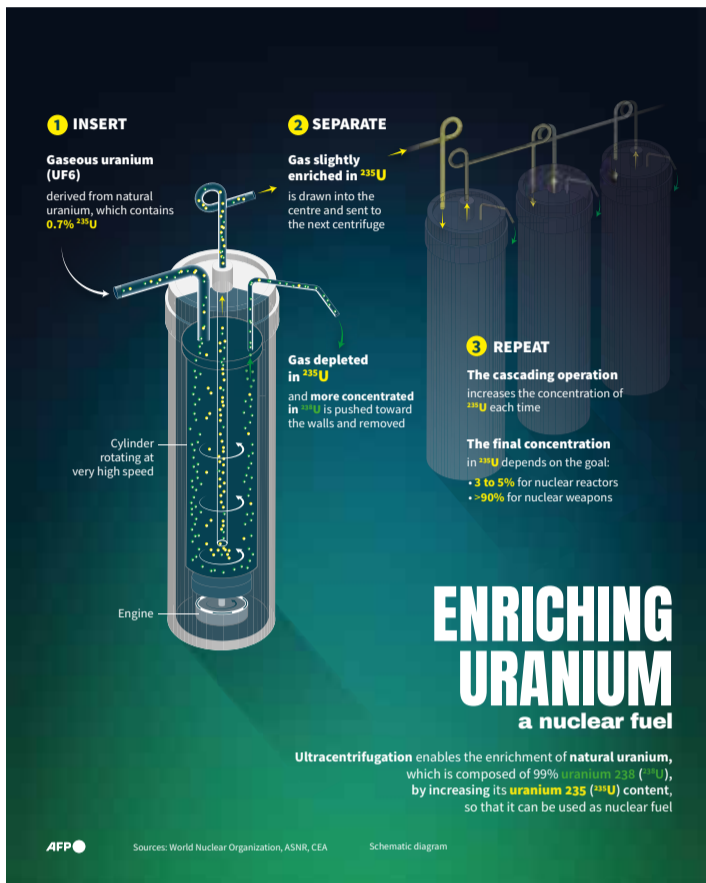
Tehran has agreed to temporarily reopen the route -- claimed as a victory by US President Donald Trump -- but has demanded control of the strait in its plan.

Iran and Oman -- the other country bordering the waterway and previous mediator between Washington and Tehran -- both said in recent days that talks were held to agree a peacetime protocol that would supervise maritime traffic through the strait.

Both Washington and Tehran have said they are considering a plan to impose tolls, but it was unclear if the Oman-Iran mechanism would involve fees.

According to an Iranian diplomatic source, the new mechanism provides for a passage fee organised in partnership with Oman. The Sultanate of Oman has not commented on this point.

Other than Omani tankers, crossings through the strait in recent days appeared to have used an Iranian-approved route just off the country's coast near Larak Island, which Lloyd's List



A liquefied natural gas (LNG) tanker is moored at a LNG berth in Kawasaki, Kanagawa prefecture

has dubbed the "Tehran Toll Booth".

Before the ceasefire, Tehran had warned it was preparing to impose new operating conditions in the route, with Revolutionary Guards saying the strait "will never return to its former status, especially for the US and Israel".

Sanctions relief

Iran, under crippling sanctions over its nuclear programme, has reiterated its demand for complete relief in its plan.

Trump had reimposed punishing sanctions in 2018 during his first term in office after he

pulled the United States out of a landmark nuclear deal with Iran that offered sanctions relief in return for strict enrichment curbs and supervision.

The sanctions have choked essential trade services such as banking, while scaring off companies from doing business in Iran.

They contributed to economic pains that sparked protests in December that turned into mass demonstrations against the Islamic republic in January before they were met with a violent crackdown.

The US and Israel had previously insisted on curbs on

Iran's long-range ballistic missile programme and an end to the country's support to militant groups such as Hezbollah in Lebanon or the Houthis in Yemen.

There is no mention of either issue in the 10-point Iranian ceasefire plan.

Uranium enrichment

Trump justified the war by accusing Tehran of rushing towards the completion of an atomic weapon.

Iran's plan would require Washington to accept its urani-

um enrichment programme for civilian purposes.

But Trump again insisted on Wednesday that Iran would cease enrichment, and proposed a solution to retrieve its 440-kilogram stockpile of highly enriched uranium, which was targeted in US bombing last June and is believed to have been buried.

"There will be no enrichment of Uranium, and the United States will, working with Iran, dig up and remove all of the deeply buried (B-2 Bombers) Nuclear 'Dust,'" he posted

on his Truth Social platform, apparently referring to the aftermath of US strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities last year.

The United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran in the midst of negotiations in which Washington demanded Iran hand over its stockpile of enriched uranium and stop any further enrichment.

Tehran has insisted since 2003 it is not seeking a nuclear weapon but has a right to enrich uranium for civilian nuclear energy purposes.

UK PM arrives in Saudi Arabia, welcomes Iran war truce

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer arrived yesterday in Saudi Arabia, on the first stop of a Gulf tour aimed at bolstering the ceasefire in the Middle East war, Downing Street said.

Starmer -- on his first visit to the region since the US-Israeli war against Iran started on February 28 -- was expected to meet Saudi Arabia's de facto leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, later Wednesday.

As the British leader's arrival was being announced, the Gulf kingdom's defence ministry said it had intercepted nine drones targeting Saudi territory in recent hours, despite the ceasefire agreed overnight between the US and Iran.

The ministry's post on X did not mention the location of the interceptions or any potential targets.

Earlier, Starmer welcomed the ceasefire deal, saying in a statement it "will bring a moment of relief to the region and the world". "Together with our part-



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer (C) leaves following a visit to Taif Airbase, Saudi Arabia,

ners we must do all we can to support and sustain this ceasefire, turn it into a lasting agreement and re-open the Strait of Hormuz," he added.

Hours later, Starmer issued another joint statement with the leaders of Canada, Japan

and various European countries, which said the goal must now be to negotiate an end to the war "within the coming days".

"This can only be achieved through diplomatic means," their statement added.

The UK leader's Gulf tour fol-



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer sits at a table (R) as he visits Taif Airbase, Saudi Arabia

lows a virtual meeting Tuesday of military planners from over 30 countries hosted by Britain.

It explored measures for an international coalition to make the Strait of Hormuz accessible and safe after a ceasefire, according to the Ministry of Defence.

Last week, a UK-led diplomatic virtual meeting of around 40 countries also discussed the critical waterway.

It has been largely closed since the war began, impacting global supplies of oil, liquefied natural gas, and fertiliser. UK armed forc-

es personnel have intercepted more than 110 drone attacks in the region during the hostilities, while the Royal Air Force (RAF) have conducted more than 1600 hours of defensive operations, the Downing Street statement added.

UAE says Iran must **pay** for 'damages and reparations'

AFP | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The UAE said yesterday that Iran should pay for damage caused by its Gulf attacks, adding that it was seeking clarification on how the ceasefire will ensure Tehran ceases hos-

Iran should pay for damage caused by its Gulf attacks, adding that UAE was seeking clarification on how the ceasefire will ensure Tehran ceases hostilities and reopens the Strait of Hormuz.

ilities and reopens the Strait of Hormuz.

The UAE "is seeking further clarification on the agreement's

provisions to ensure Iran's full commitment to an immediate

cessation of all hostilities in the region and the complete

and unconditional reopening of the Strait of Hormuz", its foreign ministry said in a statement.

Iranian attacks "necessitate a firm position, including ensuring that Iran is held accountable and fully liable for damages and reparations", it added.

Trump to discuss leaving NATO in meeting with Rutte: White House

● The meeting comes one day after the United States and Iran agreed to a two-week ceasefire

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump will discuss the possibility of leaving NATO when he meets with the alliance's chief Mark Rutte yesterday, the White House said, accusing Washington's partners of "turning their back" on the American people.

The meeting comes one day after the United States and Iran agreed to a two-week ceasefire. Trump has expressed anger at Western partners' refusal to back his war on Iran, rocking the 77-year-old transatlantic alliance.

"It's quite sad that NATO turned their backs on the American people over the course of the last six weeks when it's the



NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio speak with each other as they meet at the State Department in Washington, DC

American people who have been funding their defense," White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters.

When asked if Trump would discuss a possible withdrawal from NATO, Leavitt said: "It's something the president has

discussed, and I think it's something the president will be discussing in a couple of hours with Secretary-General Rutte."

"Perhaps you'll hear directly from the president following that meeting," she added.

Trump has branded NATO partners "cowards" for limiting US forces' access to bases on their territories and for refusing to lead efforts to open the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

But NATO's secretary-general touts a record of pulling Trump back onside -- and will be looking to do so again when he meets the president, as well as US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth.

Ahead of the White House visit, Rutte met with Rubio to talk about Iran, Russia's war against Ukraine and NATO responsibilities.

"The two leaders discussed Operation Epic Fury, ongoing US-led efforts to bring a negotiated end to the Russia-Ukraine war, and increasing coordination and burden shifting with NATO Allies," said State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Tommy Pigott.

When asked if Trump would discuss a possible withdrawal from NATO, Leavitt said: "It's something the president has discussed, and I think it's something the president will be discussing in a couple of hours with Secretary-General Rutte."

Israeli forces damage UN convoy vehicle in Lebanon: Rome

AFP | Rome, Italy

Israeli forces fired warning shots at a convoy of Italian UN peacekeepers in Lebanon yesterday, prompting Rome to summon their ambassador to protest.

An Italian convoy from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) had been carrying personnel from the town of Shama to Beirut when it was targeted by warning shots fired by the Israeli military, Defence Minister Guido Crosetto said in a statement.

The convoy immediately stopped and returned to base. The incident, in which no injuries were reported, prompted Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to call on Israel to cease attacks in Lebanon.

"The continued Israeli attacks in Lebanon, which have already caused too many deaths and an unacceptable number of displaced people, must cease immediately," Meloni said in a statement in which

she condemned the incident.

Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani summoned the Israeli ambassador in Rome Wednesday evening after earlier telling parliament "Italian soldiers in Lebanon are not to be touched".

Tajani told parliament that only one vehicle had been damaged, but Crosetto spoke of "minor damage to the vehicles".

"It is unacceptable that Italian soldiers deployed under the UN flag, tasked exclusively with guaranteeing peace and stability, should be exposed to risky situations by the Israeli army," Crosetto said.

UNIFIL is a peacekeeping mission established in 1978 in southern Lebanon.

Italy currently has 754 troops in UNIFIL, the second-largest contingent after Indonesia's 755, according to UN figures published March 30.

Meloni said that the Italian UNIFIL convoy was "clearly identifiable as such".

Netanyahu says Israel ready to 'return to battle at any moment'

● Israel's main opposition figure Yair Lapid called the truce a "diplomatic disaster"

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday that Israel remains prepared to confront Iran if necessary, despite a truce reached between the United States and Iran.

"Let me be clear: We still have objectives to complete, and we will achieve them -- either through agreement or through renewed fighting," Netanyahu said in a televised statement. "We are prepared to return to combat at any moment required. Our finger remains on the trigger. This is not the end of the campaign, but a step along the way to achieving all our objectives."

"Iran enters this pause battered, weaker than ever."

Netanyahu also hit back at opposition leaders who chastised him for agreeing to the truce before Israel achieved its objectives in the war.

"As you know, last night a temporary two-week ceasefire between the United States and Iran came into effect, in full coordination with Israel," Netanyahu said in a televised statement. "No, we were not surprised at the last moment," he said. Israel's main opposition figure Yair Lapid called the truce a "diplomatic disaster" for Israel, saying Netanyahu had failed to achieve the country's goals. Netanyahu had set the elimination or at least severe degradation of Iran's nuclear programme as a central goal of the war, describing it as an "existential threat" to Israel.

He had also called to degrade Iran's ballistic missile capabilities, weaken or potentially topple the Iranian regime and curb Tehran's regional influence by targeting its network of allied groups.

US says Iran closing Hormuz would be 'completely unacceptable'

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States said yesterday that Iran must open the Strait of Hormuz "immediately, quickly and safely" after reports that the strategic waterway was shut despite the US-Iran ceasefire.

Any closure "is completely unacceptable," White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters.

"I will reiterate the president's expectation and demand that the Strait of Hormuz is reopened immediately and safely."

Trump will continue to discuss Lebanon with Israeli PM: White House

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump will continue to discuss with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu the idea of including Lebanon in an Iran war ceasefire deal, his spokeswoman said yesterday. "This will continue to be discussed, I am

sure, between the president and Prime Minister (Benjamin) Netanyahu, the United States and Israel and all of the parties involved," Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters. The US-Iran truce does not include Lebanon, which was drawn into the war after Iran-backed group Hezbollah launched attacks on Israel.

Jordan, Japan Welcome US-Iran Ceasefire



Ayman Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jordan, held talks with Toshimitsu Motegi of Japan on Wednesday, focusing on rising regional tensions and efforts to reinforce stability.

The discussion covered recent developments across the Middle East, with both sides exploring ways to deepen bilateral cooperation while coordinating international efforts aimed at restoring calm.

The ministers welcomed the ceasefire agreement between the United States and Iran, describing it as a positive step toward easing tensions. Safadi stressed that upcoming negotiations should lead to a comprehensive agreement that guarantees security, upholds international law, and addresses the underlying causes

of conflict.

Attention was also given to the deteriorating situation in Lebanon, where Safadi called for an immediate end to Israeli military actions and reiterated support for the Lebanese government's authority across its territory.

On the situation in the Gaza Strip, both ministers underscored the importance of maintaining stability and fully implementing ceasefire terms. Safadi also raised concerns over developments in the West Bank, warning that ongoing measures such as settlement expansion and land annexation risk undermining prospects for peace.

He emphasized the urgency of a coordinated international response to halt further escalation and revive meaningful peace efforts.

Saudi FM receives EU foreign policy chief



HRH Prince Faisal bin Fahhan, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, received the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Kaja Kallas.

The meeting took place as part of ongoing diplomatic engagement between Saudi

Arabia and the European Union, aimed at strengthening cooperation and coordination on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

During the reception, both sides discussed regional developments and broader efforts to enhance dialogue and strategic partnership between Riyadh and Brussels.

Bahrain Condemns Iranian Attacks on Saudi Energy Facilities

- Threat to regional stability
- Manama urges global action
- support for Saudi sovereignty



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain has strongly condemned and denounced the "sinful" Iranian attacks that targeted energy, petrochemical facilities, and critical infrastructure in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia.

The ministry stated that these repeated hostile actions represent a continuation of a pattern targeting civilian and economic facilities across the Gulf Cooperation Council region, describing them as a serious escalation that threatens regional peace and stability.

It further stressed that such attacks constitute a clear violation of principles of good neighbourliness, international law, and international humanitarian law.

Reaffirming Bahrain's position, the ministry expressed full



solidarity with Saudi Arabia and its complete support for all measures taken to safeguard its sovereignty, security, and

stability.

The statement also urged the international community to take firm and decisive action to halt these hostile and unjustified attacks against regional states and their peaceful populations, in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution UN

Security Council Resolution 2817 and the UN Human Rights Council Resolution 38/61.

It added that such measures are essential to ensuring the security of global energy supplies, protecting vital installations, and strengthening regional and international peace and security.

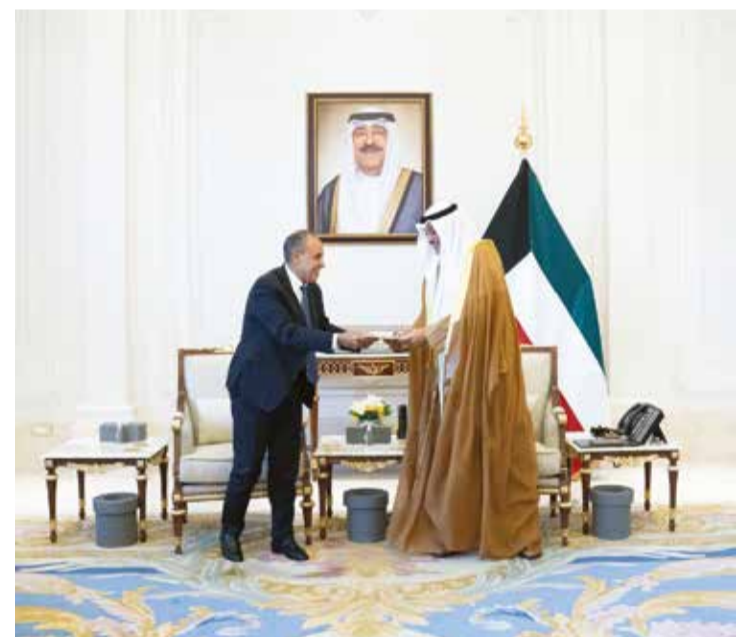
Egyptian president sends message to Kuwait's Amir

HRH the Crown Prince of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, received a written message addressed to His Highness the Amir of the country, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, from Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.

Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, Dr. Badr Abdelatty, delivered

the message during an official meeting.

According to the statement, the message highlighted the depth of the long-standing and historical relations between Egypt and Kuwait. It also reaffirmed Egypt's full support for Kuwait in all measures it undertakes to safeguard its sovereignty, security, stability, and territorial integrity.



Saudi-Kuwait Call Highlights Support for Regional Peace



HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, received a phone call from Crown Prince Shaikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah of the State of Kuwait.

During the call, the two leaders reviewed the latest regional developments, focusing particularly on the ceasefire agreement

reached between the United States and Iran. The agreement resulted from diplomatic efforts involving Pakistan.

Both sides reaffirmed the strong ties between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and underscored their commitment to supporting all regional and international efforts aimed at strengthening stability and enhancing security across the Middle East.

GCC, India discuss boosting trade



The Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Jassem Al-Budaiwi, discussed strengthening trade and economic cooperation between the two sides with India's Minister of Commerce and Industry.

Both sides emphasized the importance of enhancing economic ties and exploring opportunities

that could support trade growth, investment flows, and a long-term strategic partnership between the GCC and India.

The meeting comes as the GCC continues its efforts to deepen international economic partnerships and reinforce trade resilience in a rapidly changing global landscape.

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Bayern's Kompany praises 'special' Neuer display in win at Real Madrid



Real Madrid's French forward #10 Kylian Mbappe (R) shoots but fails to score past Bayern Munich's German goalkeeper #01 Manuel Neuer

● **Bayern win 2-1 in Madrid**

● **Neuer delivers standout performance**

● **Kane scores decisive goal**

● **Mbappe scores Madrid's only goal**

AFP | Madrid

Bayern Munich coach Vincent Kompany hailed goalkeeper Manuel Neuer after his team secured a 2-1 Champions League quarter-final first leg win at Real Madrid on Tuesday.

Luis Diaz and Harry Kane's goals gave the Bundesliga leaders a strong lead on a dominant display but Kylian Mbappe pulled one back for Madrid, with Neuer making a string of impressive saves to keep the record 15-time winners at bay.

The veteran stopper thwarted the competition's top goalscorer Mbappe on several occasions and was named man of the match.

"If he was the best player, then I'm also happy with that, it's not a problem," Kompany told reporters.

"I think you need special performances always at this level in these type of games.

"I think today we had also some chances to score more goals, so let's hope we continue this form next week, and let's hope that our strikers are the best players next week."

Kompany praised two-time Champions League and 12-time Bundesliga winner Neuer's longevity.

"Manu is one of the very few -- he's not just able to do it for a very long time, but for a very, very long time," said the Belgian coach.

"To still perform like he does now, I think that is something that not many goalkeepers, even the top ones, are able to do."

Kompany said that despite Mbappe's goal in the 74th minute, he was happy with his team's win ahead of the second leg next Wednesday.

"We're happy with the re-



If he was the best player, then I'm also happy with that, it's not a problem. I think you need special performances always at this level in these type of games. I think today we had also some chances to score more goals, so let's hope we continue this form next week, and let's hope that our strikers are the best players next week

VINCENT KOMPANY

sult. It's a win, and any win in the Bernabeu in Madrid is an important result," added Kompany.

"It's something that we can build on. And then we play at home the next game, so I think, of course, we have respect for the quality of Real Madrid...

"It's normal that they create some moments as well, they were incredibly dangerous at times. But most importantly, we stayed really dangerous as well, so the idea is when we go and play the next game at home, to try and go and win the game."

Bayern's match-winner Kane scored his 49th goal of a superb season and was pleased with the win, but warned his team to stay on their toes in the second leg.

"I thought we played some really good stuff today," Kane told Amazon Prime.

"We're in a good position but as always, it's a one-goal lead and that can change quickly. We'll try to perform as we did today."

'If any team can do it'

Real Madrid coach Alvaro Arbeloa backed his team to mount a comeback in Munich.

"I think it's a defeat that maybe, with a bit more luck in the second half, we could have avoided," said the Spaniard.

"We scored a goal that gave us hope -- the pity is we weren't able to put away any more of the chances we had.

"It's not going to be easy, but if any team can win in Munich, it's Real Madrid."

Jude Bellingham impressed as a second half substitute for Madrid, as he continues to find fitness after a hamstring injury, and Arbeloa highlighted the England international's contribution.

"We've talked a lot about how his return to the team should be, about getting back to his best level, and I think doing it progressively is just logical to me," said the coach.

49

goals have been scored by Harry Kane in a superb Bayern season

Bahrain fall to Japan after strong start

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's youth men's basketball team lost 79-90 to Japan yesterday in their penultimate preliminary-round game at the 31st Albert Schweitzer Tournament in Germany.

The defeat was their fourth in as many matches, ending their hopes of reaching the semi-finals from Group A.

Vovoras' side started brightly and took control early. They edged the first quarter 21-19 and carried that momentum into the second, building a 43-36 halftime lead after a composed opening half.

Japan, however, turned the game around after the break. They dominated the third quarter 31-16 to seize the lead, then held off the nationals' efforts in the fourth to secure the win.

Hassan Abdulkadir led Bahrain with an impressive 27 points and 19 rebounds, while Somto Patrick Onoduenyi added 14 points, 15 boards, and nine assists in another all-around performance. Mahdi Baqer contributed 11 points, but Bahrain struggled from long range, converting just five of their 22 attempts from beyond the arc.

The Japanese side also had a balanced scoring effort. Roi Honda led the way with 14 points, while Cayman Tsuneoka added 13 and Hiromasa Fujiwara contributed 12 in their strong second-half performance.

Bahrain, making their debut in the prestigious under-18 competition, had earlier fallen to Germany, Sweden, and Slovenia.

They will conclude their preliminary campaign against Türkiye today at 2:15pm before moving into the classification games to determine places fifth through 12th.

The tournament is being held in Mannheim and Viernheim and runs until April 11. For the nationals, it also provides valuable preparation for the Gulf Basketball Association qualifiers for the Fiba U18 Asia Cup 2026 in Qatar.



Ali Barhoom threads his way through Japan's defense

Medvedev thrashed 6-0, 6-0 by Berrettini, Zverev battles through



Daniil Medvedev smashes his racquet

AFP | Monte Carlo

Daniil Medvedev slipped to an embarrassing 6-0, 6-0 thrashing by Matteo Berrettini in the Monte Carlo Masters second round on Wednesday, as Alexander Zverev dug deep to beat Cristian Garin.

Medvedev completely unravelled against Berrettini after missing two break points in the opening game, making 30 unforced errors and serving five double faults.

Medvedev did not win more than two points in any of the last 11 games and his frustrations boiled over in the second set, smashing his racquet into the court four times.

Berrettini wrapped up the double-bagel victory, the first such defeat of former world number one Medvedev's career, in just 49 minutes.

"I think it was one of the best performances of my life," Berrettini said.

"I think I missed three shots in the entire match and it is not easy against a tricky player like Daniil. I think the game plan

was perfect and my weapons were working."

The former Wimbledon runner-up, now ranked 90th, will face Joao Fonseca in the last 16 after the Brazilian teenager beat Arthur Rinderknech 7-5, 4-6, 6-3.

World number three Zverev, who is hoping to complete the set of all three clay-court Masters 1000 titles this week, staged a late comeback to edge out Chilean qualifier Garin 4-6, 6-4, 7-5.

Zverev has reached the semi-finals at each of the Australian Open, Indian Wells and the Miami Open this year but was in danger of a shock exit after losing the first set and then trailing 4-0 in the third.

Garin also served for the match when 5-3 ahead in the deciding set, but Zverev broke and then sealed victory by reeling off five consecutive games.

He had to stave off three break points in a nervy 12th game to avoid a tie-break, but eventually got the job done on his third match point.

Muharraq Escapes Manama in Tight Opener

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Muharraq launched their bid for a historic treble in the Zain Bahrain Basketball League finals with a 74-73 victory over record champions Manama at Khalifa Sports City Arena last night. The holders showed composure under pressure and survived a back-and-forth encounter that could have swung either way. From the opening tip, it was clear this series would be closely contested, with every possession carrying weight. Game 2 is set for this Saturday at 7pm, again at Khalifa Sports City Arena.

Manama started slightly sharper, with Ahmed Salman opening the scoring with a three-pointer and Mohamed Ghazi quickly following to give them an early multiple-possession lead. Muharraq responded through Nick West's inside scoring and Michael Warren

driving to the basket. Hustle plays and late free throws from Ali Jaber and Romeo Enan kept Manama narrowly ahead, but the Red Wolves remained within striking distance, trailing 19-18 after the first quarter.

The second quarter swung repeatedly. Buallay and Salman kept Manama ahead early, but Warren began to find his rhythm, hitting several three-pointers and finishing fast-break opportunities. Bader Abdulla briefly gave Schomers' side the lead with a crucial triple, only for Donovan Smith and Ghazi to respond for Ramadhan's side. Manama went into halftime with a narrow 36-35 advantage, but Muharraq had already signaled their intent, matching Manama point for point.

The third quarter became an offensive duel. Donovan Smith and Buallay pushed Manama forward, while Mahmood Abbas Isa, Warren, and Mohamed

Nasser kept Muharraq in contention. Midway through the period, Ghazi caught fire from beyond the arc, matched by Salman's mid-range and free-throw scoring. Lead changes were constant, and the quarter ended 57-56 to Manama.

Before the final quarter, the top scorers had already emerged. For Muharraq, Michael Warren led the way with 23 points, 7 rebounds, and four of five three-pointers, earning him the well-deserved man of the match award. Mahmood Abbas Isa added 10, Nader Ali and Nick West contributed nine apiece, and Bader Abdulla scored eight. For Manama, Ahmed Salman topped the team with 24 points, while Mohamed Ghazi finished with 23. Donovan Smith added 11, Mohammed Buallay 7, and Romeo Enan 4.

The final quarter delivered high drama. Ghazi's early three-pointer extended Manama's lead, but Nader Ali and

Warren kept the reigning champions in touch. The game was tied repeatedly at 60-60, 63-63, and 69-69. In the last two minutes, Donovan Smith briefly gave Manama the lead, only for Ali to respond with a three-pointer. With four seconds remaining, Warren hit a step-back three to put Muharraq ahead by three. Salman immediately scored a fadeaway to bring Manama within one, but the holders held on for the win.

Warren's late three ultimately proved decisive. Muharraq's 41 bench points underlined their depth, while Manama were left to reflect on 18 turnovers and missed opportunities in the closing moments. Historically, eight of nine times the winner of Game 1 has gone on to claim the league title, giving Muharraq a psychological edge as they pursue a historic treble. If last night's opener was any indication, this series is far from over.



Mahmood Isa slips past Romeo Enan in transition

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