

“Did you know we’ve been taking out millions of barrels of oil? Nobody knows it. You know who doesn’t know about it? Iran — until right now. We took out 22 ships the other night,” Trump said. | P9

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Youth Empowerment



Under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Nasser Scientific and Technical Center celebrated the graduation of its 10th cohort, with 179 students completing specialized tracks in engineering, technology innovation, and sports and business management.

HH Shaikh Nasser highlighted that developing future-focused education pathways reflects Bahrain’s commitment to building skilled national talent and strengthening competitiveness in the knowledge economy.

Building Fires Contained

Civil Defence extinguished two separate fires in Bahrain—one at a house in the Arad area and another in a multi-story building in Juffair—while safely evacuating those affected.

No injuries were reported in either incident. Initial information indicated that negligence was the likely cause of the fire in Arad; investigations are continuing to determine the cause of the blaze in Juffair.

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Stronger Together Now



Crown Prince hosts GCC ministerial summit in Bahrain

Unity, security and Canada ties top the agenda

Bahrain backs de-escalation amid Iranian tensions

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime

Minister, received the heads of delegations participating in the 167th Meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Ministerial Council and the third GCC–Canada Joint Ministerial Meeting for Strategic Dialogue, held in Bahrain.

His Royal Highness reaffirmed Bahrain’s commitment, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, to strengthening GCC unity, coordination, and collective action in pursuit of shared regional goals. He highlighted the importance of building on the foundations laid by previous GCC leaders, which have advanced cooperation and

deepened strategic partnerships across the region.

The Crown Prince and Prime Minister stressed that continued collaboration among GCC member states remains essential to sustaining the Council’s progress and addressing emerging regional and global challenges.

His Royal Highness expressed hope that the meetings would deliver meaningful outcomes and further strengthen coordination among GCC states. He also reiterated Bahrain’s commitment to supporting initiatives that promote peace, security, and prosperity across the region.

In this context, HRH Prince

Salman bin Hamad expressed Bahrain’s condemnation of renewed Iranian aggression against GCC states, underscoring the Kingdom’s support for efforts aimed at de-escalation, protection of civilians and critical infrastructure, and the preservation of regional and international stability.

The Crown Prince and Prime Minister also welcomed the longstanding GCC–Canada relationship, noting its steady development across multiple sectors. He emphasized the importance of expanding cooperation to create new opportunities that advance shared interests, sustainable growth, and prosperity.

GCC and Canada Strengthen Strategic Ties



TDT | Manama

The Foreign Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council convened in their 167th ministerial session, chaired by Bahrain’s Foreign Minister Abdulatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, with the participation of GCC foreign ministers and the Secretary-General Jassim Mohammed Al Budaiwi.

At the opening of the meeting, Dr. Al Zayani conveyed greetings from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, emphasizing their hopes for stronger Gulf unity and cooperation.

Bahrain presented a working

paper reflecting a vision from the HM the King aimed at enhancing coordination, integration, and cohesion among GCC member states across political, security, and economic fields.

Regional Security

Dr. Al Zayani stated that the meeting took place amid “serious regional challenges,” referring to recent attacks on GCC states. He condemned actions attributed to Iran, saying they targeted infrastructure, residential areas, and economic facilities, in violation of international law and the UN Charter.

He specifically referred to attacks affecting Bahrain and Kuwait, describing them as part of a broader pattern of escalation.

He added that GCC air defense systems successfully intercepted hostile threats, demonstrating readiness and coordination.

The minister praised the unity of GCC states in responding to security threats and highlighted the leadership’s handling of recent developments with “wisdom and strategic foresight.”

The minister also reaffirmed that regional security must be built on respect for sovereignty, good neighborly relations, and protection of international maritime routes, including the Strait of Hormuz, a vital global shipping corridor.

GCC–Canada Strategic Dialogue

In a separate session, Dr. Al Zayani chaired the GCC–Canada

Strategic Dialogue with Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand.

The meeting reaffirmed growing cooperation between the GCC and Canada, including under the Joint Action Plan (2025–2029), covering political, security, trade, investment, energy, and logistics sectors.

Al Zayani described Canada’s participation as a “strong signal of solidarity” with GCC states amid regional tensions, noting Ottawa’s support for UN resolutions condemning recent attacks.

Both sides reviewed developments in the Middle East, including maritime security concerns, energy supply stability, and global trade disruptions linked to tensions in the Gulf.

HRH Crown Prince Congratulates Indian PM



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent a cable of congratulations to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the twelfth anniversary of his assuming office.

HRH also congratulated Prime Minister Modi on becoming the longest-serving prime minister in India’s history to serve consecutive terms.

The message conveyed best wishes for continued success and progress for India and its people.

Horse racing Season Ends



HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman Minister of the Prime Minister’s Court and Chairman of the REHC emphasized that Bahrain’s attractive investment environment and skilled national workforce have reinforced the Kingdom’s standing as a competitive international sports destination. In the success of the 2025–2026 season.

First-Ever Paralympic Athletics Meet Underway



The Bahrain Paralympic Committee announced the first National Paralympic Athletics Championship, a two-day event featuring broad participation from athletes with disabilities and several able-bodied athletes, aligning with efforts to promote sports inclusion and expand athletic participation.

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Under the Patronage of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) – Medical University of Bahrain Holds its 17th Annual Conferring Ceremony

Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) – Medical University of Bahrain held today its 17th Annual Conferring Ceremony in the esteemed presence of His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health, and His Excellency Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Higher Education Council, at the Gulf Convention Centre.

The ceremony was attended by senior Bahraini officials, dignitaries and distinguished guests, alongside senior RCSI officials, including Professor Michael Kerin, President of RCSI Dublin, Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and Professor Cathal Kelly, Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer of RCSI Dublin.

During the ceremony, His Excellency the Minister of Education and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Higher Education Council delivered a speech in which he underscored the significant development witnessed by the higher education sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain, thanks to the support extended to the sector by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the keen interest of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister. He also congratulated the graduating students and their families and commended the university's efforts in preparing qualified professionals in medical disciplines that meet the Kingdom's needs across its various medical institutions and healthcare centres. This is achieved through the delivery of high-quality academic programmes that enhance professional competence. His Excellency also reaffirmed the



Board of Trustees of the Higher Education Council's support for higher education institutions in the Kingdom in achieving further development and progress.

Addressing attendees, Professor Kerin expressed his gratitude to His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister for his patronage of the conferring ceremony. He congratulated the 2026 graduates on their achievements and dedication throughout their academic journey and praised the longstanding relationship and strong ties between RCSI and the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Professor Ootom affirmed that the University continues its commitment to preparing qualified healthcare professionals capable of contributing to the development of healthcare services in the Kingdom of Bahrain and around the world. He congratulated the Class of 2026 and wished them success in their future careers. He also expressed his appreciation to the Ministry of Education, the Higher Education Council, the Supreme Council of Health and the teaching hospitals supporting students' clinical training for their continued support, cooperation and guidance.

The ceremony celebrated the academic achievements of 168 medical graduates and 117 graduates from the undergraduate and postgraduate nursing programmes, reflecting the University's continued commitment to supporting the development of the Kingdom's healthcare sector.

As a defining moment of the ceremony,

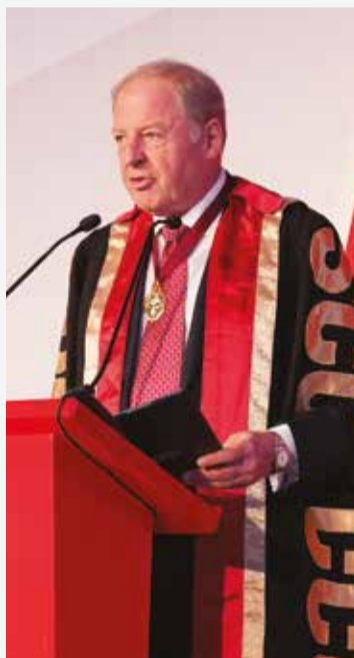


graduates formally recited their professional oath, reaffirming their commitment to upholding the highest ethical standards, demonstrating compassion in patient care, serving society with dedication and pursuing lifelong learning.

The School of Medicine Valedictorian, Dr Aiman Khudair, delivered an address reflecting on the achievements, resilience and shared experiences of the graduating class, while expressing appreciation to faculty, families and peers for their continued support.

During the School of Nursing and Midwifery Ceremony, Nurse Noora Alrowaiei addressed fellow graduates on behalf of the nursing cohort, expressing appreciation for the support received throughout their studies and reaffirming the humanitarian role of the nursing profession in serving society.

Since its establishment, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain has conferred degrees on more than 3,600 graduates across 38 countries worldwide, reflecting the University's mission to prepare qualified healthcare professionals who contribute to the advancement of healthcare and the enhancement of medical services internationally.



From the School of Nursing and Midwifery and the School of Postgraduate Studies & Research

- Valedictorian, Nurse Zahra Asseri, was awarded the Nursing Overall Gold Medal.
- Nurse Rawan Aldoseri received the BSc Nursing Silver Medal.
- Nurse Noora Alrowaiei received the BSc Nursing Bronze Medal.
- The Rufaida Al-Aslamia Award in Nursing was awarded to Nurse Maryam Gerashi.
- Nurse Mohamed Restam received the MSc in Nursing Overall Gold Medal.
- In addition, Ms Farida Elkhamisy was awarded the MSc by Research from RCSI in Dublin.



The ceremony also recognised outstanding academic achievements from the graduates of the School of Medicine

Dr Aiman Khudair was awarded the Medicine Overall Gold Medal.

• Dr Simple Joseph was awarded the Degree Award Marks Gold Medal, the Senior Cycle Silver Medal, the Professor Niall O'Higgins Prize in Surgery, the Professor John Murphy Prize in Obstetrics & Gynaecology and the Professor Charlotte Kamel Prize in Psychiatry.

• Dr Abdulrahman Alrujaib was awarded the Senior Cycle Bronze Medal.

• Dr Sama Thiab received the Professor James Finucane Prize in Medicine.

• Dr Janan Alradhi was awarded the Professor Joe McMenamin Prize in Paediatrics.

• Dr Taim Akhal received the Professor David Whitford Prize in General Practice.



We express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to

**His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa
The Crown Prince and Prime Minister**

For His Royal Highness' patronage of the 17th Conferring Ceremony of the School of Medicine, School of Nursing and Midwifery and School of Postgraduate Studies and Research

The President and Executive Committee of
RCSI Medical University of Bahrain



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OF BAHRAIN

MPs Push for Multilingual Driving Lessons in Bahrain

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

A parliamentary committee in Bahrain has approved a proposal aimed at offering driving training programmes in multiple languages, in a move designed to improve communication between instructors and learners and enhance road safety.

The Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee endorsed the proposal, which MPs Waleed Al Doseri, Maryam Al Saegh, and Hasan Bukhamas submitted.

The initiative recommends making driving lessons available in widely spoken expatriate languages, including English, Urdu, Bengali, and Filipino, reflecting the linguistic diversity of Bah-



Better understanding of traffic rules, reduced accidents, improved learner comprehension

rain's population.

Lawmakers said the measure intends to reduce misunderstandings during both theoretical and practical driving lessons, particularly for non-Arabic speakers who may struggle to fully grasp instructions, traffic regulations, and road safety guidelines.

Committee members approved

the proposal unanimously, stating that it aligns with public interest and supports ongoing efforts to improve the quality and effectiveness of driver education in the Kingdom.

They noted that language barriers continue to challenge many residents, sometimes limiting their ability to properly under-

stand traffic laws and respond correctly in real driving situations.

The proposal also encourages introducing multilingual instructors or developing tailored training programmes that would allow smoother communication between trainers and trainees inside driving vehicles.

MPs further stressed that improving comprehension during driving education could help reinforce safer driving habits, reduce road accidents, and ultimately protect lives on Bahrain's roads.

The proposal has now been referred to the government for further review and consideration for implementation.

ISB Platinum Jubilee Chess Championship Begins Tomorrow

TDT | Manama
Pradeep Puravankara



The second edition of the ISB@75 Chess Championship begins tomorrow, Friday, June 12, as part of the Indian School Bahrain's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, drawing strong participation from across the Kingdom.

Organised by The Indian School Bahrain in collaboration with Arjun's Chess Academy, the tournament has attracted around 150 players for the Open Category, along with eight CBSE schools competing in the Inter-School Team Event.

The championship features two main categories: the Open Rapid Chess Tournament and the Inter-School Team competition is

designed to promote balanced participation, with each under-14 team consisting of four players, including at least one boy and one girl. Entry for schools is free, while Open Category participation was set at BD 3.

For logistics and inquiries, organisers can be contacted via Chief Arbitrator Arjun Kakkadath (3319 0004), Convener Faisal Madappally (3339 4919), and Coordinator Shamshad (3929 1585).

Shura AI Innovation



Shura Council is set to launch "Sanad," an AI-powered platform designed to enhance legislative research and knowledge management, marking a major step in Bahrain's parliamentary digital transformation. The system will support lawmakers with faster access to legal data, research analysis, and smart summaries to improve decision-making and legislative efficiency.

(By: Rehab Mohammad)

44 New Homes Under Government Land Program



The Minister of Housing and Urban Planning, Amina bint Ahmed Al Rumaihi, witnessed the commencement of concrete foundation work for a new housing project comprising 44 residential units in Salman City. The project is part of a wider plan to deliver 137 housing units under the Government Land Development Rights Programme. Omar Faisal Al Tamimi, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain First Real Estate Development Company, attended the launch ceremony along with several officials. Al Rumaihi said the project is part of the ministry's broader plan to deliver 137 housing units in Salman City through cooperation with the private sector. She stressed that such strategic partnerships help increase housing supply and expand options available to housing program beneficiaries, supporting national housing sector goals.

18-Year-Old Mentalist Achieves Global Recognition

Multiple world record titles achieved while using mentalism to promote anti-drug and alcohol awareness

TDT | Manama
Ghadeer Alkumaish

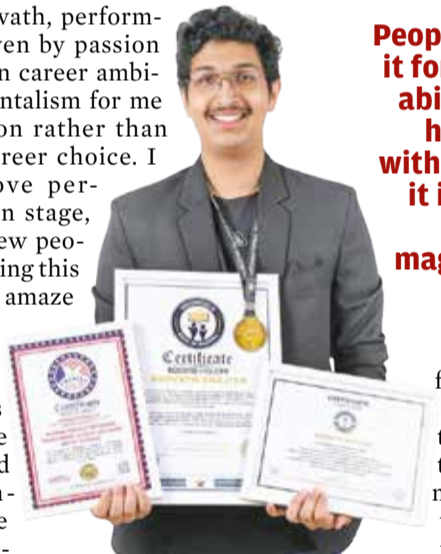
Eighteen-year-old mentalist Ashvath Shajith, originally from Kannur, Kerala, and currently residing in Bahrain, is gaining international recognition after earning multiple world record titles for his performances and awareness initiatives. With more than 45 national and international stage appearances, the young performer has built a reputation for combining psychology, illusion, and storytelling.

Ashvath's interest in mentalism began during the COVID-19 pandemic while attending online classes. "My journey into mentalism actually began back in the 8th grade, during the covid time and the era of online school," he said. After experimenting with basic magic tricks, he discovered mentalism and became fascinated by the art form. "Everything changed when I discovered mentalism.

I completely shifted my focus to this art form."

For Ashvath, performing is driven by passion rather than career ambitions. "Mentalism for me is a passion rather than a strict career choice. I simply love performing on stage, meeting new people, and using this art form to amaze audiences," he said.

His shows are designed to be immersive experiences. "My full-length stage show runs for about half an hour and I design it to be a deeply immersive, cinematic experience, an absolute emotional roller coaster," he explained. He describes his performances as a mix of suspense, comedy, audience interaction, and a dramatic



People often mistake it for a supernatural ability. In reality, it has nothing to do with the paranormal it is purely a blend of psychology, magic, and illusion.

ASHVATH SHAJITH

finale.

He noted that one of the biggest misconceptions about mentalism is that it involves su-

pernatural abilities. Among his achievements are record titles from the International Book of Records, Indo-World Book of Records, and America Book of Records. The records were awarded for a symbolic mentalism perfor-

mance in Kochi that appeared to transform alcohol into water. "We performed a highly symbolic act where we seemingly converted alcohol into water to deliver a powerful message: 'Say No to Drugs and Alcohol,'" he said. "Turning alcohol into water creates a powerful visual that grabs media attention. I used that spotlight to push a

serious message." Ashvath also received recognition from the India Book of Records at the age of 13 after identifying 106 dinosaur species in one minute.

Looking ahead, the young performer is working on his most ambitious project yet. "I'm currently scripting a massive, two-and-a-half-hour theater show designed to feel just like watching a movie," he said, promising an experience filled with "laughter, sadness, happiness, and intense mystery."

Could Bahrain's Next Table Tennis Star Be Discovered in a Park?

Public Spaces May Hold Key to Wider Sporting Talent

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

A simple idea is gaining attention among sports observers in Bahrain: installing table tennis tables in public parks could help uncover the Kingdom's next generation of talent.

While Bahrain has already produced national champions and regional medal winners in table tennis, access to regular playing facilities remains limited for many enthusiasts, with most opportunities found in clubs, private halls, or paid recreational centres.

Supporters of the idea argue that public parks and waterfront spaces could offer a new pathway for players who currently lack consistent access to training environments. Coun-



Public table tennis in Turkey



AI generated image showing how the idea could look if implemented at Zayed Town Walkway in Bahrain

tries such as China and Turkey already feature outdoor stone tables in public areas, where residents play freely and casually.

Advocates believe such spaces

could help bridge the gap between casual players and professional development. A player who begins in an informal park setting could eventually progress into club training

and competitive tournaments, strengthening Bahrain's talent pipeline.

Bahrain's table tennis success in recent years has highlight-

ed the sport's potential. The national men's and women's teams were crowned West Asian champions in 2024, while clubs such as Bahrain Club achieved

regional success by winning the Arab Club Championship in 2025.

However, observers also point to gaps in grassroots infrastructure and supporting services, including limited availability of dedicated table tennis equipment and specialized maintenance facilities in the local market.

The proposal suggests that expanding access through simple, durable outdoor tables could encourage wider participation, improve community engagement, and help identify emerging talent at an earlier stage.

If implemented, the idea could transform public parks into informal training grounds, where a casual evening game might one day lead to national representation.

REHC Maps Out Future Development Strategy

Sports, tourism and investment projects take centre stage at committee meeting

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister of the Prime Minister's Court and Chairman of the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club (REHC) High Committee, today chaired a meeting of the REHC High Committee.

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman affirmed that the Kingdom's ongoing achievements in this sector underscore Bahrain's commitment to supporting and advancing equestrian sports, further consolidating its position as a leading international hub. His Highness attributed these successes to the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

His Highness noted that the Kingdom's growing international presence in the sector the continued success of its championship races contribute to furthering Bahrain's position as a leading destination for equestrian sports. In this regard, His Highness un-



HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman Chairs REHC High Committee Meeting

derscored the importance of building on the achievements through the implementation of development plans, strategic projects, and initiatives that support the sector's ongoing growth.

His Highness was briefed on the 2025-2026 horse racing season and commended the national workforce's efforts; their professionalism and dedication contributed to the successful organisation of races and championships throughout the season. His Highness also commended the contributions of partners and sponsors in supporting the season's success.

His Highness emphasised the importance of furthering efforts to enhance the sector's operations within the upcoming seasons.

The High Committee also

Bahrain International Trophy

- Bahrain's flagship international horse race.
- Attracts top horses, trainers and jockeys worldwide.

Bahrain Turf Series

- Prestigious international racing series.
- Boosts Bahrain's profile in global horse racing.

Committee Focus

- Enhance organisational and technical standards.
- Build on previous successes.
- Strengthen Bahrain's position on the international racing calendar.

reviewed the organisational aspects of the international races and championships hosted by the REHC, particularly the Bahrain International Trophy and

the Bahrain Turf Series. The meeting highlighted the importance of building on the success of previous editions and continuing to advance the organisational and technical standards of these events to strengthen their standing in the international horse racing calendar.

The High Committee also reviewed topics on the agenda and the latest developments related to sports, tourism, and investment projects included within the club's comprehensive development plan, which supports efforts to further establish the REHC as an integrated sports destination that contributes to the growth of the Kingdom's sports and tourism sectors.

In addition, the Committee reviewed matters relating to the racing programme, its regulations, and operational performance, as part of ongoing efforts to further enhance the quality and competitiveness of local and international horse racing in the Kingdom.

MPs seek new drug addiction treatment centre

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A new state-run centre to treat and rehabilitate drug addicts has been approved by Parliament's services committee, after MPs said some families were being forced into costly private care.

The proposal, put forward by MP Maryam Al Dhaen, calls for a national centre with medical, mental health and social care units, along with rehabilitation and return-to-society schemes.

The centre would be staffed by doctors, psychologists and social workers trained to deal with addiction cases.

The committee approved the proposal by agreement of all members present, saying there were sound public grounds for sending it to Parliament.

MPs said addiction treatment centres run by the Health Ministry were not enough to meet need. This, they said, had left some families paying large sums at private clinics.

They also said direct state oversight was needed to keep care standards in check and deal with health and human concerns linked to addiction.

The proposal also seeks to help families living with addiction, widen public awareness and cut drug-linked crime.

The ministry said the unit is a specialist centre for the treatment and rehabilitation of people addicted to drugs and alcohol.

It said the unit works with



Maryam Al Dhaen, MP



The Health Ministry said treatment and rehabilitation for addiction patients are already offered through the Al Moayyed Unit at the Psychiatric Hospital, which falls under government hospitals.

consultants, psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses, psychotherapists, occupational therapists and rehabilitation staff.

The unit also runs outpatient clinics, a detox ward, a rehabilitation ward and a community follow-up programme aimed at helping former patients stay in recovery and return to society.

The ministry said the health sector would keep developing addiction treatment and rehabilitation services in line with science and sound health practice, in work with other bodies in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

Warns on AI Image Misuse

Legal experts highlight privacy protections amid rise of AI manipulation

TDT | Manama
Ghadeer Alkumaish

A senior official issued a strong warning about the legal risks surrounding the use, editing, and AI manipulation of personal images, stressing that individual consent remains essential under all circumstances.

Speaking during the Ministry of Interior's Al Aman Program, Colonel Dr. Osama Bahar emphasized that personal image rights are fully protected by law, even in the age of advanced artificial intelligence and digital editing tools.

"Everyone has the right to their own image. No one can film you without permission and no one can publish your photo without it. Agreeing to be filmed does not mean agreeing to publish it; each right is separate," Dr. Bahar said.

He explained that legal consent must be clear and specific, noting that permission to record a person does not automatically grant the right to publish or distribute the footage. He added that this principle has long existed in media practice, where broadcast approval was always required

separately.

Dr. Bahar warned that the same protections now extend more critically into the digital era, where images can be altered, recreated, or animated without a person's knowledge.

The warning also covered the misuse of artificial intelligence tools, stating that editing, modifying, or generating AI-based images or videos of real individuals without explicit consent could lead to legal conse-



"The law provides clear protection against unauthorized publication, manipulation, or misuse of personal images."

AMINA BUKHAMMAS, LEGAL EXPERT



"The owner of the image has rights to it. Your photo is still your photo; the rights stay with you."

COLONEL DR. OSAMA BAHAR

quences, including criminal liability and civil damages.

"You cannot edit an image without specific permission. You cannot animate it without permission either," he said, urging the public to treat personal images with caution and respect.

Separately, legal expert Amina Bukhammas, Associate at Manal Dhahi Legal

Group, reinforced the legal position, stating that image rights are closely tied to privacy and human dignity.

"The right to one's image is a personal right closely linked to human dignity and privacy. Permission to take a photograph does not automatically imply permission to publish it," she said.

Bukhammas noted that violations may carry penalties including imprisonment and fines ranging from 500 to 1,000 Bahraini dinars, depending on the severity of the infringement.

From The Court

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

48 Marijuana Packets Seized: Asian Man Jailed for 5 Years

An Asian man has been sentenced to five years in prison, fined BD 5,000, and ordered deported after serving his sentence, following the Court of Appeal's decision to uphold his drug trafficking conviction.

The case stemmed from information authorities received that the accused was selling drugs. Investigations confirmed the tip, leading to an undercover operation where an informant

arranged to purchase marijuana worth BD 130 from the suspect.

Police arrested the man during the transaction and recovered marked cash along with additional money in his possession. Officers also discovered 48 packets of marijuana, further quantities of cannabis, and hashish after searching his residence.

The accused admitted during questioning that he obtained the

drugs from multiple locations arranged by another individual. He was charged with supplying marijuana for payment without authorization and possessing illegal drugs.

The court ordered a five-year prison sentence, imposed a fine, confiscated the seized substances, and ruled that the defendant be deported after completing his sentence. The Court of Appeal later upheld the verdict.

Appeals Court Cancels BD14,987 in Fees in Time-Barred Rental Dispute

The High Rental Appeals Court canceled nearly BD14,987 in maintenance and service fees claimed by a property owners' association, ruling that the amount was time-barred under the five-year statute of limitations.

The case involved a claim exceeding BD40,000 in unpaid charges accumulated between 2011 and 2023. The apartment owner challenged part of the

claim, citing provisions of the Civil Code related to prescription periods.

The court ruled that periodic service charges are subject to a five-year limitation and found that amounts due before November 9, 2015, could no longer be legally claimed. It also noted that a previous lawsuit had interrupted the limitation period for eligible dues.

After reviewing payments

and applicable periods, the court determined that BD14,987.199 of the claim was time-barred, while the remaining valid amounts could still be recovered.

The court therefore overturned the claim only in relation to the expired portion and ordered the appellant to bear legal costs, while allowing recovery of dues not affected by the limitation period.

Inside Bahrain's Space Drive

Engineers Trained on Arab 813 Satellite Mission



TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Engineers and specialists took part in a hands-on workshop organised by the Bahrain Space Agency, where they were introduced to Arab 813, one of the Arab world's most advanced collaborative satellite missions.

The session was led by senior space data analyst Aisha Ali Al Hajri, who guided participants through the practical applications of satellite technology and how space-based data is used to better understand environmental challenges on Earth.

At the core of the workshop was the Arab 813 satellite project, a regional initiative led by the United Arab Emirates with contributions from scientists and engineers across the Arab world. The mis-

DO YOU KNOW

- Bahrain's space milestone
- "Al Munther" nano-satellite (3.2kg)
- Launched via Falcon 9 (Transporter-13 mission)
- Equipped with AI, imaging, and cybersecurity systems

sion focuses on climate monitoring and environmental analysis, providing high-resolution data to support research and policy decision-making.

Participants were briefed on the satellite's advanced systems, including hyperspectral imaging technology capable of capturing highly detailed information across the Earth's surface. The satellite operates in a sun-synchronous low Earth orbit and is equipped with SWIR and VNIR sensors, as well



Launch of Bahrain's satellite "Al Munther" in March 2025

as a high-resolution panchromatic camera to deliver multi-layered environmental observations.

Beyond technical training, the workshop placed strong emphasis on human capital development. Attendees were introduced to the Arab Space Pioneers programme, which aims to nurture a new generation of Arab researchers by linking academic study with real satellite mission experience.

The initiative provides postgraduate students and young professionals with practical exposure, research opportunities, and specialised training, enabling them to contribute directly to ongoing space missions rather than purely theoretical study.

Officials said the workshop reflects Bahrain's long-term strategy to build local expertise and deepen participation in regional and global space initiatives.

Tourism strategy gains private sector support

Chamber calls for stronger focus on heritage, business and maritime tourism Summit



Bahrain is stepping up efforts to strengthen cooperation between the public and private sectors to accelerate growth in the tourism industry and enhance its contribution to the national economy.

This was highlighted during a meeting between the Minister of Tourism, Fatima bint Jaafar Al Sairafi, and the leadership of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where both

sides discussed ways to deepen coordination and expand joint initiatives in the tourism sector.

The minister stressed that the private sector remains a central partner in driving tourism development and improving Bahrain's position as a competitive regional and international destination. She noted that stronger collaboration between stakeholders is essential to delivering effective tourism projects and achieving the objectives of Bahrain's Tourism Strategy 2022–2026.

She further emphasized the importance of aligning government efforts with private sector participation to broaden tourism opportunities, attract more visitors, and support sustainable economic growth. She also praised the Chamber's continued engagement with the Ministry of Tourism and the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority in advancing the sector.

The meeting reviewed the latest updates in Bahrain's tourism landscape, including ongoing initiatives aimed at stimulating growth and improving visitor experiences. Participants also explored new proposals designed to expand cooperation with private sector partners and develop joint projects that strengthen the industry's overall performance.

On behalf of the business community, Chairman of Bahrain's Chamber, Nabeel Khalid Kanoo welcomed the continued dialogue with the Ministry of Tourism, describing the sector as a key driver of economic diversification and investment opportunities.

He highlighted the importance of leveraging Bahrain's cultural and commercial attractions, including traditional marketplaces such as the Manama souq, to enhance the tourism experience and showcase the Kingdom's heritage.

Mr. Kanoo also called for greater focus on business tourism, conferences and exhibitions, maritime tourism, and coastal development projects, along with encouraging investment in innovative tourism concepts that can further elevate Bahrain's appeal.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening collaboration and ensuring the sustainable growth of the tourism sector, reinforcing Bahrain's position as a dynamic and attractive destination for visitors and investors alike.

Leading the Way to Excellence

Conference spotlights leadership skills for a changing workplace



Top Firms Honored for HR Excellence

TDT | Manama

The importance of strong leadership in driving organizational success and economic growth was highlighted during the Eighth Conference for Leadership Qualification and Development, which concluded in Bahrain.

Held under the theme "The Art of Leadership in Motivating Performance and Achieving Excellence," the two-day event brought together experts, academics, and senior executives from Bahrain and abroad to discuss strategies for developing effective leaders capable of navigating today's rapidly evolving business environment.

The closing ceremony was attended by Aqeel Abdul Ali Bu Hussein, Assistant Undersecretary for Labour Relations at the Ministry of Labour, alongside conference president Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al Banna.

Discussions focused on investing in national talent and equip-

ping future leaders with the skills needed to enhance organizational performance, strengthen human capital, and improve competitiveness across various sectors. Participants examined how leadership development can contribute to building resilient institutions and fostering innovation in the workplace.

The conference also explored international leadership models and modern management approaches that help organizations respond to economic challenges, regional developments, and changing workplace dynamics. Speakers emphasized that effective leadership plays a crucial role in transforming challenges into opportunities and supporting sustainable growth.

At the conclusion of the event, Bu Hussein honored speakers and supporting organizations for their contributions to the conference's success and their efforts to advance leadership development and institutional excellence. A number of companies were also

Key Focus Areas

- Leadership development and capacity building.
- Human resource enhancement.
- Organizational excellence and performance improvement.
- Productivity and competitiveness in the labour market.
- Crisis management and adaptive leadership.
- Innovation and sustainable growth.

recognized for their outstanding initiatives in human resource development.

The conference underscored Bahrain's ongoing commitment to nurturing leadership talent and strengthening its position as a regional center for professional training and leadership development.

Investment Firms Manage BD10.3bn in Client Assets

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Money managed for clients at Bahrain's investment business firms rose to about BD10.3 billion by the end of 2025, with the rise led by non-resident funds in the largest class of firms, Central Bank of Bahrain figures show.

The total covers client assets under Classes 1, 2 and 4. Across Classes 1, 2, 3 and 4, the assets of investment business companies reached about BD11.1bn by year-end, up from about BD10.8bn at the end of 2024.

The main lift came from Class 1 firms. Client assets under their care rose to about BD8.7bn, from about BD7.7bn a year earlier.

Most of that gain came from non-residents, whose assets in Class 1 firms rose to about BD5.4bn, compared with about BD4.5bn at the end of 2024. Resident client assets in the same class moved up more gently, reaching about BD3.3bn from about BD3.2bn.

Class 1 balance sheet assets also grew, reaching about BD724.3m, from about BD704m a year earlier. Assets invested by firms as principal within the same class stood at about BD559.5m, compared with about BD548.7m in 2024.

Together, balance sheet assets and client assets took the Class 1 total to about BD9.4bn by the end of 2025, up from



about BD8.4bn a year earlier.

Class 2 firms went the other way. Client assets fell to about BD1.4bn, down from about BD2.3bn at the end of 2024.

Non-resident assets in Class 2 dropped to about BD961.7m from about BD1.7bn, while resident assets fell to about BD467.7m from about BD588.9m.

The class also saw its balance sheet assets shrink to about BD21.1m, from about BD43.5m. With client assets included, the Class 2 total fell to about BD1.5bn, compared with about BD2.4bn a year earlier.

Class 3 changed little. Its balance sheet assets stood at about BD6.2m by the end of 2025, compared with about BD6.1m at the end of 2024.

Class 4 entered the figures by the end of 2025, with balance sheet assets of about BD8.5m, including about BD0.5m invested by firms as

- Non-resident assets fell to BD961.7 million, down from about BD1.7 billion
- Resident assets declined to BD467.7 million
- Balance sheet assets decreased to around BD21.1 million
- Total Class 2 assets dropped to BD1.5 billion.

principal.

Client assets in Class 4 reached about BD194.1m. Of this, about BD11.2m belonged to residents and about BD182.9m to non-residents.

That left Class 4 with total assets of about BD202.6m by year-end.

Minister of Industry and Commerce Launches Bahrain-Hungary Industrial Partnership Forum

His Excellency Mr. Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce, inaugurated the Bahrain-Hungary Industrial Partnership Forum at the Gulf Hotel, organized by the Bahrain Businessmen's Association in cooperation with the Bahraini-Hungarian

Trade Events Foundation, with participation from a visiting Hungarian trade and industrial delegation.

In his opening remarks, the Minister highlighted the strong and growing ties between Bahrain and Hungary and emphasized the importance of expanding economic and in-

dustrial cooperation to support sustainable development and attract valuable investments. He noted that the forum serves as an important platform for strengthening private-sector collaboration and advancing practical partnerships and initiatives.

Mr. Ahmed Abdullah bin Hin-

di, Chairman of the Bahrain Businessmen's Association, stated that Bahrain's supportive business environment enhances investor confidence and encourages strategic international partnerships. He stressed the forum's role in building long-term cooperation between Bahraini and Hungarian companies.



Gulf Air joins World Air Transport Summit

Joins IATA's CO2 Connect Platform on the Sidelines of the Summit

TDT | Manama

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, participated in the 82nd International Air Transport Association (IATA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) and World Air Transport Summit 2026, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 6 to 8 June 2026.

Gulf Air's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Martin Gauss, represented the airline in key industry discussions alongside senior executives from across the global aviation sector. The AGM served



as a platform for the airline to contribute to debates shaping the operational, commercial, and strategic direction of the industry, as the industry navigates an increasingly complex global landscape.



On the sidelines of the AGM, Gulf Air signed on to IATA's CO2 Connect platform, an initiative that leverages actual airline operational data — including fuel burn,

belly cargo, and load factors — to deliver more precise and transparent passenger CO2 emissions calculations. Through its participation in the platform, Gulf Air

will contribute to enhancing the accuracy of global emissions data, supporting more informed decision-making for travellers and stakeholders alike. This reinforces the airline's commitment to supporting industry-wide efforts toward greater environmental accountability and data-driven sustainability practices.

The 82nd IATA AGM brought together senior leaders from airlines, the broader aviation value chain, and key industry stakeholders, providing a critical forum to address the rapidly evolving challenges facing the global industry.

Bahrain, US Explore Energy Challenges



Bahrain and the United States discussed strengthening cooperation during a high-level meeting in Manama. The meeting was held between Bahrain's Minister of Oil and Environment and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Bin Daina, and the United States Ambassador to the United Na-

tions, Ambassador Michael Waltz.

Senior officials from Bapco Energies also attended the discussions.

The talks highlighted the strong and long-standing partnership between Bahrain and the United States. Both sides explored ways to expand collaboration across multiple sectors in line with shared pri-

orities.

They also reviewed recent developments in the global energy sector, ongoing shifts in energy markets, and the key challenges facing the industry.

In addition, both sides exchanged views on regional and international issues, focusing particularly on energy security and sustainability trends shaping the global landscape.

Commencement of Subscription in the 46th Issue of the Government Development Bond through Bahrain Bourse

With a Size of BHD 150 Million and a Return of 6.70%



Bahrain Bourse (BHB) announced that as of Thursday, 11th of June 2026, and according to the invitation announced by the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), Bahraini and Non-Bahraini investors can directly subscribe through the primary market of BHB in the Government Development Bond Issue 46 (BHD 150 million) that has been issued by the CBB on behalf of the Government of Bahrain by executing their orders through registered brokers at Bahrain Bourse.

Thereafter, investors will be able to trade the Bond on the secondary market at BHB once listed, which is expected to be on 1st July 2026.

Bahrain Bourse specified that the subscription period through the registered brokers will be on Thursday, 11th of June 2026 from 9:30 am until 11:00 am. The minimum subscription size is 500 bond per subscriber.

The BHD 150 million Bond issued at a par value of BHD 1 each on the 17th of June 2026 for a period of 5 years matur-

ing on the 17th of June 2031. The annual fixed return on these securities is 6.70%, and will be paid bi-annually on 17th of December and 17th of June every year throughout the period of this issue, commencing on 17th of December 2026 up to and including the Maturity Date.

The Central Bank of Bahrain issued the Government Development Bond on behalf of the Government of Bahrain. The Government of Bahrain directly guarantees the Bond securities.

Evolution of AI and impact on our daily lives

As AI technology continues to advance, it has the potential to create smarter transportation networks, reduce traffic accidents, lower emissions and make travel more convenient and safer for everyone.

No day in our lives passes without hearing, reading, or using the buzzword AI. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a technology that enables computers and machines to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence, such as learning, reasoning and decision-making. AI is used in everyday applications such as virtual assistants, recommendation systems, navigation apps, and medical diagnostics. As AI continues to advance, it is expected to make our lives more efficient and productive while also creating new challenges related to ethics, privacy and employment.

Imagine a day without electricity or the internet—many of the activities we rely on would come to a standstill. Artificial Intelligence is following a similar path, becoming deeply integrated into our daily lives by helping us work, learn, communicate and make decisions more efficiently. In the future, AI may become so essential that living without it could feel as disruptive as living without electricity or internet access today.

Artificial Intelligence is transforming almost every field by improving efficiency, accuracy, and decision-making, enabling people to accomplish tasks faster and more effectively. From healthcare to education, and from transportation to business, AI is helping us solve complex problems, enhance productivity, and create new opportunities for innovation in our daily lives. AI can help in almost all fields where human intervention is effective, be it agriculture, energy management, scientific research, weather forecast, you name it; however, it is currently limited only to tackling human emotions and our responses.

In our homes, AI is making it smarter, safer and more convenient. AI-powered devices such as smartphones, AI assistants, smart speakers, thermostats, security cameras, and robotic vacuum cleaners can perform tasks automatically and respond to voice commands. AI helps to manage household activities by

controlling lighting, adjusting room temperatures, monitoring energy consumption and enhancing home security through intelligent surveillance systems. It can also provide reminders, answer questions, play music, and assist with daily planning. As AI technology continues to evolve, homes will become increasingly intelligent, offering greater comfort, efficiency, safety and personalised experiences for family members.

At work, AI is transforming workplaces by increasing productivity and efficiency. AI can automate repetitive tasks such as data entry, scheduling, report generation and customer support, allowing employees to focus on more creative and strategic work. AI-powered tools help businesses to analyse large amounts of data, identify trends and make better decisions. In fields such as healthcare, finance, manufacturing and marketing, AI assists professionals by providing insights, improving accuracy and reducing human error.

AI is transforming education by making learning more personalised, interactive, and accessible. AI-powered tools can help students understand difficult concepts, provide instant feedback on assignments and create customised learning plans based on individual strengths and weaknesses. In schools, AI can assist teachers by automating administrative tasks, such as grading and attendance, so they can spend more time teaching and mentoring students. In colleges, AI supports research, data analysis, virtual laboratories and intelligent tutoring systems that help students learn at their own pace. AI is transforming healthcare by helping doctors and medical professionals provide faster, more accurate and more personalised care. AI can analyse medical records, laboratory results and medical images to assist in the early detection and diagnosis of diseases. AI-powered systems help monitor patients, predict health risks, and recommend treatment options based on individual and genetic medical histories. Wearable devices and smart health applications can also track vital signs and alert patients or healthcare providers to potential health concerns.

AI systems can analyse medical images, such as X-rays, MRIs, and CT scans, to detect conditions such as cancer, stroke, or tuberculosis at an early stage. This is extremely valuable in rural, less-accessible or underserved areas, where



Aruldas Thomas - A Business leader in IT Distribution representing global technology

expert radiologists may not be available. By providing fast and accurate preliminary analysis, AI helps doctors make quicker decisions and improves patient survival rates.

AI is revolutionising transportation by making travel safer, faster and more efficient. AI-powered systems analyse traffic patterns in real time, optimise routes and reduce congestion, helping commuters save time and fuel. AI is also used in advanced driver assistance systems and autonomous vehicles, which can detect obstacles, maintain safe distances and assist drivers in avoiding accidents. In public transportation, AI helps manage schedules, predict maintenance needs and improve overall service reliability. As AI technology continues to advance, it has the potential to create smarter transportation networks, reduce traffic accidents, lower emissions and make travel more convenient and safer for everyone.

All that has been said about AI also raises concerns about privacy, security, misinformation, and job displacement. Most of our personal data, including our daily lives, routines, habits and behaviour, will become part of a huge database accessible to individuals, connected establishments and organisations that own this big data. In fact, with instantaneous resolution, all governments, relevant authorities, institutions, regulatory bodies, and businesses must establish ethical guidelines to ensure AI is used responsibly and ethically.

Indeed, AI has the potential to, and will definitely improve, convenience, productivity, healthcare, education, and the overall quality and longevity of human life. Its impact will depend not only on technological progress but also on how wisely and responsibly humanity chooses to use it.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

AMERICA WILL NEVER BE DESTROYED FROM THE OUTSIDE. IF WE FALTER AND LOSE OUR FREEDOMS, IT WILL BE BECAUSE WE DESTROYED OURSELVES.
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Netanyahu will run in the next elections: Likud party

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will seek re-election in Israel's upcoming national vote, his Likud party announced Wednesday, after US President Donald Trump publicly questioned whether the 76-year-old would run.

Netanyahu, who is Israel's longest-serving prime minister, has led his country through three years of war, and is currently on trial for corruption.

"Prime Minister Netanyahu will run in the next elections

and, God Willing, he will win," the party said on Telegram.

The declaration came after Trump told ABC News he was uncertain about Netanyahu's intentions.

"I don't know, he's had an amazing career. Does he want to continue?," Trump said. "Because, you know he's a wartime prime minister."

Netanyahu had previously said he would stand for re-election in the vote, scheduled to be held by late October. He has served as prime minister for nearly two decades across multiple terms.

Sri Lanka says spy chief 'directed' Easter bombings

AFP | Colombo, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's public security minister told parliament yesterday the nation's ex-intelligence chief directed the 2019 Easter Sunday attack, in the first official statement linking him directly to the bombings that killed 279 people.

Minister Ananda Wijepala said Major General Suresh Sallay, who was arrested in February on accusations of "aiding and abetting" the attack, had identified a Catholic church to be bombed.

Sri Lanka's worst single terror attack against civilians involved bombings against three upmarket hotels in the capital, two Roman Catholic churches and an evangelical Protestant church outside Colombo.

"Investigations have re-



Major General Suresh Sallay

vealed that Retired Major General Tuan Suresh Sallay conspired with and strategically directed Islamic extremists until they carried out the attacks," Wijepala said.

"Just three weeks prior to the attack, Sallay met Muslim men to obtain details of the location and the congregation," the minister added.

Sallay, through his lawyer, has denied any involvement.

Pakistan says killed 26 militants in strikes along Afghanistan border



A Taliban personnel stands guard as Afghan men gather to offer funeral prayers for Pakistani airstrike victims at Mani village in Spera district, Khost province

Islamabad, Pakistan

Pakistani airstrikes killed 26 militants in Afghanistan border areas, Pakistan's government said on Wednesday.

"In the aftermath of recent terrorist incidents in Pakistan.... precise and calibrated

Strikes were carried out along Pakistan Afghanistan border areas on hideouts and safe havens," Pakistan's information minister Attaullah Tarar posted on X, adding 26 militants linked to the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) group were killed.

UN says boy was shot dead at rally for Afghan women

Kabul, Afghanistan

The United Nations said Wednesday a boy was shot dead during a women's rights rally in Afghanistan's Herat city a day earlier, when witnesses told AFP security forces dispersed protesters with live fire.

Police have denied that any weapons were used during Tuesday's demonstration by dozens of men, in response to the Taliban government's morality police detaining women for not wearing the body-cloaking chador or burqa.



Power luncheon



This picture taken on Tuesday and released by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) yesterday shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (2nd R) and his wife Ri Sol Ju (R), along with China's President Xi Jinping (2nd L) and his wife Peng Liyuan (L), sharing a luncheon at the Kumsusan State Guest House in Pyongyang. President Xi Jinping concluded a visit to North Korea on Tuesday, after meetings with Kim Jong Un that the Chinese leader said reached an "important consensus" on building ties.

Trump says Iran will have to 'pay the price'



'Taken too long to negotiate'

● The Apache helicopter is the second crewed aircraft that Washington has confirmed was shot down by Iran during the war, following the loss of an F-15 fighter plane in April.

AFP | Washington, United States

US Central Command (CENTCOM), which oversees American forces in the Middle East, said on X that it had "struck Iranian air defense, ground control stations, and surveillance radar sites near the Strait of Hormuz with precision munitions from US Air Force and Navy fighter jets".

Trump's social media post, in which he asserted that the Iranian military has been "completely defeated," came after the United States and Iran exchanged fire, straining a ceasefire that took effect in April.

"The Bully of the Middle East is DEAD!!! They've taken too long to negotiate a deal that would have been great for them, now they will have to pay the price!!!" Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

Separately, Trump told Fox News journalist Trey Yingst in a phone interview that because peace talks have failed to make progress, he is getting closer to targeting Iran's power plants and bridges.

"I may keep going," Trump was quoted by Fox as saying. "They had a chance to sign a deal and survive."

It marked a contrast with his comments to reporters on Tuesday that negotiations on an en-

during settlement to end the war were in their "final throes," and could be wrapped up in "two or three days."

In another social post on Wednesday, Trump praised the US blockade of Iranian shipping calling it "the most successful" in history while labeling it a "steel wall."

He claimed that the blockade had halted Iranian business and prevented it from paying military wages, while still allowing other countries to export "lots of oil."

Late on Tuesday, US forces said they carried out strikes against Iran in retaliation for the downing of an American helicopter on Monday, with explosions reported by Iranian media along its southern coast.

US Central Command later said that the US Air Force and Navy had command and control, defense and surveillance stations.

Troy is sacked and burned during the Trojan War, according to calculations by Eratosthenes

US President John F. Kennedy says segregation is morally wrong and that it is "time to act"



Margaret Thatcher is the first British Prime Minister in 160 years to win a third consecutive term

The World Health Organization declares H1N1 swine flu to be a global pandemic, the first such incident in over forty years

First oil tanker from Gulf heading to Europe since March: Kpler

AFP | Paris, France

A tanker carrying two million barrels of crude oil is heading towards Europe having left the Gulf at the end of May, the first such shipment since March, data from the maritime tracking firm Kpler showed yesterday.

The Advantage Victory, a Marshall Islands-flagged tanker, passed through the Strait of Hormuz on May 27 without indicating its destination.

The vessel revealed its destination only on Monday, with its AIS signal indicating "NL RTM", the code for Rotterdam in the Netherlands, one of Europe's biggest ports.

It is scheduled to arrive on July 7.

The tanker, which was loaded with Iraqi oil at Basra on February 24 and March 1, is currently off the coast of Madagascar, according to its transponder.

It was the first tanker to traverse the Strait of Hormuz



with oil heading to Europe since March 1, when the ship New Vision left the Gulf amid the confusion after the United States and Israel began attacking Iran on February 28.

The tanker unloaded in Le Havre, France and Southwold, Britain in early April.

Around 103 oil tankers have left the Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz since March 1st, carrying a total of 185 million barrels of crude oil, according to Kpler data.

Specifically, 92 million barrels of Iranian oil have left the Gulf since the start of the war, along with 42 million barrels of Emirati oil, 22 million barrels of Iraqi oil, 20 million barrels of Saudi oil, seven million barrels of Kuwaiti oil, and three million barrels of Qatari oil.

From the beginning of the war until mid-April, when the US blockade of Iranian ports began, oil leaving the Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz was primarily Iranian, at 81 percent.

Israeli strike hits centre of Sidon, south Lebanon



First responders and residents gather at the site of an Israeli airstrike that hit a car in Sidon

● Lebanese officials said 11 people were killed in airstrikes on the southern city of Tyre

AFP | Sidon, Lebanon

An Israeli strike hit a car in the centre of the southern Lebanese city of Sidon on Wednesday, state media reported, as Israel persisted with its attacks across the country's south.

An AFP correspondent heard an explosion in the area before seeing a car burning as rescuers and firefighters headed to the scene.

The correspondent saw rescuers pull two people from the targeted vehicle.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported "an enemy strike on a car" in the city.

The largest city in southern

UN sending mission to Lebanon mission to collect abuses evidence

Geneva, Switzerland

The UN rights chief said Wednesday he would send a mission to Lebanon to collect evidence on alleged rights abuses since the war began between Hezbollah and Israel.

"Accountability cannot be overstated. Prompt and independent investigations into alleged violations of international humanitarian law must be conducted," UN high commissioner for human rights

Lebanon, Sidon was relatively spared from the major Israeli strikes that have pummeled much of the country's south and east since the Iran-backed Hezbollah drew Lebanon into the Middle East war on March 2. The city, home to the largest

Volker Turk told journalists. "This is why I have agreed with the government of Lebanon to conduct an impartial and independent assessment mission in the country.

"I will soon be deploying a team to collect information and evidence on alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law, and violations of international humanitarian law and related law committed by the parties to the armed conflict in the country since March 2."

Palestinian camp in the country, also shelters a large number of people displaced by the current war. The last time it was targeted was on May 28, when an Israeli strike on a building killed five people according to the Lebanese health ministry.

TOP
4
TWEETS

01

@MarkJCarney

02

@bundeskanzler

03

@antonioguterres

04

@vonderleyen

Congratulations, Prime Minister @narendramodi on becoming India's longest-serving continuous Prime Minister. As Canada and India renew our partnership, I look forward to continuing our work to deliver greater prosperity for both our peoples.

Congratulations to @narendramodi for being the longest serving democratically elected Prime Minister of India. Looking forward to further strengthening the strategic partnership between our countries and welcoming you to Germany for the next intergovernmental consultations.

At a time when the international system is being tested, dialogue has the power to re-unite us for a more just & peaceful world. On this International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations, we recognize the power of open communication to solve even the most intractable global challenges.

Europe and the Republic of Korea have built a lasting partnership. Our cooperation is stronger than ever. Today we announce our Digital Trade Agreement & Competitiveness Partnership. Working hand in hand to deliver even more results for our people

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

U-TURN WITH UK

Can Food Delivery Apps Help Children Eat Home Food?

P. UNNIKRISHNAN



One of the biggest problems many parents face today is that children are increasingly attracted to junk food. Many prefer ordering through food delivery apps even when fresh, healthy and tasty food is available at home.

But if we observe carefully, the attraction is not only about the food. It is also about the drama around it.

When we order through delivery apps, the excitement begins immediately. First, the app says the restaurant has accepted the order. Then it says the food is being prepared. Later, the driver picked it up. Then comes the real excitement: "Your order is arriving in 30 minutes."

That is when the drama starts.

We begin checking the app again and again. Every few minutes, we look at the rider's location. The small moving icon on the map becomes almost as important as the food itself. When the app says the driver is only five minutes away, the body and mind are ready. The appetite reaches its peak. The food has not yet arrived, but the eating experience has already begun.

Food delivery apps do not merely deliver food; they deliver anticipation.

This is where home-cooked food often loses the battle. It may be healthier and even tastier, but it comes without suspense. It is simply placed on the dining table. There is no notification, no tracking, no countdown, no rider approaching and no doorbell moment.

In other words, what is missing at home is not always taste. What is missing is theatre.

Food is often a mind game. Packaging, smell, colour, timing, photography and expectation all work together. A burger wrapped in glossy paper suddenly feels more exciting than a fresh chapati and curry. Meanwhile, a mother's freshly prepared meal, made with care and better ingredients, may be ignored because it arrived without drama.

This is why an interesting idea reportedly discussed by a Korean social media influencer caught my attention. What if food delivery apps allowed people to "order" food without actually having it delivered?

Imagine delivery apps in Bahrain, such as Talabat, Keeta or Jahez, introducing a feature that lets a family create a home-cooked meal countdown. A child wants French toast. Instead of ordering it from outside, the mother prepares it fresh at home. At the same time, the child opens a special option in the app — perhaps called "Appetite Mode". (BLURB)

The app says: "Your French toast is being prepared."

A few minutes later: "Your meal is almost ready."

Then: "Your food will arrive at the table in five minutes."

Finally, when the food is ready, the app says: "Your meal is ready in the kitchen."

Now, present the homemade French toast beautifully on a nice plate with a little dressing. By the time it reaches the child, the mind is already prepared to eat. The same French toast that may have been rejected earlier now arrives with suspense, timing and excitement.

In medicine, we often hear about the placebo effect. Sometimes belief itself creates relief. The opposite is also true: fear and negative expectation can make discomfort worse. Students know this well. When examinations are near, some develop stomach pain or chest tightness even before the question paper arrives.

Even mobile phones play tricks with the mind. Many of us have felt the phone vibrating in our pocket, only to check and find there was no call. Expectation itself created the sensation.

Ask asthma patients: many feel relieved the moment they reach a hospital. Similarly, blood pressure often rises slightly when checked in a clinic because of anxiety.

So why should we be surprised that a food delivery tracker can increase appetite?

For food delivery companies, this could become a meaningful CSR initiative. It may appear to go against their usual marketing interests, but it can build goodwill, family trust and a healthier relationship with technology.

Maybe it is time to give home food its own drama. The mind plays a bigger game than we think — and mothers are serious about it.

Mind it!

(P. Unnikrishnan is the Chairperson and the Managing Director of The Daily Tribune)

Trump orders downsizing of key intelligence office

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump said yesterday that he has directed his contentious pick for director of national intelligence to cut the size of his agency when he takes office on an acting basis this month.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said that he had told Bill Pulte, who will start as director of national intelligence on June 19, "to execute the immediate and needed downsizing of the office, reverting staff to their home agencies."

The appointment of Pulte, a Trump loyalist with no background in intelligence, has drawn ire from legislators. The ODNI agency was established to coordinate the activities of the sprawling US intelligence community.

France to keep working on fighter jet through 2040: minister



Paris, France

France will keep working on a next-generation fighter jet through 2040, the defence minister said on Wednesday, after Germany pulled the plug on the joint FCAS programme this week.

"Eight years of commitment, 2.5 billion in investment," Defence Minister Catherine Vautrin told parliament, referring to the joint German-French jet project.

"It means that almost all of this investment will enable us to continue working on a fighter jet through 2040," she added.

"This is obviously a major technical asset for our country's sovereignty."

Bill Gates arrives for questioning in US Congress over Epstein ties

● The panel asked Gates to appear after documents released by the Justice Department raised new questions about his contacts with Epstein.

● The Epstein files include a 2013 draft email in which the financier appeared to suggest he had helped Gates manage the fallout from extramarital affairs.



Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates arrives for a closed-door interview with the House Oversight Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC

AFP | Washington, United States

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates arrived on Capitol Hill Wednesday morning for questioning from US lawmakers over his relationship with late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, whose

network of wealthy and powerful associates has fueled years of scrutiny and conspiracy theories.

Gates, one of the world's richest men and a leading philanthropist, was appearing before the House Oversight Committee for a transcribed interview

about the disgraced financier, who died in a New York jail cell in 2019 while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges involving underage girls.

"I hope my testimony is helpful to the work -- important work -- of the committee to find justice for the victims," Gates

told reporters as he walked into a hearing room, while avoiding further questions.

The panel asked Gates to appear after documents released by the Justice Department raised new questions about his contacts with Epstein.

Several other high-profile figures have also appeared before the committee, including Bill and Hillary Clinton, and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick.

A spokesperson for Gates told AFP in a statement that the billionaire welcomed the chance to appear before the committee and emphasized he had "never witnessed or participated in Epstein's illegal conduct."

The Epstein files include a 2013 draft email in which the financier appeared to suggest he had helped Gates manage the fallout from extramarital affairs, including by seeking antibiotics after a sexually transmitted infection.

At Guantanamo, Pentagon chief warns Cuba not to acquire weapons that threaten US

Miami, United States

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth visited the US military base at Guantanamo Bay Wednesday, warning the communist-led island of Cuba against acquiring weapons that could threaten the United States.

Washington has ramped up pressure against the Cuba with sanctions and a crippling oil blockade, and President Donald Trump has repeatedly signaled that the Cuban government could be the next after Venezuela to fall to US pressure.

"It would be unwise for the government of Cuba to try to procure or get access to the types of weapons that could reach this base or the American homeland," Hegseth said in remarks to US troops at the base.

"They would be inviting the kind of confrontation not only do they not want, but they could not stand," said Hegseth, dressed in a green t-shirt and black shorts for physical fitness training with US forces.

Julian Barnes wins top Spanish literature prize

AFP | Madrid, Spain

Veteran British author Julian Barnes was yesterday named the winner of Spain's top literature prize for decades of

work that "offers a lucid, warm and compassionate vision of humanity".

The jury of the Princess of Asturias Award for Literature "highlighted his status as an extraordinary storyteller and essayist, gifted with humour and irony", read the official announcement.

Barnes, 80, "uses memory as a shaper of identity without letting go of imagination, with love as an essential principle", the jury added.

Born in the English city of Leicester in 1946, Barnes has penned 15 novels and 10 works of non-fiction in a career that has earned top literary prizes in the UK and France.

Previous winners of the Princess of Asturias Award include Japan's Haruki Murakami, US writers Siri Hustvedt and Paul

Auster as well as Peruvian Nobel laureate Mario Vargas Llosa.

"The measure of a prize always lies in the quality of those who have previously received it, and I am more than honoured to join the list of such distinguished names," Barnes said in a statement.

He published his first novel "Metroland" in 1980, about the different paths taken by two childhood friends.

In the 1980s, Barnes penned four crime novels under the name Dan Kavanagh, borrowing the surname of his then wife and

literary agent Pat Kavanagh, who died in 2008.

He was awarded the Man Booker Prize in 2011 for his novel "The Sense of An Ending", following three previous unsuccessful nominations.

His last novel "Departure(s)" was published in January, days after his 80th birthday, an anniversary he thought he would never reach following a diagnosis for a rare form of blood cancer six years earlier.



BETTER YOU KNOW

Founded in 1981, the Princess of Asturias Awards are the most prestigious in the Spanish-speaking world and come with prize money of 50,000 euros (\$57,750).

World's largest whale graveyard discovered by Chinese sub

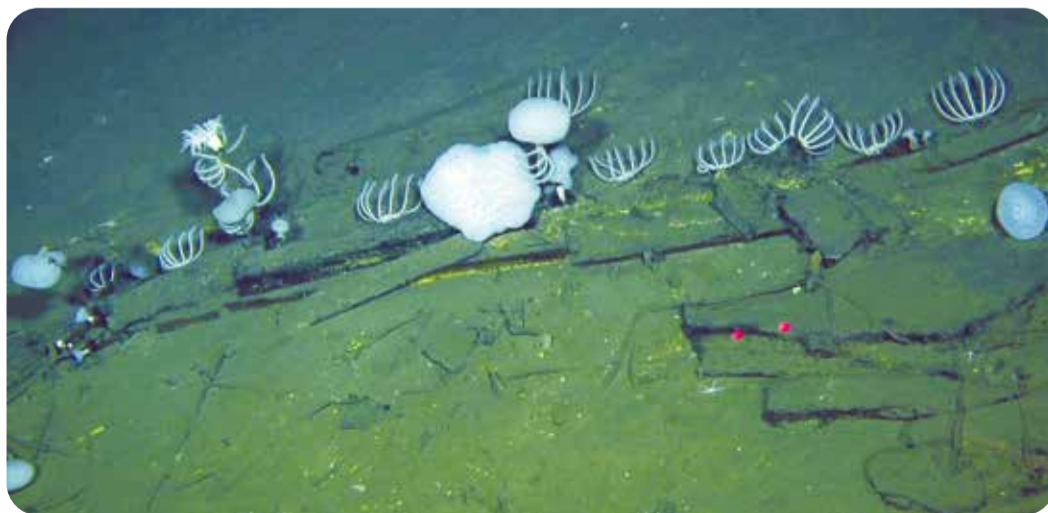
AFP | Paris, France

The world's largest whale graveyard has been discovered at the bottom of the Indian Ocean by Chinese scientists, who found that the vast expanse of both new and ancient carcasses supports huge communities of deep-sea life.

It is also the deepest and oldest known whale graveyard on Earth, according to research published in the journal Nature on Wednesday, with some fossils dating back 5.3 million years.

From inside a small submersible, the Chinese researchers saw many strange animals -- many believed to be new to science -- living off the whale carcasses.

A new, though extinct, species of whale was also identified among the nearly 500 skeletons found up to 7,000 metres deep along a 1,200 kilometre corridor



Whale bones at the world's biggest known whale graveyard discovered by the Chinese submersible Fendouzhe.

of bones in the Indian Ocean west of Australia.

Lead study author Xiaotong Peng of the Chinese Academy of Sciences told AFP that the researchers were "astonished" when the scale of their discovery

became clear.

It was known that when whales die and drop to the seafloor, their sunken bodies -- called "whale falls" -- provide a source of food to deep-sea creatures.

"But discovering a necropolis of this scale was completely unexpected: the size of distribution, the depth and the age range were far beyond anything we had imagined," Xiaotong Peng said.

The whales were believed to have died in such numbers in this particular area because it is a popular foraging habitat -- and has a V-shaped trench that funnels carcasses to the seafloor.

'Truly incredible experience'

For the discovery, the Fendouzhe submersible carried out 32 dives in 2023 -- though what it found was only revealed in Nature on Wednesday.

The sub took up to three people on the dives, collecting the fossil samples using robotic arms.

Study co-author Peng Zhou said witnessing the whale graveyard "was a truly incredible experience".

"The vibrant ecosystems we saw offered a completely different perspective on this otherwise dark and cold ocean floor."

Among the animals they discovered living off the carcasses were jellyfish, brittle stars,

bone-boring worms and molluscs called bivalves.

Most of the 485 fossils the scientists catalogued were from different species of beaked whales.

Extrapolating from the number of bones they found, the scientists estimated there could be more than 10 million carcasses across the area, which is called the Diamantina Zone.

The soft tissue and lipids inside that many carcasses "translates to roughly 6.7 million tonnes of sequestered carbon," Xiaotong Peng said.

This provides an immense source of sustenance for animals, similar to how hydrothermal vents create their own ecosystems on the ocean floor.

Some of the animals seen by the scientists also live in hydrothermal vents and cold seeps, suggesting whale carcasses could help connect these deep-sea communities.

US sentences ex-Taliban commander to 42 years

New York, United States

A former Afghan Taliban commander charged by the United States with abducting a journalist and supporting fighters who killed American troops in 2008 was sentenced Tuesday to 42 years in prison.

Haji Najibullah, 50, was accused by US prosecutors of kidnapping an American journalist, identified as New York Times journalist David Rohde, and two Afghan civilians. He was also charged with the deaths of three US soldiers and an Afghan interpreter in an attack by forces under his command in June 2008.

Meta taps Reliance for first AI-enabled data centre in India

AFP | Mumbai, India

Facebook-parent Meta and Indian conglomerate Reliance Industries yesterday announced a deal to develop an AI-enabled data centre in the state of Gujarat, as the US tech giant scales its digital footprint globally.

The project, to be built in Jamnagar district, comes as technology giants race to expand computing capacity needed to support generative AI services in the world's fastest-growing major economy.

Reliance will develop a 168-megawatt data centre to be delivered within two years, while Meta will lease capacity

from the facility, the companies said in a joint statement.

The financial details of the agreement were not disclosed.

Meta chief Mark Zuckerberg said it was "proud" to partner with Reliance on its "first AI-enabled data centre in India".

"This world-class facility in Jamnagar will help us scale our AI infrastructure globally while deepening our long-term investment in India's economy," Zuckerberg said.

Reliance chairman Mukesh Ambani described the announcement as India's "first built-to-suit data centre for a global technology leader of Meta's scale".



Pope arrives at Barcelona's Sagrada Familia to bless new tower

AFP | Barcelona, Spain

Pope Leo XIV arrived yesterday at Barcelona's famed Sagrada Familia Basilica to bless its giant new tower and celebrate mass inside what is now the world's tallest

church.

The pontiff, who arrived in Barcelona from Madrid on Tuesday, was welcomed outside the basilica by King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia, among others, AFP journalists reported.

Leaders of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and UAE invited to G7: Macron

AFP | Paris, France

Leaders from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates will be invited to participate in a G7 session in France next week to discuss the Middle East war, the French president said

Wednesday.

Next Tuesday's summit session will focus on the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which has "a real impact on our economies" due in particular to soaring fuel prices, and on "negotiations on Iran", Emmanuel Macron said.

Lyft, Baidu to start testing robotaxis in London

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Chinese tech giant Baidu will start testing its autonomous vehicles in London "in the coming weeks", US ride-hailing platform Lyft, its partner on launching the capital's robotaxi service, told AFP Wednesday.

It comes after Wayve, a British startup specialised in artificial intelligence for self-driving vehicles, said Monday it was ready to launch its robotaxi service with Uber in London as early as this summer.

Lyft executive Jeremy Bird

told AFP that his company's "autonomous vehicles will be on the (London) streets soon, in the coming weeks" after already arriving.

"They need to get inspected and pass (tests)... and then they'll be out on the streets," Bird said, adding that the company hopes to launch commercial operations this year.

Self-driving taxis are already in operation in the United States and in China, but a commercial deployment in London would be a first for Europe.

Customers will have to wait a little longer for fully driverless taxi rides in the British capital, however, as Wayve plans to launch its vehicles with an operator behind the wheel.

The American giant Waymo, a subsidiary of Google parent Alphabet, hopes also to launch its driverless vehicles in London by the end of 2026 after mapping the capital for several months.

The world leader in driverless cars currently operates in eleven US cities, while Baidu's autonomous vehicle subsidiary -- Apollo Go -- operates in 27 Chinese cities and in Dubai.

Saudi's new national carrier gets off ground

● Riyadh Air, the country's second state-owned airline after Jeddah-based Saudia, is meant to help turn the Saudi capital into a global hub to rival Dubai

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia launched its second national carrier Riyadh Air after more than a year of delays yesterday.

A London-bound Boeing 787 Dreamliner in Riyadh Air's white and lavender livery took off at 2:30am (2330 GMT Tuesday), putting in motion a flagship project in Saudi Arabia's push to reduce its economic reliance on oil.

Riyadh Air, the country's second state-owned airline after Jeddah-based Saudia, is meant to help turn the Saudi capital into a global hub to rival Dubai, the world's busiest for international passengers.

"We want to bring glamour, we want to bring refinement, we want to bring grace back," Riyadh Air CEO Tony Douglas told AFP.

The launch, originally planned for 2025, was set back by delivery delays from Boeing, which has suffered a series of manufacturing and safety problems in recent years.



A Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft of Saudi airline Riyadh Air is pictured on the tarmac at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh



tribulations, you win some, you lose some, you make progress, you sometimes have setbacks, but you have made it, and this day we've made it," added the CEO.

Saturated market?

Saudi Arabia is building a major new airport in Riyadh with a planned capacity of 120 million passengers a year by 2030, compared to 53 million at the existing King Khalid International Airport.

Riyadh Air is owned by the \$900 billion Public Investment Fund, the main vehicle for de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's ambitious Vision 2030 economic reforms.

In a statement of intent, the airline ordered 132 Boeing 787 Dreamliners and last June signed for 25 Airbus A350-1000s, with an option for 50 more.

"Our ambition is to be able to connect to over 100 international

from Iran, which has fired thousands of drones and missiles at Gulf targets including airports, casting the wealthy region into sudden economic uncertainty.

But, for Douglas, ex-CEO of Abu Dhabi's Etihad airline, the inaugural flight is "the culmination of four years' worth of preparation".

"I think Riyadh, as a result of its geography, during this particular point in time, has been less affected" by the attacks, he said, seated in a Riyadh Air Dreamliner cabin at a pre-launch event.

"You have the trials and the

It also follows unprecedented attacks

132

The airline ordered 132 Boeing 787 Dreamliners and last June signed for 25 Airbus A350-1000s, with an option for 50 more

al cities over the next five years," Douglas said.

At a ceremony celebrating the first planes' delivery, PIF chief and Riyadh Air chairman Yasir Al-Rumayyan described "a historic moment for the nation" and said the company would create "200,000 direct and indirect jobs".

Saudi Arabia, which is hosting the 2030 World Expo and the 2034 football World Cup, and welcomes millions of pilgrims to Mecca each year, aims to triple its annual air traffic to 330 million passengers by 2030.

NASA head defends Artemis 3 crew of all men

AFP | Washington, United States

NASA's administrator Jared Isaacman yesterday defended the makeup of the space agency's latest Artemis crew, an all-male group.

The nominations have earned criticism that NASA may have



acted in accordance with President Donald Trump's direction to eliminate diversity and inclusion efforts.

Isaacman insisted in a lengthy social media post that the "crew selection does not involve any political appointees."

"The Astronaut Office assigns the crew that gives the mission the best chance of meeting its objectives, taking into ac-

NASA's administrator Jared Isaacman

count many factors, including the background and expertise of the astronauts, such as test pilot experience, development work on specific programs, and availability."

The third phase of Artemis will involve testing the Orion spacecraft and conducting rendezvous and docking tests with lunar landers. It will not include a Moon voyage.

NASA had previously committed to put both a woman and a person of color on the lunar surface.

Last year, however, NASA

removed language regarding that commitment and diversity more broadly from some of its web pages, as Trump directed federal agencies to eliminate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs and references.

That doesn't necessarily mean NASA's pledge has been scrapped, but it's no longer explicit. Isaacman said "those raising this concern may not be aware of the pipeline of crews," including those "undergoing lunar-specific training that would be a better fit for a future surface mission."

Three missing, 21 rescued from vessel attacked off Oman: India

AFP | New Delhi, India

Three Indian crew members are missing and 21 others were rescued after an attack yesterday on a commercial vessel off the coast of Oman, India's foreign ministry said.

"We condemn the attack on the commercial vessel Settebello off the coast of Oman," the ministry said in a statement, adding that the Indian embassy "is closely monitoring the situation and proactively coordinating with the Omani authorities in the ongoing search and res-



cue operation".

British maritime security company Vanguard Tech ear-

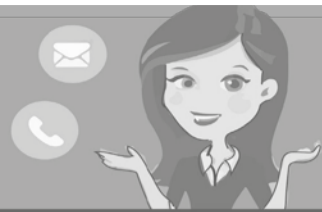
lier said that the Palau-flagged tanker Settebello had "transmitted a distress call stating that its

engine room had been struck by a missile", reporting a fire on board and at least one casualty.



The first commercial robotaxi services began operating in the United States and China, allowing passengers to travel without a human driver behind the wheel.

Classifieds



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region

Middle East Escalation Sparks Global Alarm

UN chief urges renewed diplomacy across all conflict zones



The Middle East is sliding deeper into crisis, with escalating violence and political tensions raising fears of a broader regional conflict with global consequences. Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres warned that recent developments across multiple flashpoints—including Lebanon, Gaza, the occupied West Bank, and the Gulf—signal a dangerous deterioration that could trigger a renewed and wider conflict if unchecked. He stressed that the impacts of escalation are no longer confined to the region, noting that instability is already being felt through rising displacement, disrupted trade routes, increased food and fuel prices, and growing pressure on vulnerable economies worldwide.

Lebanon conflict intensifies

The situation in Lebanon has sharply worsened since March, with intensified exchanges of fire between Israeli forces and Hizbullah, leading to civilian casualties and widespread destruction of infrastructure in the south. According to the statement, more than a million civilians have been displaced, while seven UN peacekeepers have been killed, including one in recent days. The official warned that continued escalation risks further destabilization along the Blue Line.

He called for an immediate diplomatic settlement in line with international agreements, including full respect for Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as outlined in UN frameworks such as Security Council Resolution 1701.

Gaza and West Bank crisis

Turning to the occupied Palestinian territories, the official highlighted worsening conditions in Palestine, particularly in Gaza, where civilians continue to face severe humanitarian hardship despite a ceasefire framework announced months ago. He warned of rising violence, restricted humanitarian access, and worsening shortages of basic necessities including food, water, shelter, and healthcare. The situation, he added, is further complicated by reports of expanded military control and ongoing instability. In the occupied West Bank, he cited daily settler violence, home demolitions, land confiscation, and settlement expansion, warning that such developments threaten the viability of a future two-state solution.

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Gulf tensions and global impact

The statement also highlighted growing instability in the Gulf region, where maritime tensions—particularly around the Strait of Hormuz—are disrupting global trade and energy supplies. These disruptions, he noted, are driving up energy costs, increasing inflation, and worsening food insecurity in fragile states. Even in the best-case scenario, he warned, the economic consequences will persist for months, with developing countries bearing the heaviest burden. He called for full respect of navigational freedoms and renewed efforts toward a comprehensive ceasefire, alongside serious negotiations to ensure Iran's nuclear programme remains peaceful.

Yemen, Syria, and regional

In Yemen, he welcomed recent UN-facilitated mediation that led to the release of 1,600 detainees under the Stockholm Agreement framework, describing it as a significant humanitarian breakthrough. However, he warned that threats to maritime navigation in the Bab al-Mandeb Strait and continued arbitrary detentions of UN personnel remain serious concerns. In Syria, he cautioned that ongoing regional instability could undermine fragile progress after years of conflict, stressing the importance of protecting sovereignty and supporting reconstruction efforts. He also acknowledged diplomatic mediation efforts in various regional conflicts, including contributions from countries such as Pakistan, Egypt, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye.



- Lebanon fighting intensifies, causing civilian displacement
- Gaza's humanitarian crisis deepens
- West Bank violence and settlement expansion raise alarm
- Gulf maritime tensions disrupt global trade

diplomacy

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Andres Iniesta launches academy in Dubai



Manama

Spain and FC Barcelona midfielder genius Andres Iniesta has tied up with local partner Abdulrahman Almeqbali in cooperation with the Dubai Sports Council (DSC) to launch his ambitious Iniesta Academy in the UAE. This was announced at a press conference held at the Marriott Hotel Al Jaddaf, Dubai.

The press conference was attended by H.E. Saeed Hareb, Secretary General of the Dubai Sports Council, along with a number of distinguished personalities and sports stars.

For the Spanish midfield wizard, this could be among the smoothest of transitions from an active playing career in football into coaching with the starting of this academy bearing his name.

Iniesta has already committed himself to set to commence his next chapter in football – this time as Head Coach of Dubai-based UAE First Division team, Gulf United FC. Having

obtained his 'A' Licence, the World Cup winner and Champions League-decorated midfielder will continue to progress towards his Pro Licence.

The highly-talented Iniesta officially retired from professional football after a glittering 22-year career, on October 8, 2024, concluding his playing days in the UAE Pro League with Emirates Club. He symbolically chose October 8 to make the announcement, as a fitting tribute to his iconic No. 8 jersey.

Widely regarded as one of the greatest midfielders of all time, Iniesta was lauded for his balance, ball control and agility in close spaces, combined with his skill, composure and flair on the ball. Iniesta can in football into coaching with the starting of this academy bearing his name.

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'I'll be at next World Cup' in 2030: Somali referee barred from US

AFP | Mogadishu

Somali referee Omar Artan, who was denied entry to the United States for the World Cup, returned to a hero's welcome in Mogadishu and vowed to take part in the next tournament in 2030.

More than 100 supporters lined up outside the VIP section of Mogadishu's main airport, waving national flags as Artan disembarked from a Turkish Airlines flight to cheers.

"I will be at the next World Cup and will continue to make Somalia proud... Despite what has happened to me, I am not discouraged," Artan told journalists.

Artan's rejection has sparked outrage at home.

"They wronged him in a way that hurts everybody that is



Somalian referee Omar Artan in action

concerned about humanity," Mohamed Said, a Mogadishu government official, said at the airport.

Artan, who in 2025 was named men's referee of the year by the Confederation of African Football (CAF), was barred from

entering the US on Saturday after arriving at Miami International Airport.

A US State Department official told AFP late Tuesday that the referee was "associated with suspected members of terrorist organizations", therefore "making the traveler ineligible for admission to the United States".

FIFA also confirmed that he would no longer be part of the World Cup set to start on Thursday.

Artan's appointment to the 52-strong roster of referees for the finals in Canada, Mexico and the United States had been a huge source of pride for his compatriots.

Somalia's president Hassan Sheikh Mohamud said in April he was "a symbol of inspiration for the new generation of Somalis".

Gascoigne urges England to replicate 1990 spirit at World Cup

AFP | London

Paul Gascoigne said yesterday he hopes England can reproduce the same "unbelievable" team spirit as the squad at the 1990 World Cup during their quest for glory at this year's tournament.

The former midfielder was a key member of Bobby Robson's team which reached the semi-finals in Italy before losing on penalties to eventual champions West Germany.

England have won the World Cup just once, on home soil 60

years ago, and the only time they have reached the semi-finals since 1990 was when Gareth Southgate's side made it through to the last four in 2018.

"You want 11 captains on the pitch and when you are playing in a game like that, at a World Cup, you cannot afford to carry anyone," Gascoigne told ITV.

"Everyone has to be on the ball and the team spirit is important.

"The players that didn't play, they were right behind the team, so our team spirit was unbelievable.



Paul Gascoigne

"The most important thing is team spirit because that goes a long way."

Thomas Tuchel's men face Costa Rica in their final friendly yesterday before a Group L opener against Croatia in Dallas on June 17.

When asked what he would say to the current squad, the 59-year-old Gascoigne added: "Enjoy it. Because you just never know it could be your last World Cup."

Gascoigne famously burst into tears after being booked in the 1990 semi-final meaning he would have been suspended from the final had England qualified.

Nicholas Hwende's next move: five possible paths for BRAVE CF'S two-division king

TDT | Manama

Nearly two weeks ago, Nicholas "The Saint" Hwende authored another defining chapter into BRAVE Combat Federation history.

At BRAVE CF 105 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, last May 31, the Zimbabwean standout submitted interim titleholder Omar "Cobra" Solomanov in the fifth round to become the undisputed BRAVE CF Featherweight World Champion.

With that triumph, Hwende joined an exclusive class of athletes who have captured World Titles in two different divisions under the promotion's banner.

For many athletes, such an achievement would represent the peak of their career. But for Hwende, it appears to signal the beginning of an even more ambitious stretch.

The former bantamweight ruler has looked revitalized since his move to featherweight, consistently highlighting the advantages of competing without the punishing weight cuts that once defined his earlier run.

Now fully settled at 145 pounds, "The Saint" stands at a crossroads filled with opportunity.

From legacy-defining defenses and renewed rivalries to su-

per-fights and even a bold leap into uncharted territory, the possibilities are vast.

As BRAVE CF 105 fades into history, attention turns toward what comes next for one of Africa's most accomplished mixed martial artists.

Rauan Bekbolat

Rauan "Shmyr" Bekbolat has quietly built one of the strongest cases for a World Title opportunity in the featherweight division.

The No. 2-ranked bantamweight contender entered BRAVE CF 105 with a point to prove, and he did emphatically by submitting Sardor "Tiger" Khudoyberdiyev with a first-round triangle choke in front of his home supporters.

The timing was impossible to ignore. Moments after Nicholas Hwende's coronation, the two men met inside the BRAVE CF cage, instantly fueling speculation about a collision course for the divisional crown.

Omar Solomanov

Rivalries rarely conclude with a single encounter, and the story between Nicholas Hwende and Omar Solomanov already carries the weight of unfinished business.



Solomanov came to BRAVE CF 105 as the BRAVE CF Interim Featherweight World Champion, having previously defeated Rauan Bekbolat at BRAVE CF 98 in September 2025 to earn the right to vie for undisputed supremacy.

The Ukrainian brought momentum, confidence, and a growing reputation as one of the division's most complete fighters. However, Hwende crashed the party and claimed the intricately crafted hardware.

Despite the setback, Solomanov's standing in the weight class ensures he remains a con-

stant presence near the top.

Another strong performance from him could easily reopen the door to a sequel, especially in a division where elite challengers are never far from contention.

Nemat Abdrashitov

Few potential matchups carry as much intrigue as a showdown between Nicholas Hwende and former BRAVE CF Featherweight World Champion Nemat "Eagle" Abdrashitov.

The Kyrgyz dynamo captured the coveted strap at BRAVE CF 72 in June 2023 and established himself as one of the division's

most influential figures.

Although he no longer occupies the throne, Abdrashitov never lost it inside the cage, a detail that continues to shape how his legacy is viewed.

Hwende now sits atop the division, but a clash with the last reigning champion would offer clarity to a lingering debate about lineage and supremacy.

Borislav Nikolic

Every championship journey carries a defining setback, and for Nicholas Hwende, that moment came against Borislav "Zombie" Nikolic.

At BRAVE CF 96 in June 2025, the Serbian shocked the world by submitting Hwende with a fourth-round ninja choke to claim the BRAVE CF Bantamweight World Championship.

The defeat ended Hwende's reign at 135 pounds and remains one of the most significant victories of Nikolic's career.

Since then, Hwende has rebuilt himself into a two-division World Champion, while Nikolic continues his own run as the bantamweight king.

The history between them remains unresolved, with their initial duel still standing as a pivotal turning point in Hwende's evolution.

Lightweight

Perhaps the most ambitious path available to Nicholas Hwende lies one division above.

Immediately after capturing undisputed featherweight gold, the Zimbabwean hinted at the possibility of moving to lightweight, a suggestion that quickly captured attention across the BRAVE CF landscape.

While it may have been delivered with a hint of humor, the idea carries serious historical implications.

Hwende has already become only the second fighter in BRAVE CF history to win World Titles in two separate weight classes.

A successful move to 155 pounds would place him on the brink of an unprecedented achievement – the possibility of becoming the first three-division BRAVE CF World Champion.

The lightweight division presents a daunting challenge, led by divisional king Abdissalam "Omok" Kubanychbek and interim titlist Rauli Tutarauli, alongside a deep roster that includes Ramazan Gitinov and Owais Yaqoobi.

Yet that level of difficulty may be precisely what attracts a fighter whose career has been defined by constant elevation beyond expectations.



Hasan Al Samahji celebrates during Al Najma's win over Sharjah

Najma find their spark in the Asian Championship

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's Al Najma produced a much-needed response at the 28th Asian Men's Club League Championship, defeating the UAE's Sharjah Sports Club 32-27 in Kuwait last night to record their first win of the tournament.

After back-to-back defeats, Najma entered the clash under pressure but responded with an energetic performance that lifted them off the bottom of the standings and back

into contention for a semi-final place.

They started brightly, with Mohamed Ahmed opening the scoring, while Sayed Ali Al Shubbar and Jasim Khamis helped the Bahrainis settle into an early attacking rhythm. The Emiratis, though, never let them get away, with Gamal Mahmud repeatedly finding space and punishing gaps in the defence.

Najma edged a high-tempo first half 15-12, pulling clear late in the period thanks to important strikes from Mahdi Habib and Mohamed Ahmed to take a three-goal lead into the break.

The second half followed a similar pattern, with Sharjah briefly

threatening to overturn the deficit after capitalising on turnovers and defensive lapses. The UAE side cut the margin to a single goal midway through the half, with Mahmud continuing to lead the charge en route to a match-high 10 goals.

But unlike previous outings, Najma found answers at key moments. Uros Mitrovic and Jassim Khamis helped steady the response, with Mitrovic efficient on five from six attempts, while Khamis added six goals.

When Sharjah threatened again, Najma showed greater composure in the closing stages. Mohamed Ahmed and Al Shubbar stepped up with crucial late goals, and coach

Abdulrahman Mohamed saw his side close out the game effectively to secure their first win under his leadership.

It was also a more rounded attacking performance, with contributions coming from multiple players rather than relying on isolated scoring bursts — a key factor in maintaining their tempo across the full 60 minutes.

The win moves Najma onto two points from three matches, placing them fifth in the standings, just behind Qatar's Al Duhail, who sit fourth on three points and currently hold the final qualification spot.

At the top of the table, Saudi Arabia's Al Khaleej lead the way with

seven points, followed by Kuwait's Burgan Club and Kuwait Sporting Club, who are level on five points apiece. Qatar's Al Arabi sit sixth with two points, while the UAE's Sharjah Sports Club remain bottom without a win after three matches.

Najma now face a packed schedule as the preliminary stage moves into its final stretch. They take on Qatar's Al Arabi at 4pm today, meet Kuwait's Burgan Club tomorrow at the same time, before closing against Saudi Arabia's Al Khaleej on Sunday night at 8pm.

The semi-finals are on Monday, and the Bahrainis will look to finish in the top four as they continue their bid for a third Asian title.

Exclusive

Al Shaikh backs Bahrain to handle pressure of title defence

Hussain Almaskati
TDI | Manama

Bahrain midfielder Jassim Al Shaikh believes the national team's experience will be key as the reigning Gulf Cup champions prepare for a demanding period that includes their title defence and the AFC Asian Cup 2027.

Speaking to *The Daily Tribune*, Al Shaikh said Bahrain's squad has the maturity to handle expectations following their recent success in regional football.

The 27th Arabian Gulf Cup (Khaleeji 27) will be hosted in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from September 23 to October 6. Bahrain enter the tournament as defending champions, having lifted the trophy in January 2025. That triumph marked their second Gulf Cup title, following their maiden victory in 2019.

The national team will then turn its attention to the AFC Asian Cup, scheduled for January 7 to February 5, 2027. The 19th edition will feature 24 teams across three host cities: Riyadh, Jeddah, and Al Khobar.

Despite being drawn in a challenging Gulf Cup group alongside Qatar, the UAE and Yemen, Al Shaikh insisted that the nature of regional football makes predictions difficult.

"In the Gulf Cup, it doesn't really matter which group you're in," he said. "The matches are always tight because they are derbies. There is very little difference between the teams."

Bahrain enter the competition with raised expectations after defeating Oman 2-1 in the previous final, but Al Shaikh believes their experience will help them manage pressure.

"We are under pressure as defending champions, but we



Jassim Al Shaikh celebrates Bahrain's Gulf Cup victory at the start of the year

have an experienced group," he said. "Many players have featured in four, five, or more Gulf Cups, and that experience will be important."

He also pointed to the timing and conditions of the tournament as additional challenges.

"The competition comes early in the season, and the weather will still be humid. We need to arrive fully prepared physically and mentally," he added.

Looking ahead to the Asian Cup, Bahrain have been drawn in Group B alongside North Korea, Jordan and Uzbekistan. Al Shaikh believes the team can target a strong run if they start well.

"The group is challenging but manageable," he said. "If we be-



Jassim Al Shaikh recently lifted the Khalid bin Hamad Cup with club side Riffa

gin strongly, we believe we can progress."

He noted Bahrain's familiarity with some opponents but acknowledged Uzbekistan as a tougher tactical challenge.

"We've played North Korea

and Jordan several times and understand them well. Uzbekistan is less familiar, but we will have time to prepare."

Bahrain's best Asian Cup finish came in 2004, when they reached the semi-finals. Al Shaikh said the current squad should aim to match or improve on that achievement.

"Our goal is to equal or surpass that performance," he said. "First we must get out of the group stage, then take it step by step."

For Al Shaikh, the message remains simple as Bahrain prepare for two major tournaments.

"It's tournament football, and anything can happen. We need to stay focused, work hard and believe in ourselves."

Bahrain Set For Handball World Championship



Captain Hussain Al-Sayyad lifts Bahrain's maiden Asian title

Hussain Almaskati
TDI | Manama

The draw for the 30th IHF Men's World Championship preliminary round was conducted yesterday in Munich, confirming Bahrain's group-stage opponents for Germany 2027 as all 32 nations discovered their tournament pathways.

The championship will be staged from 13 to 31 January 2027 across six cities — Cologne, Munich, Kiel, Hanover, Magdeburg and Stuttgart — under the slogan "Where handball is alive."

Asian champions Bahrain have been placed in Group H alongside Iceland, North Macedonia and Japan, setting up a challenging but significant test on their World Championship return.

Bahrain's qualification marks a historic breakthrough following their first-ever Asian Men's Handball Championship title earlier this year, where they defeated Qatar 29-26 in an overtime final in Kuwait. Since then, the team has continued its upward trajectory regionally, also securing gold in the men's handball tournament at the 2026 GCC Games in May.

This will be Bahrain's eighth appearance at the World

Championship, with their best finish coming in 2023 when they placed 16th in the tournament co-hosted by Poland and Sweden.

Elsewhere in the draw, Group A features hosts Germany, who will open the tournament in Munich against Tunisia, Serbia and Uruguay.

Group B sees African champions Egypt drawn with Italy, Cape Verde and Saudi Arabia.

Group C brings together last year's runner-up Croatia with Spain, Chile and debutants Türkiye.

Group D delivers a marquee South American clash between Argentina and Brazil, alongside France and Kuwait.

Group E features a Scandinavian derby with Sweden, Norway, Greece and Qatar.

Group F includes Portugal, Poland, Algeria and the Faroe Islands.

Group G sees defending champions Denmark alongside Slovenia, the United States and Angola, completing a balanced preliminary-round field.

The championship will culminate with the final at Cologne's Lanxess Arena on 31 January. Quarter-finals will be played on 26-27 January, followed by the semi-finals on 29 January and the medal matches on the closing day.

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