

Omani authorities evacuated 24 Indian sailors from the tanker MT Marivex after a fire broke out off the coast of Oman. | **P10**

Ministry Mourns Al Muqla



The Ministry of Information mourned former ministry official Abdullah Isa Al Muqla.

The late Al Muqla was among the national media professionals who contributed to the early stages of Bahrain's media sector and was part of the founding generation of Bahrain Television. He also held several leadership positions at the Information Ministry during the 1980s and 1990s.

The ministry expressed its condolences to his family and relatives.

Bahrain Ensures Religious Freedoms



The Chairman of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR), Ali Ahmed Al Derazi, stressed the importance of coordination and dialogue ahead of the Ashoora season in Bahrain.

Al Derazi highlighted key points discussed during the annual meeting chaired by General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior, with officials and representatives of maatams across the Kingdom. The meeting focused on preparations for the religious season and ensuring proper arrangements across governorates.

He said the discussions reflected Bahrain's commitment to strengthening cooperation between official bodies and community stakeholders, while ensuring that religious observance is carried out within a framework that safeguards public order and legal compliance.

Al Derazi added that the NIHR has, over recent years, monitored Ashoora-related activities and observed continued facilitation of religious practices for citizens, residents, and inmates in rehabilitation centres under established regulations.

Cabinet Condemns Regional Escalation

Ministers Back Royal Directives on National Priorities



● **Alba acquisition of Aluminium Dunkerque welcomed**

● **New UK customs cooperation agreement approved**

● **Bahrain's SDG progress report reviewed by Cabinet**

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting at Gudaibiya Palace, where ministers reviewed national priorities, regional developments, and several international and domestic initiatives.

The Cabinet opened by commending the address delivered by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa during last week's meeting. Ministers said the Royal directives and priorities outlined

in the speech provide a clear framework to further strengthen Bahrain's security and stability, while building on national achievements. The Cabinet affirmed that government bodies will continue implementing these directives across all sectors.

Strongly Condemned

The Cabinet meeting also addressed regional security concerns, strongly condemning renewed hostile Iranian actions against the Kingdom of Bahrain and the State of Kuwait. Ministers called on Iran to immediately cease hostilities, fully reopen the Strait of Hormuz without restrictions, and uphold freedom of maritime navigation in accordance with international law and United Nations Security Council resolutions. The Cabinet reiterated Bahrain's support for efforts aimed at de-escalation, civilian protection, and safeguarding regional and international peace and security.

Security agencies, including the Bahrain Defence Force, the National Guard, and the Ministry of Interior, were commended for their preparedness and coordination in responding to evolving developments.

The Cabinet also welcomed the outcomes of the annual meeting between the Minister of Interior and representatives of matams across Bahrain's governorates. The discussions highlighted public safety measures and the importance of preserving Ashura observances, while ensuring compliance with regulations and maintaining community security.

On education, ministers congratulated students across all academic stages for the 2025-2026 academic year and praised parents for their support. They also commended the Ministry of Education's staff for their continued dedication and professionalism throughout the year.

Economy

In the economic sector, the Cabinet welcomed the announcement involving Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), American Industrial Partners, and Bpifrance regarding Alba's acquisition of Aluminium Dunkerque, described as the largest aluminium smelter in the European Union. The Cabinet also praised the efforts of Mumtalakat Holding Company in strengthening Bahrain's investment portfolio.

They also discussed prepara-

Cabinet Decisions

Bahrain's participation and contributions in international organisations

Draft customs cooperation agreement with the United Kingdom
Amendments to municipal law executive regulations

Third Voluntary National Review on UN Sustainable Development Goals

Government responses to proposals from the Council of Representatives

tions for the upcoming 167th session of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council, as well as progress on youth development projects under the Government Programme 2023-2026.

Finally, the Cabinet reviewed reports on Bahrain's participation in several international forums, including the Choose France summit, the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, and global conferences on food supply chains, ocean sustainability, and water security. It also noted updates on the conclusion of the academic year and recent ministerial engagements and foreign visits to Bahrain in June 2026.

Jordan Accession Day



Bahrain's leadership sent congratulatory messages to Jordan's King Abdullah II on his Accession Day, reaffirming the close ties between the two kingdoms.

In his message, HM King Hamad extended best wishes to King Abdullah II for continued health and happiness, and expressed hope for further progress and prosperity for the Jordanian people under his leadership.

Separately, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, also sent

Unity and Stability



H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, the Ministry of Finance and National Economy participated in signing a document of endorsement and loyalty, reflecting national allegiance and unity in Bahrain.

The document reaffirms support for the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, as the country continues to emphasise national cohesion and institutional stability.

It also highlights alignment with the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, particularly regarding strengthening national responsibility and sustaining development efforts.

Loyalty Document Deadline Extended

Ministry of Information extended the deadline for receiving loyalty and support documents submitted by institutions, organisations, and community groups across the Kingdom.

The documents reflect expressions of loyalty and belonging to Bahrain and its leadership, including support for His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and backing for the government led by HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The ministry said submissions will now be accepted until Thursday, June 18. Documents can be delivered at the main gate of the ministry headquarters daily from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

NEW PATH

Fintech Innovation Strategy

Meeting highlighted the role of the banking and financial sector in economic growth

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, met with Robert Diamond, Founding Partner and Chief Executive Officer of Atlas Merchant Capital, at Gudaibiya Palace.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister affirmed the vital role of the financial and banking sector in driving the Kingdom's economic growth and comprehensive development, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

His Royal Highness empha-

sised the importance of fostering innovation in financial technology and enhancing the development of financial services to increase sector efficiency and support the Kingdom's future readiness.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister underscored Bahrain's commitment to further deepening cooperation with leading international financial and investment institutions, supporting the exchange of expertise and creating promising opportunities



that contribute to achieving the Kingdom's wide-ranging goals.

During the meeting, several issues of mutual interest and the latest developments in the global economy were discussed.

For his part, Robert Diamond expressed his appreciation for

His Royal Highness's continued commitment to strengthening cooperation and advancing partnerships with international financial institutions and banks, wishing the Kingdom of Bahrain continued progress and prosperity.



A Syrian farmer looks at an Iranian missile that fell onto agricultural land in the area of Najha, in the countryside of the Syrian capital after the missile was intercepted by Israeli air defense systems on June 8, 2026. Iraq and Syria closed their airspace on June 7 as a safety precaution after their eastern neighbour, Iran, launched missiles across their territory toward targets in Israel. In a brief statement, the Iraqi Civil Aviation Authority reported the closure of Iraqi airspace for 72 hours. Syria's authority closed the country's "southern air corridors" for 12 hours. (Read more about the Middle East war on pages 8-9)

Sitra set for first smart bus station

- Public transport plan to link buses with the future metro network
- Solar stations support sustainability drive

TDI | Manama

A senior Bahraini official inspected several public transport projects across the Kingdom, including a future digital bus station expected to become a key milestone in the country's transport modernisation drive.

Fatima Abdullah Al Daeen, Undersecretary for Land Transport and Post at the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications, visited several initiatives implemented by the land transport sector to assess readiness and ensure progress aligns with operational and delivery timelines.

The tour included multiple public bus stations, most notably the Sitra station, which is being developed with support from stc Bahrain. Once



completed, it is expected to become Bahrain's first fully digital bus station, marking a significant step in the country's public transport transformation strategy.

Officials say the project is part of wider efforts to advance Bahrain's national transport strategy and strengthen digital transformation across mobility services, positioning the Kingdom as a regional leader in smart and sustainable transport systems.

During the visit, Al Daeen

“Bahrain is expanding solar-powered bus stations to reduce reliance on the electricity grid and support its sustainability goals.”



reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to enhancing public transport infrastructure and expanding partnerships with the private sector to accelerate the delivery of key projects.

She also highlighted ongoing work to develop an integrated public transport network that will connect bus services with a future metro system. This

network aims to improve traffic flow, reduce carbon emissions, and increase access to employment, education, and essential services.

The initiative aligns with the Kingdom's long-term development vision, including efforts to improve economic efficiency and support sustainable urban growth.

‘Coffee with a Leader’ National development driven by leadership vision



TDI | Manama

Minister of Information, Dr. Ramzan bin Abdullah Al-Noaimi, took part in a youth-focused dialogue session organised by the Lam'a Authority, as part of its “Coffee with a Leader” series, alongside the Minister of Youth Affairs, Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi.

“Investing in young people is central to safeguarding our national achievements and strengthening stability”

- DR. RAMZAN BIN ABDULLAH AL-NOAIMI

The session brought together members of Lam'a's board of directors and young Bahraini participants, providing an open platform for discussion on leadership, development, and the role of youth in national progress.

During the meeting, Dr. Al-Noaimi stated that Bahrain continues to advance confidently, guided by the vision of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. He said this vision places people at the centre of development and views young citizens as key partners in shaping both the present and the future.

He also highlighted the directives of the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, noting that government initia-

tives continue to focus on empowering young people and strengthening their participation in national development programmes.

The minister further praised the role of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, describing his initiatives in youth affairs and humanitarian work as instrumental in building a more structured national framework for youth empowerment.

He also commended the Lam'a programme, saying it has played a significant role in developing emerging leaders through training and capacity-building initiatives. He noted that many of its graduates have gone on to make a visible impact in their workplaces, particularly in leadership and administrative roles.

UAE Stands Firmly With Bahrain

Gulf solidarity on full display as top lawmakers exchange messages of support

TDI | Manama

The UAE's Federal National Council President has condemned the Iranian terrorist attacks on Bahrain, saying the kingdom's security was ‘an indivisible part’ of the UAE's own security and of the Gulf security system.

In a letter to Parliament Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, Saqr Ghobash said the attacks amounted to a clear breach of Bahrain's sovereignty, security and stability, as well as a grave breach of international law and the rules governing ties between states.

Mr Ghobash said the UAE was following the developments with deep condemnation and stood firmly with Bahrain against any threat to its sovereignty and stability.

‘The security of the Kingdom of Bahrain is an indivisible part of the security of the UAE,’ he said, adding that any harm to Bahrain's sovereignty and stability was also a blow to Gulf security as a whole.

He said the developments



SAQR GHOBASH, SPEAKER, UAE FEDERAL NATIONAL COUNCIL

“The security of the Kingdom of Bahrain is an indivisible part of the security of the UAE.”



H.E. Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Chairman of the Shura Council



H.E. Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, Speaker of the Parliament

showed that Gulf states, despite their efforts to shore up stability, peace and de-escalation, still faced treacherous Iranian aggression requiring closer unity, co-ordination and readiness.

Mr Ghobash said Bahrain, under His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, had the wisdom, strength and national unity needed to overcome such challenges.

He also praised the long-standing ties between GCC states, saying they would remain a firm barrier against threats to the region's security and stability.

Mr Al Musallam thanked Mr Ghobash for the letter, saying it showed the firm UAE stance, close ties and shared destiny binding Bahrain and the UAE under His Majesty King Hamad and UAE President Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. He said Bahrain took pride in the depth of its brotherly ties with the UAE, describing them as strategic ties built on close bonds between the two countries and their peoples.

Meanwhile, Bahrain's Shura Council chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh received a message of support from UAE Feder-

al National Council Speaker Saqr Ghobash, who strongly condemned what he described as Iranian “terrorist attacks” targeting the kingdom.

In the message, Mr Ghobash said the attacks were a blatant violation of Bahrain's sovereignty, security and stability, and a serious breach of international law.

Mr Ghobash also called for greater Gulf solidarity and co-ordination in the face of regional threats, saying GCC unity would remain a strong shield against attempts to undermine regional security and stability.

Malls Go Beyond Shopping

How Bahrain's Malls Are Redefining Gulf Tourism?



TDI | Manama

Shopping malls are becoming one of Bahrain's most powerful tourism assets. That was the central message from Tourism Minister Fatima bint Jaffar Al Sairafi as she met with mall operators from across the kingdom to align on strategy ahead of the busy summer season.

The minister said modern malls – combining retail, dining, entertainment and family activities under one roof – now serve visitors of all ages and backgrounds, making them a cornerstone of Bahrain's broader tourism offering.

The meeting was part of regular government-industry coordination sessions tied directly to Bahrain's Tourism Strategy 2022–2026. Al Sairafi stressed that partnerships with shopping centres are not optional extras—they are a structural pillar of the kingdom's tourism growth plan.

Discussions centred on two key campaigns: the “Walaha Alaikum” visitor welcome initiative and an upcoming GCC-targeted summer cam-



“Shopping malls bring together retail, entertainment and hospitality under one roof – and that is exactly what modern tourists are looking for.”

- MINISTER AL SAIRAFI

aign designed to attract families from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE and beyond. Joint promotional packages combining shopping discounts, entertainment events and dining deals are being developed specifically for the Gulf market.

Bahrain, Cyprus Discuss Strengthening Cooperation

TDI | Manama

The President of Customs, Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa, received the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Dr Andreas Eliades, during an official meeting on Monday.

During the meeting, Shaikh Ahmed welcomed the Cypriot ambassador and highlighted



the depth of bilateral relations between the two countries. He noted that ties continue to develop across various sectors,

reflecting growing cooperation and mutual engagement.

Both sides discussed several topics of common interest,

focusing particularly on ways to strengthen cooperation and enhance the exchange of expertise. The discussions also explored opportunities to serve shared interests and support further institutional collaboration.

The meeting occurs as Bahrain continues to expand its international partnerships across customs, trade facilitation, and administrative cooperation.

Lujain Goes Home

Bahrain's Second Gene Therapy Victory in Sickle Cell Fight

TDT | Manama

Royal Medical Services announced another milestone in gene therapy, following the successful treatment of a Bahraini patient with sickle cell disease using the advanced gene-editing therapy Casgevy.

Major General Dr. Shaikh Fahad bin Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Commander of the Royal Medical Services, said the continued progress in gene therapy and stem cell transplantation reflects the high standard of Bahrain's military medical sector and its commitment to delivering advanced precision treatments in line with international standards.

He expressed pride in the support provided by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, as well as the backing of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, saying this support has helped drive medical innovation and improve healthcare services in the Kingdom.

His remarks came during a visit to the patient, Lujain, following the completion of her treatment under the Gene Therapy and Stem Cell Transplantation Programme for inherited blood disorders. She has since



“We remain committed to providing the latest precision treatments in line with the highest international medical standards.”

been discharged in good health and is now in the final stage of recovery.

The Bahrain Oncology Centre, which is part of the Royal Medical Services, said the treatment was carried out using Casgevy, a CRISPR/Cas9-based gene-editing therapy developed by Vertex Pharmaceuticals and CRISPR Therapeutics. The centre described it as a major breakthrough offering long-term improvement for patients with inherited blood diseases.



This is the second successful gene therapy case for sickle cell disease in Bahrain under the programme

Dr. Edward Rowland, Chief Executive Officer of the Bahrain Oncology Centre, said the success marks another step forward for Bahrain in precision medicine, highlighting local medical teams' ability to deliver highly complex treatments in line with global standards.

Dr. Noora Butti, Head of the programme, said the patient will continue follow-up care and is expected to return to normal daily activities within months, adding that further similar suc-

Three Hours of Sleep, One Bigger Dream

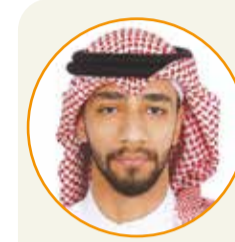
TDT | Manama
Ghadeer Alkumaish



A 22-year-old Bahraini entrepreneur has turned a simple idea into a growing home-based business while balancing university life, building his brand Waraqatna around his passion for stuffed grape leaves.

Entrepreneur Ali Aldakheel

particularly challenging, with slow sales and limited growth leaving him uncertain about continuing. Balancing academic pressure with an emerging business tested his patience and commitment. “After months without seeing clear progress, I felt discouraged,” Aldakheel said. “But I kept going and reminded myself that success takes patience and consistency.”



“Don't rush success, Keep going even when results are slow. One day, the effort will make sense.”

ALI ALDAKHEEL

Beyond business results, Aldakheel says the most meaning-

ful motivation came from small acts of kindness from customers and his family's continuous support. “Sometimes customers offered water, food, or small gestures of kindness,” he said. “Those moments stayed with me.”

Now still at the beginning of his journey, he believes many young entrepreneurs underestimate the time and effort required to build something sustainable. He encourages others to stay patient and trust the process rather than expecting immediate success.

For Aldakheel, Waraqatna is still growing but so is he, shaped by long days, short nights, and the determination to build something of his own.

The early months were par-

ing his journey began with a clear intention: to become financially independent, ease the pressure on his family, and gain real-world experience before graduation. What started as ambition quickly developed into a demanding routine that runs alongside his studies.

His day begins before sunrise, when he prepares orders for Waraqatna before heading to university. Between lectures, assignments, and exams, he manages operations and returns home later to continue working late into the night.

New School Year with 96% Pass Rate



TDT | Manama

The Education Ministry wraps up one successful year — and immediately starts building the next

Bahrain is already in full preparation mode for the upcoming 2026–2027 academic year, with Education Minister Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma personally leading the charge.

Chairing the Committee for the Start of the Academic Year, the minister confirmed that all educational, administrative and support teams are aligned and working to ensure a strong start to the new term — even as the current school year draws to a close.

A Year to Be Proud Of

The committee opened by reviewing this year's achievements — and the headline number speaks for itself: secondary school students recorded a pass rate of approximately 96%, which the committee formally approved at the meeting.

The academic calendar for

“Building on this year's success, we are fully committed to ensuring a strong start to the 2026–2027 academic year.”

— DR. MOHAMMED BIN MUBARAK JUMA

2026–2027 has been officially approved, covering all key term dates, milestones, school breaks and events. Parents and students can already access the full calendar on the Ministry of Education's official website.

The minister acknowledged the ongoing support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, describing their backing as central to raising the kingdom's education standards.

Relevant departments have been assigned clear responsibilities, with teams tasked to continue monitoring progress and completing preparations ahead of the new school year.

Labour Ministry raises awareness on midday work restrictions



TDT | Manama

Ministry of Labour organised a workshop to raise awareness about implementing Ministerial Decision No. (5) of 2026, which regulates the summer midday work ban.

The decision, effective from June 15 until August 31, prohibits outdoor work under direct sunlight between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. to safeguard workers during the peak summer heat.

The workshop brought together employers, occupational safety and health officials, and private sector representatives to discuss the regulation's requirements and necessary compliance measures.

The ministry stated the initiative is part of its wider efforts to supervise the decision's implementation and strengthen awareness of occupational health and safety standards during the summer months, when temperatures and humidity levels rise significantly.

Officials also highlighted preventive measures and best practices aimed at reducing the risks of heat stress and creating a safer and more productive working environment.

Ban on outdoor work under direct sunlight

Duration:
June 15 – August 31, 2026

Restricted hours:
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Protect workers from heat stress and related health risks.

Field inspections, awareness campaigns, and inter-agency coordination.

Employer responsibilities: Provide heat protection measures, ensure worker safety

Odometer Readings Sought for Annual Car Tests



TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A proposal to record car odometer readings during Bahrain's annual vehicle inspection has been studied by Parliament's Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee as part of efforts to curb mileage fraud in the used-car market.

Submitted by MP Mohammed Salman Al Ahmed, the proposal asks the government to link each vehicle's odometer to the yearly test, with the reading logged electronically in the Traffic Directorate's vehicle record report. Buyers would then be able to check earlier readings before buying a used car.

Al Ahmed said the proposal follows repeated cases of sellers lowering recorded mileage to raise sale prices. He said the practice harms buyers, weakens trust in the market and raises road safety risks by hiding the true use of a vehicle.

The proposal also calls for stiffer penalties for anyone found to have tampered with an odometer to mislead buyers. Al Ahmed said many consumers have weak means of checking a car's true mileage,



Mohammed Salman Al Ahmed, MP



Authorities track odometer readings during annual inspections to build a verified mileage record and prevent fraud. In the EU, these readings are stored in national databases to help detect and deter tampering.

while the practice has spread in a way that makes an official record necessary.

The matter was among items studied by the committee during the fourth ordinary session of the sixth legislative term.

When a Painting Says What Words Cannot

Gulf's First MS Centre Puts Patients' Stories at the Heart of Awareness Day



TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

A morning filled with colour, creativity and resilience unfolded at the NBB Multiple Sclerosis Centre in Busaiteen, where people living with multiple sclerosis used art to express hope and strength.

The event, organised by the Bahrain Multiple Sclerosis Patients Society to mark World Multiple Sclerosis Day, brought together patients, doctors, families and supporters in an awareness gathering focused on the human experience of the disease.

The NBB Multiple Sclerosis Centre, regarded as the first of its kind in the Arabian Gulf, provides integrated care for MS patients under one roof. It brings together neurology, nutrition, urology and ophthalmology services, alongside diagnostic and rehabilitation support, aiming to ensure early intervention and comprehensive treatment.

Medical staff at the centre are predominantly Bahraini consultants, supported by specialised nursing teams who guide patients through diagnosis, treatment and long-term care.



A key highlight of the event was an art display by MS patients themselves. Their paintings reflected personal journeys of patience, resilience and determination, offering visitors a powerful reminder that the condition does not diminish creativity or ambition.

Doctors attending the event also provided health guidance, stressing the importance of lifestyle management for people living with MS. They highlighted suitable physical activity to support balance and strength, alongside tailored exercise plans based on each patient's condition.

Nutrition advice was also shared, with recommendations for foods such as fish, walnuts, fruits, vegetables and whole grains, while advising moderation in processed foods, fried meals, sugary drinks, refined

carbohydrates and high-fat or high-salt diets.

The Bahrain Multiple Sclerosis Patients Society said its goal is to help patients lead as normal a life as possible, through psychological and social support, awareness programmes and access to reliable medical information.

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“People living with MS are not defined by the disease, but by their roles as artists, family members and active contributors to society.”

— ORGANISERS

Moves to Let Children Meet Separated Parents in Malls and Play Areas

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A proposal to widen where children can meet a separated parent has been recommended for approval by Parliament's Services Committee, opening the way for visits in shopping malls, family cafés, play areas and other child-friendly sites.

The amended proposal, tied to Article 139 of Bahrain's Family Law, seeks to move some visits away from closed or formal spaces and into settings closer to ordinary family outings.

It was submitted by MPs Basema Mubarak, Ahmed Al Salloom, Lulwa Al Rumaihi, Jalal Kadhém and Eman Shuwaiter.

The committee said it had agreed revised wording with the MPs behind the proposal, including a change to the number of the related article in the Family Law.

The proposal says a wider choice of venues would give children a calmer setting when meeting a parent who does not have custody, while keeping the visit rooted in the child's welfare.

Its explanatory note says the change is based on the best interests of the child and falls within Bahrain's Family Law, Law No. 19 of 2017, which governs visitation rights.

It argues that visits in



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“The child's psychological wellbeing must remain the top priority in all visitation decisions.”

BASEMA MUBARAK, MP

closed or formal surroundings can raise anxiety and leave the child linking the meeting to court rows or family breakdown.

Shopping malls, play areas and family cafés, the MPs said, can give children a greater sense of ease and belonging during contact with the visiting parent.

The proposal also says public venues can help build a healthier bond between the child and the visiting parent by allowing more natural contact, away from the strain between separated parents.

- Proposal allows child visits in malls and family-friendly venues.
- Amendment linked to Bahrain's Family Law.
- Focus on children's emotional wellbeing.
- MPs say formal centres may increase stress.
- Plan encourages natural parent-child interaction.
- Public venues seen as safer and more comfortable.
- Initiative aims to strengthen family bonds after divorce.

It adds that the effects of divorce on children can be eased when they are still able to enjoy ordinary social and leisure activities like their peers.

The MPs said children's needs differ by age, making it useful to offer a wider range of places suited to each child's stage of growth.

Shura Council chairman praises Bahrain's envoy to Jordan

Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh commended the efforts of Bahrain's ambassador to Jordan, Shaikh Khalifa bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, for his role in strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Chairman highlighted the ambassador's diplomatic work in supporting and deepening what he described as the longstanding fraternal ties between Bahrain and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

He said Bahraini-Jordanian relations continue to develop steadily across various fields,



supported by the leadership of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and King Abdullah II of Jordan.

The remarks were made during a reception for the ambassador at the Shura Council headquarters on Monday.

Scrap Yard Relocation Deadline Extended

Southern Municipality grants businesses until July 31 to move to Hafeera site

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Businesses operating in the Al Mazra'a scrap yard have been granted additional time to relocate after the Southern Municipality extended the deadline to July 31, 2026.

The decision follows directives from the ministerial committee for development projects and infrastructure, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, to support a smoother transition to the new site in Hafeera.

Officials said the extension is intended to reduce pressure on businesses and ensure commercial and service activities continue without disruption during the relocation process.

The municipality confirmed that the new site in Block 959 has been prepared in coordina-



tion with relevant government authorities to meet planning and technical requirements.

Authorities said the first phase of the project aims to better organise scrap-related activities, improve safety standards and provide a more suita-

ble working environment for operators.

The new facility is also expected to enhance service efficiency, support long-term sustainability in the sector and allow room for future expansion.

Bangladesh's stories come alive in Bahrain art showcase

● **Jamal Ahmed:** Renowned Bangladeshi artist and Ekushey Padak awardee, known for works inspired by nature, rivers, and everyday life.



TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

A burst of colour, texture and human expression is drawing visitors into the heart of Bangladesh without ever leaving Bahrain.

At the Arts Centre, a new exhibition offers more than paintings on walls. It presents a lived experience, where art becomes a bridge between cultures and a window into the rhythms of life in Dhaka.

Titled “From the Heart to the Extremities: A Journey Through the Kaleidoscope,” the exhibition was launched by the Bahrain

Authority for Culture and Antiquities in collaboration with the Embassy of Bangladesh and was attended by diplomats, artists and cultural figures.

Through bold colours and layered compositions, the works transform Dhaka into more than a city turning it into a living narrative filled with memory, movement and human stories.

Each piece offers a different lens, capturing fragments of everyday life, from nature and urban spaces to personal identity and shared cultural memory.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Bahrain Mohammed Sarwar said the exhibition reflects ongoing efforts to deepen cultural exchange between the two countries.

He described art as a powerful form of diplomacy, capable of crossing borders where language cannot, creating spaces for dialogue and understanding between people.

The exhibition brings together leading contemporary artists, each presenting a distinct artistic voice.

MPs Join Riyadh Parliamentary Talks

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

The Parliamentary Group will join the 39th conference of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union by video link, with the Riyadh meeting running from 9 to 11 June under the title 'An Arab Parliamentary Vision for a More Stable and Sustainable Future'.

The delegation will be led by Speaker Ahmed Al Musallam, chairman of the executive committee of Bahrain's Parliamentary Group.

The Bahraini side will also take part in the virtual GCC co-ordination meeting held alongside the conference, as well as the 42nd meeting of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union's executive committee.

That meeting will discuss the report of the union's general secretariat, the report of the temporary financial committee, the report of the temporary parliamentary diplomacy committee, and the Arab group's nomination for the presidency of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

On the sidelines of the conference, the executive committee of secretaries-general will meet, along with the 47th meeting of the Association of Secretaries-General of Arab Parliaments.

Those talks will cover the role of research and infor-

mation centres in guiding parliamentary decisions and improving legislative work.

The Bahraini delegation includes MP Ahmed Abdulwahid Qarata, Second Deputy Speaker; Shura Council member Talal Al Mannai; MP Hisham Al

Awadhi; Shura Council member Fatima Al Kawheji; Mohammed Al Sisi Al Buainain, Secretary-General of Parliament and secretary of the Parliamentary Group; and Karima Al Abbasi, Secretary-General of the Shura Council.



Shura Committees Examine Child, Sport and Rights Laws

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Three Shura Council committees held fourteen meetings during the fourth ordinary session of the sixth legislative term, with members studying a decree-law, a draft law and two proposed laws.

The work was carried out by the Women and Child Affairs Committee, the Youth Affairs Committee and the Human Rights Committee, whose remit also included visits, meetings with public bodies and other groups, talks with guests and experts, and attendance at relevant forums.

The Women and Child Affairs Committee, chaired by Ejlal Bubbait, held five meetings, completed two reports and provided one specialist view to the Services Committee on a proposed law amending parts of Decree-Law No. 7 of 1989 on the practice of human medicine and dentistry.

It also studied a draft law amending parts of the Child Law, issued under Law No. 37 of 2012, drawn from an amended proposal submitted by the Shura Council.

The same committee discussed another proposed amendment to the Child Law, brought by Dr Jehad Al Fadhel, Jamal Fakhro, Dalal Al Zayed and Dr Ali Al Rumaihi.

The Youth Affairs Committee, chaired by Redha Ebrahim Monfaradi, met three times and studied Decree-Law No. 40 of 2025, which amends parts of Law No. 8 of 2021 on sports professionalism.



H.E. Redha Ebrahim Monfaradi

It also received Brazilian MP Eduardo Nantes Bolsonaro for talks on shared parliamentary interests, including youth and sport, renewable energy, food security and public services.

The committee visited Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club during the eleventh race of the 2025-2026 horse racing season.

The Human Rights Committee, chaired by Dr Mohammed Al Khuzaei, held six meetings and conducted three visits and meetings during the same session.

Its work focused on rights awareness and ties with groups working in the field. The committee held an extended discussion titled 'Human Rights Under Bahraini Legislation' to mark the 25th anniversary of the National Action Charter.

It also met the head of the secretariat of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation at the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.

The committee took part in an event held by the Bahrain Human Rights Watch Society to mark Human Rights Day, and attended a National Institution for Human Rights conference on 'Protecting Children in Cyberspace and Preventive Measures'.

From The Court

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

Court of Appeal sets June 15 hearing in forged signature case

Former parliamentary office worker sentenced to suspended jail term after conviction over falsified document dispute

A Bahraini court has set June 15 as the date for hearing appeals in a case involving a woman convicted of forging a signature on an official parliamentary document used to cancel her secondment from a Member of Parliament's office.

The First High Criminal Court of Appeal will hear arguments in the case after the defendant was previously sentenced to one year in prison by a lower court. The sentence was suspended for three years, and the court ordered the confiscation of the forged document.

According to court records, the woman—who had been seconded to work in the office of a member of Bahrain's Council of Representatives—was found guilty of falsifying

a secondment cancellation form by imitating the MP's signature and submitting it to official authorities.

The court said the offences were part of a single criminal plan and closely linked, applying penalties for the most serious charge under Article 66 of Bahrain's Penal Code. It also cited mitigating factors, including the complainant MP's waiver of his complaint, which led to a reduced sentence under Article 72.

The court further suspended the prison term, citing the defendant's circumstances and what it described as her low likelihood of re-offending, under Articles 81 and 83 of the Penal Code.

The Public Prosecution said the defendant worked with an unidentified individual to forge the document and knowingly used it by submitting it to terminate her secondment.

Court to hear final arguments in fatal crash case

The First High Criminal Court has scheduled June 15 for closing arguments and the submission of a civil claim in the case of a Bahraini man accused of causing the death of a pedestrian in a traffic accident.

The defendant, a man in his fifties, has denied charges that he negligently caused the death of an Asian pedestrian on April

11, 2026.

Prosecutors allege that the accused failed to exercise due care and attention while driving, and did not take necessary safety precautions, resulting in a fatal collision. They also claim his driving endangered pedestrians in the area.

According to case documents, authorities received a report that the incident occurred in-

side a farm where the defendant was driving a vehicle. Investigators said the vehicle struck the victim, an Asian national, who died from injuries sustained in the crash.

The victim was pronounced dead at the scene at around 5:30pm on April 11, 2026. The court is expected to hear final submissions later this month.



The case began when the MP discovered a cancellation form bearing a signature falsely attributed to him. Investigators found that the document was sent through the MP's office email account while it was in the defendant's possession.

Works Ministry launches digital consultancy service

Processing time reduced from 14 days to 7 under the new system

SERVICE CONSULTATION FOR GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

A new digital service aimed at providing consultancy services related to construction works for government, semi-government entities, and civil society organizations.

AFTER DEVELOPMENT	BEFORE DEVELOPMENT
Automation of procedures for applications and reduction of completion stages to accelerate transactions and increase efficiency. 7 Working Days	* Reliance on paper documents, official letters for submitting and signing files, and traditional communication channels (phone or email). * Multiple procedures involved in service completion. 14 Working Days

ASPECTS OF SERVICE IMPROVEMENT

- Standardizing service information published across all channels
- Enhanced user interface (UI) and simplified procedures
- 100% Digital transformation for services
- Converting application forms into electronic forms
- Streamlining application steps to a maximum of 4

STEPS TO USE THE SERVICE

- Access the service via the planning platform planning.bh
- Upload the required documents and submit the application electronically through the system
- Online follow up of the application status



"Our goal is to ensure that citizens, investors, and all service beneficiaries experience faster, more transparent, and higher-quality government services."

- ENGINEER HUDA MIRZA AL SALMAN

of the structural condition of government buildings. It also includes rehabilitation and renovation works.

Engineer Huda Mirza Al Salman, Assistant Undersecretary for Technical Services at the Ministry of Works, said the upgrade reflects the ministry's adoption of digital solutions to support the government's electronic transformation agenda.

She said paper-based applications have been converted into electronic forms, simplifying procedures, reducing administrative steps, and improving efficiency, transparency, and user experience.

Al Salman added that the development is part of a broader plan to enhance the ministry's digital services and strengthen Bahrain's e-government ecosystem, with benefits expected for citizens, investors, and public sector entities.

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

More than 1,300 government services have been documented and published, with around 800 already re-engineered to improve efficiency, quality, and user experience across sectors.

Ministry of Works has upgraded its Consultancy Service for Government Entities into a fully digital platform, a move aimed at improving service quality and accelerating public sector procedures.

The enhanced system provides construction-related advisory services to government and semi-government bodies, as well as civil society organisations, and has reduced processing times from 14 working days

to seven.

The service covers a wide range of functions, including preliminary and detailed engineering designs, project supervision, coordination of cost estimates, preparation of tender documents, and assessment

Geographical Diversification Strengthens Al Baraka Group's Performance

US\$93 Million Net Income and Total Assets Exceeding US\$31 Billion in the First Quarter of 2026

TDT | Manama

Al Baraka Group B.S.C (C) ("Group") commenced 2026 with solid financial and operational performance, reaffirming its continued ability to deliver sustainable growth and building on the strong momentum achieved during 2025, despite an increasingly challenging and volatile global economic environment.

The Group reported a notable growth in net income attributable to the shareholders of the parent company, which increased by 12% to reach US\$52 million in the first quarter of 2026, compared to US\$46 million in the corresponding period of 2025. Basic earnings per share stood at US cents 4.31 in Q1 2026, compared to US cents 3.84 in the same period last year.

This distinguished performance reflects the Group's strong ability to maximize returns from its core businesses while enhancing the quality and sustainability of revenues

across its various business segments.

Total comprehensive income attributable to the shareholders of the parent company reached US\$69 million in the first quarter of 2026, compared to US\$34 million in the corresponding period of the previous year, representing a sharp increase of 102%, despite fluctuations in foreign currency translation reserves. This increase was primarily driven by the net gain arising from hyperinflation re-measurement during the period.

Meanwhile, total net income increased by 2% to US\$93 million in the first quarter of 2026, compared to US\$91 million in the corresponding quarter of 2025, supported by the disciplined expansion of financing and investment portfolios, as well as improved operating margins, despite inflationary pressures and the continued rise in global funding costs.

As to the financial position, the Group continued to maintain a robust capital base, with total equity attributable to the



shareholders of the parent and Sukuk holders reaching US\$1.42 billion at the end of March 2026, compared to US\$1.37 billion at the end of December 2025, reflecting a 3% rise. Total equity stood at US\$2.27 billion, compared to US\$2.19 billion at year-end 2025, representing a 4% growth, mainly driven by the recognition of the hyperinflation fair value reserve.

The Group also continued to expand its business footprint, with total assets rising to US\$31.37 billion at the end of March 2026, compared to

US\$31.01 billion at the end of 2025, recording a growth of 1%, supported by higher financing volumes and stronger presence in key markets, particularly in Turkey and Jordan.

This resilient performance underscores the success of the Group's strategy in maintaining a balanced approach between disciplined growth and financial prudence, while effectively capitalizing on high-quality opportunities across its markets and maintaining advanced standards of risk management and compliance.

Commenting on these results, Shaikh Abdullah Saleh Kamel, Chairman of Al Baraka Group, stated:

"The first quarter 2026 results reflect the strength of Al Baraka Group's strategic direction and its ability to achieve balanced and sustainable growth under varying economic conditions. During the quarter, we continued to strengthen our position in key markets, leveraging our diversified business model and broad geographic presence, which enabled us to transform challenges into tangible growth opportunities.

We view these results as part of a long-term journey focused on maximizing value for our shareholders, enhancing operational efficiency, expanding our customer base, and maintaining our firm commitment to governance, sustainability, and serving the communities in which we operate."

For his part, Mr. Housseem Ben Haj Amor, Board Member and Group Chief Executive Officer, commented:

"The strong performance achieved during the first quarter of 2026 reaffirms the resilience of the Group's operational fundamentals and the success of our strategy of diversifying income streams and enhancing returns from core activities. Our banking units continued to deliver steady growth, supported by increasing demand for financing and investment products, in addition to the significant progress achieved in cross-border banking services.

Our strategic initiatives, most notably the Trade Finance Platform and the 'Borderless Banking' initiatives, have further expanded our business reach and strengthened our competitive position both regionally and internationally. Amid the ongoing uncertainty in the global economy, we remain focused on maintaining prudent risk management, accelerating digital transformation, and developing innovative banking solutions that support sustainable growth and reinforce market confidence in the Group's performance."

Private Sector Is Bahrain's Growth Engine, Says Capital Governor

Capital Governorate and BCCI pledge closer ties to drive sustainable development



TDT | Manama

Capital Governor Shaikh Khalid bin Humood Al Khalifa reaffirmed the private sector's vital role in the kingdom's development journey, describing it as a "strategic partner" — not just a supporting player.

Speaking during a visit to the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) on Monday, Shaikh Khalid said the private sector remains a cornerstone of Bahrain's comprehensive development under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa,

and it continues to receive direct backing from His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The governor was welcomed at the chamber's headquarters by newly elected BCCI Chairman Nabeel Khalid Kanoo and board members. Shaikh Khalid congratulated the new board and praised the chamber's efforts in boosting Bahrain's business environment and raising private sector competitiveness.

Talks covered ways to deepen cooperation between the Capital Governorate and

“National institutions must work together to launch innovative initiatives that support SMEs, empower entrepreneurs, and bring youth into development.”

SHAIKH KHALID BIN HUMOOD AL KHALIFA, CAPITAL GOVERNOR

BCCI on development and community initiatives, focusing on improving the quality of life for Bahraini citizens.



Mr. Kanoo welcomed the visit as proof of the governor's genuine commitment to open communication with the business community, stressing the need for continued coordination to navigate regional economic shifts.

Private Sector Commits to Bahrain Growth



TDT | Manama

BCCI Chairman Nabeel Khalid Kanoo has reaffirmed the private sector's loyalty and support for His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, praising the Kingdom's economic and development achievements in recent years.

Mr. Kanoo said Bahrain had strengthened its regional and international standing through a series of economic gains and national development initiatives.

He attributed the progress

to the "wise vision" of HM the King Hamad, as well as the continued support and follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Mr. Kanoo added that Bahrain's private sector would continue to play a key role as a partner in supporting the country's development plans and achieving national goals.

He said the business community remained committed to contributing to Bahrain's economic growth and future prosperity.

Dubai firms expand African partnerships

AFP | Dubai

Dubai Chamber of Commerce has concluded a series of trade missions across Africa, facilitating 1,460 bilateral business meetings in Ghana, Ethiopia, and South Africa to help Dubai-based companies expand into African markets. The initiative brought together 45 Dubai firms from various

sectors with potential business partners across the continent. A total of 276 meetings were held in Ghana, 510 in Ethiopia, and 674 in South Africa, focusing on strengthening trade, investment, and cross-border partnerships. Business forums held alongside the meetings attracted 1,721 participants, including government officials, business leaders, and company representatives. The events high-

lighted emerging opportunities and encouraged stronger private-sector collaboration. According to Dubai Chamber of Commerce President and CEO H.E. Mohammad Ali Rashed Lootah, Africa remains one of the world's most dynamic economic regions, and the missions are creating direct links between Dubai businesses and African markets. Dubai's non-oil trade with Africa surpassed US\$145.9 billion in

2025, reflecting a 51% increase compared to the previous year. Between 2016 and 2025, total non-oil trade reached approximately US\$657 billion, marking growth of around 325%. The chamber also reported that more than 30,409 African companies were active members in 2025, while its seven offices across Africa continue supporting trade and investment opportunities.



Customs Fines Added for Seal Removal

Updated GCC customs law brings fines and new exemptions framework

TDI | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

New rules on customs clearance, duty refunds and traveller exemptions have been issued in Bahrain. Fines also cover cutting lead seals, removing customs seals, locks or ties, and removing covers from goods.

The changes were issued by Interior Minister Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa under Decision No. 63 of 2026, amending the executive regulations of the GCC Unified Customs Law. They take effect the day after publication in the Official Gazette.

Customs may now accept electronic papers for clearance if the owner of the goods or an authorised representative sends them. The sender must be approved by Customs, and the papers may be checked, certified, electronically signed or matched against originals. The decision also allows heavy machinery and equipment not available in local markets to enter temporarily for projects or for practical and scientific tests linked to them. The period is capped at three years, with room for extension by the director-general or his authorised representative.

Foreign goods re-exported outside the GCC may have customs duties re-

funded in full or in part. The goods must be from one consignment, worth at least BD2,000, unused locally, and in the same state in which they entered.

Re-export must take place within one year of the first duty payment. Refund claims must be filed within six months of re-export, and will cover only duties already paid.

Travellers will be allowed duty-free personal luggage and gifts worth up to BD300, provided the items are personal and not in commercial amounts. The traveller must not be a frequent customs user or a trader in the goods carried. The cigarette limit is 200.

Personal postal parcels and consignments will be exempt if they are non-commercial and worth no more than BD100. The exemption does not cover banned, counterfeit or fraudulent goods, restricted items without permits, tobacco and its products, or goods breaching approved standards



or intellectual property rights.

Charity supplies may also be exempt from customs duties if the charity is registered and works in humanitarian, social, cultural, scientific, religious or other charitable fields without seeking profit. Associations with a political aim will not benefit.

Charities may not sell or use exempted goods for any purpose other than the one for which the exemption was granted unless Customs gives approval after inspection.

Relief goods are also covered, provided the relevant government body writes to Customs. The goods must fit relief

work and match the actual need. They may not be sold after duty-free clearance without Customs approval.

Customs Rules Update

- Fines now apply for tampering with customs seals and security.
- Customs may accept electronic documents for clearance if approved.
- Duty refunds are allowed on eligible re-exported goods under strict rules.
- Travellers can bring BD300 worth of goods duty-free (200 cigarettes limit).
- Small parcels up to BD100 are exempt if non-commercial.
- Misuse of exempt goods can lead to fines of BD50–BD1,000.
- Updated rules also cover the temporary import/export of machinery and goods.

The decision adds a customs breach for using exempted goods, or goods admitted under a lower tariff, for a purpose other than the one for which they were imported. Replacing, selling or disposing of such goods without Customs approval and without paying duties is also covered.

Customs breaches under the amended regulation carry fines from BD50 to BD1,000, or the same value in another GCC currency.

The decision also creates rules for temporary exports, covering heavy machinery, goods sent abroad to complete manufacturing, equipment sent for repair, goods for exhibitions and theatres, containers for filling, animals for grazing and commercial samples.

Temporary export is generally capped at 365 days, with some cases allowed extensions up to five years with Customs approval. Animals sent for grazing and other approved cases are capped at 180 days.

Temporary export ends when the goods return to GCC states, are turned into final exports, or when the approved period ends. Customs approval must be obtained before the goods are sent out.

5G-Advanced Powers Bahrain Vision

Meeting explores next-generation network technologies



TDI | Manama

Senior officials in Bahrain held discussions with Chinese technology firm Huawei to explore new cooperation opportunities in digital infrastructure and advanced telecommunications technologies.

Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications Assistant Undersecretary for Telecommunications, Shaikh Ahmed bin Isa bin Duaij Al Khalifa, met David Dai, Huawei's Vice President for ICT Solutions and Services in the Gulf region, along with Wu Zi, the company's Director of Gov-

ernment Relations and Public Affairs.

The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration in areas supporting Bahrain's ongoing digital transformation, particularly in developing next-generation telecommunications systems.

Officials placed special emphasis on 5G-Advanced technology and its expected role in improving network performance, increasing capacity, and enhancing the country's wider digital infrastructure.

Shaikh Ahmed bin Isa underlined the importance of part-

nerships with global technology leaders in helping Bahrain achieve its ambition of becoming a regional hub for digital connectivity and innovation.

The discussions also reviewed progress under Bahrain's Sixth National Telecommunications Plan, while both sides exchanged views on future sector priorities, including infrastructure expansion and technological advancement.

The meeting comes as Bahrain continues to invest in strengthening its telecommunications sector to support economic diversification and digital growth.

Oil at \$98 – and the world is strangely calm

The Strait of Hormuz has been effectively closed for three months.

AFP

So why aren't oil markets in panic mode?

The world is living through one of its biggest oil supply shocks in decades – and yet, the market is barely flinching. Since March 4, 2026, Iranian forces have declared the Strait of Hormuz “closed,” threatening and carrying out attacks on ships attempting to pass through the waterway. Yet Brent crude, while elevated, remains within the range of the past two decades.

The Strait of Hormuz is the world's most critical oil chokepoint, handling roughly 20% of global oil consumption – around 18 to 21 million barrels per day. A prolonged disruption here doesn't just rattle markets – it reshapes them.

The Trump Factor

Despite the crisis, oil prices



ICE Brent could trade into the region of \$80-90 immediately, with risks towards \$100 and ultimately \$140 in a worst-case scenario.

ING ANALYSTS

have stayed surprisingly anchored. U.S. President Donald Trump's repeated claims that

a deal with Iran is “imminent” have helped dampen panic. Markets are pricing in hope – not reality. There is little evidence Washington and Tehran are genuinely close to any agreement, as strikes continue across the region.

What Could Happen Next?

Analysts estimate any serious Iranian move to close the Strait could send prices to \$100 per barrel. ING goes further, warning of \$140 in an extreme scenario of significant and extended supply disruption

Yusuf bin Ahmed Kanoo Group Signs Pledge of Allegiance to His Majesty the King

TDI | Manama

In line with its commitment to the values of loyalty and national belonging, Yusuf bin Ahmed Kanoo Group, one of the largest independent family-owned multinational businesses in the Middle East and a Bahraini institution with a legacy spanning more than 135 years, participated in signing the Pledge of Allegiance to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The pledge was signed by members of the Board of Directors and Executive Man-



agement of Yusuf bin Ahmed Kanoo Group, reflecting the collective commitment of the Group's leadership to the Kingdom and its future aspirations.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Fawzi Ahmed Kanoo, Chairman of Yusuf bin Ahmed Kanoo Group, stated: “The

Pledge of Allegiance embodies the values of loyalty, belonging, and unity that have long been at the heart of Bahrain's success. We are honoured to

reaffirm our support for His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the Kingdom's leadership, and we remain committed to contributing to Bahrain's ongoing growth and development.”

Dr. Faisal Khalid Kanoo, Deputy Chairman of Yusuf bin Ahmed Kanoo Group, said: “This occasion reflects our deep appreciation for the remarkable progress achieved by the Kingdom under the leadership of His Majesty the King. We take pride in being part of Bahrain's journey and in supporting initiatives that contribute to the nation's continued advancement and prosperity.”

The signing of the pledge underscores the strong bond between Bahrain's institutions and its leadership, while reflecting the dedication of Yusuf bin Ahmed Kanoo Group's Board of Directors and Executive Management to supporting the Kingdom's future.

This initiative further reaffirms Yusuf bin Ahmed Kanoo Group's commitment to contributing to the Kingdom's aspirations under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and with the support and guidance of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Iraq reopens airspace

AFP | Baghdad, Iraq

Iraq reopened its airspace on Monday, the country's civil aviation body said, following Iran's announcement that it was halting its military operations against Israel.

The Civil Aviation Authority was reopening "Iraqi airspace to flights to and from

all airports" and will continue to "monitor and assess the regional situation", it said in a statement.

It had announced a 72-hour closure of its airspace on Sunday evening after Iranian missile strikes on Israel, the first since a ceasefire in the Middle East war began on April 8.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian yesterday said Tehran remained at the negotiating table after halting attacks on Israel following the first exchange of fire since the April truce.

EU sanctions Iran Guards over closure of Hormuz

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The EU yesterday imposed sanctions on the spokesman for the naval arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards and a regional command over the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

Europe has been left on the sidelines as the US war with Iran has shuttered the key waterway and roiled global markets.

The 27-nation bloc said it was blacklisting Mohammad Akbarzadeh, spokesperson for the Guards' naval wing, and

the organisation's Hormozgan Provincial Command.

It also said it was placing Hamid Hosseini, a representative of Iran's oil exporters union, under an asset freeze and visa ban.

European nations, spearheaded by France and Britain, are working on plans to send a naval mission to Hormuz once the fighting stops.

EU top diplomat Kaja Kallas has said the bloc's naval mission, currently in the Red Sea, could take part in the operation.

Israel military says Iran fired nearly 30 missiles since Sunday

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

An Israeli military official said Iran fired nearly 30 missiles towards Israel since Sunday night, in the first exchange of fire between the two countries since a truce in April.

"Last night the Iranian regime began firing ballistic missiles towards Israel... they fired close to 30 ballistic missiles towards Israel," the official told journalists on Monday, adding that Yemen's Houthi rebels separately fired two missiles at the country.

Israel's military said earlier Monday it had struck several targets at a petrochemical complex in Mahshahr in southwestern Iran in retaliation.

"In this complex, chemical materials are produced and used for ballistic missiles that are fired towards here, towards the state of Israel," the official said.

"The strikes and the damage to the complex disrupts their ability to manufacture

various types of weapons."

The Israeli military said it also struck Iranian air defence systems.

The official said the Israeli military chief Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir had spoken twice to the head of US Central Command (CENTCOM) over the past day.

"Over the past day, the IDF chief of the general staff has spoken twice to the commander of CENTCOM and they are discussing the situation," the official said, without elaborating.

In a separate televised statement, military spokesman Brigadier General Efrat Defrin said that Zamir is "conducting continuous operational assessments and remains in close contact" with his counterpart in the United States.

Air raid sirens sounded across large areas of northern and central Israel, with explosions heard over Jerusalem earlier on Monday, AFP journalists reported.

Israel military says struck Iran petrochemical complex in Mahshahr

Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel's military said Monday it had struck several targets at a petrochemical complex in Mahshahr in southwestern

Iran.

"A short while ago, the Israeli Air Force struck several targets at the petrochemical complex in Mahshahr, in southwestern Iran," the military said.

China's Xi in North Korea for rare visit

AFP | Pyongyang, North Korea

China's President Xi Jinping made a rare visit to North Korea yesterday, where he proclaimed a willingness to bring ties to "new heights" during a meeting with Kim Jong Un.

Xi's trip to Pyongyang is his first since 2019 and comes after he hosted a series of world leaders, including US President Donald Trump and Russian leader Vladimir Putin, in Beijing.

Xi and his wife Peng Liyuan were warmly greeted at the airport by Kim in a lavish welcome ceremony complete with a red-carpet military salute and cheering crowds, according to Chinese state media.

Some streets in the capital also displayed North Korean and Chinese flags side by side.

Xi told Kim during talks on Monday that he was willing to work together to bring their countries' relations to "new heights", state news agency Xinhua reported.

The two sides should strengthen exchanges "in diplomacy, law



This picture shows a giant screen displayed outside a shopping mall in Beijing on June 8, 2026, showing a news program about the meeting between China's President Xi Jinping and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un held in North Korea.

enforcement, and the military", Xi said.

"No matter how the international situation changes... the traditional friendship between China and the DPRK will not

change."

Xi's trip comes just weeks after he held talks with Trump, during which the White House said the leaders "confirmed their shared goal to denuclearise North Ko-

rea".

Residents living close to the North Korean border expressed hope for greater openness from Pyongyang.

Grant UN access 'without delay'

US demands Iran give UN nuclear watchdog access

● The draft resolution is expected to be submitted for a vote this week.

● To be passed, the draft resolution needs to be submitted and approved by the 35-member IAEA board of governors.

● The IAEA has not had access to some key nuclear facilities in Iran.

AFP | Vienna, Austria

The United States is demanding Iran provide "precise" information on its enriched uranium stockpile and give the UN nuclear agency access "without delay", according to a draft resolution seen by AFP yesterday.

The draft resolution is expected to be submitted for a vote this week to the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that started meeting on Monday.

Last week, the IAEA in a confidential report reiterated that the lack of access to nuclear sites in Iran constituted a "proliferation concern".

The draft resolution affirms that it is "essential and urgent" that Iran "without delay" pro-



Rosette Tannous, wife of Lebanese army captain Elie Khoury who was killed by Israeli bombardment, salutes as mourners carry her husband's coffin past during the funeral in his home village of Kfar Jarra near Jezzine in southern Lebanon

Israel vows to press military campaign in Lebanon

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz vowed yesterday to press on with Israel's military campaign in Lebanon, despite a warning from Iran that any such action would prompt the Islamic republic to take "severe" measures in response.

"The IDF will continue to operate in Lebanon against

the terrorist organisation Hezbollah," Katz said in a statement, adding that Israel would strike Beirut's southern suburbs, known as the Dahiyeh district, in retaliation for every attack on northern Israel. "We categorically reject Iran's threats. Any Iranian attempt to link Lebanon and Iran and attack Israel will be met with great force, as happened yesterday," Katz said.

provides the agency with "precise information on nuclear material accountancy and safeguarded

nuclear facilities in Iran". Tehran must also "grant the agency all access it requires to

verify this information", it adds. To be passed, the draft resolution needs to be submitted and approved by the 35-member IAEA board of governors.

In a press conference after opening the board of governors' meeting, IAEA head Rafael Grossi said he had "sporadic contacts with the foreign minister (of Iran) and others, but basically the channel of communication is broken". "Of course, when you have active shelling or bombing, inspections are not possible, but there are many things that can be done. And the important thing is this dialogue," he said.

The IAEA has not had access to some key nuclear facilities in Iran since Israel, joined by the United States, launched a 12-day conflict in June 2025 that included strikes on nuclear sites.



Prior to US strikes in June 2025, the IAEA calculated that Iran possessed approximately 440 kilogrammes (970 pounds) of uranium enriched to 60 percent. This is close to the 90 percent needed to make a bomb and well above the 3.67-percent limit set by a now-defunct 2015 agreement with Iran. The fate of this stockpile is uncertain.

Roman Emperor Nero commits suicide, imploring his secretary Epaphroditus to slit his throat to evade a Senate-imposed death by flogging

Odo of Aquitaine defeats a Umayyad Muslim army at the Battle of Toulouse, halting Arab expansion in Western Europe



Book of Common Prayer is adopted by the Church of England

Congress of Vienna ends after reshaping the political map of Europe



Two men examine a fallen rocket half-buried in the ground on the outskirts of Jericho

Trump: Stop 'shooting'

Trump earlier yesterday told both Iran and key ally Israel

● No casualties have been reported in either Israel or Iran after the exchange of fire.

AFP | Tehran, Iran

US President Donald Trump earlier yesterday told both Iran and key ally Israel to stop fighting, following which Iran said it was ending its latest military operation against Israel after the first exchanges of fire.

Iran fired dozens of missiles at Israel overnight and Israel responded by targeting military sites in the Islamic republic, sparking fears the escalation could usher in a new full-scale conflict after the April 8 truce.

"Israel and Iran must immediately stop 'shooting.' President DONALD J. TRUMP," the US leader wrote on his Truth Social network.

Minutes later, he added in a new post that "final negotiations" towards peace were proceeding "subject to ignorance or stupidity getting in its way."

Iran's military command then said it was halting the operation against Israel after delivering a "painful response".

Shortly after, Israel's army intercepted three projectiles

China says hopes Israel, Iran maintain ceasefire

AFP | Beijing, China

China said it was "deeply concerned" Monday by fresh attacks between Israel and Iran, expressing hope that a fragile truce in the Middle East war would be

respected.

"Resuming hostilities is not in any party's interest," foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian told a news briefing, adding: "It is hoped all relevant parties will fulfil their commitment to a ceasefire."

Middle East 'does not need an escalation': EU top diplomat

AFP | Nicosia, Cyprus

EU top diplomat Kaja Kallas urged calm yesterday after Iran and Israel traded strikes, testing a fragile truce and threatening hopes for a deal to end the Middle East war.

"Overnight, we have seen escalation again. I think the region does not need an escalation, but actually that parties sit down to a negotiation table and agree," Kallas said.

'Prepared for long-term war'

fired from Lebanon, according to an AFP journalist near their shared border, with the military confirming the munitions had targeted its forces operating in Lebanon's south.

"Some of the projectiles were intercepted prior to crossing into Israeli territory, and an additional projectile fell near IDF soldiers. No injuries were reported," the military said.

No casualties have been reported in either Israel or Iran after the exchange of fire.

The Israeli military said it struck and dismantled Iranian defence systems deployed across several areas in the country. Iran fired nearly 30 missiles towards Israel since Sunday night, an Israeli military official said.

UK govt warns big tech over nude images sent by children

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Tech giants must stop children in Britain from being able to send and receive nude images on their devices, or be forced to do so by law, the government said yesterday.

Britain's interior ministry said it was giving companies including Apple and Google three months to introduce safety features to block children from taking and accessing naked photos on phones and tablets.

If they do not, the government will introduce legislation to "force them to activate the technology", the Home Office said in a statement.

"This is not an impossible challenge," Prime Minister Keir Starmer told delegates at the London Tech Week conference.

"These are some of the most innovative companies in the world and I believe they can solve it, but if they choose not to, then we will act and we will change the law, because when it comes to the safety of our children, standing by is not an option," he added.

The Labour government said technology companies had a "moral responsibility" to "protect children from coercion, abuse and sextortion".

India says sailors rescued off tanker ablaze off Oman

AFP | Mumbai, India

Omani authorities airlifted 24 Indian sailors off a tanker on fire off the coast of Oman yesterday, New Delhi officials said, without saying what caused the blaze.

"We are thankful to the Omani authorities for their swift response and rescue of all the 24 crew members of Indian nationality, onboard MT Marivex, and ensuring their safety," the Indian embassy in Oman said in a statement on social media.

India's Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways said a fire was reported at around 1:30 pm (0800 GMT) on the MT Marivex, a Palau-flagged tanker.

"There has been a fire reported on a vessel, MT Marivex, on which there were 24 Indian seafarers... all Indian seafarers are safe," ministry director Opesh Kumar Sharma told reporters.

Images posted on so-

cial media by the Forward Seamen's Union of India showed crew members being winched from the vessel by helicopter as thick black smoke billowed from its bridge and accommodation cabins. The tanker's position was shown by ship-tracking service MarineTraffic as being off the coast of Oman, south of the capital Muscat.



The Strait of Hormuz has long been a flashpoint for maritime security. During the "Tanker War" phase of the 1980s Iran-Iraq conflict, more than 400 commercial ships were attacked, including nearly 240 oil tankers, making it one of the largest assaults on merchant shipping since World War II.

Trump calls Netanyahu after Israel-Iran clashes: White House

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump called Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday,

a White House official told AFP, after the first exchanges of fire between Israel and Iran since an April ceasefire.

Netanyahu says told Trump Israel has right to self-defence

Jerusalem, Undefined

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday he told US President Donald Trump that Israel reserved the right to defend itself against Iran at any time, despite Trump's public objections.

"Israel has a full right to self-defence, and we are exercising it as required. I say this to you, just as I say it with appreciation and respect in my good conversations with my friend President Trump," Netanyahu said in a televised statement.

Poland seizes major heroin shipment from Iran

AFP | Warsaw, Poland

Polish authorities said yesterday they had seized over a tonne of heroin from Iran, hidden in a shipment of deco-

orative bricks, at the Baltic port of Gdynia. "This is the largest operation of its kind in over a decade," Interior Minister Marcin Kierwinski said at a press conference.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



The ocean reminds us we are bound together. It shapes our climate, sustains ecosystems & economies, and feeds billions. On World Ocean Day, let's act with ambition & resolve to build a new relationship with the ocean - grounded in science & build on shared responsibility.

@antonioguterres

02



I am in #Uganda, where the government has mounted a prompt and capable response to the outbreak of #Ebola. Screening at the borders helped detect cases arriving from neighbouring #DRC, and the country's surveillance, testing and case management systems are doing steady work. Of the 19 confirmed cases so far, 14 were among people who entered from DRC and five are Ugandan nationals. Sadly, two people from DRC have died, and our thoughts are with their families. @WHO is supporting Uganda, alongside @AfricaCDC and partners across the region, as the country leads this response. With continued collaboration, I am confident this outbreak can be brought under control.

@DrTedros

03



Saddened by the loss of lives and destruction caused by today's earthquake in Mindanao, Philippines. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for the speedy recovery of those injured. India stands in solidarity with the people and the Government of the Philippines.

@narendramodi

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

Major quake off Philippines kills at least 35, dozen still missing

National disaster authorities said 134 had sustained injuries

● A series of powerful aftershocks rocked the area from about two hours after the first quake

AFP | General Santos, Philippines

A 7.8-magnitude earthquake in the southern Philippines yesterday killed at least 35 people, according to provincial authorities, after toppling buildings and sparking tsunami warnings across the region.

National disaster authorities said at least a dozen people were still missing, while 134 had sustained injuries.

Philippine authorities urged people in affected coastal regions to move to higher ground after the offshore quake hit south of General Santos, a city of about 720,000, where the death toll was now 12, according to the tally at a local command centre.

A series of powerful aftershocks rocked the area from about two hours after the first quake, according to the United States Geological Survey, with the largest measuring magnitude 6.5.

As night descended, AFP journalists watched as rescue workers in General Santos used their hands to dig through the rubble of a popular grocery store chain in a desperate bid to reach two employees buried beneath.

Morphy Angcad, a 35-year-old security guard, told AFP he was not ready to accept that his sister, one of the two, was dead. "We received a call this morn-



Responders conduct a rescue operation at a collapsed building after a 7.8 magnitude earthquake in General Santos City

ing telling us that she was one of the trapped there," he said, adding he had refused a hotel room so he could stand watch.

"I don't want to leave this site until I see the body of my sister... (but) I'm hoping against hope that she is still alive."

Dioslinda Deluvio told AFP her son Joey, the other employee, had come to visit her just weeks earlier, asking: "Ma, what is your plan for your life? Are you OK?"

"All I can do is cry now, imagining the good things he did in the world," she said.

A few kilometres away, others were preparing to spend the night on a sidewalk.

"I'll be sleeping here outside even if it's uncomfortable, because I'm scared there will be an aftershock," 34-year-old sales clerk Johnson Alerta told AFP.

"I feel safer here."

'So many lives'

Rene Punzalan, disaster chief for hard-hit Sarangani province, told AFP 14 people had died in Glan municipality alone when a landslide buried their homes at the foot of a mountain.

"The landslide happened immediately after the earthquake, so many lives were lost," he said, adding that some areas had yet to report if they had sustained casualties.

"The greatest challenge is communication. The power was cut, so it's hard to get updates," Punzalan said.

Videos posted to social media and verified by AFP showed a shopping centre with a Jollibee fast food restaurant reduced to rubble in General Santos, while a school building that officials

said was unoccupied crumpled in another. In another video verified by AFP, young schoolchildren could be seen screaming in the arms of their teachers as the quake violently swayed them back and forth on the ground.



The Pacific "Ring of Fire" is a horseshoe-shaped belt stretching about 40,000 kilometres around the Pacific Ocean, where roughly 75 per cent of the world's active volcanoes and about 90 per cent of all earthquakes occur due to the movement and collision of tectonic plates.

Seven killed, nine injured in Dubai road crash



TDT | agencies

Brigadier Juma Salem bin Suwaidan, Director of the General Department of Traffic at Dubai Police, said the Command and Control Centre received a report of the accident and immediately dispatched traffic patrols and rescue teams to the scene.

"The accident resulted in seven fatalities and nine injuries, including five serious and four moderate cases. All injured persons were taken to hospital for treatment," he said.

French NATO jets shoot down stray drone in Latvia

AFP | Vilnius, Lithuania

French NATO jets stationed in the Baltic states shot down a drone in Latvia, the military and the country's foreign minister confirmed on Monday morning.

The incident was the first time that the alliance's rapid reaction Baltic Air Policing mission has shot down a stray drone in Latvia.

Latvia's military confirmed that "a foreign unmanned aerial vehicle that had entered Latvian airspace as a result of Russian electronic warfare",

without disclosing the origin of the drone.

"Thank you, our French Allies, for taking down the drone that flew into Latvian airspace!" Latvia's Foreign Minister Baiba Braze posted on X.

The two jets took off from the Siauliai airbase in northern Lithuania and shot down the drone "at around 10:00" am local time (0800 GMT), Lithuanian military spokesperson Gintautas Ciunis told AFP.

In a previous incident, a Romanian jet stationed in Lithuania shot down a Ukrainian drone over Estonia on May 19.

US experienced second-warmest spring on record: NOAA

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States experienced its second-warmest spring on record, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said yesterday, adding that drought remains widespread across the country.

More than half of the 48 contiguous US states -- which excludes Alaska and Hawaii -- experienced a spring among their three warmest in the 132-year record, and the warmest since 2012. The beginning of the year has also marked the driest since

Globally, the 11 hottest individual years ever recorded all happened from 2015 onwards and the UN's weather and climate agency recently said the trend would continue, with a new hottest-ever year likely before 2031. An El Nino weather pattern is also predicted into the end of 2026, which heightens the chances that next year could spell more heat records.

1988, the US weather agency said.

The island chain Hawaii meanwhile observed the wettest spring in the 36-year record,

with more than double the average spring precipitation.

Some other regions also recorded above-average precipitation, but more than half of

the contiguous states remained in drought at the beginning of June.

That includes much of the Northwest and parts of the Southwest, northern Rockies and Plains. Forecasters said it is expected to also develop in parts of the Midwest. The agency's drought outlook expects some improvement across parts of the central and southern Plains, as well as much of the Southwest. June is expected to experience above-average temperatures across the western and northern US, NOAA said.

A final farewell



A man holds flowers during the funeral ceremony of Yaroslav Varnak, a 23-year-old serviceman who was killed in action in Kyiv

Mass school closures in Japan city as bear roams streets

AFP | Tokyo, Japan

A bear roaming the streets of a Japanese city for three days forced the closure of nearly 100 schools Monday, as dozens of hunters and officials searched for the animal.

The city government of Utsunomiya, north of Tokyo, closed all 94 public primary and junior high schools in the area after receiving more than 10 reports of bear sightings since Saturday -- including in a shopping arcade.



"We have vehicles out to areas where a bear was seen to make people aware and to urge people to stay indoors or in vehicles," a city official told AFP, adding that dozens of hunters, police and local officials have been looking for the animal.

It was not clear whether there is one bear or more, he said, speaking on the customary condition of anonymity.

In recent years, Japan has seen an increasing number of bear sightings and attacks, especially

in urban areas.

A record 13 people were killed by bears in Japan last year, and there has been a jump in encounters as the animals emerge hungry from hibernation.

In the last year to March, bear sightings nationwide topped 50,000 -- more than double the previous record set two years earlier, according to official data.

In Utsunomiya, a regional capital and home to 510,000 residents, there were just two unconfirmed bear sightings in

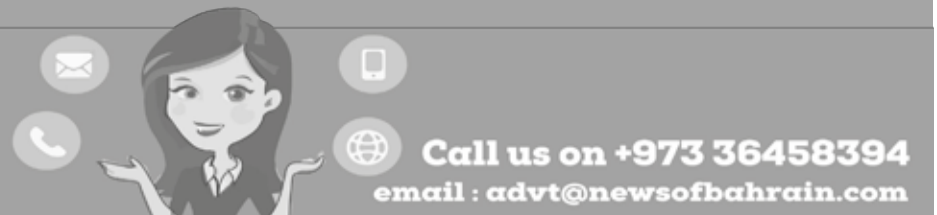
the previous year.

The bear now being hunted was first spotted Saturday morning, north of the city centre, and was described as being around one metre (three feet) long.

A series of sightings followed, including in a residential neighbourhood that day, at a shopping arcade on Sunday, and at a park, a high school and a junior school.

Early Monday, residents spotted a bear close to a wholesale market, the city official said.

Classifieds



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Trump storms out of tense, rain-plagued NBC interview

AFP | Washington, United States

President Donald Trump lasted through probing questions about his Iran war strategy and repeated weather disruptions during an interview with US broadcaster NBC -- but angrily stormed out when confronted over his unfounded claims of election fraud.

"You're a one-sided, crooked network. Sorry. Let's call it quits because I've had enough. Thank you, darling. Have a good time," Trump told "Meet the Press" host Kristen Welker before standing up and walking out of the interview that aired Sunday.

The interview, filmed Friday, was conducted on a farm in Wisconsin, where Trump was addressing farmers. A tractor and hay bales served as a backdrop.

The interview was interrupted several times by weather and audio issues as torrential rain pounded the roof, making it difficult to continue the conversation.

"Is that wind or what?" Trump asked at one point.

"Hear that sound?" he said later. "That sound of thunder, lightning, rain."

Welker asked her technical



The interview, filmed Friday, was conducted on a farm in Wisconsin



You're a one-sided, crooked network. Sorry. Let's call it quits because I've had enough. Thank you, darling. Have a good time

TRUMP TOLD "MEET THE PRESS" HOST KRISTEN WELKER

crew if they should stop.

"No. People will understand -- we're on a farm," the president replied.

Several questions followed about Iran, nuclear weapons and his campaign pledges to keep the United States out of foreign wars.

"First of all, I didn't guarantee no war. Why would I have built

the strongest military in the world?" he said, then accusing Welker of being "a big liberal, a big progressive."

"No, I'm just a journalist," she countered.

Trump went on to say: "I don't like these endless wars. This is not an endless war. We've been doing this for three months."

The tone escalated again

as the discussion turned to Trump's proposed taxpayer-funded program to compensate people he believes were victims of partisan prosecution under his predecessor, Joe Biden.

"I don't know what's going to happen with the weaponization fund," he said. "I love the idea because people like you, the fake dirty press, the crooked press, people like stupid Biden ... they destroyed people. They sent people to jail who did nothing wrong."

"There is no evidence for what you're saying," Welker said.

Trump reiterated past false claims that the 2020 election was "rigged" and said last week's primary in California was, too.

Welker held her ground, asking the president to present evidence.

"You are either crooked or you're stupid," Trump finally shot back before leaving the camera's view while Welker attempted to keep him engaged.

On Sunday, Welker told viewers that she had spoken with Trump on Saturday about the weather disruptions and that he had agreed to give her another interview.

France, Germany abandon joint fighter jet project: Berlin

AFP | Berlin, Germany

France and Germany have agreed to abandon a joint fighter jet programme due to disagreements between the companies involved, Berlin said yesterday in a blow to European efforts to boost defence cooperation.

The Future Combat Air System (FCAS) programme was launched in 2017 to replace France's Rafale jets and the



Eurofighter planes used by Germany and Spain.

The project was seen as a key test of European efforts to work more closely on defence

as they seek to present a united front in the face of a hostile Russia at a time of souring ties with the United States.

But the multi-billion-dollar

programme was beset by disagreements between the firms involved -- France's Dassault Aviation and Airbus, which represents Germany and Spain.

A German government official told AFP that Chancellor Friedrich Merz and French President Emmanuel Macron had "reached the shared assessment that the companies will not be able to come together on building a joint combat aircraft."

Indian crew evacuated after 10 months stranded off Istanbul

AFP | Istanbul, Turkey

Four Indian sailors who were stranded for 10 months on an abandoned container ship off the coast of Turkey have finally been taken off the vessel, an inspector told AFP yesterday.

The four had been trapped on board the *Mongolia-flagged AZRA C*, which has been moored off Istanbul in the Sea of Marmara since August 2025.

The ship's purported owners were arrested in January in connection with a massive international drugs bust, leaving its fate and those on board in limbo.

"The hardship experienced by the

crew has come to an end," Selahattin Polat, Turkey representative of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), told AFP.

The crew spoke of their distress last week, speaking to AFP via an intermediary.

The ITF and the Marine Employees' Solidarity Association (DAD-DER) had been providing the crew with fresh drinking water and basic necessities.

Under international maritime law, a ship must have sufficient crew members on board at all times to handle any emergencies -- whether in port or at anchor.

But Polat said they had not been replaced.

"The new crew did not arrive. The ship was left unmanned," he explained, saying "its security will be ensured by other means."

He said legal steps to deal with the abandoned ship were ongoing.

The case highlights a growing problem of vessel abandonments, which the ITF says has become a "systemic" problem in the maritime industry.

ITF figures show 2025 was the worst year on record for abandonment, affecting 6,233 seafarers on 410 ships, with Indian nationals most af-

ected. Turkey was the country where the most abandonments took place, accounting for 61 cases last year.

There are currently 15 foreign-flagged vessels classed as abandoned at anchor in the Sea of Marmara, which lies between the Bosphorus Strait that leads to the Black Sea and the Dardanelles Strait, the gateway to the Mediterranean.



The Mongolia-flagged cargo ship "Azra C" lies at anchor in the Sea of Marmara off Istanbul

CAMPUS

Al Noor International School Celebrates Graduation of 26th A-Level British Section Batch



Al Noor International School organised the graduation ceremony for the twenty-sixth batch of A Level students in the British Section, numbering 78 students, at the conference centre at the Gulf Hotel on 1st June 2026, in the

presence of Ms. Lulwa Ghasan Al Muhana, Director of Licensing and Monitoring of Private Schools, number of officials and parents.

The School Founder Chairman Mr Ali Hasan extended his heartfelt gratitude to His Majesty King

Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister for their unwavering support and visionary leadership in advancing education across the Kingdom of Bahrain.

School Director Dr. Muhammad Mashood expressed his pride in the school's graduates, who each year enroll in some of the world's best universities and in turn have gone on to work in many world renowned companies. He went on to praise the parents and

teachers for their endeavours in assuring the success of the graduating students. School Principal Abdul Rahman Al-Kooheji in his welcome address commended the outstanding results of this batch of students, wishing them continued success in their future endeavors.

Graduates Ahmed AbdulRahim delivered speeches in English, while students Mariam Ali A. ALSuhail and Omar Ahmed Galal spoke in Arabic, expressing their gratitude for what the school has provided them throughout their years of study.

Bhavans Bahrain Indian School Shines at CBSE Cluster Sports Meet 2026-27



Bhavans Bahrain Indian School achieved remarkable success at the recently held CBSE Cluster Sports Meet, securing top positions in Chess, Table Tennis, and Badminton.

The school's success story was spearheaded by its brilliant chess players. Ehan Anjam of Grade 6, Trishan Moorkoth of Grade 7, Rudransh Dash of Grade 7, Aadithya Udhayakumar of Grade 8 emerged as the Champion in the Under-14 Boys' Chess Tournament, while Aarohi Rajith of Grade 6, Saisha Jojoy of Grade 6, Dea Sagatramani of Grade 7, Gunjan Pal of Grade 8 clinched the First Position in the Under-14 Girls' Chess category, demonstrating exceptional strategic thinking and composure under pressure.

In Table Tennis, Bhavans athletes delivered a series of stellar performances. The Under-14 Girls' Team secured the Championship Title, with Saisha Jojoy (Grade 6), Sunehri Shashidhar (Grade 7), and Adhya Sharma (Grade 8) displaying outstanding teamwork

and skill throughout the competition.

Adding to the medal tally, the Under-19 Boys' Table Tennis Team emerged as Champions, securing First Position through the remarkable efforts of Sujay Sunil Bayalan (Grade 9), Suyash Sunil Bayalan (Grade 9), Daksh Choudhary (Grade 11), and Sunish Sunil Bayalan (Grade 12). Their exceptional performance and unwavering focus enabled them to dominate the tournament and bring glory to the school.

The school's Under-14 Boys' Table Tennis Team also delivered an impressive performance, securing the Runner-up Position. The team comprising Thomas Kurian Roy (Grade 6), Vedh Subin (Grade 7), and Aaron Pon Nesaraj (Grade 8) displayed excellent coordination and competitive spirit throughout the event.

In the Under-19 Girls' Table Tennis Competition, Bhavans secured the Second Position through the commendable efforts of Keerthana Kameswaran (Grade 12), Sarah Jojoy (Grade

11), Piya Nirab Dutiya (Grade 11), and Hafsa Najeem Shafi (Grade 12). Their dedication and perseverance earned them a well-deserved podium finish.

The Under-14 Girls' Badminton Team further strengthened the school's achievements by securing the Runner-up Position. The team consisting of Parinitha Kameswaren (Grade 8), Anishka Anil Kumar (Grade 8), Devna Pulinamparambil Anish (Grade 7), and Avani Yadav (Grade 9) exhibited remarkable grit and determination against strong competition.

Congratulating the winners, school Directors Mr Himanshu Verma and Mrs Ritu Verma, extended heartfelt congratulations to all the winners and participants for bringing laurels to the institution and upholding the proud sporting legacy of Bhavans Bahrain Indian School.

Principal, Mr Saji Jacob expressed pride in the students' outstanding performance and commended the efforts of the Physical Education Department for their unwavering support and guidance.

AUBH Celebrates Student Excellence at the 2025-2026 Spotlight Awards



The American University of Bahrain (AUBH) celebrated the achievements of its students during the 2025-2026 Spotlight Awards, held on campus in the presence of Dr. Wafa Almansoori, Interim President and Provost of the University, alongside faculty members, administrative staff, students, and representatives of supporting organizations.

The event reflected AUBH's efforts to showcase outstanding student talent and recognize achievements across academic, research, and innovation-led fields, while also highlighting students' distinguished participation in local, regional, and international competitions and initiatives, where they represented both the University and the Kingdom of Bahrain with pride. It also reinforced the value of participation as an essential part of the university experience, giving students the opportunity to explore their potential, broaden their perspectives, and gain practical experience that is as meaningful as awards and results. These experiences help build confidence, encourage initiative, and support students' continued growth inside and beyond the classroom.

The ceremony opened with remarks by Dr. Amal Al Awadhi, Dean of Students at AUBH, who emphasized the importance of

celebrating student excellence as an integral part of a holistic university experience. She affirmed that the student achievement extends beyond academic performance to encompass leadership development, effective communication, creative thinking, and meaningful engagement with the wider community.

During the ceremony, AUBH honored a distinguished group of students who achieved strong results in several competitions and events. These included students who won first place in the INJAZ Toastmasters Debate, second place in the MECCA Hackathon, second place in the ARABCAB Competition, and second place in the CFA Society Bahrain Research Challenge, in addition to students who represented the Kingdom of Bahrain at Web Summit Doha 2025.

The ceremony also highlighted student-led initiatives that reflect the diversity of AUBH students' talents and interests, including one student's recent publication of her first novel. This milestone underscored the presence of literary creativity within the student experience and demonstrated how students are able to transform their ideas, passions, and personal interests into meaningful outcomes.

Dr. Amal Al Awadhi, Dean of Students at AUBH, stated: "The Spotlight Awards are a special

occasion for AUBH, allowing us to celebrate students who have demonstrated excellence, ambition, and hard work throughout a highly productive academic year. Our students have shown remarkable ability to compete and achieve across a wide range of areas, including research, innovation, debate, and local, regional, and international participation. These accomplishments reflect their promising potential, as well as the supportive environment AUBH provides to encourage initiative and applied learning."

Dr. Al Awadhi further added: "We are proud of our students and the initiative, discipline, and ambition they have demonstrated throughout the year. The Spotlight Awards are meaningful because they recognize more than final outcomes; they also honor the effort, learning, teamwork, and determination that shape each student's journey. Whether a student takes part in a competition, leads an initiative, contributes to a project, or joins a student activity, every experience adds value and helps build confidence, maturity, and readiness for future opportunities. We will continue to create a supportive environment that encourages students to take part, explore their potential, and develop the skills they need for their academic and professional paths."

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Al Najma remain winless at Asian Club Championship

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Al Najma suffered their second straight defeat at the 28th Asian Men's Club League Championship in Kuwait, going down 29-25 to Qatar's Al Duhail in Sabah Al Salem yesterday.

The Bahraini side, coached by Abdulrahman Mohamed, again delivered a spirited performance against one of the tournament's stronger teams.

The opening half was closely contested, with both sides exchanging momentum before finishing level at 15-15 after Al Najma briefly held control early on.

After the break, Al Duhail gradually took charge, finding better rhythm in attack and capitalising on key moments. They outscored Al Najma 14-10 in the



Mohammed Habib Ahmed in action under defensive pressure

second period to secure victory.

Al Najma continued to rely on Mohamed Habib Ahmed, who produced a standout display with 10 goals from 11 attempts and was named player

of the match despite the defeat. Uros Mitrovic added three goals, while Jasim Khamis and Hasan Alsamahiji scored two each in a balanced but insufficient effort. For Al Duhail, Hamdi Hadj

Ayed led with five goals, supported by Rafael Capote, Firas Zenzemi and Amine Guehis. They finished with 29 goals from 40 shots at 73% efficiency. The match was finely poised

at 21-21 midway through the second half after a strong spell from Ahmed. However, missed chances and defensive lapses allowed Al Duhail to regain control.

A turning point came with the dismissal of Hasan Madan, who received both red and blue cards, leaving the Bahrainis short-handed at a crucial stage.

Despite that setback, Al Najma stayed within reach deep into the final quarter, with Ahmed continuing to drive the attack, but Al Duhail's composure and clinical finishing ensured they stayed ahead in the closing stages.

The defeat leaves Al Najma still searching for their first points as the table begins to take shape. Burgan and Al Khaleej lead with five points from three matches, with Kuwait Sporting

Club close behind on four.

Al Duhail move into fourth with two points from two games, while Al Arabi also sit on two from three. At the bottom, Al Najma and Sharjah Sports Club are yet to get off the mark.

The Bahraini side, two-time Asian champions in 2017 and 2023, continue in the seven-team round-robin stage, with the top four advancing to the semi-finals on June 15 and the medal matches on June 17.

After today's rest day, Al Najma will face UAE's Sharjah SC tomorrow at 8pm as they seek their first points of the campaign. They will then take on Qatar's Al Arabi, Kuwait's Burgan Club and Saudi Arabia's Al Khaleej in their remaining preliminary-round matches, looking to carve out a path to the knock-out stages.

Denmark's Eriksen in 'good spirits' after collapsing during friendly

AFP | Copenhagen

Christian Eriksen is in "good spirits", said the Danish team football doctor, despite being hospitalised after collapsing during Denmark's friendly against Ukraine, five years after suffering a cardiac arrest during the European Championship.

The 34-year-old former Man-



Christian Eriksen

chester United midfielder, who had a type of pacemaker insert-

ed after he collapsed in 2021, fell to the ground in the 64th minute of the match in Odense on Sunday.

Medical staff rushed onto the pitch while players from both teams gathered around him to shield the scene from television or smartphone cameras.

The referee called off the match and Eriksen was subsequently taken to hospital, hav-

ing been shielded by both sets of players as he walked off the pitch.

Denmark's team doctor Morten Boesen said Eriksen had been "briefly unconscious" but "the pacemaker responded as it should".

"I spoke to Christian this morning, and he is doing well," he said in comments posted on Instagram.

Bahrain eye Asian volleyball success in India



Celebratory moment from Bahrain's victory at the Gulf Games last month

TDT | Manama

rations intensify.

A 17-player squad is currently in camp, with the final 14-man roster to be confirmed before the tournament. The group is expected to be largely based on the side that won gold at the Gulf Games in Qatar last month.

Bahrain travel to India with growing confidence following strong recent results, including their maiden AVC Men's Cup title in 2024, a breakthrough that established them among Asia's rising teams.

They have been drawn in a tough Pool A alongside hosts India, Australia, Chinese Taipei, Kazakhstan and New Zealand. Pool B features Qatar, South Korea, Turkmenistan, Indonesia, Thailand and Oman, with several strong contenders expected across both groups.

The team is coached by Montenegrin Ivan Joksimovic, assisted by national coach Mishaal Turki, with all selected players involved as prepa-

Muharraq, Khaldiya and Riffa secure Asian licences

TDT | Manama

Muharraq, Al Khaldiya, and Riffa have all been granted Asian Football Confederation (AFC) club licences for the 2026-27 season after successfully meeting the federation's club licensing criteria. The approvals confirm their eligibility to compete in AFC-organised competitions next season, based on their domestic league standings.

Reigning Nasser bin Hamad Premier League champions Muharraq will represent Bahrain in the AFC Champions League Two, securing direct entry into the group stage.

League runners-up Al Khaldiya will enter the same competition through the qualifying play-offs, where they will aim to reach the group stage and extend their continental campaign.

Meanwhile, Riffa will compete in the Gulf Club Champions League as Bahrain's sole representative in the regional tournament. Their qualifica-



Action from Muharraq's AFC Champions League Two match against Al Wasl last season

tion is secured through their triumph in the Khalid bin Hamad Cup, and the club will be making its 11th appearance in the competition.

In the most recent 2025-26 AFC Champions League Two campaign, both Muharraq and Khaldiya were unable to progress beyond the group stage. Al Khaldiya finished third in Group B with one win, three draws, and two defeats, collecting six points. Muharraq also placed third in Group A, finishing with seven points from two wins, one draw, and three losses.

Despite those setbacks, Muharraq remain one of Bahrain's most successful clubs on the continental stage, having won the AFC Champions League Two title twice, in 2008 and 2021.

The latest licensing confirmation ensures continued Bahraini representation across both regional and Asian competitions, with all three clubs once again set to carry the Kingdom's challenge abroad in the 2026-27 season.