

Warships and Waterways

As tensions simmer in the Strait of Hormuz, the UK moved a warship closer to the Gulf as part of a growing multinational effort to secure shipping lanes. | P8

Post-war instability demands a unified global approach

THE DAILY tribune

Survival fight and championship chase reach critical stage

Luxury villa draw gets boost with new savings offer

Loyalty Reaffirmed

TDT | Manama

Yousif Saleh Al Saleh reaffirmed the Jaafari community's loyalty to HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and support for the government led by HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. He said the community remains an integral part of Bahrain's social fabric, supporting national unity, coexistence and development.

The Endowments Council also backed the Ministry of Interior's security measures and praised authorities for arresting a group linked to Iran's IRGC and the ideology of Wilayat al-Faqih. It rejected attempts to spread division and urged the public to rely on official sources and avoid rumours.

Terrorism Denounced

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Bahrain strongly condemned a "terrorist attack" that targeted the city of Smara in Morocco, expressing full solidarity with the North African kingdom and rejecting all forms of violence aimed at destabilising security and public order.

In a statement, the Bahraini foreign ministry said it "strongly denounces and condemns the sinful terrorist attack" against Smara, stressing Bahrain's firm rejection of all acts of terrorism that threaten Morocco's stability and endanger civilians.

The ministry reaffirmed Bahrain's "full solidarity" with Morocco and its support for country's sovereign rights in the Moroccan Sahara. It also expressed backing for measures taken by Rabat to safeguard its security, stability, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

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Bahrain and Russia ties highlighted on Victory Day

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HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa sent a congratulatory cable to Russian President Vladimir Putin marking Russia's Victory Day.

The king conveyed his best

wishes to Putin for good health and happiness, expressing hope for continued progress and prosperity for the Russian people under his leadership.

HM King Hamad also praised the level of bilateral relations between Bahrain and Russia, reaffirming

Bahrain's commitment to strengthening cooperation and advancing ties in a way that serves the mutual interests of both countries.

Victory Day, celebrated annually on May 9, commemorates the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in World War II.



HM the King



President Vladimir Putin

Gulf Nations Back Bahrain's Sovereignty Measures

Pledge a united front against terrorism and threats targeting Bahrain's national security

TDT | Manama

Bahrain won backing from Gulf allies after authorities announced the dismantling of a group linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guards and the ideology of "Wilayat al-Faqih" according to official statements.

The support came from fellow Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates, Morocco and Jordan, following Bahrain's announcement of arrests tied to alleged espionage and security-related offences.



General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior

Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al



Shaikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al Sabah, Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister

Khalifa received a phone call from Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Shaikh Fahad Yusuf



Jasem Mohamed AlBudaiwi, GCC Secretary-General

Saud Al Sabah, who expressed support for Bahrain's measures to preserve security and stability. The Kuwaiti minister praised



Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Emirati Foreign Minister

the "efficiency and vigilance" of security agencies and reaffirmed Kuwait's solidarity with the kingdom against threats to its security.

Bahrain Airport Services to expand into Saudi Arabia

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Airport Services (BAS) has announced plans to launch operations in Saudi Arabia, marking a major step in its regional expansion strategy as it seeks to grow beyond its home market.

The new entity, BAS Saudi, will be based in the Kingdom's Eastern Province and is expected to provide ground handling services for the aviation sector, drawing on the company's long-standing operational experience at Bahrain International Airport.

BAS said the expansion aligns with its broader strategy to strengthen its presence in key Gulf markets, including Saudi Arabia and Oman, while diversifying its aviation services portfolio. "The announcement of BAS Saudi represents a pivotal step in our journey towards regional



Bahrain International Airport

expansion," said Nabeel Khalid Kanoo, chairman of Bahrain Airport Services.

He added that Saudi Arabia's rapidly growing aviation sector offered "strong growth potential", noting that the company is also

exploring opportunities in Oman, particularly in aircraft maintenance and technical inspection.

The company said it is currently assessing operating rights at multiple airports across Saudi Arabia and is pursuing partner-

ships with industry stakeholders as part of its expansion plans.

BAS said the move reflects its aim to keep pace with regional aviation growth and infrastructure development, while strengthening its competitive-



The expansion aligns with Bahrain Airport Services' broader strategy to strengthen its presence in key Gulf markets, including Saudi Arabia and Oman, while diversifying its aviation services portfolio.

ness as a comprehensive aviation services provider in the Gulf.



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'Road safety a shared responsibility'

Neethu V
TDT | Manama

Ministry of Interior, through the General Directorate of Traffic, continues to ramp up its 2026 road safety efforts, focusing on awareness, safer driving behaviour, and stronger enforcement in Bahrain.

In the past month, more than 10 major road traffic accidents were recorded.

In the past week alone, two young lives were lost in separate incidents, renewing calls for greater caution on the roads. 2025 reports show over 900 traffic accidents in Bahrain.

Authorities continue to highlight speeding, distracted driving, and failure to follow traffic rules as key causes of road incidents, while urging compliance with safety practices including seatbelt use, avoiding mobile phone use while driving, proper vehicle maintenance, and adherence to traffic signals.

Bahrain's participation in the annual GCC Traffic Week, alongside other GCC nations, under the theme "Cross Safely", aims to promote road safety awareness and highlights its importance in protecting lives and property.

The campaign encourages pedestrians, especially children, to use designated crossings and wait for vehicles to stop before crossing.

Director-General of Traffic Major-General Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulwahab Al Khalifa highlighted communi-



Traffic police officers across GCC countries intensify road safety awareness and enforcement during GCC Traffic Week 2026

ty awareness as key to reflecting Bahrain's civilized image, stressing the role of parents in instilling traffic culture in children to build a responsible generation that follows road safety rules.

The Ministry has intensified efforts to curb dangerous road behaviour, reflecting a stricter approach to traffic violations.

Safety

These measures include a new initiative equipping motorcycles in official convoys with electronic plate systems to guide drivers on safe conduct when convoys pass, which helps regulate traffic flow and enhance safety.

Notably, the first phase of the Smart Camera System was

rolled out on February 1, 2026, to automatically enforce rules on speeding, mobile phone use, seatbelt compliance and signal violations.

This follows Royal Decree Law No. 30 of 2025, issued in August 2025, which amends the 2014 Traffic Law to enhance road safety and introduces tougher penalties, including fines of up to BD 10,000 and imprisonment of up to 10 years for severe offences such as reckless driving, drunk driving, running red lights, and excessive speeding.

The public is also encouraged to report minor, non-injury accidents through the eTraffic app or call 199 to ease congestion and improve response times.

Similarly, in the UAE, road

safety efforts are increasingly driven by technology, with AI systems, traffic monitoring drones, and interactive tools such as awareness robots used in public spaces to simulate real-life violations and educate the public.

Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait are also adopting a mix of awareness and engagement strategies, including virtual reality-based learning, nationwide campaigns with enforcement, and strengthened outreach in schools and public spaces to promote safer driving and pedestrian behavior.

The message across GCC is simple: road safety is a shared responsibility that requires consistent discipline from all road users.

Minister reviews summer work ban

Preparations underway for annual safety conference and exhibition



H.E. Yousif bin Abdulhussain Khalaf with Council officials

TDT | Manama

Yousif bin Abdulhussain Khalaf, labour and legal affairs minister, chaired the second meeting of the Occupational Safety and Health Council on Saturday, stressing the importance of strengthening workplace safety standards across the kingdom.

Khalaf said occupational safety and health remained a key pillar in protecting workers and improving productivity, according to a statement issued after the meeting.

He highlighted ongoing efforts to develop legislation and awareness programmes aimed at ensuring safe and sustain-

able working environments across Bahrain's productive sectors.

The council reviewed the latest updates on implementing its 2026 awareness and guidance programmes related to occupational health and safety.

Officials also discussed preparations for enforcing Decision No. 5 of 2026 regulating the summer midday work ban, which restricts outdoor work during peak heat hours.

The meeting further reviewed the latest arrangements for the sixth National Occupational Safety and Health Conference and Exhibition, scheduled to be held later this year in Bahrain.

Press Strengthens National Unity

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The Chief of Police, Lt-General Tariq Al Hassan, affirmed that the Bahraini press will remain a key pillar of national work due to the royal care of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

He highlighted the role of the Bahraini press and its national and civilisational responsibilities in building the modern state, under the blessed efforts of the government, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The Chief said that celebrating Bahraini Press Day is a national duty and an appreciation of journalism's role and its noble message in protecting society's civilisational values, consolidating its national achievements and prin-

ciples through honest words, and strengthening national awareness as an expression of society's voice and in service of its interests.

He explained that the integration and coordination between the local press and the Ministry of Interior's police media represent a distinguished model of national work and the integration of roles among its institutions.



Lt-General Tariq Al Hassan

Pollution concerns grow at Seef Beach

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Waste, glass and construction debris now cover parts of Seef Beach, turning a popular coastal spot into a growing environmental and public health concern.

A field visit by The Daily Tribune recorded a noticeable increase in litter scattered across the sand, including food waste, plastic bags, bottles and containers, alongside bags filled with rubbish.

In several areas, the situation has escalated further, with construction debris such as wood, bricks and metal left exposed along the shoreline.

Visitors described the scene as deeply concerning, saying a place once known for its calm setting is being increasingly neglected.

They noted that pollution becomes more visible during the winter months, when larger numbers of people visit the beach to enjoy the milder weather.

One regular jogger said he has repeatedly witnessed trucks arriving in the early morning hours, allegedly dumping construction waste along the beach.

Environmental concerns have also been raised by sustainability advocate Kai Khalid Miethig, who warned that beach pollu-



Garbage at the beach poses serious and growing environmental issue



This doesn't just affect the natural beauty, it damages the marine environment and turns the water into a health risk.

KAI KHALID MIETHIG

tion is a serious and escalating issue, largely driven by human behaviour.

He explained that waste left

behind by visitors—including plastic bottles, bags, food wrappers and cigarette butts—is often carried by wind and tides,

spreading across the shoreline and into the sea.

Miethig noted that many types of waste break down into microplastics, which spread through seawater and can mix with other contaminants, particularly in areas lacking proper waste management systems.

He warned that polluted beaches can pose direct risks to human health, including skin irritation, eye infections and stomach illnesses caused by exposure to contaminated water.

Seven-Year-Old Indian Boy Dies

After Falling from Building in Bahrain

Pradeep Puravankara
TDT | Manama

A seven-year-old Indian boy died in Bahrain after accidentally falling from a residential building.

The deceased, Derick Joseph Jismon, was the only child of Jismon and Aksa, an Indian expatriate couple.

Derick was a second-grade student at the Indian School Bahrain.

The tragic incident occurred at the family's second-floor apartment near the American Mission Hospital.

Reports indicate that the boy accidentally fell through an open window of the flat.

Following the fall, neighbors



Derick Joseph Jismon

rushed him to the Salmaniya Medical Complex.

Despite receiving specialized care in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), he succumbed to his injuries.

The loss has sent a wave of grief through the Indian community in Bahrain and among his schoolmates and teachers.

IRGC-Linked Cell Uncovered

MPs and Shura Council express strong backing for Interior Ministry

● Authorities cite Wilayat al-Faqih ideology link

● Legal proceedings underway

● Investigations and searches continue

Based on investigations, security reports, and previous Public Prosecution investigations into espionage with foreign entities and support for blatant Iranian aggression, the Interior Ministry announced that security authorities uncovered a group linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps and the ideology of Wilayat al-Faqih.

Members of parliament and the Shura Council said the case reflected the readiness of the kingdom's security services and their ability to respond to threats targeting national security, sovereignty and public order.

Dr Maryam Al Dhaen said the operation aligned with the policies of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and

Lawmakers praise security forces

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Lawmakers voiced strong support for the Interior Ministry following the arrest of individuals in a case involving an alleged group linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and the ideology of Wilayat al-Faqih.

Members of parliament and the Shura Council said the case reflected the readiness of the kingdom's security services and their ability to respond to threats targeting national security, sovereignty and public order.

Dr Maryam Al Dhaen said the operation aligned with the policies of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and

She said the legal measures targeted individuals involved in



“The Interior Ministry has demonstrated a high level of professionalism and capability in monitoring and addressing security threats”

- DR. MARYAM AL DHAEN, MP



Strong enforcement of the law is essential to deter anyone who seeks to compromise national security or public safety.

MARYAM AL SAEGH, MP

the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

She said the legal measures targeted individuals involved in

unlawful activity and did not affect Bahraini society, which she described as unified and based on coexistence and moderation.

Dr Ali Al Rumaihi, head of the Shura Council's Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee, said the case highlighted the effectiveness of Bahrain's security apparatus.

He said firm and fair enforcement of the law was essential to safeguarding national security and maintaining social stability, adding that public unity behind the leadership remained a key safeguard against threats.

MP Dr Hassan BuKhammas, chairman of Parliament's Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee, said the Interior Ministry's action formed part of broader efforts to counter terrorism and alleged foreign interference.

He praised the security forces for their investigations, saying the arrests followed extensive inquiries and searches.

BuKhammas added that such measures were necessary to protect internal stability and rejected any activities that sought to undermine public trust or national unity.

He called for continued vigilance and public cooperation to preserve Bahrain's social cohesion and national interests.



“These actions are part of ongoing efforts to confront terrorism and safeguard Bahrain from any external interference.”

DR. HASSAN BUKHAMMAS, CHAIRMAN OF PARLIAMENT'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE



Firm and fair application of the law is a cornerstone in preserving national security and upholding the rule of law.

DR. ALI AL RUMAIHI, HEAD OF THE SHURA COUNCIL'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

Investigations confirm that those arrested in the group were in direct contact with the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and that they collected funds with the aim of sending them to Iran in support of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and to finance its terrorist operations.

CID

15 Years for Marijuana Parcel

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

A Bahraini appeals court upheld a 15-year prison sentence against an Asian man convicted of importing around three kilograms of marijuana hidden inside a food parcel, while acquitting a second defendant due to lack of evidence proving criminal intent.



lawyer Saja Al-Habib

The First High Criminal Court of Appeal also fined the convicted man BD10,000, ordered the confiscation of the seized

drugs and ruled for his permanent deportation after serving his sentence.

Court documents said customs officers at Bahrain International Airport became suspicious of a postal parcel after an X-ray scan revealed unusual density inside the package.

The parcel, which contained food items and household supplies, was later found to conceal 21 bags containing marijuana weighing about three kilograms.

Investigators said the defendant admitted he had been instructed by a person abroad to collect the parcel in exchange for BD1,500 and had used another person's identity and address without their knowledge.

The court upheld the acquittal of the second defendant after finding no evidence that he knew about the drugs or was involved in the operation. His lawyer argued he had merely accompanied the first defendant and had no criminal intent.

Court to Rule in Juffair Gold Heist

Eight Accused in BD800,000 Heist Case

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

The Fourth Lower Criminal Court has set May 14 to deliver its verdict in the case of eight defendants accused of stealing gold bars, Rolex watches and other valuables worth more than BD800,000 from a house in Juffair.

During the hearing, defence lawyers representing the accused requested their clients' acquittal, arguing there was insufficient evidence linking them



lawyer Reem Al Mahari

to the crime.

Lawyer Reem Al Mahari, representing the fifth defendant, said her client had no knowledge that a watch found in his possession was stolen, claiming he received it from a friend for safekeeping. She added that he cooperated fully with police once informed about the investigation.

According to court files, the theft was discovered after the homeowner returned to his residence on March 6 and found a steel safe broken into. The stolen items included 22 Rolex watches, around 1.5 kilograms of gold and nine gold bars.

Police investigations, including a review of surveillance footage, led authorities to identify a vehicle seen near the property on March 2. One suspect later admitted receiving a stolen watch and implicated others allegedly involved in the burglary, helping investigators identify the remaining defendants.

Court overturns BD 5,366 ruling

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

The court overturned a ruling that ordered a man in his sixties to pay 5,366.200 Bahraini dinars in a vehicle rental dispute, after finding that legal notification procedures were invalid.

The High Civil Court of Appeal ruled the original judgment void because court summons were sent to incorrect contact details via SMS and email.

According to case documents, a Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) report confirmed that the mobile number used for notification was regis-



Lawyer Abdullah Al-Majed

tered to an expatriate woman, not the defendant.

The dispute involved a four-year lease agreement for two vehicles.

The defendant's lawyer, Abdullah Al-Majed, argued that his client had no knowledge of the proceedings at the court of first

instance, disputed the authenticity of the contract signatures and said the relevant commercial registration had been cancelled before the case was filed.

He also said there was no legal evidence that the defendant was authorised to act on behalf of the second party, an institution named in the case.

The appeals court cited Article 7 (bis) of the Civil Procedure Code, ruling that proper notification is a fundamental requirement for a fair trial. It said the defective summons deprived the defendant of the right to defend himself, and therefore annulled the original judgment and accepted the appeal.

Shura to Debate Charity Funding Law

Risk-based monitoring system to strengthen oversight of charities

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

The Shura Council will debate a decree-law that makes licensed charity fundraisers disclose where money comes from, how it is spent and file audited reports with the competent authority.

Decree-Law No. 39 of 2025 amends Bahrain's 2013 law on raising money for public purposes. It changes the definition of a licence-holder, rewrites parts of the licensing rules, and gives the authority new room to check fundraising work according to the level of risk tied to each group or activity.

The Services Committee has recommended approval, saying the measure is aimed at stopping public donations from being misused for money laun-



Dr. Jameela Al Salman, Head of Shura's Services Committee

dering or terrorism financing while allowing lawful charity work to carry on.

Under the changes, licensed bodies would have to keep clearer records of the source of funds, the way money is spent and the purposes for which it is used. The committee said this would help make sure donations reach those meant to receive them.

The decree-law also brings in risk-based oversight. Rather

than treating every fundraiser in the same way, the competent authority would be able to direct checks towards work seen as more exposed to misuse.

The committee said this would help regulators pick up warning signs earlier and focus on fundraising activities most open to abuse, without placing needless weight on lawful charity work.

It said: 'The decree-law establishes a modern oversight approach based on risk analysis and assessment, allowing the competent authority to direct its supervisory tools according to the actual level of risk posed by each activity or licensed entity.'

Penalties would also change. The decree-law adds administrative fines alongside criminal sanctions, giving the authority a wider range of tools to deal with breaches according to

their seriousness.

The Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission said the measure was issued because methods used in money laundering and terrorism financing continue to change. It also said Bahrain had to keep pace with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards and the National Risk Assessment.

The committee tied the measure to Bahrain's FATF assessment in 2026. It warned that delay could raise the risk of Bahrain being placed on the FATF grey list, with harm to the financial sector, the wider economy and overseas trust in the kingdom's investment climate.

The decree-law has three articles. The first amends parts of the 2013 law, the second adds two new articles, and the third deals with bringing the decree-law into force.

Turning Experience into Insight



Minister of Information Dr. Ramzan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi received writer Ahmed Abdul Latif Al Bahr, who presented him with a copy of his new book "Administrative Perspectives".

The book explores administrative experiences and modern approaches to institutional performance development, drawing on practical case studies from the author's career.

The minister praised Al

Bahr's professional background across Bahrain's public and private sectors, describing him as a national talent with rich experience that contributes to enriching knowledge content by documenting real-world expertise. He said such works help transfer knowledge and exchange professional experiences in ways that enhance institutional development.

Dr. Al Nuaimi wished the author continued success in his literary and professional work.

Shura Council Session to Cover 12 Drafts, 4 Decree Laws

Judicial Reforms, Economic Amendments, and Major International Agreements

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The Shura Council will hold its 29th session of the fourth session of the sixth legislative term today, following Royal Order No. (14) of 2026, which provides for adjourning the session starting next Tuesday.

During the session, the Council will review 16 legislations, including 4 decree laws and 12 draft laws, referred to the committees of Legislative and Legal Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Defense and National Security, Financial and Economic Affairs, Services, and Public Utilities and Environment.

Judicial Amendments

The Council will discuss Decree Law No. (13) of 2024 amending Article (7) of the Judicial Authority Law, which seeks to classify nationality-related matters as acts of sovereignty, placing them outside the courts' jurisdiction.

It will also review Decree Law No. (38) of 2025 amending the Commercial Companies Law, allowing the use of modern communication technologies for meetings and voting, and permitting the establishment of single-shareholder closed joint-stock companies.



The agenda includes several agreements

- Accession to the Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information framework to enhance tax transparency
- An agreement with Pakistan on the transfer of sentenced persons
- A double taxation avoidance agreement with Saudi Arabia
- Accession to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
- Amendments to the GCC Unified Excise Tax Agreement



Energy and Economic Projects

The Council will also examine Decree Law No. (33) of 2025 concerning the concession agreement for the "Juba" and "Pre-Unayzah (Pre-'Uyaynah)" reservoirs in the Bahrain Field, aimed at attracting new invest-

ments in the oil and gas sector and strengthening national energy security.

Anti-Money Laundering

The session will also address Decree Law No. (39) of 2025 on

regulating fundraising for public purposes, aligned with developments in money laundering and terrorist financing methods, and in compliance with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards.

Travel Ban Procedures

The Council will review amendments to the Civil and Commercial Enforcement Law, granting enforcement judges the authority to extend travel bans on foreigners without a fixed limit while restricting administrative powers when a judicial travel ban is issued.

It will also discuss a draft law establishing a judicial committee to review deportation or travel ban enforcement decisions, with the possibility of appeal before the High Civil Court.

Agricultural and Health

The Council will examine amendments to the Agricultural Banks Law to enhance legal protection for agricultural infrastructure and strengthen penalties for violations.

It will also discuss amendments to the Medical Practice Law, making closure and confiscation penalties discretionary rather than mandatory, and unifying penalties with related healthcare profession legislation.

The Council will also discuss amendments related to industrial zones, government procurement regulations, and consumer protection laws, aimed at enhancing transparency, improving regulatory oversight, and protecting consumer rights.

Debate on Ship Emissions Pact

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Shura Council is set to debate on Sunday a draft law that would allow the kingdom to join an international agreement aimed at reducing air pollution from ships.

Lawmakers will consider approving in principle Bahrain's accession to Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), originally adopted in 1973 and amended by later protocols, under Decree No. 7 of 2026.

The annex sets binding standards to curb air emissions from maritime transport, including rules on fuel quality, engine use and ship efficiency.

The Shura Council's Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee has recommended approval, saying the move would strengthen Bahrain's existing commitments under MARPOL, which it joined through Law No. 32 of 2005.

Benefit

The report noted that, as a coastal state with significant economic and environmental reliance on the sea, Bahrain would benefit from aligning its maritime regulations with international environmental standards.

It added that Annex VI would complement Bahrain's Maritime Law issued under Law No. 10 of 2022, particularly provisions related to marine environmental protection and pollution control.

The committee said the measure supports Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 and national efforts to reduce emissions and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, by incorporating the maritime sector into broader climate policies.

It also stressed that the annex has been widely adopted by International Maritime Organization member states, including China, Japan, Singapore, European Union countries, and Gulf states such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Kuwait.

High-Level Jordanian Delegation Visits Bahrain

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The President of the Senate of Jordan, Faisal Akef Alfayez, arrives in the Kingdom of Bahrain today for an official visit aimed at strengthening parliamentary and bilateral relations between the two kingdoms.

The visit comes at the invitation of Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh and includes a delegation, according to an official statement.

It takes place within the framework of "deep-rooted fraternal relations" between Bahrain and Jordan, which have continuously developed across political and economic



Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh



Faisal Akef Alfayez

fields. During the trip, Alfayez is scheduled to hold talks with Al Saleh on enhancing parliamentary cooperation, expanding coordination between the two councils, and exchanging legislative expertise.

Discussions are also expected to cover regional and Arab issues of mutual concern.

From bottle caps to artwork

School initiative links creativity with environmental awareness



Students show their eco-friendly projects

Ghadeer Alkumaish
TDT | Manama

Students at Al-Malikiyah Primary Intermediate Girls' School are transforming recycled waste into creative artworks as part of a school initiative promoting environmental awareness and sustainable practices.

The "Sustainable Creativity" project encourages students to reuse discarded materials and turn them into artistic pieces, highlighting recycling as a practical habit rather than a theoretical concept.

Among the participants, students Joud Ali Madan and Lujain Faisal Mansoor created artworks using everyday waste materials. Joud said she learned to reuse plastic bottle caps and transform them into visually meaningful art pieces, while Lujain worked with metal rings from soft drink cans to produce handmade accessories and jewellery.

Art teacher Kawthar Ali Ghareeb said the initiative helps develop students' creative thinking while strengthening awareness of environmental responsibility through hands-on learning.

Students Take Mic



Empowering the youth through podcast

TDT | Manama

Bhavans Bahrain Indian School launched the first student-led podcast initiative among CBSE schools in the kingdom, titled "BIS After Bell."

The podcast aims to provide students a platform to share ideas, experiences and discussions while promoting communication, creativity and leadership skills.

The inaugural episode features a conversation between School Head Boy Shreyas Sreevalsan and outgoing Head Girl Darwina Manoj, reflecting on stu-

dent life, leadership experiences and memories at the school.

School officials praised the initiative as a milestone in student engagement and digital innovation.

Director Himanshu Verma described the podcast as a platform that empowers students through communication and leadership, while Principal Saji Jacob congratulated the students and mentors involved in the project.

The school said the initiative marks a new step in encouraging student voices and media excellence within the educational community.

Teen held for riding motorcycle without licence

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Family and Child Prosecution ordered the detention of a 17-year-old boy after he was caught riding a motorcycle without a driving licence, helmet, or registration plates in the Al Budaiya area, endangering his life and other road users.

The Public Prosecution said it received a report from the General Directorate of Traffic after a patrol stopped the teenager while carrying out road safety duties.

The suspect was referred for investigation, where he admitted to the charges. Authorities also found he had previously committed similar offences.

NBB offers Thara's customers double chances to win luxury seafront villa

August grand prize draw

Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has announced a limited-time early deposit incentive for its Thara'a Prize Account ahead of the August Grand Prize draw, giving customers double chances to win a luxury seafront villa.

The initiative is an opportunity for customers to get more out of their saving journey. Customers who begin depositing into their Thara'a accounts



from 1st June and maintain their balance will automatically receive double chances in the August Grand Prize draw, with no additional steps required. By making the journey simple and accessible, NBB continues to encourage consistent saving through a rewarding experience that combines ease, excitement, and meaningful opportunities to win.

Customers can open a Thara'a account and deposit instantly through the NBB App, allowing them to participate con-

veniently and securely from anywhere.

The Thara'a Prize Account remains a cornerstone of NBB's customer-centric savings offering, reflecting the Bank's commitment to delivering rewarding solutions that align with customers' aspirations and encourage financial discipline. For more information regarding the Thara'a Prize Account and upcoming draws, please visit nbbonline.com, call 1721 4433, or visit any NBB branch.

Parent company of Trump's Truth Social reports \$400 mn loss

AFP | Washington, United States

The parent company of Truth Social, President Donald Trump's social media platform, reported a net loss on Friday of more than \$400 million in the first quarter -- mostly from tumbling cryptocurrency valuations.

Trump Media & Technology Group (TMTG) reported revenue of less than \$1 million for the three months ending March 31, according to a company filing.

The president, who routinely uses Truth Social to make official announcements, controls about 41% of TMTG's shares, which are held in the trust established to manage his financial interests during his presidency.

TMTG is also active in financial services, and the company announced \$2.5 billion in funding a year ago to invest in cryptocurrencies, one of Trump's recent passions.

But the plunge in digital currencies hit this part of the business hard as the price of Bitcoin tumbled from over \$126,000 in early October to below \$70,000 in March.

It has since rebounded somewhat to over \$80,000.



Because the company is required to reveal the value of its investments, even if it hasn't sold them, it recorded a loss of \$406 million for the first quarter.

"The vast bulk" of the loss was due to digital assets, the company stated.

According to its filing, TMTG generated \$900,000 in revenue during the first quarter, a paltry amount for a company valued at \$2.47 billion on the stock market.

The company says it continues "to focus on expanding its infrastructure and audience to prepare for future monetized features."

TMTG said in December that it is merging with the American company TAE, which is developing nuclear fusion technology.

That deal was expected to close in mid-2026.

China trade beats forecasts in April despite Mideast war

Exports were up 14.1% in April

The growth outpaced a Bloomberg forecast of 8.4%

AFP | Beijing, China

China's trade grew faster than expected last month, official data showed yesterday, withstanding pressure from war in the Middle East and reversing a decline in exports to the United States.

Booming trade has represented a vital lifeline for Beijing in recent years as the domestic economy lags, with sluggish spending and a stubborn debt crisis in the property sector weighing on activity.

Exports from the manufacturing powerhouse were up 14.1% in April compared to the same month last year, the General Administration of Customs (GAC) said.

The growth outpaced a Bloomberg forecast of 8.4% based on a survey of economists, and also picked up significantly from the 2.5% increase in March.



This aerial photo shows a cargo ship sailing into the port in Qingdao, in China's eastern Shandong province

Analysts say China's diversified energy supply insulates it from immediate shocks from the war, though any global economic downturn would eventually weaken demand for its exports. Amid a shaky truce, observers are awaiting a high-stakes meeting in Beijing next week between Chinese President Xi Jinping and US counterpart Donald Trump.

The talks previously set for late March were delayed by the war in the Middle East, which has sent global energy prices soaring as shipping through the vital Strait of Hormuz has effectively come to a halt.

The world's second-largest economy produced a re-

cord-breaking trade surplus last year at \$1.2 trillion.

For Trump, imbalance in the countries' trade relationship has long been a major sticking point.

Superpower summit

Ahead of the key meeting, China's exports to the United States grew 11.3% year-on-year in April, GAC data showed Saturday, returning to growth after dropping sharply by 26.5% in March. Shipments to the United States had also dropped 11% in January and February combined.

Trade is set to be a prominent topic in the upcoming meeting between Xi and Trump, with both leaders eyeing key con-

cessions for their massive economies.

Beijing has set an official target growth range for this year of 4.5-5.0% -- the lowest in decades. In a positive sign for domestic spending, imports into the world's second-largest economy grew 25.3 percent year-on-year last month, the GAC data showed Saturday.

That figure beat a Bloomberg forecast of 20.0% but was slightly lower than the 27.8% surge in March.



China's economy grew so rapidly over the past four decades that it lifted more than 800 million people out of extreme poverty -- considered one of the largest poverty-reduction achievements in human history.

Musk rants at French prosecutors probing his X platform

AFP | Paris, France

Elon Musk has launched a tirade against French judicial authorities currently investigating possible abuses on his X social network.

France opened an inquiry in January 2025 into allegations that X, formerly known as Twitter, was used to interfere in French politics.

The probe has since widened to cover allegations of Holocaust denial, distribution of sexual deepfakes and most recently possible complicity in the distribution of images of child sexual abuse.

Responding to a post on the latest phase of the inquiry, Musk wrote in French on Friday: "They're faker than a chocolate euro and gayer than a flamingo in a

neon tutu!"

The SpaceX and Tesla tycoon, under investigation along with former X CEO Linda Yaccarino, recently failed to respond to a summons from the French judiciary for an informal interview.

He already labelled French magistrates "mentally retarded" in an earlier post in French, following a raid on X's Paris office in mid-February.

At the time of the raid, the social network condemned what it called an abusive judicial action with political motives and denied any wrongdoing.

Contacted by AFP about Musk's latest published remarks, X declined to comment.



Formula One engines to change again in 2027

AFP | Paris, France

Formula One bosses have responded to the criticism of this season's power unit modifications by agreeing to "further evolutionary changes" before a revamp for the 2027 season, the FIA announced on Friday.

Motorsport's governing body said that an agreement had been reached "in principle" between the 11 team bosses and five power unit manufacturers to restore the primacy of combustion power over electric power as early as 2027.

"The measures agreed in prin-



Mercedes' Italian driver Kimi Antonelli races during the 2026 Miami Formula One Grand Prix at Miami International Autodrome in Miami Gardens, Florida

ciple today for 2027 would see a nominal increase in internal combustion engine power by 50 kilowatts with a fuel-flow increase and a nominal reduction of the energy recovery system deployment power by 50 kilowatts," the FIA said in a statement.

This decision, which still has to be discussed in detail let alone approved, would in effect put an end to the 50/50 parity in hybrid engines -- half electric, half combustion -- introduced this season by the FIA.

The new regulations have created exciting racing for viewers but have met with a varied re-

ception from the drivers with four-time Max Verstappen describing it as "Formula E on steroids" and hinting he might step away from Formula One if it did not change.

The 50/50 system involves a complex management of the battery during overtakes and then during the necessary recharging of electrical energy when slowing down and braking.

This has triggered safety concerns, notably when Oliver Bearman had a dramatic crash at the Japan GP as he closed on Alpine's Franco Colapinto.

The significant difference in speed between the two cars as a

result of their contrasting states of energy deployment led to Bearman taking evasive action and hitting the wall.

Last month, the FIA announced a new "adjusted" version of the regulation which came into play at last weekend's Miami GP.

Friday's meeting gave the thumbs up to the modifications, saying they had improved competition and were a "step in the right direction".

The FIA said they would look at "further adjustments at future events", possibly as soon as the next grand prix in Canada on May 24.

Lebanon front

A parallel ceasefire in Lebanon is also under strain.

Lebanese state media reported three strikes south of Beirut on Saturday despite a three-week-old ceasefire between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group.

An AFP correspondent saw two stricken cars and emergency workers in attendance along a highway that links Beirut with the country's south, 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the capital. The strikes come as Lebanon and Israel, officially at war since 1948, are to hold direct negotiations in Washington next week, which Hezbollah vehemently opposes.

Ukraine, Russia confirm US-brokered three-day truce, prisoner swap

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Russia and Ukraine confirmed on Friday a US-brokered truce and a large prisoner swap over May 9-11, when Moscow celebrates its World War II victory, after trading drone strikes and declaring unilateral ceasefires in the run-up.

US President Donald Trump first announced a three-day truce between the warring sides, saying he hoped it could lead to a long-term deal to end the war.

Russia had previously announced a two-day unilateral ceasefire to mark its WWII victory holiday on May 9. Ukraine earlier stated that it too had offered a truce, but it had been ignored by Moscow.

The truce would also include a mutual swap of 1,000 prisoners each, said Trump, who has struggled to end the four-year conflict he once pledged to solve within a day of taking office last year.

Everyone on hantavirus-hit ship 'high-risk contact', must be monitored

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

The World Health Organization said Saturday it considered everyone on board a cruise ship hit with a deadly hantavirus outbreak as "high-risk" contacts who should be actively monitored for 42 days.

There are nearly 150 people on board the MV Hondius at the centre of the outbreak that has killed three people, which is heading towards the waters off Tenerife. "We classify everybody on board as what we call a high-risk contact," WHO's epidemic and pandemic preparedness and prevention director Maria Van Kerkhove told.

Plane hits and kills pedestrian during takeoff at Denver airport

AFP | Washington, United States

A person who jumped a perimeter fence and was hit by an airplane taking off from Denver International Airport died in the incident, the airport said Saturday.

Frontier Airlines Flight 4345 aborted takeoff after hitting the person at about 11:19 pm Friday night (0519 GMT Saturday), the airport said.

"DEN can confirm that the pedestrian jumped the perimeter fence and was hit just two minutes later while crossing the runway," the statement said.

"The pedestrian is deceased, and is not believed to be an employee of the airport nor have they been identified," it said.

The person hit "was at least partially consumed by one of the engines," ABC News reported citing an unidentified official.

The plane was quickly evacuated and 12 passengers on the flight reported minor injuries;



Frontier Airlines planes are parked at gates in Denver International Airport (DEN) in Denver, Colorado

five were transported to local hospitals, the airport said.

The Airbus A321, bound for Los Angeles, was carrying 224 passengers and seven crew members, according to Frontier.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said that local law enforcement was investigating.

"Late last night, a trespasser breached airport security at Denver Int'l Airport, deliberately scaled a perimeter fence, and ran out onto a runway" and

was struck by the plane "during takeoff at a high speed," Duffy said in a post on X.

"No one should EVER trespass on an airport," Duffy wrote.

The airport has examined the fence line and found it to be intact, it said.

"We're stopping on the runway, we just hit somebody, we have an engine fire... There was an individual walking across the runway," a pilot told air traffic controllers, according to audio from ATC.com.

UK's Starmer vows to 'listen to voters' after election drubbing

AFP | London, United Kingdom

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer promised yesterday he would "listen to voters" after his Labour party received a historic drubbing in local and regional elections.

Disillusioned voters backed hard-right and nationalist parties in Thursday's ballots -- Starmer's biggest electoral test since Labour ousted the Conservatives in 2024.

"The right lesson is to listen to voters," but it "doesn't mean tacking right or left", Starmer, who has faced calls to resign, wrote in the Guardian newspaper.

The anti-immigrant Reform UK party made gains across England, Scotland and Wales -- though Scottish and Welsh parties took the biggest share of seats in those elections.

With almost all votes tallied, the results are

grim for Labour, particularly in Wales where they lost control of the devolved government for the first time since the parliament in Cardiff was established 27 years ago.

Nationalists Plaid Cymru, which wants Welsh independence in the long-term, is now the biggest party with Reform second and Labour third.

In Scotland, the Scottish National Party remains the biggest party but failed to get a majority -- winning six fewer seats than in 2021.

In England, Reform picked up nearly 1,500 of the 5,000 council seats available and the Greens also fared well, gaining more than 500.

Labour lost almost 1,400 council seats and ceded control of several local authorities -- though results in London were not as bad as predicted.



Naval buildup in Strait

UK sending warship to Middle East ahead of Hormuz mission

AFP | Tehran, Iran

The UK will send a destroyer to the Middle East ahead of any international mission to help protect shipping in the key Strait of Hormuz, its defence ministry said yesterday.

"The pre-positioning of HMS Dragon is part of prudent planning that will ensure that the UK is ready, as part of a multinational coalition jointly led by the UK



and France, to secure the strait, when conditions allow," a ministry spokesperson told AFP.

Britain and France said last month that military plans to secure the Strait of Hormuz were coming together and would succeed in restoring trade flows through the vital passage.

The MoD said deploying HMS Dragon would strengthen the confidence of commercial shipping and support mine clearance

efforts once hostilities end.

At a two-day meeting in London in April involving more than 44 countries, military planners discussed the practicalities of a multinational mission led by the UK and France to protect navigation in the key waterway.

Some 40 countries are understood to have agreed to participate in plans for the mission to free up navigation in Hormuz.

In an incident on Friday, a US fighter jet fired on and disabled two Iranian-flagged tankers that Washington accused of challenging its naval blockade of Iran's ports. The US action prompted Iranian retaliatory attacks.

It came after a flare-up overnight Thursday to Friday in the strait, where Iran is seeking to extract tolls from foreign vessels and wield economic leverage over the US and its allies.



Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Rafael Peralta (DDG 115) implementing a maritime blockade against the Iran-flagged crude oil tanker vessel Herby while the latter was attempting to sail toward an Iranian port

Seafarers' anguish: "Are we just bait?" Gulf crews ask

Many of the thousands of seafarers stuck on board ships bottled up in the Gulf for more than two months are trau-

matized by drones and missiles and face grave mental suffering, maritime charities warn.

"They see drones flying, they

see missiles flying, and then we see instances where the ships get hit," said Gavin Lim, head of the Crisis Response

Network for the Sailors' Society, a UK-based seafarers' charity.

"You can imagine that anxiety

and fear building up. 'Are we just bait? Are we going to be a victim so that someone can make a point?'"

1497

Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci leaves for his first voyage to the New World (disputed)

1775

Second Continental Congress convenes in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, issuing paper currency for the first time



1801

First Barbary War: The Barbary pirates of Tripoli declare war on the United States of America (first US foreign war)

1857

Indian Mutiny against rule by the British East India Company begins with the revolt of the Sepoy soldiers in Meerut

Israel to release two Gaza flotilla activists ahead of deportation

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel will release two foreign activists taken off a Gaza-bound flotilla from detention on Saturday before handing them to immigration authorities ahead of their deportation, the rights group representing them said.

Saif Abu Keshek, a Spanish national of Palestinian origin, and Brazilian Thiago Avila were among dozens of activists aboard a flotilla intercepted by the Israeli navy in international waters off the coast of Greece on April 30.

The pair were seized by Israeli forces and brought to Israel for questioning, while the others were taken to the Greek island of Crete and released.

"Today, the Shabak Israeli intelligence agency informed Adalah's legal team that Global



Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg (R) and Spanish activist Saif Abu Keshek (C) talk to members of the media as a flotilla carrying humanitarian aid and activists prepare to leave for Gaza, in Barcelona

Sumud Flotilla (GSF) activists and leaders Thiago Avila and Saif Abukeshek would be released from Israeli detention today, Saturday," the rights group

Adalah said in a statement.

"They will be handed to Israel's immigration authorities later today and kept in custody pending their deportation," it

added.

Adalah said it was closely monitoring developments "to make sure that the release from detention goes ahead, followed by their deportation from Israel in the coming days".

Spain, Brazil and the United Nations had all called for their swift release.

Avila and Abu Keshek "have been held unlawfully by Israel for over a week after being taken into Israeli detention", Adalah said on Saturday.

"Throughout their detention, they were held in total isolation under punitive conditions despite the purely civilian nature of their mission," it added.

Both Avila and Abu Keshek had been on hunger strike while in detention, Adalah said, adding that Abu Keshek had "escalated to refusing water on the evening of May 5". Israeli authorities

have previously rejected allegations of abuse but have filed no charges against the men.

Adalah previously said authorities had accused the pair of "assisting the enemy during wartime" and "membership in and providing services to a terrorist organisation".

Israel says both men were affiliated with the Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad (PCPA), a group accused by Washington of "clandestinely acting on behalf of" Palestinian militant group Hamas.

The flotilla had set sail from France, Spain and Italy with the aim of breaking Israel's blockade of Gaza and delivering humanitarian aid to the war-ravaged Palestinian territory.

Israel controls all entry points into Gaza, which has been under an Israeli blockade since 2007.

No signs of talks in sight

Iran keeps US waiting for response on peace plan

● Trump had said on Friday that he was expecting Iran's response to Washington's latest proposal for a deal

● US Secretary of State Marco Rubio reiterated on Friday that it was "unacceptable" for Tehran to control the key oil route.

● Washington has sent Iran, via Pakistani mediators, a proposal to extend the truce

● Iran's foreign ministry spokesman said Friday that the proposal was still "under review"

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran questioned the seriousness of American diplomacy yesterday in the wake of renewed naval clashes in the Gulf, while keeping Washington waiting for a response to its latest negotiating position.

US President Donald Trump



This satellite image obtained from Copernicus Sentinel Data appears to show an oil slick spreading off the coast of Kharg Island, a key oil export terminal for Iran.

Oil slick spreading off the coast of Kharg Island

Satellite images have shown that an oil slick is spreading off the coast of Iran's Kharg Island, a key oil export terminal for the Islamic republic.

It was not immediately clear what had caused the apparent spill, which was off the is-

land's west coast and appeared to cover more than 20 square miles (52 square kilometres), according to global monitor Orbital EOS. A UK-based non-governmental organisation, the Conflict and Environment Observatory, told AFP

that by Saturday the slick was "much reduced", and may have been caused by leaking oil infrastructure.

Kharg Island is at the heart of Iran's oil export industry, and lies in the Gulf far north of the narrow Strait of Hormuz.

had said on Friday that he was expecting Iran's response to Washington's latest proposal for a deal to extend a fragile truce and launch peace talks -- "supposedly tonight".

But if Iran did send Pakistani mediators a response, there was no public sign of it, and Tehran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi called into question the reliability of the US leadership in a call with his Turkish counterpart.

"The recent escalation of tensions by American forces in the Gulf and their numerous actions in violating the ceasefire have added to suspicions about the motivation and seriousness of the American side in the path of diplomacy," he said, according to an Iranian account of the call published by the ISNA news agency.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio reiterated on Friday that it was "unacceptable" for Tehran to control the key oil route.

Washington has sent Iran, via Pakistani mediators, a proposal to extend the truce in the Gulf to allow for talks on a final settlement of the conflict launched 10 weeks ago with US-Israeli strikes on Iran.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said Friday that the proposal was still "under review", according to ISNA.

Hezbollah says targeted troops in northern Israel with drone

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Hezbollah on Saturday said it targeted troops in northern Israel with a drone in response

to repeated Israeli attacks on Lebanon despite an ongoing truce between the two sides.

In a statement, the group said that it "targeted a gathering of

Israeli enemy army soldiers near Misgav Am" with a drone in response to "the Israeli enemy's violation of the ceasefire".

Hezbollah also announced at-

tacks on Israeli military targets inside Lebanon using rockets and drones. The Israeli military in a statement reported "several" explosive drone launches by

Hezbollah into Israeli territory, saying one army reservist was severely wounded and two others moderately injured in one of the attacks.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Welcome the announcement of a ceasefire & the planned large-scale exchange of prisoners between Ukraine & Russia. I commend the efforts of the USA in facilitating this agreement & fully support its implementation. I reiterate my call for an immediate, full, unconditional & lasting ceasefire, as a first step toward a just, sustainable & comprehensive peace, in line with the @UN Charter & international law.

@antonioguterres

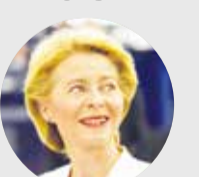
02



My deepest gratitude to you Prime Minister @sanchezcastejon for #Spain's solidarity, leadership and commitment to provide critical care and support to the passengers of the MV Hondius cruise ship in the Canary Islands. @WHO will continue working closely with your government to ensure a strong, coordinated and effective #hantavirus response. Together, we protect health and save lives.

@DrTeddros

03



Congratulations to @magyarpeterMP on becoming Prime Minister of Hungary. This Europe Day, our hearts are in Budapest. The hope and promise of renewal is a powerful signal in these challenging times. We have important work ahead of us. For Hungary and for Europe, we are moving forward together.

@vonderleyen

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

Post-war security challenges

Qatar official urges stronger diplomacy amid global instability

● Rising geopolitical competition

● Current crises demand coordinated global responses

● Calls for shared vision

A senior Qatari official called for stronger diplomatic engagement and collective international cooperation to address mounting global instability, warning that ongoing conflicts are reshaping political and economic relations worldwide.

Dr. Majed bin Mohammed Al-Ansari, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Qatar and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, made the remarks during a session in Milan focused on cooperation between the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council in the post-war context.

The session, titled "Cooperation between the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council for Arab States after the Gulf War: Managing Instability and Reimagining Security," was organized by the Doha Forum and the MED Dia-



logues, in partnership with the Italian Institute for International Political Studies and the Center for International Policy Research.

Al-Ansari said the current international environment is marked by overlapping crises and conflicts that complicate decision-making and undermine efforts to achieve stability. He warned that some actors promote narratives and policy approaches driven by strategic competition rather than long-term peace.

He stressed that political and

military pressure alone cannot produce sustainable solutions, adding that mediation and diplomacy remain essential tools. According to him, skepticism about diplomacy's effectiveness actually reflects a growing need for it.

The Qatari official also urged continued reliance on diplomatic channels and dialogue to prevent further escalation and avoid deeper cycles of conflict. He said the ongoing war has had wide-ranging consequences for international relations, including ties between Europe,

the United States and countries in the Middle East.

He highlighted broader ripple effects on energy security, global trade, supply chains and geopolitical alignments.

Al-Ansari concluded that security and stability can no longer be achieved unilaterally, but require coordinated international action. He called for a shared framework to address accelerating regional and global challenges, noting increasing interdependence among states across political, economic and security dimensions.

UAE backs AI governance for climate action

At a ministerial session on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Arab Emirates reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening international cooperation to advance global development targets, focusing particularly on artificial intelligence governance and safety as key drivers of climate action.

Officials said the UAE seeks to align emerging technologies with sustainable development priorities, highlighting the importance of responsible AI frameworks in supporting environmental objectives.

The UAE also announced it will co-host the upcoming UN Water Conference alongside Senegal, where it plans



to showcase innovative water technologies and address the rising demand for water and energy driven by data centres and AI infrastructure.

The initiative reflects growing global concern over the environmental footprint of rapidly expanding digital systems, particularly regarding resource consumption and climate resilience.

UAE, Turkey trade tops \$45.2 Billion under CEPA



The United Arab Emirates and Turkey have surpassed their non-oil trade targets under a comprehensive economic partnership agreement that came into force in 2023, officials said during high-level talks in Istanbul.

Bilateral non-oil trade between the two countries reached \$45.2 billion in 2025, exceeding the \$40 billion target ahead of schedule. This was driven by strong political will from both leaderships to deepen economic and investment ties.

The agreement has led to a multiple-fold increase in trade flows since its implementation, strengthening cooperation in key sectors including investment,

logistics and commerce.

During a visit to Istanbul led by Shaikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan and a UAE ministerial delegation, discussions were held with Turkish ministers, senior officials and business leaders to expand the scope of the partnership.

Talks focused on mechanisms to further elevate bilateral economic relations and unlock additional opportunities for mutual growth, according to officials involved in the meetings.

The UAE and Turkey have significantly expanded engagement in recent years, with both sides emphasising economic diversification and private-sector collaboration under the framework of the partnership agreement.

Economic, security ties discussed in Syria visit



Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam met Syrian President Ahmad Al-Sharaa in Damascus. Following the talks, remarks indicated the two sides discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation across key sectors.

Salam said the visit, accompanied by a government delegation, marked progress on a range of shared issues, particularly in the fields of economy, energy, transport and security, describing the discussions as taking place in a spirit of goodwill and mutual commitment.

He said both sides were work-

ing "without reservation or hesitation" toward expanding cooperation, expressing confidence that the outcomes of the meeting would soon yield tangible results.

The talks also covered regional developments and their impact on Lebanon and Syria amid rapidly evolving conditions in the Middle East, as described by officials.

Salam said political consultations between Beirut and Damascus would continue, adding that joint committees would be established and ministerial-level coordination intensified to follow up on agreed areas of cooperation.

Austria, UAE deepen cooperation on AI, energy and trade

Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker met UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during a working visit to the United Arab Emirates. Both sides agreed to deepen cooperation across artificial intelligence, energy, trade and investment, according to a joint readout.

The leaders exchanged views on regional and international developments and discussed ways to further expand political, economic, humanitarian and cultural ties between Vienna and Abu Dhabi.

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Stocker reviewed the progress in bilateral relations in recent years, describing them as based on mutual trust, shared interests and a commitment to development and prosperity for both nations.

Both sides reaffirmed their shared objective of promoting regional and international security and stability.

They also agreed to build on the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement signed in 2021, with plans to adapt it to emerging sectors, particularly artificial intelligence and advanced technologies.

The two leaders stressed their commitment to strengthening cooperation in AI through a "digital bridge" initiative, including policy coordination, joint research, data



centre development, talent exchange and training programmes. The cooperation framework builds on a memorandum of understanding signed in 2024.

Discussions also covered expanding investment flows and enhancing economic cooperation, with both countries highlighting their roles as regional hubs and gateways to high-growth markets.

They underlined the importance of improving business environments to attract sustainable investment and support long-term economic development. Both sides also welcomed continued engagement between small, medium and large enterprises through regular high-level meetings.

The leaders supported the creation of a UAE-Austria Business Council to further institutionalise economic ties and facilitate private sector engagement.

They also noted progress in negotiations on a UAE-European Union Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, saying it would further strengthen trade and investment links.

Ships Turned Back



The U.S. Naval blockade against Iran continues to be fully enforced. As of today, CENTCOM forces have redirected 58 commercial vessels and disabled 4 since April 13 to prevent the ships from entering or leaving Iranian ports.

Qatar Urges Action Over Israeli Violations

During a UN meeting focused on the situation in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Qatar urged the international community to take responsibility for addressing repeated Israeli violations and to enforce United Nations Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 2334 and 2803, during a UN meeting focused on the situation in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

In a statement delivered at an Arria-formula meeting of the Security Council, Qatar's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani, reaffirmed Doha's backing for efforts toward a com-

prehensive and just peace based on international legitimacy and a two-state solution.

She reiterated Qatar's support for establishing an independent Palestinian state along the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, and stressed continued backing for the Palestinian cause and the resilience of its people.

The meeting, convened by the United Kingdom, France, Denmark, Greece and Latvia at UN headquarters in New York, comes amid renewed concerns over escalation in the occupied West Bank despite international efforts to advance peace initiatives.

Qatar said settlement activity in the occupied territories was



illegal, describing it as a "flagrant violation" of international law, UN resolutions, and a 2024 advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice.

The Qatari envoy also condemned Israel's decision to designate parts of the West Bank as "state land," rejecting what she described as measures aimed at

altering the demographic composition, character and legal status of occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem.

She warned such actions undermine prospects for a viable Palestinian state and weaken ongoing diplomatic efforts toward a political settlement.

Qatar further condemned incursions by Israeli officials and settlers into the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, including the raising of the Israeli flag within its courtyards, calling the actions a violation of international law and a provocation to Muslims worldwide.

Classifieds



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Liverpool frustrated by Chelsea draw

AFP

Liverpool missed the chance to all but secure Champions League action next season after a 1-1 draw against Chelsea, while Manchester United were frustrated in a goalless stalemate at Sunderland on Saturday.

Ryan Gravenberch's sweet strike gave Liverpool the perfect start in the sixth minute at Anfield.

Chelsea hit back when Enzo Fernandez's 35th-minute free-kick evaded everyone to find the bottom corner.

Boos at full-time reflected the mood around Anfield after another lacklustre performance from the defending champions.

The result inched fourth-placed Liverpool closer to Champions League qualification, with a four-point lead over sixth-placed Bournemouth.

"I do," said Slot on whether he thinks he can regain the fans' backing.

"Not this season by the way. This season they will have their opinion and it will not change.

"If we can have the summer that we are planning to have, then I'm 100 percent convinced that we will be a different team next season than we are now."

Chelsea can no longer mathematically finish in the top five and remain in ninth.

The Blues had lost six consecutive Premier League games to fall out of contention for a top-five place prior to the trip to Merseyside.

But a more obdurate performance provided some encouragement for interim boss Calum McFarlane to take into next weekend's FA Cup final against Manchester City.

Manchester United are already assured of Champions League football following their win over Liverpool last weekend.

Michael Carrick's third-



placed side have little left to play for in and it showed in a dour affair at the Stadium of Light.

It was the first time United had failed to score in a league game since November.

Red card drama

Bournemouth remain in contention for a stunning Champions League place after winning 1-0 at Fulham.

Bournemouth's Ryan Christie was sent off late in the first half after his booking for an ugly foul on Timothy Castagne was upgraded to a red card following a VAR check.

Fulham defender

Joachim Andersen was also dismissed before the interval after another VAR intervention turned referee Andy Madley's initial booking for a foul on Adrien Truffert into a red card.

Brazilian teenager Rayan won the game for Bournemouth in the 53rd minute with a fine finish from just outside the penalty area.

The Cherries, unbeaten in their last 16 league matches, are aiming to qualify for Europe for the first time in history.

Brighton bolstered

their bid to qualify for Europe with a 3-0 win against Wolves at the Amex Stadium.

Jack Hinshelwood nodded Brighton in front after 37 seconds and Lewis Dunk's header doubled their advantage in the fifth minute.

Yankuba Minteh's 86th-minute rocket completed the rout of already-relegated Wolves.

With two games to play, Fabian Hurler's side sit seventh, two points behind Bournemouth.

A sixth-place finish will bring either Champions League or Europa League qualification.

If Aston Villa finish fifth, their current position, and beat Freiburg in the Europa League final, then sixth place will secure a Champions League berth.

Manchester City host Brentford in Saturday's late game as they look to close the gap on leaders Arsenal.

Pep Guardiola's second-placed side are five points behind Arsenal, who travel to third-bottom West Ham on Sunday.

City have a game in hand on Arsenal but the destiny of the title is no longer in their hands after their damaging 3-3 draw at Everton on Monday.

Arsenal, who have also reached the Champions League final against Paris Saint-Germain, will seal their first English title for 22 years if they win their last three games.



Liverpool's Hungarian defender #06 Milos Kerkez (R) fouls Chelsea's English midfielder #10 Cole Palmer

Barcelona eye title in Clasico

Madrid arrive in disarray, looking to spoil the Catalan party



Raphina celebrates for his goal in the reverse fixture

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

first time in two decades, with inconsistency and internal issues derailing their year.

Barcelona can clinch their 29th LaLiga title tonight when they face archrivals Real Madrid in a decisive El Clásico at Camp Nou, with kick-off scheduled for 10 PM Bahrain time.

Hansi Flick's side have been the standout team in Spain this season by most key metrics, with their dominance built largely on an exceptional home record. Barcelona have won every league match at Camp Nou this campaign and arrive on the back of a 10-game winning run in LaLiga.

If they avoid defeat in tonight's Clásico, the Blaugrana will secure the title. Should they win their remaining two home fixtures, they would become the first team since Real Madrid in 1985/86 to complete a perfect home league season, highlighting their consistency in front of their own supporters.

While Barcelona's preparations have been smooth, the same cannot be said for Real Madrid. Los Blancos have endured a turbulent season and are on course for back-to-back trophyless campaigns for the

Managerial changes have failed to stabilise performances, while reports of dressing room tension have continued in recent weeks, leaving Madrid heading into the Clásico under significant pressure.

Their build-up has also been affected by injuries and uncertainty over several key players, further complicating an already difficult situation. Despite that, Madrid will be determined to delay Barcelona's title celebrations in one of football's fiercest rivalries.

Barcelona also have a couple of absentees, but their core squad remains intact as they prepare for a potential title-clinching night at home.

Key players such as Robert Lewandowski, Pedri, and Pau Cubarsí are expected to play central roles for the hosts, while Real Madrid will rely heavily on Vinicius Júnior and Jude Bellingham to produce decisive moments.

All signs point to a defining night in the LaLiga title race, with Barcelona within touching distance of the championship.

Manchester City Cruise Past Brentford

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Manchester City strengthened their Premier League title push with a 3-0 win over Brentford at the Etihad Stadium yesterday, a result built on another standout performance from Jeremy Doku.

City came into the match under pressure after a chaotic 3-3 draw with Everton had allowed Arsenal to edge further ahead in the title race. That urgency showed early on, with Guardiola's side looking slightly rushed in possession and struggling to break through a compact Brentford block. The visitors were organised, disciplined, and in-

creasingly confident as they slowed the game and frustrated the home crowd.

The deadlock was finally broken just after the hour mark through Doku, who produced a moment of individual brilliance. Cutting in from the left, he curled a superb effort into the top-right corner, giving the goalkeeper no chance and lifting the atmosphere inside the stadium.

Brentford responded with a brief spell of pressure and felt they had a case for a penalty that was turned away, but City gradually took control. The pressure eventually told when Erling Haaland bundled home City's second goal in the 75th minute,



Jeremy Doku in possession against Brentford

effectively ending the contest.

From there, Brentford's resistance faded. Caoimhin Kelleher kept the score down with a sharp save to deny Phil Foden, but City continued to find openings. In stoppage time, substitute Omar Marmoush finished calmly to seal a comprehensive victory and add gloss to the scoreline.

The result keeps City firmly in the title race, but pressure remains as they continue to chase Arsenal, who are two points ahead. Guardiola will take encouragement from the performance, particularly Doku's influence, who was City's most dangerous outlet throughout.

Al Hilal win 12th King's Cup



Al Hilal celebrate their King Cup triumph at Al-Inmaa Stadium in Jeddah

Hussain Al Maskati
TDT | Manama

Al Hilal came from behind to defeat Al-Kholood 2-1 and claim their 12th Saudi King's Cup title on Friday night, adding another trophy to their decorated history despite a season filled with challenges on and off the pitch.

The match began in dramatic fashion as Al Kholood stunned the favourites with an

early breakthrough just three minutes in, capitalising on defensive disorganisation to take a shock lead. The newly promoted side, who have enjoyed a remarkable rise since entering the Saudi top flight in 2024, showed no signs of intimidation in the opening stages.

However, Al Hilal responded well after settling into the game. Under head coach Simone Inzaghi, they continued with their structured 3-1-4-2 system, grad-

ually taking control of possession and territory. Their pressure eventually paid off late in the first half.

In the 42nd minute, Nasser Al Dawsari equalised after reacting quickest inside the box following a dangerous cross from Malcom on the right flank. Just minutes later, Al Hilal struck again in first-half stoppage time when Sergej Milinkovic-Savic delivered another precise

ball into the area. After a partial clearance, Theo Hernandez finished confidently to complete the turnaround and send Al Hilal into the break 2-1 ahead.

Al Kholood attempted to regroup in the second half by staying compact and disciplined defensively, but they struggled to regain their early attacking momentum. Al Hilal, meanwhile, managed the game effectively and controlled possession,

limiting their opponents' chances.

Despite a late opportunity for Al Hilal to extend their lead, the scoreline remained unchanged, confirming their third King Cup triumph in the last four years.

Award Ceremony

The final was also attended by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who presented the trophies and medals to the players in a symbolic ceremony that

added to the occasion's significance.

While Al Kholood's fairytale run ended in defeat, their journey to the final marked a historic achievement for the club.

For Al Hilal, attention now turns to a crucial top-of-the-table Saudi Pro League clash against Al Nassr on Tuesday, as the title race reaches its decisive stage.

Bahrain 3x3 squads set for Gulf Games

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's men's and women's 3x3 basketball teams departed today for Doha to compete in the Gulf Games, which run from May 11 to 22. Both sides aim to maintain the kingdom's strong regional presence in the sport.

The women's team will be represented by Bayan Salman, Aya Muradha, Shireen Abdulrahman, and Mariam Sameer as they prepare for a busy opening day of competition.

The men's team will be led by Mohamed Buallay, Wayne Chism, Austin Ajukwa, and Bogdan Dragovic; their campaign is set to begin on Tuesday.

Bahrain's men open their Group stage against Oman at 3:50 PM before facing the United Arab Emirates later in the day at 7:10 PM, in what is expected to be a demanding start to their tournament schedule.

The women's side will also be in action on Tuesday, beginning their campaign against the United Arab Emirates at 5:05 PM before taking on Saudi Arabia at 6:45 PM. Each fixture will be key in shaping their early



Wayne Chism greeted by BBA President Shaikh Mohammed Al Khalifa

momentum in the competition.

Both national teams are guided by Serbian coach Bogdan Dragovic and Bahraini coach Muradha Mohammed, a partnership that brings significant experience in 3x3 basketball. Their combined expertise and familiarity with the players are

expected to play a key role in preparing both squads for the challenges ahead in Doha.

With a packed opening day for both sides, Bahrain will be looking to start strongly and build early momentum in their pursuit of success at the Gulf Games.

Martin surges to MotoGP sprint win as Marquez breaks foot at Le Mans

AFP | Le Mans, France

Jorge Martin surged to victory in the MotoGP sprint race at the French Grand Prix at Le Mans on Saturday as Marc Marquez broke a foot in a spectacular crash.

Martin started eighth on the grid but raced through the pack heading into the first corner and then pulled away to win.

"I love this track," said Martin, who won both the sprint and the main race at Le Mans on his way to the 2024 world title.

Behind him, reigning world champion Marquez endured a nightmare day that ended in a violent crash on his factory Ducati. It left him with a broken right foot that will require surgery.

Marquez started on the front row but had slipped to seventh before losing control with less than two laps of the 13-lap race to go.

He put his left foot on the ground to try to regain his balance but was flipped over the handlebars in the opposite



Aprilia Racing's Spanish rider Jorge Martin (C) celebrates poses on the podium with second placed Ducati Lenovo Team's Italian rider Francesco Bagnaia (L) and third placed Aprilia Racing's Italian rider Marco Bezzecchi (R) after winning the Moto GP Grand Prix of France Sprint race at Le Mans, northwestern France

direction, sliding along the ground as his disintegrating Ducati cartwheeled just past him.

Ducati issued a statement after the race saying that an X-ray showed "a fracture of the fifth metatarsal in his right foot" and that Marquez, who is a distant fifth in the standings, would miss Sunday's

main race and at least one more.

"He will fly to Madrid this evening to undergo surgery in the coming days. He will not participate in the Catalan Grand Prix next week," said the Ducati statement.

Martin started from eighth on the grid but jumped to first early on his Aprilia.

Muharraq retain Crown Prince Cup title

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Holders Muharraq successfully defended their crown last night, defeating rivals Dar Kulaib 3-1 (22-25, 25-18, 25-13, 25-18) in the final of the 2025-26 His Royal Highness the Crown Prince's Cup at Isa Bin Rashid Volleyball Arena.

The win secured Muharraq a record-extending 15th title in the competition and denied Dar Kulaib a domestic double after their league triumph earlier this season. It also brought a bitter-sweet ending for Dar Kulaib head coach Ivan Joksimovic, who will now depart to take charge of the Bahrain national team. His final act at club level ended in heartbreak, as Dar Kulaib's search for a sixth Crown Prince Cup title goes on.

Muharraq, led by Yaseen Al Meel, recovered strongly after losing the opening set, gradually taking control through improved blocking, aggressive serving, and greater composure in key moments.

Dar Kulaib made the brighter start, edging the opening set 25-22 behind strong attacking play from Kenyan import Enock Mogeni and solid net presence. But Muharraq responded quickly, with Swedish star Jakob Link leading the charge as they levelled the match 25-18 in



Trophy presentation following Muharraq's victory over Dar Kulaib in the final



Muharraq players and officials celebrate the title with supporters

the second set.

The turning point came in the third. Despite Dar Kulaib building a five-point lead midway through the set, Muharraq tightened their defence and punished errors with clinical attacking to surge back and take it 25-13.

From there, the champions took full control. Carrying mo-

mentum into the fourth set, Muharraq established an early lead and never relinquished it. Link and Nasser Anan continued to deliver in key moments, while Dar Kulaib struggled to regain rhythm despite brief resistance from Ali Marhoon.

Link again played a key role as Muharraq moved to match

point, before Majeed Mohamed sealed the victory with a powerful spike to complete a 25-18 win in the final set. It was another statement performance from the "Red Wolves", who retained the cup they also claimed against Dar Kulaib last season, further reinforcing their dominance in Bahraini volleyball.

Bahrain Drawn Into Tough Asian Cup Group



Core members of Bahrain's national football team for the tournament.png

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

The draw for the AFC Asian Cup 2027 was conducted last night, placing Bahrain in Group B alongside Uzbekistan, Jordan, and North Korea.

Originally scheduled for April but delayed due to regional circumstances, the ceremony finalized the group stage lineup for Asia's premier international tournament. The competition will run from January 7 to February 5, 2027, and will be hosted across Riyadh, Jeddah, and Al Khobar in Saudi Arabia.

Bahrain were represented at the draw by Football Association board member Shaikh Ahmed bin Isa Al Khalifa and national team head coach Dragan Talajic.

The 24-team tournament will feature six groups of four,

with 23 nations already securing qualification ahead of the draw. The final berth will be decided on June 4 in a playoff between Lebanon and Yemen.

For Bahrain, the draw confirms yet another chapter in their steady presence on the continental stage. This will be their eighth AFC Asian Cup appearance and seventh consecutive qualification, reflecting their consistency among Asia's regular competitors in recent years.

Elsewhere in the competition's history, Japan remain the most successful nation with four titles, while Iran and hosts Saudi Arabia have each won it three times.

Defending champions Qatar will return aiming to continue their recent dominance, having lifted the trophy in both 2019 and 2023, and are once again expected to be among the leading contenders.

Leipzig seal Champions League berth in Bundesliga

AFP | Berlin, Germany

RB Leipzig sealed Champions League qualification with a comfortable 2-1 win over St. Pauli on Saturday on a dramatic day in the Bundesliga's race for Europe.

Goals from Xaver Schlager and Willi Orban saw Leipzig secure third place with a game to spare and plunge St. Pauli deeper into the relegation mire.

"We were under a lot of pressure this season, but we are a great group and we rose to it," Leipzig's captain David Raum said in a speech in front of the fans.

"We have achieved our goal now, so let's all have a drink and party all night long," he added.

The Hamburg side had scored just four goals in their previous eight games, and they were left to rue missed chances yet again in Leipzig.

The visitors squandered several chances on the counter-attack before Schlager hooked the ball in at a corner to give Leipzig the lead just before half time.

Orban doubled the lead with a brilliant header after the break, before Abdoulie Ceesay grabbed a late consolation for the visitors.

Rashid Khan bowls Gujarat to 77-run win over Rajasthan

AFP | Jaipur, India

Rashid Khan starred with 4-33 as Gujarat Titans crushed Rajasthan Royals by 77 runs in the IPL on Saturday. Kagiso Rabada claimed two wickets, while Jason Holder took three late wickets as Rajasthan were bowled out for 152 in reply to Gujarat's imposing 229-4. Skipper Shubman Gill led the charge with 84 off 50 balls, while Sai Sudharsan struck 55 in a 118-run opening stand.



Rashid Khan (C) and Jason Holder (L) celebrate after the dismissal of Jofra Archer

Washington Sundar added an unbeaten 37 off 20 deliveries to push Gujarat past 200.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi smashed 36 off 16 balls with three fours and three sixes. But after his dismissal, the innings unravelled against Rashid's spin. Dhruv Jurel hit a rapid 24 off 10 balls before Rashid triggered a collapse, removing Jurel and Donovan Ferreira in the same over. Gujarat secured their sixth win in 11 matches and climbed to second spot.

Bahrain Premier League enters matchweek 21

● Al Khaldiya sit top of the table on 51 points, 2 points ahead of Muharraq

TDT | Manama

Matchweek 21 — the penultimate round of the Nasser bin Hamad Premier League — gets underway tonight, with all three fixtures kicking off simultaneously at 7pm as the season enters



Action from Al Khaldiya's win over Muharraq in the reverse fixture

a decisive stage across Bahrain's top flight.

At Khalifa Sports City, Al Shabab host Sitra in a crucial encounter at both ends of the table. Al Shabab sit 11th on 14 points, five points adrift of safety and in the automatic relegation zone, meaning only a near-perfect finish could save their season.

Sitra, meanwhile,

are 8th on 21 points but remain just above the relegation play-off places, ensuring there is still plenty at stake for Ali Abdulmajeed's side.

At Al Ahli Stadium, Bahrain Club face Al Najma under contrasting circumstances. Bahrain Club have endured a difficult campaign, collecting just seven points and already confirmed to finish bottom and be relegated. Al Najma, however, remain in 10th on 19 points and are still inside the relegation play-off zone, meaning they must still fight to secure their top-flight status with results elsewhere also shaping their fate.

The third fixture sees A'ali

take on Budaiya at Bahrain National Stadium. A'ali sit 5th on 28 points, while Budaiya are 9th on 21 points and remain in the relegation play-off places, meaning they are not yet safe despite being outside the automatic drop zone.

Attention then turns to tomorrow night, where three more fixtures also kick off at 7pm, headlined by a title-defining clash between Al Khaldiya and Muharraq at Bahrain National Stadium.

Al Khaldiya, coached by Tunisian Lassad Al Chabbi, sit top of the table on 51 points, just two ahead of Muharraq, led by Portuguese coach Fernando Santos. The stakes are enor-

mous: a win for Al Khaldiya would secure their third league title since their 2020 foundation, while a Muharraq victory would send them top heading into the final day. A draw would also ensure the championship goes down to the wire.

Elsewhere, Al Ahli host Al Hidd at Khalifa Sports City, with the two sides separated by just two points in mid-table, while Al Malkiya meet Riffa at Al Ahli Stadium. Riffa, coached by Kuwaiti Mohamed Al Mashaan, are third on 43 points and will be without Sayed Redha Isa through suspension, while Al Malkiya sit fourth on 33 points.