

**Spain Edge Belgium, Face France**

Super sub Mikel Merino broke Belgian hearts and sent Spain through to a World Cup semi-final against France with a late goal in a gripping 2-1 win on Friday. | P12

**WORLD 6 Syria says IS behind Damascus blasts, finds explosives cache**

# THE DAILY tribune

**Mbappe strikes again as France beat Morocco to reach World Cup semi-finals**

**BUSINESS 5 Thai crew of ship struck in Gulf sues operators**

**HM King, HRH Crown Prince congratulate Mongolia on National Day**

TDT | Manama



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa sent a cable of congratulations to Mongolian President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh on the occasion of his country's National Day.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, also sent a congratulatory cable to President Khurelsukh on the occasion of Mongolia's National Day (Naadam Day).

**Ebola risks worsening in DR Congo: UN**

AFP | Kinshasa, DR Congo

A deadly Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo risks exacerbating the already dire humanitarian situation in the troubled region, Unicef's east Africa director warned yesterday.

Eastern DRC is the epicentre of an outbreak of the haemorrhagic fever that has infected 1,792 people and killed 625 since it was detected in May, according to the latest figures from Congolese health authorities.

**Gaza hospital chief 'lawfully detained', not dying**

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

Israel said yesterday that the detention of a Gaza hospital director, who has been held since December 2024, was "lawful", and rejected reports that he suffered a life-threatening condition. Hussam Abu Safiyya "is lawfully detained by Israel based on concrete intelligence", Israel's diplomatic mission in Geneva said.

"At no stage of his detention has he exhibited any indication of a life-threatening condition."

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## Fresh Iran assassination threat against Trump

AFP | Washington, United States

Israel shared intelligence with the United States this week about a new and "specific" plan by Iran to assassinate President Donald Trump, US media reported Thursday.

Washington has monitored "a steady drumbeat" of intelligence about possible plans

to assassinate Trump, "but the warning from Israel was new and concerned a specific plot," CNN reported, citing unnamed sources familiar with the matter.

The Wall Street Journal, also citing unidentified sources, said the intelligence described a "fresh" plot.

"They want to take out the US leader — me. I'm on whatever

list. I saw this morning I'm on every single one of their lists," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One as he flew home from a NATO summit.

Trump used his old Air Force One plane to leave Turkey, where the summit took place, sending his new Qatari-gifted jet on ahead to Britain, where he switched planes for the journey to Washington.

The switch from the new jet on its maiden foreign trip sparked speculation it was because its security features were lacking -- particularly as the US launched fresh strikes against Iran, which borders Turkey.

The New York Times reported late Wednesday that the switch was made at the request of the US Secret Service "as a security precaution."

# Talks on, but ceasefire off

### Trump's latest message to Iran

AFP | Washington, United States

President Donald Trump said Friday the United States has agreed to continue negotiations with Iran but reiterated that the ceasefire between the two countries is finished.

"Iran has asked us to continue 'talks.' We have agreed to do so, but the United States has stated to them, in no uncertain terms, that the Cease Fire is OVER!" Trump posted on his Truth Social platform.

Trump said in Ankara earlier this week that the April 8 ceasefire -- which ended weeks of all-out war but has been marred by repeated lower-intensity conflict -- was done.

The US president also said at the time that he would speak to

**“The Islamic Republic of Iran has asked us to continue ‘talks.’ We have agreed to do so, but the United States has stated to them, in no uncertain terms, that the Cease Fire is OVER!”**

TRUMP

businessman-turned-negotiator Steve Witkoff and his son-in-law Jared Kushner, who have been dealing with the Iranians, but insisted it was up to Tehran to return to the table.

The two sides have exchanged

fire on several occasions this week, with Tehran targeting commercial ships, Washington carrying out strikes in response and Iran attacking US assets in Middle Eastern countries with drones and missiles.

Iranian media reported that a delegation from mediator Qatar was in Tehran on Friday after the warring sides exchanged strikes again this week.

Qatar, Egypt

Meanwhile, Egyptian and Qatari foreign ministers yesterday called on the United States and Iran to resume negotiations.

During a phone call, Egypt's Badr Abdelatty and Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani "urged all parties to give priority to the language of diplomacy and dialogue

and to return to the negotiating table", Egypt's foreign ministry said in a statement.



### Mid-air horror

## Man nearly sucked out of 'detached' window on Ryanair flight

AFP | Thessaloniki, Greece

A man was nearly sucked out the window of a Ryanair flight when it "detached" mid-air en route to Germany, with other passengers pulling him back inside, witnesses and officials said yesterday.

The passenger, described as a tourist from Serbia on a flight from Thessaloniki in Greece to Memmingen in Germany, has been hospitalised with friction burns but was otherwise in good condition, authorities said.

"Most of us had fallen asleep, we had closed our eyes. There was a noise, like a tyre bursting," a fellow passenger told Radio Thessaloniki.

"We immediately realised there had been a decompres-



Picture for representation only

sion. There were screams ... for a moment I thought someone had accidentally opened the emergency door," the woman said.

"The masks dropped and there was a strong smell. The head and shoulders of one passenger were outside the win-

dow. Fortunately, he hadn't taken off his seat belt."

Other passengers near the man helped to pull him in, she said. Greek media reported the incident had occurred over North Macedonia, and said the window had been broken by a piece of debris that detached from one of the plane's engines.

Ryanair in a statement said the flight "returned to Thessaloniki shortly after takeoff when a passenger window detached during the flight. The aircraft landed normally and the passengers returned to the terminal."

A replacement aircraft was made available to transport the remaining passengers to Memmingen, the Irish carrier said.

**Private pharmacies hit record 456**



TDT | Manama

Bahrain's private pharmacy sector has reached its highest level on record, with the number of pharmacies climbing to 456 in 2024, according to the latest figures released by the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA).

The total has more than doubled over the past decade, rising from 195 pharmacies in 2015 to 456 in 2024—an increase of 261 pharmacies, or about 134%.

The figures show steady expansion across most of the period. Pharmacy numbers rose from 195 in 2015 to 213 in 2016 before increasing to 264 in 2017. A marginal dip to 263 was recorded in 2018, but growth resumed the following year, with the total reaching 315 in 2019, 331 in 2020 and 396 in 2021.

The largest annual increase came in 2021, when 65 new pharmacies opened compared with the previous year. Other notable increases were recorded in 2019, with 52 new pharmacies, and 2017, when the sector expanded by 51 outlets.

Growth continued in 2024, with the number of private pharmacies increasing from 415 in 2023 to 456, adding 41 new pharmacies in a single year—an annual rise of nearly 10%.

**Seven Riders Represent Bahrain**



Seven riders from Bahrain's Royal Endurance Team are set to compete in the Striegistal International Endurance Ride in Germany after all of the team's horses successfully passed the mandatory veterinary inspection ahead of today's competition.

The team will be represented by Jaber Bader Jaafar, Abdulrahman Khalid Al Khateri, Mayouf Abdulaziz Al Rumaithi, and Khalifa Jamal in the 160km race. Competing in the 125km event will be Saud Mubarak Sabt, Sultan Abdulaziz Al Rumaithi, and Yousif Mohammed Al Saadoun.

# Bahrain bets big on AI future

Transportation Minister participates in WSIS+20, AI for Good Global Summit

TDT | Geneva

Bahrain is positioning itself as a regional leader in artificial intelligence by investing in digital infrastructure, telecom networks and innovation-friendly policies, Transportation and Telecommunications Minister Dr Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa said.

Speaking at the AI for Good Global Summit in Switzerland, he said the Kingdom's progress



has been built on a clear vision, strong partnerships and continued investment in advanced digital infrastructure, enabling AI adoption across key sectors.

Dr Shaikh Abdulla said close cooperation between government agencies, regulators, telecom operators and the private sector has been central to Bahrain's digital transformation and AI growth.

He stressed that governments,

technology companies and telecom providers must work together to strengthen digital trust, create flexible regulations and invest in digital skills to build an inclusive and sustainable AI ecosystem.

The minister was participating in the WSIS+20 High-Level Event and the AI for Good Global Summit, where global leaders discussed the future of digital transformation and artificial intelligence.

## UN adopts Bahrain-backed digital arbitration reforms

TDT | Manama

A proposal put forward by Bahrain has helped shape new United Nations recommendations that will make it easier to recognise and enforce electronic arbitration awards around the world.

The recommendations, unanimously adopted this week by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) during its 59th commission session in New York, amend the UN Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration to recognise arbitration awards and related notices issued in electronic form.



The changes stem from an initial proposal submitted by the Council for International Dispute Resolution of the Kingdom of Bahrain in late 2024, followed by a joint proposal with Switzerland and Mexico in 2025.

The new reforms are intended to provide greater legal certainty for businesses and governments using international arbitration in an increasingly digital environment, regardless of whether awards and notices are issued electronically or on

paper.

They also strengthen the implementation of the New York Convention by ensuring its protections remain effective as cross-border commercial disputes increasingly move to digital platforms.

## US move to remove Syria from terror list welcomed

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has welcomed the United States' decision to begin removing Syria from its list of State Sponsors of Terrorism, describing it as a significant step towards the country's reconstruction and economic recovery.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the move, announced by US President Donald Trump, would help attract foreign investment and international assistance while facilitating Syria's reintegration into the global financial and economic systems.

The ministry said Bahrain appreciated President

Trump's efforts to support Syria, including initiatives to lift economic sanctions and promote security, peace and sustainable development across the region.

It also reaffirmed the Kingdom's longstanding support for Syria's security, stability, unity and territorial integrity, expressing hope that the move would help fulfil the aspirations of the Syrian people for lasting peace, stability and prosperity.

The ministry added that Bahrain looks forward to Syria resuming its active role within the Arab region and the wider international community.



## 136 top private school students honoured



TDT | Manama

A total of 136 private school students who scored 99% and above in Bahrain's national examinations were honoured by Education Minister Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma during a special reception at the Ministry of Education headquarters in

Isa Town.

Congratulating the high achievers on their outstanding academic performance, Dr Juma wished them continued success as they prepare to pursue higher education.

The minister also met with the students to discuss lessons learned from the current

and previous academic years, highlighting the ministry's ongoing efforts to further strengthen Bahrain's education system.

Students were invited to share their views and suggestions on improving the learning experience, while ministry officials presented an overview of the

forthcoming scholarship programme.

The sessions outlined the main criteria for scholarship allocation and included discussions on students' preferred fields of study and future academic specialisations as they prepare for the next stage of their education.

## UoB builds on global ranking success with expansion plans



TDT | Manama

Fresh from securing international recognition in the 2026 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, the University of Bahrain is pressing ahead with plans to expand its academic offerings, strengthen global partnerships and enhance research.

The university's Board of Trustees, chaired by Education Minister Dr Mohammed

bin Mubarak Juma, reviewed a proposal to establish a College of Design during its third meeting of 2026 and discussed measures to further improve the university's standing in international rankings.

The board also examined progress on construction projects and reviewed agreements and memoranda of understanding signed with local, regional and international institutions during the second quarter of 2026.

## Global population growth slows as Bahrain's demographics shift

Neethu V  
TDT | Manama

The world's population continues to grow, but at its slowest pace in decades, with falling birth rates and longer life expectancy reshaping societies across the globe, according to the United Nations.

Marking World Population Day on July 11, the UN's World Population Prospects 2024 report estimates the global population at about 8.3 billion in 2026. It is projected to reach



9.7 billion by 2050 before peak-

ing at around 10.3 billion in the mid-2080s.

The report says declining fertility rates are driving one of the biggest demographic shifts in modern history. Global fertility has fallen to about 2.2 children per woman, down from around five in the 1950s, while more than half of all countries and territories now record fertility rates below the replacement level of 2.1 children per woman. Rising life expectancy, now averaging about 73 years, and increasing urbanisation are also transform-

ing population patterns.

India remains the world's most populous country with an estimated 1.46 billion people, followed by China with about 1.41 billion. Vatican City remains the world's least populous sovereign state, with around 800 residents.

### Bahrain mirrors global trend

Bahrain is experiencing many of the same demographic changes.

World Bank data show the Kingdom's crude birth rate fell from 15.4 births per 1,000 people

in 2015 to about 12 per 1,000 in 2024, a decline of more than 20% over the past decade.

At the same time, Bahrain's population continues to grow through migration. According to the Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA), the Kingdom's population reached 1,603,260 in June 2025, with non-Bahrainis accounting for 53.5% of the total.

Experts attribute declining birth rates to later marriages, smaller families, greater participation of women in higher education and the workforce,

and rising living costs. As demographic patterns evolve, long-term planning for health-care, education, housing and the labour market is becoming increasingly important.

Observed annually since 1990, World Population Day highlights global population issues and the importance of informed reproductive choices. For Bahrain, it also reinforces the need for sustainable demographic planning in support of Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 and the Kingdom's long-term development goals.

# New parking meters praised, but workers seek longer hours

● All of the old parking meters in the Diplomatic Area have now been replaced with modern solar-powered units.

Rehab Mohammad  
TDT | Manama

Working in the Diplomatic Area?

Then there is one improvement many office workers would like to see.

Employees are urging the Ministry of Works to introduce an eight-hour parking payment option for the newly installed parking meters in the Diplomatic Area, saying it would better match a standard working day and make parking more convenient.

At present, motorists can pay for a maximum of two hours at



a time. For employees working regular eight-hour shifts, that means returning to the parking meter every two hours to renew their ticket if they wish to avoid a fine.

Workers say extending the payment period to eight hours would make it easier to comply with parking regulations without having to repeatedly leave their offices during meetings, deadlines or busy work schedules.

The request comes weeks after the Ministry of Works introduced 42 new solar-powered parking meters in the Diplomatic Area, replacing older machines as part of a wider effort to modernise parking management.



The ministry says the project is designed to improve traffic flow, regulate the use of the area's 546 parking spaces and offer motorists more convenient payment options through credit cards, Apple Pay and cash.

Employees say they welcome the upgraded technology and the easier payment methods but believe adding an eight-hour payment option would make the new system even more practical for those working full-time in the area.

They say such a change would reduce unnecessary trips to parking meters, help improve productivity and encourage greater compliance with park-

ing regulations by allowing motorists to pay for the duration of a normal working day.

They have called on the Ministry of Works to consider the proposal as a practical enhancement to an already modernised parking system.



Picture for representation only

## MPs seek to scrap gratuity for domestic workers

● The first proposal seeks to abolish the end-of-service payment for domestic workers, while the second wants to transfer the responsibility for paying gratuities from employers to LMRA.

● MP Al Sayegh wants the Private Sector Labour Law amended to end gratuity.

● Another proposal seeks to transfer gratuity payments for expatriate workers to the LMRA.

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Thousands of domestic workers in Bahrain could lose their end-of-service gratuity if Parliament approves one of two proposals aimed at reducing employers' financial burden.

The first proposal, currently before Parliament's Services Committee, seeks to abolish the end-

Maryam Al Sayegh, MP

Under the existing law, domestic workers receive half a month's salary for each of their first three years of service and a full month's salary for every year thereafter.

of-service payment for domestic workers, while a second proposal would transfer the responsibility for paying gratuities to expatriate workers from employers to the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA).

The proposal to remove the benefit for domestic workers was submitted by MP Maryam Al Sayegh, who wants the Private Sector Labour Law amended to end the gratuity currently paid when domestic employees complete their service.

Under the existing law, domestic workers receive half a month's salary for each of their first three years of service and a full month's salary for every year thereafter.

The amendment would affect domestic employees including gardeners, house guards, nannies, drivers and cooks employed by households.

Ms Al Sayegh said the proposal was intended to ease the fi-

financial pressure on Bahraini families, particularly those with limited incomes.

She noted that domestic workers now typically earn between BD120 and BD180 a month, with some earning even more, compared with less than BD100 in the past.

Families already pay recruitment costs that can exceed BD2,000, in addition to monthly salaries and end-of-service benefits, she said, arguing that the overall financial burden has become excessive.

She added that Bahrain's legislation should give priority to protecting Bahraini citizens, especially low-income families, while continuing to take foreign workers' interests into account. Giv-

Mohammed Al Marafi,  
MP

### BD2k

Families already pay recruitment costs that can exceed BD2,000

ing precedence to Bahrainis, she argued, should not be regarded as discrimination.

Meanwhile, a separate proposal by MP Mohammed Al Marafi would retain end-of-service benefits for expatriate workers but transfer the payment obligation from employers to the LMRA.

The proposal seeks to amend Article 116 of the 2012 Private Sector Labour Law to require the authority to settle gratuity payments owed to non-Bahraini employees. According to the explanatory memorandum, the move would reduce employers' financial obligations, help businesses retain capital and offset rising employment costs, including increased contributions to the Social Insurance Organisation.

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Many solar parking meters are connected wirelessly, allowing authorities to monitor faults, payment status and occupancy remotely without visiting each machine.

## Iran strike forces business closure, landlord waives BD25,000 in rent



Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

A Bahrain company forced to shut down for three months after its premises were damaged in an Iranian strike has secured a rent waiver worth more than BD25,000, following an out-of-court settlement with its landlord.

The agreement ended a dispute over rent payments after the attack left the business unable to operate from the damaged premises.

After negotiations, the landlord agreed to waive three months' rent, with both sides taking into account the extent of the damage, the loss of use of the property and the financial losses suffered during the closure.

Lawyer Rabab Mahdi, who handled the matter, said the impact of the Iranian attack extended far beyond physical damage to buildings, leaving some businesses unable to access their premises or continue normal operations.

She said such cases required a careful review of contractu-

al obligations in light of the circumstances and the losses incurred by each party.

According to Ms Mahdi, many commercial disputes arising from extraordinary events can be resolved without litigation when negotiations are based on the terms of the contract, supporting evidence and a realistic assessment of the financial impact.

She said reaching a settlement allows both parties to avoid lengthy court proceedings, legal costs and uncertainty while preserving their business relationship.

Lawyers, she added, now play an increasingly important role in helping businesses assess legal risks, resolve disputes and negotiate practical solutions that enable commercial relationships to continue despite regional crises.

Ms Mahdi described the settlement as an example of how negotiation can protect the rights of both landlords and tenants while recognising the exceptional circumstances created by the regional conflict.

# GFH emerges as **sole bidder** for Bahrain National Stadium

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Winning investor would secure naming rights, VIP catering



concessions and commercial leasing opportunities within the stadium.

Project aims to generate

new revenue through sponsorships, hospitality, restaurants, cafés and event hosting.

Proposal forms part of Bahrain's Economic Recovery Plan to attract private investment into government-owned assets. Bahrain's National Stadium could soon come under private management after GFH Financial Group emerged as the sole bidder with an offer of BD770,000 to develop, operate and

maintain the Kingdom's premier sports venue.

The bid, opened by the General Sports Authority through the Government Land Investment Platform, will now undergo technical and financial evaluation before a final decision is made.

The tender covers Bahrain National Stadium, the country's largest sporting arena, located within Isa Sports City in North Riffa. For decades, it has hosted major football matches, national competitions and international sporting events.

If awarded the contract, GFH would be responsible for developing and maintaining the stadium, managing

its day-to-day operations and paying annual fees set by the authority.

The investment package also grants commercial opportunities, including naming rights for selected parts of the stadium, exclusive catering rights for VIP areas and the ability to lease existing restaurants, cafés and other commercial facilities.

The General Sports Authority launched the tender in January under a competitive negotiation process aimed at attracting private-sector investment into one of Bahrain's most prominent public sports facilities.

The move is expected to unlock new revenue streams through sponsorships, hospitality, commercial naming rights, food and beverage outlets and event hosting, while ensuring

the stadium continues to serve as a venue for local and international sporting events.

## Economic Recovery Plan

The project forms part of Bahrain's Economic Recovery Plan, under which government-owned land and properties are being offered to private investors through the Government Land Investment Platform.

The platform has already been used to market projects across sectors including education, healthcare, retail, leisure, real estate and public services.

Opening the bid does not constitute an award. GFH's proposal must first satisfy all technical and financial requirements under Tender Board procedures before any contract is approved.



Bahrain National Stadium, opened in 1982, has hosted the Kingdom's biggest football matches and was renovated ahead of the 21st Arabian Gulf Cup in 2013

With a capacity of around 24,000 spectators, Bahrain National Stadium is the country's principal venue for international football and major national sporting events

The stadium is located within Isa Sports City in North Riffa, Bahrain's largest sports complex, which also includes indoor sports halls, football facilities and supporting infrastructure

In 2022, Bahrain National Stadium was transformed into an open-air venue for Pope Francis' historic Mass—the first papal Mass ever held in Bahrain



## Investment in people key to Bahrain's AI ambitions

TDT | Manama

Investment in people, supported by secure digital infrastructure, is central to Bahrain's transition to an artificial intelligence-driven economy, a senior government official has said.

Shaikh Ahmed bin Isa bin Duaij Al Khalifa, Assistant Undersecretary for Telecommunications at the Ministry of Transportation and Telecom-

munications, made the remarks during the WSIS+20 High-Level Event in Geneva, organised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) alongside the inaugural Global Dialogue on AI Governance.

He said the telecommunications sector provides the high-performance networks needed to support AI applications, innovation, cloud computing and digital services.

Shaikh Ahmed said Bahrain is

investing in AI and digital skills through partnerships with universities, the private sector and technology companies, with a focus on empowering young people and increasing women's participation in the technology sector.

He added that the Kingdom continues to strengthen its digital infrastructure to support wider AI adoption and keep pace with the rapidly evolving digital economy.



## From a Zinj home to a Gulf jewellery brand

Bahraini entrepreneur transforms a wedding project into a brand inspired by Gulf culture and lab-grown diamonds

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

A decade after designing her own wedding jewellery at her home in Zinj, Amna Al Hawaj has built Manjam Jewellery into a brand centred on Gulf-inspired design and lab-grown diamonds.

The Bahrain-based jewellery house creates diamond jewellery, natural gemstone pieces and designs inspired by Gulf forms, colours and symbols. Al Hawaj said her ideas are drawn from architecture, geometry, light and the visual language of the region.

'I always try to explore the meaning of culture and the limits of culture through my designs,' Al Hawaj told The Daily Tribune. 'I speak about modern Gulf culture through my work.'

One design, she said, is based on the 'serpent of eternity'. It draws on the saw-scaled viper found in the Arabian Peninsula and refers to the Epic of Gilgamesh, with a flower of immortality made from mother-of-



Palm tree-inspired jewellery designed by Amna Al Hawaj

design.

'Through design, I try to explore how our cultures affect people and how they connect to meaning. That is very important to me,' she said.

### Ethical stones

She said the American film Blood Diamond changed the way she thought about gemstones and inspired her to embrace lab-grown diamonds.

Her first experiments began about 10 years ago at her home in Zinj, where she designed jewellery for herself as an ethical choice for her wedding.

'Lab-grown stones are certainly an ethical alternative to mining, and this matters to me. It is part of the brand,' she said. 'They are also beautiful, and I feel people now lean towards them because they are a good choice in every respect.'

'With a lab-grown diamond, you have the same quality, hardness, brilliance and phys-

ical characteristics, but it is created in a laboratory. Many people prefer this because they want to distance themselves from blood diamonds and the monopolised diamond trade.'

Manjam's collections include diamond jewellery, rare natural gemstones and pieces shaped by Gulf heritage. Al Hawaj said the use of lab-grown diamonds was not intended to replace tradition, but to broaden the choices available to clients.

### Bahrain's jewellery industry

She said Bahrain's jewellery industry and design scene had also played an important role in shaping the brand.



Amna Al Hawaj, gemologist and jewellery designer

'Bahrain has a remarkable jewellery tradition, and I'm fortunate to be part of it,' she said. 'There are many talented designers

here whose work I ad-

mire, and our clients have a deep love of craft, beauty and culture.'

### Designed to last

'Manjam is simply my contribution to that tradition, my own reading of Gulf design through a modern lens. If our work resonates with people, I'm grateful for that.'

Al Hawaj said jewellery is often bought to mark a milestone, celebrate a relationship or preserve a family memory. That philosophy, she said, guides how Manjam approaches the scale, form and longevity of each piece.

Some creations begin as sketches. Others emerge from conversations with clients or from the unique character of a single gemstone.

'The pieces we wear often become part of our lives,' she said. 'They celebrate milestones, mark memories and are sometimes passed from one generation to the next. Designing something that can become part of someone's story is both a privilege and a responsibility.'

# Thai crew of ship struck in Gulf sues operators

Thai-flagged Mayuree Naree was hit on March 11

● The suit claims the companies acted negligently by ordering the ship to transit the strait during the conflict

● The court scheduled the first hearing for September 28

AFP | Bangkok, Thailand

Three former crew members of a Thai cargo ship struck by Iran in the Strait of Hormuz filed a lawsuit yesterday against the vessel's operator and captain for labour violations.

The Thai-flagged Mayuree Naree was hit on March 11 while travelling through the Gulf waterway early in the US-Israeli war with Iran, leaving three Thai crewmen dead and requiring 20 others to be rescued.

Former crew members Panithi Tumkaew, Noppadon Wongsuvan and Suradech



Thai lawyer Kunpat Singhathong (C) speaks to the media with three former sailors from the Thai-flagged ship Mayuree Naree outside the Central Labour Court in Bangkok

Manpuen were dismissed after the incident and suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) following the attack, their lawyer Kunpat Singhathong said.

They filed a lawsuit at the Central Labour Court in Bangkok against the ship's owner, Precious Shipping, two affiliated companies -- Precious Flowers and Great Circle Shipping Agency -- and the vessel's cap-

tain, Sathaporn Hoksee. All of them are Thai.

The suit claims the companies acted negligently by ordering the ship to transit the strait during the conflict.

In a statement, Precious Shipping said it had complied with applicable laws and fulfilled its obligations to the crew, adding that it had provided medical and psychological support following the attack.

The company also said it had not yet been formally served with the lawsuit and could not comment on the allegations.

Kunpat said his clients were paid compensation equivalent to two months' salary before being dismissed in April, despite having nine-month employment contracts that had not yet expired.

"Three of the crew members have since been diagnosed with PTSD, which doctors say will require more than a year of treatment," he said.

This had left them unable to continue working as seafarers or carry out their daily lives normally, he added.

Speaking to reporters outside the court, Panithi said his wife encouraged him to seek medical treatment after noticing changes in his behaviour.

"I get startled when I hear loud noises," he said, adding that he had worked for Precious Shipping for more than a decade.

The court scheduled the first hearing for September 28.

## Belgium to introduce road tax, even for transiting drivers

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

Belgium's three regions announced yesterday they would introduce next year a road tax that foreign drivers transiting the country would also have to pay.

The country does not currently charge drivers to use its highways and the issue of introducing some form of payment has been debated for years.

"Everyone who uses our roads must contribute fairly to their maintenance," said

the transport minister for the Wallonia region, Francois Desquesnes.

Starting on May 1, 2027 drivers will need to register their vehicle and pay the road tax, with day passes available for drivers driving across the country.

An annual pass for a zero-emission car will cost 90 euros (\$103), and up to 125 euros for higher-polluting vehicles. Road cameras that catch cars that haven't paid for a pass will incur a fine of 70 euros.

## Major carmakers handed dieselgate victory in UK

AFP | London, United Kingdom

The High Court in London yesterday ruled largely in favour of five major carmakers accused of installing devices in diesel cars to cheat clean-air laws, as the dieselgate saga rumbles on.

"The Court rejected most of the principal allegations advanced against the manufacturers whose vehicles were examined" in the latest dieselgate trial, Justice Sara Cockerill said in a statement.

Mercedes, Ford, Peugeot-Citroen, Renault and Nissan had all denied their systems were designed to circumvent emissions tests for the air pollutant nitrogen oxides.

The dieselgate scandal erupted in September 2015, when German automaker Volkswagen admitted to fitting millions of vehicles with software to make engines appear less polluting in regulatory tests than in real driving conditions.

It caused waves in the global car industry, ensnaring several other top carmakers and leading to legal action in multiple countries including France, South Korea

and the United States.

To date, Volkswagen has paid more than 32 billion euros (\$36.5 billion) in penalties over the scandal, mostly in the United States.

**Second trial**

While the UK court on Friday favoured the carmakers, Cockerill added that they would still face a second trial in October to determine a level of damages.

This is because the Court made "adverse findings in relation to certain specific strategies", including a coolant device in Mercedes cars and a strategy used in some Peugeot-Citroen cars, the judge added.

## India seeks to quell fears over ethanol-blended petrol

AFP | New Delhi, India

India sought to allay concerns yesterday over its drive to expand the use of ethanol-blended petrol after motorists complained that the biofuel could damage vehicles or affect their performance.

E20 petrol, a fuel containing 20% ethanol, has come under scrutiny after viral social media posts alleged it harms engines and raises maintenance costs in vehicles designed for lower ethanol blends.

India, which has long promoted biofuels to cut oil imports and lower emissions, has accelerated its ethanol-blending programme

under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The oil ministry acknowledged on Friday that E20 could lead to a "3-5 percent reduction in fuel economy", but said claims of engine damage did not "stand the test of scientific evidence".

It said the transition to E20 had been introduced gradually and in consultation with automakers.

Citing data from the country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki, the ministry said none of the 28.4 million vehicles serviced by the company in the 2025-2026 financial year reported "E20-linked corrosion, abnormal wear, or component-life

damage".

Toyota India said issues raised in a viral complaint involving one of its vehicles were caused by fuel contamination and "not related to E20 fuel usage".

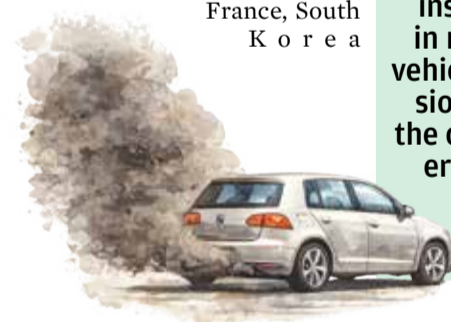
State-owned refiner Bharat Petroleum also dismissed social media claims that E20 petrol attracted ants, saying it had found "no identifiable attractant" that would cause insects to gather around fuel caps.

The controversy has nevertheless fuelled heated debate online, on television and at a protest in New Delhi last week.

Critics have urged the government to offer motorists a choice between unblended petrol, E10 and E20 fuel.



**The Dieselgate scandal erupted in 2015 after Volkswagen admitted installing software in millions of diesel vehicles to cheat emissions tests, making the cars appear cleaner than they were.**



# Nasdaq gets no boost from SK hynix debut in NY

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Global stock markets wobbled yesterday as investors digested a wave of corporate announcements, while the Nasdaq failed to get a boost from the debut of shares of South Korean chip titan SK hynix.

The supplier of advanced memory chips used for AI technology raised \$26.5 billion for its mega US listing due Friday, in one of the world's biggest-ever stock sales.

The chipmaker set a price of \$149 for each American depositary share -- slightly more than its Seoul closing price Thursday -- ahead of its debut on the Nasdaq.

That meant it had raised \$26.5 billion, the most for a US listing by a foreign firm.

SK hynix, along with Samsung and Micron, is a heavyweight

### Key figures around 1530 GMT

New York - Dow:	▲ 0.2% at 52,614.18 points
New York - S&P 500:	▲ 0.2% at 7,556.10
Nasdaq Composite:	■ at 26,215.18
London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.2% at 10,497.29 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.2 at 8,338.97 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX:	▼ 0.2% at 25,067.09 (close)
Seoul - Kospi:	▲ 2.5% at 7,475.94 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 1.2% at 68,557.73 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▲ 0.6% at 24,175.12 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 1.0% at 3,996.16 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1434 from \$1.1430 on Thursday
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.3417 from \$1.3410
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 161.48 yen from 162.38 yen
Euro/pound:	▼ at 85.21 pence from 85.23 pence
Brent North Sea Crude:	▼ 0.5 % at \$75.91 a barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▼ 0.9% at \$71.46 a barrel

in the global market for the high-bandwidth memory used in AI servers alongside other data-crunching semiconductors.

"The South Korean company wanted to benefit from the ap-

petite for AI among US investors, and it seems it won't be disappointed," said Susannah Streeter, chief investment strategist at Wealth Club.

"Even though the stock has already risen by around 660% over the past year... plenty of investors are still desperate to get a slice of the company," she added.

Like with an initial public offering, SK hynix shares were not immediately quoted on the Nasdaq when trading got underway. They rose around 17% when public trading began.

The Nasdaq's composite index dipped at the start of trading and spent most of the morning in the red, and was flat as SK hynix shares began to trade.

Briefing.com analyst Patrick O'Hare said SK hynix (SKHY) shares were sucking money from shares in competitors as investors were buying into the South

Korean firm.

"The irony is that... increased equity supply from the SKHY offering is grounding other semiconductor stocks for the time being," he said in a note to investors before the market opened.

"That could potentially lead to another buy-the-dip opportunity, but for now, buyers are keeping mostly to the sidelines," he added.

South Korea led gains in Asia, while European markets ended the day mixed.

Shares in Meta shot up more than six% after the Facebook and Instagram-parent launched Muse Spark 1.1, an AI model for computer coders, putting it in more direct competition with leaders OpenAI and Anthropic.

British mobile phone giant Vodafone saw its share price surge 12.6 percent, topping London's FTSE 100 index, after

French tycoon Xavier Niel was set to pay 5.1 billion euros (\$5.8 billion) to become the group's largest shareholder.

On the second-tier FTSE 250, EasyJet shares soared 14.1% after US investor Apollo swooped in with a \$7.7-billion takeover offer for the British no-frills airline.

Oil prices retreated after spiking earlier in the week as the United States and Iran exchanged fire again.

"As we move to the end of the week, volatility has retreated and fears about an escalation in tensions between the US and Iran appear overdone," said Kathleen Brooks, research director at trading group XTb.

"If we do not return to a blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, the impact from the war in the Middle East should not leave a lasting scar on the global economy," she added.

**Death toll from Venezuela's twin quakes rises to 3,889**

AFP | Caracas

The death toll from the powerful twin tremors that struck Venezuela two weeks ago has risen to at least 3,889, a government report stated.

Nearly 17,000 people were injured in the 7.2 and 7.5 magnitude earthquakes on June 24, while almost 18,000 more lost their homes.

The death toll rose from 3,811 to 3,889 on Thursday, according to a report from National Assembly chief Jorge Rodriguez posted on Telegram.

Interim leader Delcy Rodriguez on Wednesday called for the release of Venezuelan funds frozen abroad to help the country cope with the disaster.

**North Korea vows boost to nuclear buildup, military intelligence**

AFP | Seoul

North Korea will strengthen its nuclear force "both in quality and quantity" and expand the role of its military intelligence agency focused on South Korea, state media said yesterday.

Pyeongyang is under widespread sanctions over its nuclear programme, and the two Koreas remain technically at war as their 1950-53 conflict ended without a peace treaty.

**Intense sand and dust storms struck China, US in 2025: UN**

AFP | Geneva

China and the southern United States were hit last year by some of the worst sand and dust storms in decades, the United Nations said yesterday.

The UN's weather and climate agency said these episodes affected public health and the environment, and disrupted transport and economic activity.

In its 10th annual Airborne Dust Bulletin, the World Meteorological Organisation said that globally, overall average dust concentrations last year were similar to 2024 -- though with big regional variations.

"Every year, around 2,000 million tonnes of dust enters the atmosphere, and can be transported for hundreds of kilometres and even thousands of kilometres, across continents and oceans," the WMO said.

**Syria says IS behind Damascus blasts, finds explosives cache**

Raids uncover explosives cache following blasts near French president's Damascus hotel

● IS-linked cell captured

● Further plots allegedly prevented

AFP | Damascus

Syrian authorities yesterday said they uncovered an explosives cache after having captured an IS-linked cell responsible for two bomb blasts during French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to Damascus earlier this week.

The attacks, which occurred near the hotel where Macron spent the night, cast a shadow over the first trip by a European Union head of state since Bashar al-Assad was toppled in late 2024, as President Ahmedal-Sharaa tries to rebuild the country's image after more than a decade of conflict.

Syria's Interior Minister Anas Khattab said that "the cell responsible for the terrorist bombings that targeted Damascus two days ago is now in our custody".

Ahmad Dalati, head of interior security for the Damascus region, said on Syrian state television that preliminary investigations indicated "the cell was affiliated with the IS (Islamic State) group".

Yesterday, the interior ministry



Syria's Interior Minister Anas Khattab (C) inspects an area near the Four Seasons Hotel following two blasts in Damascus

said that "intensive investigations with members of the terrorist cell" allowed authorities to find "a secret cache the cell had designated for storing explosives in preparation for a series of terrorist attacks".

The ministry had said the night prior in a statement that the cell had been captured following a series of raids "carried out at the same time against the suspects' different locations across Damas-

cus and its countryside".

The statement said the raids occurred in four neighbourhoods, with the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor saying dozens were arrested in the working-class Ish al-Warwar suburb.

An Alawite-majority neighbourhood before the 2024 fall of longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad, who belongs to the minority religious community, the area was

targeted with raids and arrests after Islamist authorities took power, causing many to leave.

An Ish al-Warwar resident who requested anonymity told AFP the Thursday arrests did not, to their knowledge, target any Alawites.

Two blasts hit central Damascus on Tuesday, killing one person and wounding dozens during the French president's first visit to Syria.

The explosives had been plant-

**BETTER YOU KNOW**

French President Emmanuel Macron kept the timing of his Syria visit secret until his plane landed, citing security concerns

ed near the Four Seasons Hotel, with Syria's interior ministry saying one was placed in a rubbish container and the other in a vehicle near the hotel in the heart of the capital.

The blasts came after Macron's departure from the building, and moments before Syrian state media announced his arrival at the presidential palace to meet his Syrian counterpart Ahmed al-Sharaa.

In a joint news conference after the blast, Macron said we must "not let ourselves be destabilised" by such attacks, and reiterated Paris's support for the country.

Sharaa praised Macron's "courage" for pressing ahead with his visit despite the bombings.

**Bayeux Tapestry arrives in London after epic journey from France**

AFP | London

The medieval Bayeux Tapestry arrived in London in the early hours of yesterday after a hugely complicated journey to leave France for the first time in more than 900 years for an exhibition in the British capital.

AFP journalists at the British Museum saw a metal case holding the 11th-century work being unloaded from a truck which carried it across the Channel



Workers unload a specially designed crate (R) carrying the Bayeux Tapestry at the British Museum in central London

in a hushed-up, high-security operation.

"It's a unique moment and it's the product of so much hard work," museum director Nicholas Cullinan told AFP after the tapestry arrived around 3:00 am (0200 GMT). It left its home in northern France on Thursday night.

"It's been very special to have witnessed the arrival of the Bayeux Tapestry, and especially for it to be back on these shores for the first time in probably a thousand years," added Cullinan.

While its exact origins are shrouded in mystery, the tap-

stry depicting the 1066 Battle of Hastings and start of the invasion by William the Conqueror's Norman army is widely thought to have been made in England before being transferred to Bayeux.

It is believed to be the first time the fragile, 68-metre (224-foot) embroidered tapestry has left France since then, and the first time it has been moved in over 40 years.

It will be displayed at the British Museum from September 10 to July 11, 2027, with 100,000 tickets already sold to the public for the first four months of the exhibition.

**Murder, terror charges for suspects in Trump cage fight attack plot**



A view during the UFC Freedom 250 on the South Lawn of the White House

AFP | Washington

Eight men accused in an alleged plot to attack a White House mixed martial arts fight hosted by President Donald Trump in June have been indicted on murder and terrorism conspiracy charges, the Department of Justice said.

The suspects, ranging in age from 19 to 32, were accused of planning to use armed drones to attack the event on the White House South Lawn, with snipers firing on "high value targets" in the chaos,

prosecutors have said.

Law enforcement officials said they foiled the plot in the lead-up to the June 14 "UFC Freedom 250" event, which coincided with Trump's 80th birthday and ultimately took place without incident.

It attracted 4,000 fans to the fight in a temporary arena called "The Claw" that towered over the White House.

The eight alleged plotters were charged Thursday in a two-count federal indictment in Columbus, Ohio, the Justice Department said.

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

The fragile, 68-metre (224-foot) embroidered tapestry depicting the 1066 Battle of Hastings arrived in London for the first time in over 900 years, with the British government providing £800 million (over \$1 billion) insurance cover

1405

Chinese fleet commander Zheng He sets sail to the Spice Islands on his first major expedition, leading 208 vessels, including 62 treasure ships with 27,800 sailors



1533

Pope Clement VII excommunicates England's King Henry VIII

1818

English poet John Keats writes "In the Cottage Where Burns is Born," "Lines Written in the Highlands," and "Gadfly"

1995

More than 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys are massacred by Bosnian Serbs after they overrun the UN "safe haven" of Srebrenica on directive of Radovan Karadžić

# Foreigners among 12 dead in Spanish wildfires

Fast-moving wildfire traps residents and tourists as search teams battle flames in southern Spain

- Twenty-three people remain missing
- Victims trapped while fleeing
- Hundreds evacuated from area
- Fire scorches 3,200 hectares

AFP | Madrid

A fast-moving wildfire that has killed at least 12 people was tearing through a tourist area in southern Spain yesterday after trapping people in burning vehicles and as they tried to flee on foot.

The authorities said many of the victims were believed to be foreigners as the fire, which started on Thursday in an area of steep ravines, destroyed forests and swathes of scrubland in the Los Gallardos area of Andalusia. The death toll from one of Spain's deadliest wildfires rose by one to 12, said the head of the Andalusia regional government, Juan Manuel Moreno Bonilla. He added that 23 people were



firefighters working on a wildfire that killed 11 near Bedar, in Los Gallardos district, in Almeria Province

missing, up from 19 previously. DNA testing would be needed to identify the victims as they are "badly burnt and unrecognisable", he added.

Spain has been sweltering in extreme heat, creating tinderbox conditions favourable for the rapid spread of wildfires.

Scientists agree that climate change caused by humans burning fossil fuels is making extreme weather events such as heatwaves more likely and more

intense. Fuelled by gusts of around 50 kilometres (30 miles) per hour, the blaze moved at "an extraordinary pace", advancing 15 kilometres in just two hours, Moreno said.

The authorities said residents of the whitewashed village of Bedar had been told to either take a recommended evacuation route, or stay in their homes given that the fire was so close.

The failure of some residents

to follow these recommendations "may have led to the tragic loss of life in some cases", Moreno said.

Located about 15 kilometres (nine miles) from Spain's Mediterranean coast, Bedar is popular with those seeking a quieter alternative to the nearby beach resorts.

**'Extremely difficult' to extinguish**

Four of the victims are believed

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

The wildfire advanced 15 kilometres in just two hours, an exceptionally rapid spread driven by strong winds and extreme heat

to be British nationals who were found burned to death inside a right-hand drive car, Moreno said.

Another seven people died while trying to escape on foot, Bedar mayor Angel Francisco Collado told reporters.

The 12th victim was a man who tried to flee by bicycle, according to Spanish media reports.

Officials said eight people had been injured, four seriously, and hundreds of residents had been evacuated.

Around 500 firefighters, backed by Spain's Military Emergency Unit, battled to contain the flames which officials said have so far ravaged some 3,200 hectares of land.

# Landslides kill 15 in Philippines as biggest typhoon in decades nears Taiwan

- Typhoon Bavi nears Taiwan and Japan
- Over 2,000 evacuated in Taiwan
- Strong winds and heavy rain forecast
- Schools and flights cancelled in Taiwan
- Bavi to hit eastern China soon

AFP | Manila

Fifteen people were killed in landslides in the Philippines, and more than 2,000 in Taiwan were evacuated from their homes, as the biggest typhoon in decades neared the region yesterday.

Typhoon Bavi is expected to pound Taiwan's north and east, as well as Japan's remote southwestern islands, yesterday and Saturday before smashing into China, which has been hit by deadly storms this week.



Strong waves break along the coast in Yilan as Typhoon Bavi moves toward Northeastern Taiwan

Two landslides triggered by heavy rains driven by Bavi killed at least 15 people and left six others missing on the Philippines' southern island of Mindanao, authorities said.

Locals in Taiwan's port city of Keelung, which is expected to be one of the hardest hit areas on the island, stocked up on food, taped windows, and stacked sandbags along shop fronts, heeding warnings from authorities to take precautions. "They're saying it's going to

be huge; of course that's scary, right?" Keelung grocery store owner Chang Shih-huo, 76, told AFP.

"We've stocked up on some instant noodles and bread and stuff like that. Once the wind and rain really start picking up, we'll have to close the shop."

After hitting Guam and the Northern Marianas on Monday as a super typhoon, Bavi was downgraded to a typhoon as it moved across the Pacific Ocean. Bavi's maximum sustained

**380km**

is Typhoon Bavi's strong-wind radius, making it the largest typhoon to hit Taiwan in more than 30 years

wind speeds slowed to 155 kilometres (96 miles) per hour, with gusts of around 190 kilometres per hour, yesterday, the Central Weather Administration (CWA) said.

"The typhoon is likely to continue weakening because environmental conditions are not favourable," CWA forecaster Wang Ping-hsiang said.

"The greatest impact is expected in Taipei, New Taipei, Keelung and Yilan, while the heaviest rainfall is forecast for mountainous areas in central and northern Taiwan."

Bavi's strong-wind radius of 380 kilometres will make it the largest typhoon to hit Taiwan in more than 30 years. Many schools and businesses

were shuttered yesterday across northern and eastern Taiwan, and hundreds of flights were cancelled.

In Keelung, locals flocked to a fresh food market to buy fruit and vegetables, street vendors secured their stands, and a temple covered and tied down an outdoor statue ahead of the storm.

"What you're seeing now is the most remarkable sight we haven't seen in 10 years," Keelung restaurant owner Penny Pan, 48, said as her husband placed sandbags at the entrance to their eatery.

"In the past we never used sandbags to prepare for typhoons. But this time they're forecasting Force 10 gusts, so the captains and fishermen have all been saying we need to be better prepared," Pan said.

**'Strong winds and heavy rain'**

Bavi is expected to dump up to nearly a metre of rain, raising concerns about potential flooding and landslides.

People were ordered to stay away from the shore as the typhoon whipped up to nine metre (30 foot) waves.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



We mourn all the victims of the devastating fires in Andalucía. My thoughts are with their families, the affected communities and the first responders on the ground. Todo nuestro apoyo a España en este difícil momento.

@hadjalahbib

02



We must take back the House or we will lose this republic.

@GavinNewsom

03



Australia and India are kicking goals and hitting sixes. We're taking the Big Bash to India for the first time ever, and helping grow AFL across our region. Two great sporting nations, building something bigger together

@Albomp

04

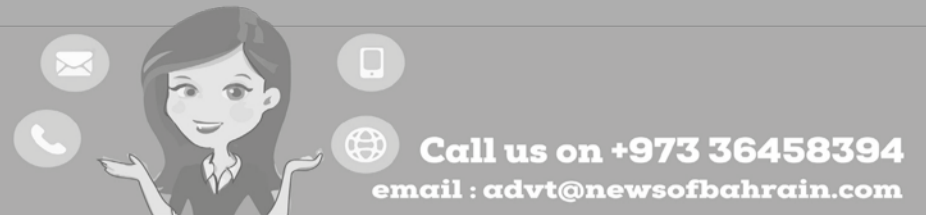


2030 is four school years away. That gives us a small window, but also a clear opportunity, to shape the final stretch. #TransformingEducation Summit +4 must be a turning point on the road to 2030, putting education back at the centre of the global agenda, where it belongs.

@AminaJMohammed

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

# Classifieds



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MUHAMMAD NAEEM VISITOR ASSISTANCE CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34300273 or PRINCEDOHA786@GMAIL.COM

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32376386 or ALTRAD-MENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

ASIAN DELIGHTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RESTAURANT MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66676777 or ACCOUNTS@EATCORP.COMCCOUNTS

VFS INTERNATIONAL BAHRAIN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39232942 or NishaS@vfglobal.com

Blue Sky Trading W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DESIGNER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33494353 or ANUFEB@HOTMAIL.COM

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

QAMER JAMEEL CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33495011 or HURIA.JARRAL@GMAIL.COM

GREEN PEPPER RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39049556 or SAHEER.CV@GMAIL.COM

RICK HANSON TRDING has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36511997 or 007ALMAHRIN@GMAIL.COM

SABIHA TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39808504 or SABIHA-TRADING03@GMAIL.COM

ALASFOOR GATE CONTRACTION has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33488029 or ALI.ALASFOOR127@GMAIL.COM

ABDULLA ALI ABDULLA ALHAIKI (FATA ALKHAIR/9847) has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39007220 or ABDULLAALHAY-KI2@GMAIL.COM

BOX GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of AUTOMOBILE PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17675344 or ALGHAREEB99@GMAIL.COM

S M D S SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38181800 or khanptpm1@gmail.com

FLIPKA INTERNATIONAL TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34170035 or PDC434@GMAIL.COM

CRESCENT SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36329287 or INFO@CRESCENTBAHRAIN.NET

AMERICAN CREATIVITY ACADEMY SCHOOL - BAHRAIN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17103030 or kahmed@beacon.edu.bh

BUN AND CRUNCH W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33892588 or WALEED123921@GMAIL.COM

SHABEBA CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17716710 or SHABEBAC@HOTMAIL.COM

Basma Security has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY MAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 1727676 or aqeel@basma.com.bh

SANDUH LINE CONSTRUCTION CO.W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17242566 or MH29900@GMAIL.COM

RAMSIS ENGINEERING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830801 or Abbas@ramsisis.com.bh

RAMSIS ENGINEERING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830801 or Abbas@ramsisis.com.bh

RAMSIS ENGINEERING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SHEET METAL WORKERS (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830801 or Abbas@ramsisis.com.bh

FARAH CONTAINERS AND TROLLEYS MAINTENANCE has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39602377 or AHALARADI@YAHOO.COM

CHICKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (RESTURANTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17179097 or DPASIF@YAHOO.COM

LUXE LUMINOSITY CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36726854 or MIANHARON327@GMAIL.COM

GULF CRYSTAL COLD STORE has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17290276 or BAH.TROUBLEFREE.CREATION@GMAIL.COM

ALSAYED HASHIM ALSAYED SAEED ALSAYED QAS has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39690591 or AL-HASHIMI@HOTMAIL.COM

MOHAMED JUMA ALI ALDOSERI / ALMAHZO-

RA - 703 has a vacancy for the occupation of FISHERMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33101055 or MALDOSSRY999@GMAIL.COM

QUANTUS AUTO SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33306936 or ACMEMOHD@GMAIL.COM

ALKOMED ENGINEERING SERVICES CO. has a vacancy for the occupation of AIR-CONDITIONING TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17698500 or ALKOMED@BATELCO.COM.BH

THREE SIXTY EVENTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of INTRODUCER(PROGRAM), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36492844 or ANTONIG@ME.COM

BLACK TARNOL COMPUTER PROGRAMMING ACTIVITIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36563904 or WALID-BAHRAIN015@GMAIL.COM

SANAR SAMBOOSA & FALAFEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDWICHES MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17535982 or BUTALAL1953@YAHOO.COM

THE PALMYRAD HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RESTAURANT MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36552208 or mbusandal@thepalace.com.bh

PRECISION AUTO ACCESSORIES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33755441 or Love4ever\_jh@hotmail.com

Farsana Construction S P C has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39829689 or FARSANABAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

HANAEN BEAUTY CENTER has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33547719 or UM-NABA00@GMAIL.COM

CREATIVE SINFANI GRAPHIC DESIGN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34010298 or SINFANIDIGITAL@GMAIL.COM

EXCELLENCE INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17532010 or ajawahery@exibah.com

AL JAZEERA SECURITY CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36945444 or info@jssbahrain.com

Danway Electrical & Mechanical Engineering L.L.C has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17297600 or danbahrain@danwayeme.com

ALKHUNAIZI INSULATION SYSTEMS.AL-KHUNAIZI COMPANIES GROUP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17406633 or info@kuc-bh.com

MASTER ELEVATOR TRADING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35081527 or PRASANTHKANANTHODI@GMAIL.COM

PISTACHIO SWEETS has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANT(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17699719 or pistachiosweet@gmail.com

MEHBOOB INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38060144 or WAHABAMIR2001@GMAIL.COM

MAJID AND CO SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36724534 or MAJID00992@GMAIL.COM

INNOVANA GULF W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (FINANCIAL AFFAIRS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17206888 or ALI@INNOVANAGLOBAL.COM

YAMEEN CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33488771 or YAMEENCON2011@GMAIL.COM

CRASTWFER AUTO SPARE PARTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33491855 or manojthomasc@yahoo.com

SWITCH VAPE BAHRAIN PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33500540 or ZOHAIBAPTECHNN@GMAIL.COM

ROHAAN TRAVEL AND TOURISM has a vacan-

cy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17533126 or GOLDENGROUPBAH@GMAIL.COM

MANAMA SOUQ BUSINESS SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66911807 or ALJINI53727282@GMAIL.COM

SPECTUM MINDS CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32191904 or INFO@SKYMOONBAHRAIN.COM

DESIGN DGB ARTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17612981 or accounts@dgbahrain.com

Hedge Consultancy Services co W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANT(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33894498 or KINGSMAN.BAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

Ahmed Mansoor AlAali B.S.C. Closed - Structural and Mechanical Division has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17265509 or adeel.hameed@al-aali.com

Ahmed Mansoor AlAali B.S.C. Closed - Structural and Mechanical Division has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17265509 or adeel.hameed@al-aali.com

GRAND MAKER MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY BAHRAIN PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSULTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36424795 or GRANDMAKERBH@GMAIL.COM

COCOS CAFE has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17716512 or JQAMBAR@YAHOO.COM

PANORAMA CONTRACTING & ENGINEERING SERVI has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON ASST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17729935 or AHMED@PANORAMABH.COM

AL MOAYYED LANDSCAPES AND SWIMMING POOLS has a vacancy for the occupation of GENERAL MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or profice@almoayyedcg.com

DIYAR ALRIZ MARKET has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33650789 or WK-ING4019@GMAIL.COM

BU HABIB MENS BARBER AND BEAUTY has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33211911 or HAMADALMALEKI1970@HOTMAIL.COM

TAKATUF FOOT CARE has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33665773 or A\_ALMALKI@LIVE.COM

BDC MANPOWER SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CO-ORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17180530 or mona.alnokhedha@bas.com.bh

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674319 or DUAJIMALKHALIFA@ASRY.NET

RED SPARROW MARKETING PROMOTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36563904 or KHANBWC@GMAIL.COM

BETA XPRESS GENERAL TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39073420 or THOUSIF@BETAPRESS.COM

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDBLASTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674319 or DUAJIMALKHALIFA@ASRY.NET

BAHRAIN PIPE LINE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66398999 or BPLCC@BATELCO.COM.BH

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674319 or DUAJIMALKHALIFA@ASRY.NET

BAHRAIN PIPE LINE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66398999 or BPLCC@BATELCO.COM.BH

EUROPEAN ELEGANCE GENTS SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37240720 or MASOOMAI2341@OUTLOOK.COM

MOTOR CITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSISTANT MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262262 or HR.S@EKKANO.COM.BH

# Classifieds

## VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

Le Meridien Hotel Bahrain City Center has a vacancy for the occupation of DIRECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38885874 or ccb.government@maf.ae

NASS CONTRACTING COMPANY (W.L.L) has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725522 or yousif@aanass.net

MUHAMMAD NAVEED ANJUM BEST ADVERTISING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33293427 or HAMZAA-LI01BH@GMAIL.COM

NASEER AHMED CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33331564 or PAPERFLOWBH@GMAIL.COM

GULF MOON MARKETS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33666765 or KAMELSLM@HOTMAIL.COM

BURJ ALAZARAQ REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RENT COLLECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33363999 or ALIALI1984BH@GMAIL.COM

NUMLOCK NEW COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36675632 or MRM.JANNATUL@GMAIL.COM

CAFE ZOUK has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37126333 or NABEEL0203@HOTMAIL.COM

AZAZ BADSHAH SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34077226 or RASHIDKHN843@GMAIL.COM

ASIAN BUSINESS CONSULTANCY CO. - BAHRAIN PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38029695 or mta03111@gmail.com

CALIBER CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17274073 or ANIL7205@GMAIL.COM

Spring Flowers Laundry has a vacancy for the occupation of PRESSER (HAND), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66911611 or KHALEDALOBADI88@ICLOUD.COM

ALDAWLAH CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17785224 or INFO@I-FAK.COM

ANBALI INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33881499 or SHAHZAI8VIRK448@GMAIL.COM

ABDULLAH WALEED RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34515165 or FT.MOHD4@GMAIL.COM

FILLI KARAK has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34595789 or MOH091982@GMAIL.COM

BED AND BISCUITS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17292568 or OUAFA-MOUSSI@LAFETEWORLD.COM

ROYAL SARAY RESORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77707070 or hrm@sevensholding.com

NOORA ALBINALI TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35000835 or ALBINALINF@GMAIL.COM

ALI TRADITIONAL FOOD RESTURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN AIDE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 177609816 or miraj.electric@gmail.com

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32376386 or ALTRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING COMPANY W.L.L CLEANTEC has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36636640 or HAN-ANKHALAF84@GMAIL.COM

TAHERA GRILLS has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39133019 or DARKULAIB57@GMAIL.COM

TAMILNADU RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34460660 or CRAZY.FOOF88@GMAIL.COM

PALM PROPERTIES has a vacancy for the oc-

cupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17000600 or finance@palmproperties.bh

BAHRAIN ASPHALT ESTABLISHMENT B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or MOHAMED.ABUALI@HAJIHASSAN.COM

S M D S SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38181800 or khanptml@gmail.com

FRESH HOUSE COLD STORE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33640148 or ISHORBHATTARAI1990@GMAIL.COM

RAJPOT BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of BREAD BAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39888023 or CHSHAFIQ581@GMAIL.COM

BLUE BEACH RESTAURANT & GRILLS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(GRILLING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33313121 or m590104624@gmail.com

GOLDEN FACILITY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37056660 or goldenfacility.bh@gmail.com

Bath and body works Avenues has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39950406 or AYMAN.JAFAR@LASHAYA.COM

FALCON ISLAND CLEANING EST has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33454414 or falcon-i@hotmail.com

BAHRAIN ASPHALT ESTABLISHMENT B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or MOHAMED.ABUALI@HAJIHASSAN.COM

LEBANESE RESTURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STOREKEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877033 or RASOOLASAD@YAHOO.COM

ALNEAMAH CARGO CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17735363 or NEDAL600@HOTMAIL.COM

AL DACHA CAFF has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36663995 or HUSAA.N.YOUSIF.83@GMAIL.COM

BHUVANS HOUSE CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33400686 or BOSAUD59@GMAIL.COM

SPARKPLUG BAHRAIN CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35109155 or SPEEDTRAVELS.TOURISM@GMAIL.COM

Bahrain Al Arabi International Decoration Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of GYPSUM CARVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17715919 or daaij@alarabi-bh.com

GTECH FURNITURE WORKSHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER(FURNITURE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36386246 or GTECHINTERIORS21@GMAIL.COM

RIOTAT TOURS AND TRAVELS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39853174 or SALEH@RIOWLL.COM

ALMATI CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33569841 or MATIULLAHSHAIQ786@GMAIL.COM

DASMAN AIRCONDITIONING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17241360 or FAWZI@AL-FAWZ.COM

A&P THAI MASSAGE THERAPY CENTER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33332028 or MASTERSGATEFBS@GMAIL.COM

GULF CITY CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39641612 or yousif@aanass.net

AL BUSHRA TRANSPORT has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33865060 or abushra.cargo@hotmail.com

ABDULLA MULLA HASAN AKHWAND AWADHI has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17531553 or ACCOUNTS@BARAKA-SPORTS.COM

GULF CITY CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified

applicants can contact 39641612 or yousif@aanass.net

FARHAN TOWER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of THERAPIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 16636500 or FARHANTOWER1@GAMAIL.COM

ALMOAYYED TRADING & CONTRACTING ESTABLISH has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700777 or alhaan@almoayyed-intl.com.bh

SOUTH GATE CONSTRUCTION AND CLEANING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77061717 or YKHALFAN@GMAIL.COM

GOLDEN NEON SIGN ADVERTISING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17789689 or VENUNAIR@GOLDENNEON.COM.BH

BURJ BU HAROON CURTAINS has a vacancy for the occupation of UPHOLSTERER(FURNITURE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35371810 or ASHABEGUMRAJA@GMAIL.COM

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

PAK PUNJAB CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66320770 or ALHARAMPPM@GMAIL.COM

CLOCK SEASON SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33853237 or FJLOVEU@GMAIL.COM

MR. CUT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39661894 or ABDUL33883621@GMAIL.COM

ALFANNAN WATCHES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36505874 or ZALLAQ213@GMAIL.COM

ROYAL SARAY RESORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (HOTEL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 77707070 or hrm@sevensholding.com

HARJEET SAHIB SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34213050 or HRJT.BH.786@GMAIL.COM

NUHA LAND CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33984692 or nuhaland@gmail.com

THE EGYPTIAN COMPANY FOR INTEGRATED FINISHING WORKS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36773054 or BDR64741@GMAIL.COM

ALYAMAMA HOUSE FOR CLEANING CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345569 or YAMAMAHOUSE1@GMAIL.COM

WESTON SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17702123 or md@weston-services.COM

URBASER BAHRAIN CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17534342 or sajltnath@urbaser.com

SAMAN ELECTROMECHANICAL WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17760191 or FAQHIAQEEL@GMAIL.COM

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

BLACK KULYBAZ KULA MARKETING PROMOTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36563904 or KHANBWC@GMAIL.COM

MANNAT GOLD W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of JEWELRY GOLDSMITH (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 77923100 or info@mannatgold.com

GRINDLINE EVENT ORGANIZER AND RELATIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38826750 or SHAHZAI8.AL7600@GMAIL.COM

AFAQ CARGO TRANSPORT CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34381034 or MRAFAQAT221@GMAIL.COM

AIRMECH COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORK SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17768200 or AIRMECH.BAHRAIN@AIRMECH.NET

TORQUE LINE FOR SPARE PARTS has a vacan-

cy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17760191 or A\_ALMUAMMARI@HOTMAIL.COM

THE NEW INDIAN SCHOOL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17622350 or info@ebenezherholdings.com

UTSAVAYA INTERNATIONAL TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33715201 or MOHAMMEDRASEB@HOTMAIL.COM

WADI AL BADAFA FOOD STUFF has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39881063 or sabah\_talaq@HOTMAIL.COM

PATWA PEARLS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKERS(JEWELLERY & PRECIOUS METAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35094042 or PATWAPEARLS@GMAIL.COM

FABTECH INDUSTRIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of AUTOMOBILES MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36288848 or idawani@fabtechbahrain.com

Al Showaier Gents Salon has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39602050 or zahraajawad.8@gmail.com

FOOD INNOVATION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17220000 or HR.FOOD-INNOVATION@FAKHRO.COM

ERAM SERVICES COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36922161 or adminbahrain@eramarabia.com

ALDAAYSI SONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WATCHMAN / GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39464237 or ALDAAYSI1@GMAIL.COM

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674319 or DUAIJMKHALIFA@ASRY.NET

Dhafayer Ladies Beauty Salon has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33290001 or DAFAIRSALON@GMAIL.COM

CRYSTAL PALACE HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17251444 or NAMALCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

SHALASH PLUS TAILORING has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33009299 or binasmakh@gmail.com

d ten arad restaurant has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39468574 or Aqeel@basma.com.bh

EVENTOS EVENT MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ARTIST(DISPLAY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17454446 or hr@gbl-group.co

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## region

### IAEA Unable to Track Iran's Nuclear Materials After Strikes



The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has lost continuity of knowledge across all of Iran's declared nuclear facilities following US and Israeli strikes that began on February 28, 2026, a senior United Nations official told the Security Council.

Briefing the council, UN Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Rosemary DiCarlo said the attacks had significantly undermined the agency's ability to monitor Iran's nuclear activities. She cited the UN Secretary-General's latest report on Resolution 2231, which endorsed the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) nuclear agreement.

According to DiCarlo, the loss of oversight extends to the production and inventory of key nuclear-related materials and equipment, including centrifuges, rotors, bellows, heavy water and uranium ore concentrate. The IAEA has also reported a "significant deterioration" in its situational awareness following the strikes.

The agency has not conducted any in-field verification activities under Iran's Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Safeguards Agreement since the attacks, further limiting its ability to assess Tehran's nuclear programme.

DiCarlo noted that the situation has been compounded by Iran's decision to stop the provisional application of its Additional Protocol in 2021. Since then, the IAEA has not received updated declarations from Iran and has been unable to conduct complementary access visits to sites across the country.

Despite the challenges, DiCarlo said all parties continue to express support for a diplomatic solution. She highlighted the June 17 Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and Iran, which includes agreements on the handling of Iran's enriched uranium stockpile and IAEA-supervised down-blending of enriched material.

The UN reiterated its support for renewed negotiations aimed at achieving a peaceful and lasting resolution to the Iranian nuclear issue.

### Tanker Traffic Slows in Strait of Hormuz Amid Renewed US-Iran Tensions



Daily tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz slowed on Friday after fresh hostilities between the United States and Iran heightened concerns over the security of the vital shipping route.

The latest exchange of military strikes has raised fears about global oil supplies and underscored the fragility of an interim truce between the two countries. Oil prices eased slightly on Friday but remained on track for weekly gains of 4-5 percent.

The International Energy Agency said global oil supply rose by 4.1 million barrels per day in June as shipping resumed through the strait, though output remained well below pre-conflict levels. It also warned of tight diesel and gasoline supplies.

Washington accused Iran of attacking three commercial tankers this week and responded with strikes on military targets. Iran later launched attacks on US military sites in Gulf states.

Before the latest escalation, tanker traffic had recovered to around 40 vessels per day, still far below the pre-war average of 125-140 daily sailings.

### Saudi Unearths Kufic Inscription



A newly discovered Kufic inscription at the Al-Sidriya archaeological site in Al-Dawadmi, Saudi Arabia, dating back to the 8th century A.D., offers a rare glimpse into early Islamic life, faith, and the evolution of Arabic calligraphy. The inscription bears a prayer seeking forgiveness for its author, Nazzal ibn Husayn, and all who read it, reflecting the spiritual and social values of the era.

# Royal Horse, Godolphin triumph at Bahrain Trophy



TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain-sponsored Bahrain Trophy meeting was staged at Newmarket Racecourse during the July Festival, with King Charles III and Queen Camilla's horse Point Of Law and the Godolphin stable emerg-

ing among the day's winners. The event, held as part of celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC), was attended by Bahrain's ambassador to the United Kingdom, Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Sustainable Development Minister Noor bint Ali

Alkhulaif, and REHC acting chief executive Yusuf Osama Buhiji, alongside senior club officials and international racing guests.

Point Of Law, trained by John and Thady Gosden and ridden by James Doyle, captured the Bahrain Trophy Stakes, with REHC officials presenting the trophy to representatives of the roy-

al owners. Godolphin enjoyed a double success as Inner City Blues, trained by Charlie Appleby and ridden by William Buick, claimed the Kingdom of Bahrain July Stakes, before Rebel's Romance, also trained by Appleby and partnered by Buick, won the Princess of Wales's Stakes, sponsored by Kingdom of Bahrain.

Buhiji said Bahrain's continued sponsorship of the Newmarket races reflected the close relationship between Bahrain and the United Kingdom, particularly in equestrian sport and horse racing. He added that the initiative forms part of the kingdom's broader efforts to strengthen its international presence in the

sport while promoting Bahrain as a destination for investment and tourism through major global racing events.

Bahrain also sponsors several leading European horse races, including the Bahrain-Ireland Race Series at Leopardstown in Ireland, as part of its international horseracing programme.

## Jose Mourinho begins Real Madrid culture 'mission'



Jose Mourinho reacts during a match (file photo)

AFP | Madrid

New Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho said yesterday he is on a "mission" to create the right culture at the club during his second spell in charge.

The veteran Portuguese was at the club's training ground overseeing preparations for the start of pre-season next week, after he was named Alvaro Arbeloa's successor in June.

Los Blancos failed to win a major trophy in the last two seasons and Mourinho's appointment has widely been viewed as president Florentino Perez trying to restore order and discipline to the dressing room.

"Words are not enough because this is like a mission," Mourinho told Real Madrid TV.

# Zverev ends wildcard Fery's run to reach first Wimbledon final

AFP | London

French Open champion Alexander Zverev ended the remarkable run of British wildcard Arthur Fery with a dominant semi-final victory yesterday to reach his first Wimbledon final.

The second seed will face either reigning champion Jannik Sinner or seven-time winner Novak Djokovic for the title on Sunday after seeing off Fery 7-6 (7/0), 6-2, 6-4 on Centre Court.

Zverev is the first German man to reach the final at the All England Club since Boris Becker in 1995.

He stands one win from ending his nation's 35-year wait for a men's Wimbledon champion since Michael Stich lifted the trophy.

The 29-year-old is also only the third man in the Open era to win a maiden Grand Slam title, which he achieved at Roland Garros last month, and then reach the final of his next major tournament.

He had never even got past the last 16 in nine previous visits to the All England Club.

Zverev will face a much tougher examination in his fifth Slam final against the winner of



Germany's Alexander Zverev returns to Britain's Arthur Fery

yesterday's second last-four tie between Sinner and Djokovic.

He has lost his last nine meetings with world number one Sinner, including last year's Australian Open final.

Zverev also only has one win from five Grand Slam matches against Djokovic, which was when the 24-time major cham-

pion retired injured after one set of their 2025 semi-final in Melbourne.

Fery was the first wildcard to reach the Wimbledon men's semis since Goran Ivanisevic 25 years ago, but his hopes of emulating the popular Croat by going all the way were dashed by a ruthless Zverev.

The home crowd's new hero will be able to console himself with the a rise from 114th to 36th in the ATP rankings, guaranteeing entry into tennis' biggest events.

The British dream of a first men's finalist since Andy Murray won his second title in 2016 looked alive when Fery respond-

**YOU**  
KNOW WHAT

Fery was the first wildcard to reach the Wimbledon men's semi-finals since Goran Ivanisevic 25 years ago, and will rise from 114th to 36th in the ATP rankings

ed immediately to an early break from Zverev.

But the world number three quietened the crowd with a brilliant tie-break, racing through it with a flurry of blistering serves and groundstrokes.

Fery only managed three winners in a one-sided second set as Zverev took total control of the semi-final.

Zverev broke in the fifth game of the third set, before comfortably getting over the finish line on serve to book his spot in a final which Fery will have to watch from home on his 24th birthday.

# Youth handball team face UAE before Asian test

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's youth handball team will face the UAE in Dubai on Saturday in one last test before their Asian Championship campaign in China, where four places at the 2027 World Championship are up for grabs.

The squad flew to the Emirates in the early hours of yesterday and will play the hosts the following day before heading straight to Xuzhou for the 19th Asian Youth Championship, which runs from July 15



Bahrain youth handball team

to 27.

Bahrain begin against Chinese Taipei on Wednesday. Saudi Arabia come next, followed by Hong Kong and Oman, before a final group match against host nation China.

The new format sends the top four sides in the group into the quarter-finals. From there, one defeat means elimination, with the four remaining teams earning Asia's places at the World Championship.

Head coach Hussam Madan has named an 18-man squad for the trip. He will be aided by as-

sistant coach Jaffar Abdulqader, goalkeeping coach Makram Al Missawi, team administrator Ali Radhi and physiotherapist Kareem Hassan.

The squad is made up of Ali Al Mahroos, Ahmed Al Samahiji, Sayed Majeed Al Mahafdha, Abbas Hussain, Ahmed Eid, Ahmed Abdulla, Mahdi Jaffar, Salman Al Shuwaikh, Mahmood Jaleel, Hassan Saif, Sayed Ahmed Al Fallahi, Mohammed Haitham, Abu Darr Jaffar, Ali Sami, Mohammed Zuhair, Fadhel Abbas, Haider Mohammed and Hassan Khatem.

# Mbappe strikes again as France beat Morocco to reach World Cup semi-finals

France keep third straight knockout clean sheet as Morocco fell short despite strong support

● **Mbappe scores opener after penalty miss**

● **Dembele adds second goal for victory**

AFP | Foxborough

**K**ylian Mbappe recovered from having a first-half penalty saved to score a magnificent opener that set France on their way to a 2-0 win over Morocco in their World Cup quarter-final showdown on Thursday.

Mbappe's weak spot-kick was easily saved by Moroccan goalkeeper Yassine Bounou, but he made up for that by producing a brilliant curling finish to make it 1-0 on the hour mark.

That was Mbappe's eighth goal at the tournament, moving him level again with Lionel Messi in the race for the Golden Boot, before he came off late on and watched the final minutes with an ice pack around his right ankle.

Before exiting, he set up Ousmane Dembele to run through and settle the contest watched by 63,811 at the Gillette Stadium, as France knocked Morocco out, just as they did in 2022.

Their 2-0 win four years ago

in Qatar came in the semi-finals, and this time the victory for Les Bleus takes them through to the last four. They will face Spain or Belgium in Dallas next Tuesday.

France are looking to reach a third consecutive World Cup final in their last tournament before long-serving coach Didier Deschamps stands down.

Winners in 2018 and runners-up in 2022, it has felt like they have eased through to another semi-final and they were too strong for a Moroccan team lacking firepower in the absence of the injured Ismael Saibari.

Mbappe is one of the greatest goal-scorers of his generation, and the World Cup continues to bring the very best out of him. After netting braces in the group-stage wins over Senegal and Iraq, as well as the last-32 defeat

of Sweden, he got the only goal from the penalty spot against Paraguay in the last round.

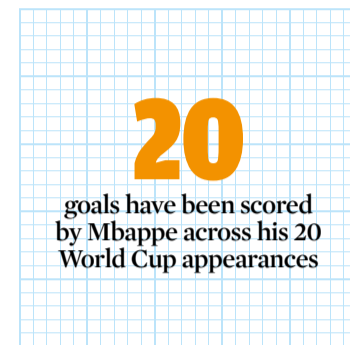
He has now scored 20 goals in 20 World Cup appearances, within one goal of Messi's overall tournament record of 21.

More could have been expected from Morocco, who had more of the crowd behind them but lacked a cutting edge in

attack as France kept a third clean sheet in as many knockout games.

**Dembele also on target**

Nevertheless, they have plenty of exciting young talents -- including former France Under-21 captain Ayyoub Bouaddi in their midfield -- and will surely be a force to be reckoned



with again when they co-host the next World Cup in 2030 alongside Spain and Portugal.

On Thursday they were just the latest team to find containing Mbappe at a World Cup to be an impossible task.

The Real Madrid star provoked the penalty as he was scythed down in the area by Nussair Mazraoui after a quick breakout to the 25th minute.

Argentinian referee Facundo Tello immediately pointed to rule out a foul on

Moroccan captain Achraf Hakimi in the build-up.

Maybe the wait got to Mbappe, whose kick was uncharacteristically weak and easily stopped. It was a reminder that he remains human, just like Messi who has squandered two penalties at this World Cup.

The excellent Bounou frequently kept France at bay in the first half, notably tipping a Desire Doue shot around the post after Bouaddi was robbed of the ball.

Lucas Digne crashed a shot onto the top of the bar from distance as the opening half ended goalless, but France got the reward for their pressure 15 minutes after the restart.

Doue slipped the ball to Mbappe just outside the area, and he controlled before using Issa Diop as a screen to direct a superb strike into the net.

France's all-time leading marksman now has 64 international goals from 104 appearances.

His lay-off in the 66th minute allowed Dembele to advance on goal and curl a shot low into the same corner, a hand from Bounou proving unable to make it 2-0.

Dembele is the reigning Ballon d'Or and now has five goals at this World Cup, but Mbappe continues to hog the limelight.



France's forward #10 Kylian Mbappe celebrates scoring

# England chase glory as Haaland allows Norway to dream

AFP | Miami

**E**ngland's quest to end 60 years of World Cup pain comes up against Norway's scoring machine Erling Haaland in a Miami showdown for a place in the semi-finals on Saturday.

After overcoming high altitude and a fervent home crowd in Mexico City to progress to the last eight in an all-time World Cup classic, an England side boasting the in-form Harry Kane and Jude Bellingham are favourites to reach the semis in south Florida.

However, the Three Lions' defensive deficiencies will be severely tested by Haaland, who put Brazil to the sword in the last 16 and has seven goals in his first four World Cup appearances.

Haaland, who was born in England and plays his club football for Manchester City, insisted there was no pressure on his side.

"I think there's some clear favourites out there, England's one of them," he told reporters.

"I think all of you should put



Erling Haaland

every single pressure on the English lads."

In their first World Cup for 28

## World Cup Schedule (Quarter-final)

Tomorrow

Time	Match	Venue
12:00 AM	Norway vs England	Miami Stadium
04:00 AM	Argentina vs Switzerland	Kansas City Stadium

(All games in Bahrain time)

years, the nation of just over five million people have far exceeded expectations.

Even before setting off for the United States, a team photo of the squad dressed up as Vikings in front of longships went viral.

The theme has persisted with each victory celebrated by their fans performing a Viking row, from the stands of the United States to Times Square in New York, to the streets of Oslo. Haaland was the man to beat the drum to conduct that row after his brilliant late double sent Brazil home. That made history as Norway reached the quarter-finals for the first time.

"Playing against Brazil was kind of crazy for us Norwegians and to win against Brazil and then go and play England in the quarter-finals in the World Cup in the USA is quite special," added Haaland.

"I think if you watch the scenes back in Norway, this is not normal for Norway to be, so it's super special."

**Quansah banned**

England are in their third consecutive quarter-final, but needed their own momentous moment to get there.

Thomas Tuchel's men survived a second-half onslaught when down to 10 men in Mexico City for a 3-2 win that will go down as arguably England's greatest World Cup win on foreign soil.

Although their long wait for major tournament glory persists, this generation of England players have come as close as any since 1966 to end that drought.

They have lost in the last two finals of the European Championship and also reached a semi-final and quarter-final in the last two World Cups.

"We've been here a few times," said England winger Bukayo Saka. "But the best team on the day is going to be the team that wins, so we're aware of that and that's where our focus is."

Bellingham and Kane have

been as pivotal to England's progress as Haaland for Norway.

The Real Madrid midfielder and Bayern Munich striker have combined for 10 of their side's 11 goals so far.

England's issues have been at the other end of the field and are exacerbated by a two-match ban

handed to Jarell Quansah for his red card in the last 16.

Quansah has deputised out of position at right-back in the absence of Reece James, who remains a doubt for Saturday due to a hamstring injury.

Tuchel could be forced into a defensive reshuffle with Ezri Konsam moving to right-back and John Stones coming in at centre-back.

Another challenging factor for both sides will be the extreme heat and humidity forecast for Miami.

England have so far escaped energy-sapping conditions with three of their five matches played in the rain, while the other two were in air-conditioned stadiums in Atlanta and Dallas.



Jude Bellingham and Harry Kane

# Spain Edge Belgium, Face France

**S**uper sub Mikel Merino broke Belgian hearts and sent Spain through to a World Cup semi-final against France with a late goal in a gripping 2-1 win on Friday.

The stunning finish at SoFi Stadium sets up a tantalizing showdown between European champions Spain and the tournament favorites France, featuring the red-hot Kylian Mbappe in Dallas on Tuesday.

But it was heartbreak for Belgium's substitute goalkeeper Senne Lammens, sent on late, who spilled a shot into the path of Merino.

The dramatic finale came after Fabian Ruiz opened the scoring for Spain, before Charles De Ketelaere grabbed one back for Belgium against the run of play before halftime.

Welcoming Kevin De Bruyne and Jeremy Doku back to the starting XI, Belgium were rocked by a hamstring injury during warm-ups to captain Youri Tielemans, which hit them hard.

Having already lost Amadou Onana to a ruptured ACL, the Red Devils had to play a near second-choice midfield against the Spanish possession masters.

Ruiz, brought in for Pedri, wasted no time combining with Rodri to dominate the ball and Barcelona's teen sensation Lamine Yamal curled an early shot just wide of the far post.

But opposing winger Doku was bright for Belgium, cutting in from the left to feed De Ketelaere, the striker fresh from his brace against the United States on Monday.



Spain's midfielder #06 Mikel Merino celebrates scoring his team's second goal during the match

Still, it was Spain who struck first. On the half-hour mark, Pedro Porro played a sharp one-two with Lamine Yamal before expertly cutting it back from near the byline to Dani Olmo.

Olmo's shot was parried by Thibaut Courtois, but fell to Ruiz, who fired it home.

Suddenly it was all Spain. They pinged passes around the Belgian half as though this World Cup quarter-final was a training exercise, laid on for an A-list crowd featuring Brad Pitt, Penelope Cruz and Noel Gallagher.

But Belgium, having fought back astonishingly late from 2-0 down in the round-of-32 to dispatch Senegal, did not panic.

They grabbed one back in the 41st minute. De Bruyne slid a through ball wide to Timothy Castagne. His cross found De Ketelaere, who perfectly timed his run and outmuscled Barcelona youngster Pau Cubarsi to head home.

It was the first goal Spain had conceded this World Cup.

Improbably, Belgium almost grabbed another before halftime. Breaking from a Spain corner, De Ketelaere's pass to a totally clear Doku was barely intercepted by Olmo.

Yamal grew into the game after the break, nearly finding Mikel Oyarzabal with an incisive cross that a charging Courtois well blocked.

Belgian coach Rudi Garcia brought on veteran striker Romelu Lukaku, who had scored from the bench in three straight games.

The game opened up. A Belgian cross hit Rodri's arm but the impact was deemed accidental. Oyarzabal had a shot saved from a close, tight angle.

A tearful Courtois was forced off by injury after 70 minutes. He was replaced by Lammens, the 24-year-old Manchester United 'keeper making his

World Cup debut in daunting circumstances.

It turned out to be a nightmare.

In the 88th minute, Cubarsi shot low from range, and Lammens should have held onto the ball. Instead substitute Mikel Merino was first to the rebound, smashing it home.

It was the Arsenal midfielder's second straight late winner from the bench, after he scored the crucial goal against Portugal in stoppage time on Monday.

Late on Alexis Saelemaekers rounded Unai, but was unable to find Lukaku in front of an open goal.

As the whistle blew, Courtois came out to embrace a distraught Lammens, while other members of Belgium's ageing "Golden Generation" stood immobile and unbelieving.

For Spain there were embraces and fist pumps before attention quickly turned to their blockbuster clash with France.

## Merlier wins Tour de France seventh stage in sprint finish



Soudal Quick-Step team's Belgian rider Tim Merlier cycles to the finish line

AFP | Bordeaux

green jersey points competition after finishing eighth.

**B**elgian Tim Merlier won the Tour de France seventh stage in a sprint finish at the end of a 175km run from Hagetmau to Bordeaux yesterday.

Norwegian Soren Waerenskjold took second place with Eritrean Biniam Girmay third as reigning champion Tadej Pogacar held onto the race leader's yellow jersey.

In a relatively uneventful day in southwest France, where the temperatures reached a maximum of 38C in Bordeaux, Merlier timed his effort to perfection, reeling in compatriot Jasper Philipsen and Girmay to secure a clear victory.

Philipsen's Alpecin-Premier Tech team had seem to set up the 10-time Tour stage winner perfectly for his dash to the line but he simply did not have the straight line speed to hold off Merlier.

Philipsen was fifth behind German Max Kanter in fourth, while Dane Mads Pedersen retained his lead in the sprinters'

It was another day with a breakaway doomed from the start, and few riders showing an interest in being a part of it.

Frenchman Baptiste Veist-roffer escaped from the chequered flag for the second time in three days.

But having ridden 144km alone on Wednesday, this time he had Czech Jakub Otruba for company.

The sprinters' teams were not prepared to take any risks and never let the duo get more than a minute and a half up the road.

They were caught with 18km left after 156km out in front - meaning that Veistroffer had spent 300km in breakaways over the last three days.

Uno-X Mobility, whose rider Uno-X Traeen had worn the yellow jersey for two days before a crash on Thursday forced him out of the race, repeatedly launched attacks to try to escape off the front of the peloton, but to no avail.

The stage was set for a sprinter's dash to the line.

# Can ageless Messi keep delivering for Argentina at World Cup?

## ● Messi scores in all World Cup matches

AFP | Kansas City

**L**ionel Messi has scored in every World Cup match so far, but after two gruelling knockout ties, will age finally catch up with the 39-year-old in the quarter-final against Switzerland?

Lionel Scaloni's team sailed through the group stage but have been pushed to the limit by Cape Verde and Egypt.

They needed extra time to squeeze past the World Cup newcomers in the last 32 before winning 3-2 and then came back from the dead against Mohamed Salah's team.

The defending champions have won all five of their games, with Messi's brilliance and their unshakable team spirit central to their progress.

Messi made up for a missed penalty against Egypt with a wonderfully composed finish as Argentina rallied from two goals down in the closing minutes.

He broke down in a rare show of emotion at the end of the pulsating 3-2 win in Atlanta, saying he was desperate for his World Cup journey to continue.

"It was a moment of pure happiness and relief," said the Inter Miami forward. "We wanted to stay in the tournament. We didn't want today to be the end, we didn't want to go home."

Messi admitted he was tired after playing 120 minutes against Cape Verde but he featured for the whole game against Egypt and remains indispensable.

Saturday's quarter-final at Arrowhead Stadium will take him back to



Lionel Messi

the scene of his hat-trick in Argentina's first match of the 2026 tournament.

He has continued his scoring run, taking his tally to eight -- level with Golden Boot rival Kylian Mbappe.

And he has also become the leading scorer in World Cup history, with 21 goals across his career.

### Team spirit

Aside from their diminutive genius, Argentina's most potent weapon is their remarkable camaraderie.

The South Americans are now unbeaten in 11 World Cup games as they seek to become the first country since Brazil in 1962 to win back-to-back World Cups.

"Whatever happens from here on, this team gives me the feeling that it never stops believing, even when everything is going against it," said Scaloni.

That sentiment is echoed by midfielder Enzo Fernandez, who said the side "never gives up no matter the difficulties and adversity".

There have even been dark



21 goals have been scored by Lionel Messi across his career, making him the leading marksman in World Cup history

suggestions that Argentina -- trailed everywhere by legions of blue-and-white-clad fans -- have been treated favourably at the World Cup.

Egypt coach Hossam Hassan speculated that the officiating team for the last-16 game may have been subjected to "external pressure" to favour Argentina, a suggestion quashed by FIFA referees chief Pierluigi Collina.

The South Americans face a tough test against an industrious and well-drilled Switzerland team in Kansas City.

The Swiss, led by their influential captain Granit Xhaka, are one win away from reaching their first-ever World Cup semi-final.

Murat Yakin's men eased past Algeria 2-0 in the round of 32 before holding their nerve to beat a strong Colombia team on penalties.

Attacking midfielder Johan Manzanbani was outstanding during the group stage, adding thrust to a team of experienced campaigners and scoring three times.

But Manzanbani missed the match against Colombia with an injury and is a doubt for the Argentina match.

Xhaka, 33, said Switzerland had waited a long time to find such a potent mix of experience and youth.

"I think this generation we have now is a special one," the Sunderland midfielder said.

"Of course, we try to pass on our experience, but above all the mentality that, even as a small nation, anything is possible at this level, in elite football," Xhaka added.

"From the coaching staff to the last player, we can all be proud of what we've achieved."

The winners of the match in Kansas City will face either Norway or England, who clash in Miami, also on Saturday.