

Pakistan Air Force Arrives Saudi Arabia

A Pakistani Air Force contingent has arrived in Saudi Arabia under a joint defence agreement to enhance military cooperation, operational readiness, and regional security. | P8

07 Artemis crew home safely

THE DAILY **tribune**



Muharraq Edge Al Ahli to Reach King's Cup Final **11** SPORTS

BUSINESS **05** UN Warns Fertiliser Disruption Could Hit Food Output Until 2027

ONE MORE DRONE DOWNED
TDT | Manama



The BDF confirmed that since the start of Iranian attacks, its forces have intercepted and destroyed 194 missiles and 516 drones targeting the Kingdom. It also reported that one additional drone was destroyed yesterday, despite a ceasefire announcement, while Bahrain's skies have remained clear for more than 24 hours.

Fatal Road Crash

A person died after being struck by a vehicle on Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Street near Hamad Town, heading toward Manama.

OMG

9-Year-Old Rescued After Being Locked in Van for a Year



Police said a 9-year-old boy was rescued in eastern France after being found locked inside his father's utility van for almost a year.

Neighbours alerted authorities after hearing a child's voice from the vehicle in Hagenbach.

Officers forced the van open, found the boy in a shocking condition and immediately rushed him to the hospital while detaining his father. Investigations are ongoing.

220 fils (includes VAT)



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24-Hour Food Hub Activated

Over 150 food factories active as Bahrain boosts food security strategy

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Bahrain has activated a 24-hour operations room to safeguard national food supplies and ensure a steady flow of essential goods, Industry and Commerce Minister Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro told Parliament in response to an MP Hassan Ebrahim's question.

He said staple food stocks remain sufficient to meet local demand despite regional tensions affecting trade routes, with imports continuing through multiple supply channels.

"The stock of staple food items in the Kingdom is sufficient for a suitable period, with goods still reaching markets through various import channels," the minister said.

Price Monitoring

The ministry has intensified inspections to prevent unjustified price increases and is taking action against violators.

Authorities shut down four businesses for unjustified price increases. One case was referred to the



MP Hassan Ebrahim raises a question to the minister during a parliamentary session.

Public Prosecution, while others received warnings and were ordered to correct their pricing.

Inspection teams are carrying out daily checks across markets, shops, warehouses, and supply centres, reviewing invoices, supply chains, and costs to ensure compliance.



"Any change in prices must be based on clear and objective reasons linked to import costs or operating expenses"
ABDULLA FAKHRO, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

24/7 Monitoring System

Fakhro said price changes must be linked to clear factors such as import or operating costs, not exploitation.

He added that a round-the-clock operations room has been set up, along with liaison officers for key suppliers to speed up logistics and resolve disruptions.

A national working group established under Ministerial Order No. 32 of 2023, coordinates food security efforts, involving public and private sector entities to monitor supplies and prepare emergency plans.

The ministry is also working with the Economic Development Board to strengthen local food production while cooperating with GCC partners to secure regional supply chains.



Hormuz Mine Clearance Begins

US Central Command (CENTCOM) forces have begun preparatory operations to clear naval mines in the Strait of Hormuz, with two US Navy guided-missile destroyers conducting missions in the area on April 11.

The USS Frank E. Peterson (DDG 121) and USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) transited the strategic waterway and operated in the Arabian Gulf as part of a broader effort to ensure the strait is free of sea mines previously

deployed by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). United States Central Command said the operation marks the initial phase of establishing a safe maritime corridor for commercial shipping.

The Strait of Hormuz is a critical international shipping lane through which a significant portion of global oil and trade passes. CENTCOM said additional assets, including underwater drones, will join the clearance operations in the coming days as



"A large number of empty tankers are heading to the United States to load oil and gas"
US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

part of efforts to enhance maritime security in the region.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump says a large number of empty tankers are



"We began establishing a new passage and will share this safe pathway,"
U.S. NAVY ADM. BRAD COOPER, COMMANDER OF CENTCOM

heading to the US to load oil and gas. His comments come as US and Iranian negotiators hold ceasefire talks in Pakistan.

Unsettled weather is expected across Bahrain today, with forecasts indicating a chance of thunderstorms in various areas.

UAE Visit Begins



UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaikh Abdullah bin Zayed has received India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar to discuss recent regional developments.

The two sides reviewed the impact of Iranian missile attacks that targeted the UAE and other friendly countries, as well as the situation following the US announcement of a two-week ceasefire between the United States and Iran.

Face-to-Face Talks



Talks were held between the US, Iran, and Pakistan in Islamabad after separate meetings with the Pakistani Prime Minister, who urged both sides to engage constructively.

Behind closed doors, high-level discussions took place as tensions and expectations shaped the atmosphere of the meeting.

But what exactly happened inside the room? What was agreed—and what wasn't?...

CONTINUE ON PAGE 6

A PREMIER ADDITION TO AL HILAL
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Sea Treasure

● From a diving hobby to preserving Bahrain's historic pearl culture

● Abbas Ali Kitab reflects on 12 years in natural pearl diving

● A fading tradition kept alive through passion and resilience

Ghadeer Alkumaish
TDT | Manama



From left: A rare pearl shaped like a human eye, a large Sidayfee oyster, and pearl diver Abbas Ali Kitab with his son Fares at sea, showcasing Bahrain's enduring pearl diving heritage.

Bahraini pearl diver Abbas Ali Kitab, owner of Pearls Valley in Karzakan, reflects on his journey in the world of natural pearls in an exclusive interview with The Daily Tribune, sharing how a simple diving hobby evolved into a lifelong connection with one of Bahrain's most valuable natural treasures.

Kitab's story highlights the enduring cultural and historical importance of pearl diving in Bahrain, a tradition that once formed the backbone of the national economy. Today, while the industry has changed, natural pearls remain a symbol



Team celebrates first place victory at the HH Shaikh Nasser's Marine Heritage Sports Season 2020

of identity, craftsmanship, and heritage that continues to face modern challenges.

His journey began 12 years ago as a general diving hobby focused on fishing and exploration. Over time, his passion evolved into harvesting natural pearls through dives across Bahrain's historic pearl grounds.

Before the discovery of oil, Bahrain and the GCC relied heavily on pearl diving as a primary source of livelihood. He emphasizes that this heritage remains deeply respected today, with Bahraini pearls still considered among the finest in the world.

"Bahraini pearls are known for their natural purity and brilliance," he explains. "They are among the finest natural pearls in the world and do not require any artificial treatment or enhancement."



"The biggest challenge is competition with low-cost cultured pearls, as well as limited awareness of the uniqueness of Bahraini pearls"

— ABBAS ALI KITAB

Despite its cultural value, pearl diving remains a physically demanding and dangerous profession.

"Pearl diving is beautiful, but it is also one of the most dangerous professions," he says. "Divers face risks such as drowning, oxygen shortage, strong currents, and encounters with marine life."

What began as a passion eventually developed into a professional pursuit when Kitab and his five-member team secured first place in the Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa Marine Heritage Sports Season 2020, competing in a modern pearl extraction category that honors traditional diving skills.

He adds that pearls come in a variety of shapes and colors, including white, green, and rare dark tones. One of his most unusual discoveries was a pearl shaped exactly like a human eye — a striking reminder of nature's unpredictability.

Bahrain, UK Review US–Iran Talks



H.E. Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani



Yvette Cooper

● Both ministers emphasize importance of de-escalation

TDT | Manama



They reviewed recent regional developments, including tensions involving Iran, reported hostile actions against Bahrain and other Gulf Cooperation Council states.

Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani held a telephone conversation with Yvette Cooper, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom.

During the call, both sides discussed the long-standing friendship and strategic partnership between Bahrain and the United Kingdom, and explored ways to further strengthen cooperation and coordination across various areas.

They also reviewed recent regional developments, including tensions involving Iran, reported hostile actions against Bahrain and other Gulf Cooperation Council states, and disruptions to maritime navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, along with their implications for international shipping, energy supplies, and global trade.

Actions

Both ministers emphasized the importance of de-escalation and called for an immediate halt to any actions that

could further destabilize the region. They also stressed the need to ensure freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, given its critical importance to the global economy.

The discussion also covered ongoing US–Iran negotiations, which Pakistan was mediating. Both sides underlined the importance of continued consultation and close coordination between Bahrain and the United Kingdom at the United Nations Security Council, particularly during Bahrain's non-permanent membership and its presidency of the Council for April.

Court Overturns Absconding Report Against Worker

● Case was based on unfounded complaint

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

lenged the report in November 2024, but his grievance was initially rejected and the decision upheld in December 2025.

Complaint

However, the court noted that the employer later withdrew the complaint and confirmed there was no objection to the worker transferring to another job.

The court found no evidence of unlawful absence or violation of work permit conditions, stating that the administrative decision was based on incorrect facts.

Consequently, the court cancelled the absconding report and all its legal consequences against the worker.

The High Administrative Court annulled an administrative decision that upheld an "absconding" report against a worker, ruling that the case was based on an unfounded complaint.

The worker, represented by lawyer Ahmed Mayouf, had been reported by his employer to the relevant authority, which affected his ability to renew his residency and continue employment.

Court documents showed the worker legally chal-

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Bahrainisation Ahead of Target

Temporary expatriate roles remain in specialised technical and regulatory positions

- 87% of the Alba workforce and 89% at BAC

- Structured workforce strategy

- Review process for replacing expatriate roles

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) and Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) have exceeded their Bahrainisation targets, according to Mumtalakat, although some highly specialised roles continue to be filled by expatriates on a temporary basis.

In a response to MP Dr Hisham Al Ashiri, Mumtalakat stated that Bahraini nationals make up 87 percent of the workforce at Aluminium Bahrain and 89 percent at Bahrain Airport Company, both exceeding the required nationalisation levels set by relevant authorities.

The fund explained that certain positions still require specialised



expertise and experience not yet widely available in the local labour market. As a result, foreign professionals are temporarily employed until Bahraini employees are fully trained to assume these roles.

At BAC, the role of X-ray machine operator is expected to be transferred to Bahraini staff during April, following the completion of training programmes. Mumtalakat noted that such transitions are part of an ongoing review process aimed at replacing

expatriate roles with qualified Bahraini nationals.

At Alba, remaining expatriate-held roles include specialised positions in environmental governance, electronic systems such as SAP, information science, high-voltage power conversion, and core aluminium operations like metallurgy, reduction cells, and ingot production.

Similarly, BAC continues to rely on non-Bahraini staff for certain regulatory and technical roles that

require international certifications and extensive experience. These roles are periodically reviewed for potential localisation, particularly as workforce demands increase.

Both companies are actively investing in training and development programmes to sustain and further improve Bahrainisation rates. At Alba, employees undergo structured academic, vocational, and on-the-job training, with progress assessed at key stages before transitioning into special-



Hisham Al Ashiri, MP

ised roles.

BAC also implements continuous training initiatives, including technical and vocational programmes, as well as support for professional certifications aligned with operational requirements.

Mumtalakat emphasised that these efforts aim to build a sustainable, skilled national workforce while reducing reliance on expatriates. Career planning, performance evaluations, and targeted training are also used to ensure operational continuity and maintain high standards.

Additionally, Alba prioritizes national employees through various initiatives, including supervisory development programmes,



The Bahrain Airport Company is preparing to hand over X-ray screening operations to Bahraini staff this April, while Alba still depends on expatriates for advanced roles in aluminium production.

skills assessment schemes, and specialised training tracks such as the Bridge and Star programmes. Support is also provided for higher education, including diploma, bachelor's, and master's degrees, alongside international training opportunities.

Mumtalakat said these combined measures are designed to prepare Bahrainis for leadership and technical roles, ensuring long-term sustainability of Bahrainisation across key sectors.

Bahrain Crushes Iran-linked Drug Smuggling Ring



The Ministry of Interior announced that the Anti-Narcotics Directorate, under the General Directorate of Crime Detection and Forensic Evidence, successfully foiled an attempt to sell and distribute over 100 kilograms of marijuana and hashish, with an estimated street value of around BD 1.5 million.

Authorities confirmed the arrest of three individuals involved in the case. According to the ministry, the smuggling operation originated in Iran using a so-called "dead drop" method; the drugs were then intended for distribution and sale within Bahrain using the same network.

The Anti-Narcotics Directo-

rate stated that after receiving initial intelligence, it launched extensive investigations and evidence-gathering operations that led to the suspects' identification and arrest.

A number of items were seized during the operation, including cash in various currencies, materials used in smuggling and distribution, and two boats allegedly used for trafficking operations from Iran.

The General Directorate of Crime Detection and Forensic Evidence confirmed that the seized items were confiscated and that all legal procedures were completed before referring the case to the Public Prosecution.

Election Campaigns in Bahrain May Go Digital

- No approval granted for installation

- Existing infrastructure is sufficient.

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Bahrain is moving towards a new model for election campaigning, allowing candidates to use existing electronic screens and licensed roadside billboards, while firmly rejecting the installation of new digital displays.

The Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture confirmed that proposals to install new electronic screens for election advertising were not approved, stressing that the existing electronic screens is already sufficient to serve campaign needs.

In its response to the Southern

Municipal Council, the ministry stated that a relevant government committee reviewed the matter and concluded that licensed digital screens operating across the Kingdom can be used within established regulations.

The shift could reshape how candidates reach voters, moving away from traditional campaign visuals that have long dominated Bahrain's streets. For years, elections relied heavily on banners, posters, and temporary structures, which were often installed shortly before the voting day and removed afterward.

Officials indicated that relying on existing infrastructure offers a more efficient and controlled approach, avoiding additional financial burdens while maintaining traffic flow and urban order. The ministry added that alternative advertising methods remain available



where needed, depending on each campaign's nature.

For candidates, the move signals a transition towards more organised and potentially competitive campaigning, where visibility may depend less on physical presence in neighbourhoods and more on strategic placement

across digital platforms already embedded in daily life.

As Bahrain prepares for future elections, the decision reflects a broader recalibration of campaign tools, one that blends regulation with modern visibility while keeping the public space unchanged.

Drunk Driver Fined After Amwaj Restaurant Crash

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A drunk driver who smashed into another car, the glass door of a restaurant and three trees in Amwaj has been fined BD3,000 by a court, despite a high alcohol reading that can often lead to a jail term in cases of this kind.

The crash happened when the 74-year-old British man lost control of his vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. His car hit another vehicle, shunting it into a wall, then carried on into the



Taqi Hussain, lawyer

glass door of a restaurant before striking three trees. The crash left damage to the other car, the wall, the door and the trees.

The court said the case was proved by the driver's own statements, an alcohol test and the traffic accident report. He admitted during the investigation that he had been driving after drinking, lost control and hit the other vehicle.

Tests by the medical laboratory section at the Interior Ministry found 112 milligrams of alcohol in every 100 millilitres of his urine



PHOTO ONLY FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSE

sample and said he was in no state to control a car properly. The reading was high, yet the court's punishment was limited to a BD3,000 fine.

The traffic report said he was driving in Amwaj under the influence to a degree that left him unable to control the vehicle. It also found that he failed to take the

care and attention required on the road, which led to the crash and the subsequent damage.

His lawyer, Taqi Hussain, asked the court to show leniency because of his health. The court found him guilty of drink-driving, causing damage to other people's property and driving without due care and attention under Bahrain's Traffic Law, Law No. 23 of 2014.

It ruled that the three offences were linked and should be treated as one act for sentencing, imposing a single fine of BD3,000.

A Library Where Memories Are Still Read

Books since 1902 still breathe inside Salah's library

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

A book printed in 1902 still rests quietly on a shelf in Isa Town, waiting to be opened. Not preserved behind glass or locked away, it remains within reach, offering a simple reminder that stories do not fade, but endure.

Inside Salah's Traditional Library, time appears to slow. The scent of aged paper, the soft rustle of turning pages, and the calm atmosphere invite visitors to pause and reflect. It is a place where books carry memory, not just words.

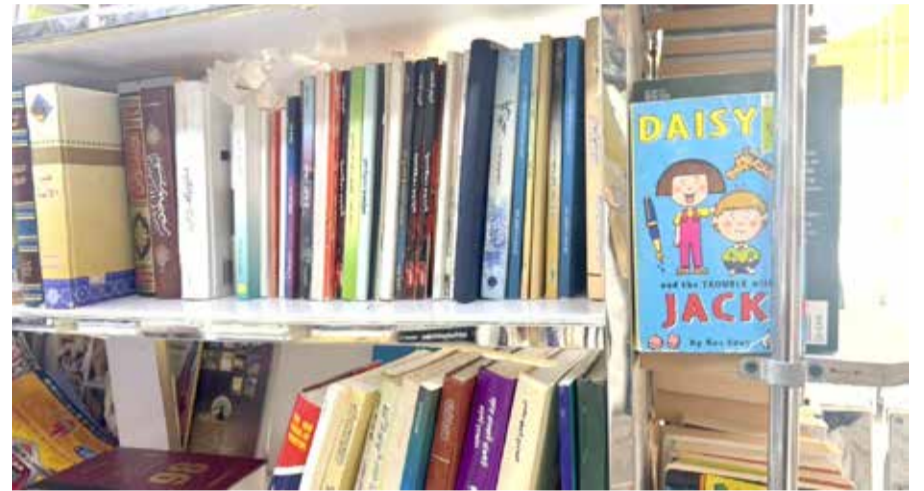
Founded in 1996 by Salah Hussein, the library began as a modest table in a second-hand market. Over the years, it has grown into a unique cultural space known for its collection of used and rare titles, many of which are no longer in print. Each book tells more than one story, often bearing marks of previous readers, handwritten notes, folded pages, and the passage of time.

Sharing

"I didn't know how to sell books at the beginning," Salah recalls. "But people kept coming back. That's when I realised this



A rare copy of Qasr Al Khof, first published in 1957, is preserved as part of a timeless collection.



An old English book, Daisy Jack, is among the rare titles available at the library



Citizens are flocking to the library to spend their time surrounded by books, turning quiet reading into a shared daily habit.

place is not just for selling, it's for sharing."

Visitors often find themselves drawn to nostalgic pieces, including old editions of Majid

Magazine, which evoke memories of childhood reading and imagination. For many, stepping into the library feels less like visiting a shop and more like



"I didn't know how to sell books at the beginning"

- SALAH HUSSEIN



In a quiet corner of Isa Town, a book from 1902 is not just history—it continues to live in the present.

revisiting the past. The space attracts a diverse crowd, including students, parents, writers, and academics. Without a digital catalogue, browsing becomes a personal journey, allowing visitors to ex-

Belief

Thousands of affordable books line the shelves, reflecting a belief that knowledge should

remain accessible. Here, the value of a book lies not in its age or condition, but in the stories it carries.

In a quiet corner of Isa Town, a book printed more than a century ago is not just a piece of history, it continues to be part of everyday life.

Shura Council Considers Key Legal Reforms Today

● Two draft laws under review

● Replacing terms like "work" with "rehabilitation and training"

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama



Shura Council

The Shura Council will gather for its 26th meeting of the fourth session in the sixth legislative term. Lawmakers will review important committee reports shaping Bahrain's legislative and reform direction.

On the agenda are two draft laws prepared by the Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee. The first proposes amendments to the Reform and Rehabilitation Institution Law issued under Law No. 18 of 2014, while the second focuses on changes to the Penal Code under Decree-Law No. 15 of 1976. Both were submitted through recent royal decrees in 2025.

The discussions are based on observations from the International Labour Organisation, which raised concerns about wording in national legislation that could be interpreted as

allowing compulsory labour alongside prison sentences. In response, the proposed amendments aim to clarify intent and align legal language with international standards.

Approval

The committee has recommended approval of both drafts, highlighting Bahrain's ongoing progress in developing a modern reform and rehabilitation system. It noted that reformation centres in the country are not only correctional facilities but also structured environments offering education, vocational training, healthcare, and social support to help inmates reintegrate into society.

Lawmakers emphasized that Bahrain's penal approach has increasingly shifted toward restorative justice, alternative sen-

tencing, and rehabilitation-focused policies. This includes initiatives such as open prisons, which allow gradual reintegration into the community and aim to reduce repeat offences.

The first draft law would replace terms such as "work" with "rehabilitation and training," and "wage" with "reward," reinforcing the idea that inmate duties center on skill-building rather than labour. The second draft law similarly replaces prison work requirements with structured rehabilitation programmes, further strengthening the shift toward reform-oriented justice.

The committee said these changes would remove any ambiguity, unify legal terminology, and ensure consistency across legislation while reflecting Bahrain's evolving correctional philosophy.

Kuwait Health Centre Expansion Due by June After 20,040 Referrals

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The expansion of Kuwait Health Centre in Karzakan is set to be fully operational by the end of June 2026, the Health Ministry has confirmed, following more than 20,000 patient referrals from the facility last year.

In a written response to MP Hanan Fardan, the ministry said 20,040 cases were referred



Kuwait Health Centre in Karzakan

in 2025 from the centre to Salmaniya Medical Complex and King Hamad University Hospital, including emergency and

specialist cases. The ministry said the upgrade works are being carried out in phases.

Abu Subh Coast Set for Major Redevelopment Project

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Residents of Abu Subh are set to see long-awaited improvements to their coastline after a BD 1.2 million development contract was signed with a Bahraini company through a competitive tender process.

The project, confirmed by Northern Municipal Council member Basim Abudrees, aims to transform the area into a modern public space with safer and more accessible facilities



Officials from the Northern Municipality visited the shoreline to assess current conditions.

for families. "We've been asking for this for more than five years," said resident Um Khalid. "I just

hope this time it actually happens." The announcement followed a site visit by officials.

War's impact on fertilisers stirs food producer fears

AFP | Paris

Even as Gulf tanker traffic slowly resumes, the road back to normal food production will be long and arduous, given the war's impact on fertiliser supplies, the UN has warned.

With factories shuttered and soaring gas prices driving up production costs around the world, fertiliser prices have risen across the board and are unlikely to fall back easily.

"If the Strait of Hormuz reopened immediately, i.e. not only a ceasefire but vessels moving, the impact would be significantly positive -- but incomplete and uneven," the Food and Agriculture Organization's chief economist Maximo Torero told AFP.

"The FAO is clear that damage has already been done."

According to Argus Media, the price of urea from the Middle East has, for example, risen by 70 percent in a matter of weeks.

Gulf countries are major exporters of nitrogen fertilisers like urea -- which provides plants with nitrogen to aid green leafy growth -- as well as ammonia and phosphate.

Italy notably called last week for a "humanitarian corridor" in the Strait of Hormuz for fer-



A farmer sprinkles fertiliser on crops in a field on the outskirts of Amritsar

tiliser as Torero warned that if high prices continue, farmers would face a stark choice: "Farm the same with fewer inputs, plant less, or switch to less intensive fertiliser crops," which would reduce food supply well into 2027.

Lasting blow to supplies

Torero warned the bottleneck in marine traffic since the conflict began on February 28 meant even if Hormuz were to reopen

immediately "infrastructure damage is not fully reversible in the short term."

According to Kpler data, around 1.9 million tonnes of fertiliser are trapped on 41 vessels, equal to 12 percent of all produce shipped out of the strait in 2024.

On March 2, the ammonia plant at the Ras Laffan refinery in Qatar was attacked. Plants have also suspended or reduced production in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Jordan and Qatar,

whose Qafco complex accounted for 14 percent of global trade in urea.

Overall, about one third of urea trade has been choked off, says the FAO.

In India and Bangladesh, nitrogen fertiliser plants have slowed down, unable to cope with the soaring cost of the gas required to operate.

Price breaks

Even if production and shipping resumes in the Gulf, prices for nitrogen fertilisers will fall slowly and unevenly, warned Torero.

"Unlike oil, the fertiliser sector does not have internationally coordinated strategic reserves, making supply disruptions more difficult to manage.

"Repair timelines are measured in months, not days."

Purchasers have also been hit by the fact that many pre-war contracts governing prices have been suspended as producers cite "force majeure," forcing reliance on higher spot market prices.

The FAO forecasts global fertiliser prices could average 15-20 percent higher in the first half 2026.

"A meaningful decline would



The fertilizer sector is more vulnerable than the oil industry during conflicts because it lacks internationally coordinated strategic reserves, making it nearly impossible for nations to manage sudden, large-scale supply disruptions

likely take four to eight weeks after reopening, as production ramps up and shipping reschedules," says Torero. "Prices are unlikely to return to February 2026 levels before the third quarter of 2026, if at all this year."

Too late for some

He added many crop planting decisions have already been missed with the Northern Hemisphere already in planting sea-

sons, meaning those yields will not be recovered.

"It's too late" in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, Turkey, and Jordan, all heavily reliant on Gulf fertilizers. But perhaps not for second harvests in Asia if fertilizers arrive within 4 to 6 weeks."

He explained that "the time between a fertiliser shock and a harvest failure is measured in months. The time between a harvest failure and a food price surge is measured in months more. We are already inside that window."

"Ripple effect"

Prices spiked following previous disruptions during the financial crisis of 2008 and the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

"I think what makes this one potentially more critical is the number of production hubs that are involved and countries that are involved," says Sarah Marlow, global editor for fertiliser at Argus Media.

"And then the ripple effect has spread out from the Gulf to other countries, which have also been affected by a lack of raw materials, a lack of gas."

OpenAI CEO's California home hit by Molotov cocktail, man arrested



OpenAI CEO Sam Altman

AFP | San Francisco

The luxury San Francisco home of OpenAI boss Sam Altman was hit by a Molotov cocktail on Friday, the company said, as police announced the arrest of a suspect.

No one was injured in the incident, and the firm behind the popular ChatGPT artificial intelligence chatbot would not confirm if the CEO was home at the time.

The motive for the attack and subsequent threats to set fire to OpenAI's San Francisco headquarters -- apparently by the same 20-year-old man -- were not immediately known.

But they come as Altman's profile has risen with the increasing use of AI, amid fears it could massively disrupt employment patterns and cause irreversible societal changes.

Police in San Francisco responded after reports that someone had tried to set fire to a gate at the sprawling home. A statement from the San Francisco Police Department said officers were dispatched to the home just after 4:00 am (1100 GMT).

"At the scene, officers learned that an unknown male subject threw an incendiary

destructive device at a home, causing a fire to an exterior gate. The suspect then fled on foot," SFPD said.

A short time later they were called to the firm's offices where a man was making threats.

"When officers arrived on scene, they recognized the male to be the same suspect from the earlier incident and immediately detained him," the statement said of the unnamed 20-year-old suspect.

A spokesman for OpenAI confirmed the attack on the chief executive's residence and the threats to the San Francisco headquarters.

"The individual is in custody, and we're assisting law enforcement with their investigation," the spokesman said.

Altman and OpenAI have become targets for people protesting AI as a threat to society. Detractors have been particularly troubled by OpenAI's decision to provide its technology to the US Department of Defense.

In a rare post on his personal blog, Altman shared a photo of his husband and their baby "in the hopes that it might dissuade the next person from throwing a Molotov cocktail at our house."

Mythos AI alarm bells: Fair warning or marketing hype?

Powerful coding AI sparks fears of hacker misuse while experts debate real risks

- Anthropic delays Claude Mythos release

- Experts warn of cyber risks

- Critics question fear-driven marketing

AFP | San Francisco

Anthropic postponing the release of its new AI model Claude Mythos, said to be so skilled at coding it could be a wicked weapon for hackers, has encountered a mix of alarm and skepticism.

The company is among several contenders in a fierce artificial intelligence race. Promoting the awe of Anthropic's own technology boosts business and enhances its allure in the event it soon goes public, as is rumored.

"The world has no choice but to take the cyber threat associated with Mythos seriously," said David Sacks, an entrepreneur and investor who heads President Donald Trump's council of advisors on technology.

"But it's hard to ignore that Anthropic has a history of scare tactics."

Mythos has sparked fears of hackers commanding armies of AI agents able to break through computer defenses with ease.

At this week's HumanX AI conference in San Francisco, Alex Stamos of startup Corridor, which addresses AI safety, acknowledged a real threat from agentic hackers.

And Stamos quipped about what he referred to as Anthropic's "marketing schtick."



"They have these adorable cutesy cartoons about these products that are so incredibly dangerous that they won't even let people use them," Stamos said of the San Francisco-based startup.

"It's like if the Manhattan Project announced the nuclear bomb within a cute little Calvin and Hobbes cartoon."

The heads of America's biggest banks met this week with Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to weigh the security implications of the yet-to-be released Claude Mythos, according to reports Friday.

"Mythos model points to something far more consequential than another leap in artificial intelligence," Cato Networks co-founder and chief executive Shlomo Kramer said in a blog post.

"It signals a shift that could redefine the balance between attackers and defenders in cyberspace."

A tightly restricted preview of Mythos was shared with partner organizations this week, un-

der an initiative called Project Glasswing. They include Amazon, Apple, Microsoft, Google, Cisco, CrowdStrike and JPMorgan Chase.

According to Anthropic and partners, Mythos can autonomously scan vast amounts of code to find and chain together previously unknown security vulnerabilities in all kinds of software, from operating systems to web browsers.

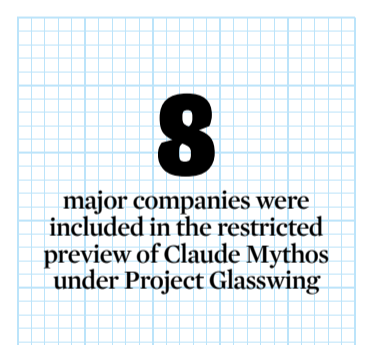
Crucially, they warn, this can be done at a speed and scale no human could match, meaning it could be used to bring down banks, hospitals or national infrastructure within hours.

"What once required elite specialists can now be performed by software agents," Shlomo said.

"The immediate consequences will be a surge in vulnerability discovery, a true tsunami" of exploiting known and unknown vulnerabilities.

'Agent-to Agent War'

At HumanX, the apparent consensus was that it makes sense that AI agents already adept at coding will excel at



finding weaknesses in software. "We're not in an era where human beings can write code when we have superhuman (AI models) that are then going to find bugs in it," Stamos contended.

"It's just not possible." He predicted the coming dynamic will involve humans supervising AI agents to protect networks against hackers using that same technology to attack.

Stamos referred to it as "agent-to-agent war," with humans on the sidelines giving advice.

Wendy Whitmore, of cybersecurity firm Palo Alto Networks, expects "some sort of catastrophic attack" this year connected to AI agent capabilities.

"The thing that keeps me up at night is that we're staring down the barrel of a massive influx of new vulnerabilities that are going to be found by AI," said Adam Meyers of CrowdStrike.

Meyers saw embedding a tiny AI model directly into malicious code infecting networks as a natural tactic to be explored by hackers.

"The ultimate weapon would be malware that has no pre-programming," Meyers said.

"It can do whatever you ask it to."

Deadlock Over Hormuz Dispute



A vessel navigates the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most strategic and closely monitored shipping routes.

● **Third round of negotiations expected as diplomacy intensifies**

● **Macron urges Iran to seize the opportunity for de-escalation**

● **Netanyahu signals conditional openness to Lebanon peace talks**

Agencies

The world watched the Islamabad negotiations, which occurred on the brink of an energy crisis and economic battle in the Middle East and Asia. Iran's semi-official Fars News Agency last night reported that Washington had made "excessive demands regarding the Strait," along with what it called "unacceptable demands on several other issues." The Tasnim news agency also reported that disputes over the strategic waterway were among the main obstacles in the negotiations.

Iranian state television reported that a third round of talks between Iranian and US officials is expected today, though uncertainty remained over whether it would occur.



Arrival of the US delegation in Islamabad to participate in the Islamabad Talks



Pakistan's Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met Iranian delegation led by Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly.



Abdolnasser Hemmati meets Mohammad Ishaq Dar on the sidelines of Islamabad talks.

US delegation

A high-level US delegation, led by Vice President J.D. Vance along with Special Envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, arrived in Islamabad earlier on Saturday to take part in the discussions.

The delegation was received by Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, along with senior military officials. Pakistan reiterated its role as a facilitator and expressed hope that the parties would engage constructively toward a lasting and durable solution to the conflict.

Diplomatic Move

On the sidelines of the talks, Iran's Central Bank Governor Dr. Abdolnasser Hemmati met with Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Mo-

hammad Ishaq Dar. Both sides emphasized the importance of sustained dialogue and regional stability to support economic cooperation.

Meanwhile, French President Emmanuel Macron said he had spoken with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, urging him to use the Islamabad talks to achieve lasting de-escalation. He also called for the restoration of freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.

What's happening in Lebanon?

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said any future peace agreement with Lebanon would need to be "lasting for generations," adding that Beirut had recently expressed interest in direct talks under conditions that included the disarmament of Hezbollah.

Easter truce between Russia and Ukraine begins

AFP | Kyiv

A temporary truce between Russia and Ukraine entered into force on Saturday, with Kyiv warning it would respond "immediately" if Russia violated it.

Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the ceasefire on Thursday to coincide with Orthodox Easter, more than a week after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky first made the proposal.

Both sides have agreed to observe it.

The ceasefire is due to last for 32 hours, from 4:00 pm (1300 GMT) on Saturday until the end

32 hours is the duration of the temporary Easter ceasefire agreed by both sides

of the day on Sunday, according to the Kremlin.

"Ukraine will adhere to the ceasefire and respond strictly in kind. The absence of Russian strikes in the air, on land, and at sea will mean no response from

our side," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a post on X.

The Ukrainian army said it was ready to "immediately" respond if Russia violated it.

Hours before the truce was due to start, Russia launched at least 160 drones at Ukraine, killing four people in the country's east and south and wounding dozens of others, Ukrainian authorities said.

The southern Odesa region was among the hardest hit, with authorities reporting two dead and damage to civilian infrastructure.

UK puts Chagos handover deal in 'deep freeze' after Trump criticism

AFP | London

Britain indicated Saturday it is shelving plans to return the Chagos Islands -- which hosts the strategic Diego Garcia US-UK military base -- to Mauritius, after US President Donald Trump strongly criticised the deal.

Britain struck a deal with Mauritius last year to hand back the Indian Ocean islands to its former colony and pay to lease Diego Garcia, the largest island, home to the military base, for a century.

Trump condemned the return agreement as "an act of great stupidity" and on Satur-



A satellite photo shows an overview of the Diego Garcia military base on the Chagos Archipelago

day British media reported that Prime Minister Keir Starmer's government would drop legislation needed to put the deal into effect.

A former top government official said London had been effectively forced to abandon the plan as a result of Trump's opposition.

1204

The Fourth Crusade occupies and plunders Constantinople

1811

First US colonists on the Pacific coast arrive at Cape Disappointment, Washington

1861

Fort Sumter in South Carolina is attacked by the Confederacy, beginning the American Civil War



1961

Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human to travel into space and orbit Earth, aboard the Vostok 1 spacecraft



NASA's Orion spacecraft with Artemis II crew members as it lands in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California

'A perfect mission': Artemis II crew returns to Earth

NASA recovers astronauts after record-breaking lunar voyage

● NASA crew splashes down safely

● Heat shield passes key test

● Record distance reached from Earth

● Mission lasted around ten days

AFP | Washington

The NASA spacecraft carrying four astronauts splashed down as planned off the California coast, capping the US space agency's successful crewed test mission around the Moon, the first such flyby in more than 50 years.

Mission commander Reid Wiseman reported that the crewmembers -- himself along with Christina Koch, Victor Glover and Jeremy Hansen -- were "stable" and "green."

252,756

miles from Earth marked the farthest distance ever traveled by humans during the mission

Trump congratulates returned Artemis astronauts, says 'next step, Mars!'

AFP | Washington

Donald Trump praised the Artemis astronauts just after they splashed down, as the US president looked ahead to the eventual goal of sending missions to Mars.

"Congratulations to the Great and Very Talented Crew of Artemis II. The entire trip was spectacular, the landing was perfect and, as President of the United States, I could not be more proud!" Trump said on Truth Social.

"I look forward to seeing you all at the White House soon. We'll be doing it again and then, next step, Mars!"

"They're in great condition, that's what that means," said Rob Navias, the NASA public affairs official who narrated their return on the agency's livestream.

Following a brief but nerve-wracking communications blackout during their high-stakes re-entry, Wiseman's voice triggered relief that the astronauts were well on their way back home.

"We have you loud and clear," he said following a voice check from mission control in Houston.

NASA personnel and the US military helped extract the astronauts from the bobbing capsule -- to the applause of those watching from mission control. They will then be flown to a recovery ship off the Pacific coast near San Diego.

As the astronauts returned to Earth their spacecraft reached maximum speeds more than 30 times the speed of sound, and faced searing temperatures around half as hot as the surface of the Sun. It was a key test of their heat shield, which in an earlier trial uncrewed mission had faced complications.

But the Artemis II re-entry went off without a hitch.

NASA administrator Jared Isaacman called the voyage "a perfect mission."

"We're back in the business of sending astronauts to the Moon," he said, and "this is just the beginning."



Astronauts witnessed a solar eclipse and meteorite impacts on the Moon, capturing thousands of images that fascinated scientists and the public alike

TOP 4 TWEETS



They circled the Moon while the rest of us stayed glued to screens full of war and outrage. Humanity can reach farther than ever before, yet still can't reach across a border to shake hands. We're smart enough to survive space. When will we be wise enough to survive each other?

@DrTedros



We're about to welcome our 191 members for our Spring Meetings. We will come together, at a highly uncertain and complex time for the global economy, to discuss the issues we face and seek solutions together.

@KGeorgieva



Hundreds of women & girls were reportedly killed since the recent M.E. escalation. @UN_Women is scaling up protection & support to ensure women are at the heart of response & recovery. We continue to call for lasting ceasefire & peace.

@unwomenchief



The Artemis II crew has returned to Earth. Congratulations to Colonel Hansen and the team on an historic feat. Welcome home.

@MarkJCarney

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

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

The Citizen: The Backbone of Soft Warfare



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

A few days ago, I was a guest on Bahrain Television to discuss the challenges facing the Kingdom of Bahrain—challenges that are no longer confined to conventional military threats, but have expanded into more complex and dangerous arenas, most notably the battlefield of "cognitive warfare" waged across digital platforms and social media.

This reality has become increasingly evident through the content being circulated and promoted online, revealing a systematic campaign aimed at undermining the unique social fabric of Bahraini society. It is no secret that this cohesion represents a primary target, particularly amid ongoing Iranian aggressions against national sovereignty and persistent attempts to influence and manipulate public perception.

Bahrain has been subjected to dozens of misleading media campaigns designed to create divisions within its unified society. Yet, the Bahraini people—thankfully—have demonstrated remarkable resilience and unity in overcoming these challenges. However, the current phase requires a shift from reactive responses to the development of a sustainable strategy built upon what can be described as "societal immunity."

This immunity begins with reinforcing the national narrative and reviving a rich historical legacy filled with unifying milestones—from the founding era during the time of Isa Al-Kabeer, through independence, the aspirations of Arab unity, and culminating in the National Action Charter and the establishment of the modern constitutional state. Across all these stages, the unity of the Bahraini people stands as an undeniable and enduring truth.

On the technological front, smartphones—now inseparable from our daily lives—have evolved into some of the most powerful tools of influence. They have effectively become platforms for launching "digital bullets" targeting minds remotely. Recent crises have exposed the scale and danger of disinformation, leaving no doubt that this weapon must be contained and strategically redirected—not ignored.

Combating such warfare requires the production of credible content and the establishment of trusted sources capable of earning public confidence. Unfortunately, false narratives often spread faster than verified facts, creating a dangerous gap in public awareness. This is where national media must step forward—not merely as a respondent, but as the primary narrator and authoritative source of truth.

Neutralizing "toxic platforms" can no longer rely on traditional approaches. It demands modern tools and a participatory model that positions the citizen as an active partner rather than a passive consumer. By encouraging organized reporting of misleading content, society itself can transform into a first line of defense, where the citizen becomes the true backbone of this soft war.

In this context, empowering citizens—and even children—with the skills to analyze digital content is essential. This includes understanding technologies such as deepfakes and consistently asking the critical question: Who benefits from the dissemination of this message?

This question alone can shift individuals from passive reception to critical awareness.

The adversary in information warfare is always searching for a "spark," while we must cultivate in every Bahraini citizen the role of a "first responder," capable of extinguishing that spark before it escalates into a crisis.

Our national leadership has presented a compelling model of inclusivity under the reform project of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. This model strengthens citizens' trust in their state and grants them the moral courage to reject hate speech, knowing their nation safeguards their rights and unity.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

Joint Defence Cooperation

Saudi Arabia, Pakistan Launch Military Air Deployment

A Pakistani Air Force (PAF) contingent has arrived at King Abdulaziz Air Base in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province as part of a joint strategic defence agreement between the two countries.

According to Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Defence, the deployment includes fighter and support aircraft and is aimed at strengthening operational readiness and enhancing joint military capabilities.

The move comes under a bilateral

defence framework signed between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan in September last year, which sets out expanded military cooperation, including joint training exercises, exchange of expertise, and the deployment of personnel and assets.

Officials said the arrangement is intended to improve interoperability between the two armed forces and bolster preparedness in response to evolving regional security challenges.

The agreement reflects growing



ing defence collaboration between the two nations and a shared commitment to strengthening long-term military cooperation.

Qatar submits 14th UN letter over Iranian attacks

The State of Qatar has submitted its fourteenth identical letter to the United Nations and the United Nations Security Council, addressing recent developments concerning what it described as Iranian attacks on its territory.

In the communication, Qatar said the incidents constitute a "flagrant violation" of its sovereignty and pose a serious threat to regional security and stability. The letter was addressed to UN Secretary-General António Guterres and to the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations and current President of the Security Council for April, Jamal Fares Al-Ruwaisid.

The letter, issued by Qatar's Permanent Representative to the UN Sheikhha Alia Ahmed bin Saif Al Thani, stated that Qatar's Ministry of Defense reported an attack on 8 April 2026 involving seven ballistic missiles and multiple drones launched from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Qatar said its armed forces successfully intercepted all incoming threats.

It further noted that the strikes occurred despite the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2817 (2026), which had condemned pre-



Sheikha Alia Ahmed bin Saif Al Thani

vious attacks and demanded an immediate halt to such actions. Qatar argued that the continued incidents represent a violation of that resolution.

The letter urged the Security Council to assume its responsibilities in maintaining international peace and security and to take measures to halt further violations and deter future attacks.

Qatar also emphasized that the targeted sites were civilian in nature, stating that such actions constitute breaches of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions, and principles governing the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

India Sends Ministers to Gulf

India has dispatched top ministers to Gulf countries this week to secure energy supplies, as concerns mount over a gas crunch triggered by disruptions linked to the ongoing US-Israel-Iran conflict.

The country, which imports around 60 percent of its liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), relies heavily on Gulf suppliers such as Qatar, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia to meet the cooking fuel needs of its 1.4 billion population.



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar began a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates

on Saturday, while Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri concluded talks in Qatar on Friday, focusing on strengthening energy cooperation and ensuring supply stability.

"Our ministers are visiting Gulf countries to strengthen energy security," said Indian Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

The move comes amid concerns over disruptions in the

Strait of Hormuz, a critical global energy route. India imports nearly 85 percent of its crude oil, with around 30 percent passing through the strait, raising fears over supply continuity.

Following his meeting in Doha, Puri said Qatar had reaffirmed its commitment to remain a reliable energy partner for India, while both sides emphasized the need to restore stability in global energy flows.

Officials also highlighted ongoing efforts to safeguard petroleum and LPG availability despite geopolitical tensions affecting shipping routes.

New Regional Peace Talks

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi received a phone call from Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, during which they discussed the latest Middle East developments.

According to an official statement from the Egyptian presidency spokesperson, the call focused on efforts to maintain regional peace and stability. President Sisi stressed the importance of preserving calm in the region by building on a recent ceasefire agreement



reached between the United States and Iran, and by launching serious negotiations to resolve outstanding disputes.

He also reviewed Egypt's ongoing diplomatic efforts with various parties to de-escalate tensions, reaffirming Cairo's full support for the security and stability of Arab states and its firm rejection of any violations of sovereignty or threats to the rights and resources of regional nations.

For her part, Prime Minister Meloni expressed Italy's

appreciation for Egypt's role in supporting the ceasefire efforts and agreed on the importance of maintaining stability in the region. She emphasized the need to reopen the Strait of Hormuz to international navigation without restrictions or fees, ensure the security of Gulf countries, and reach an agreement on Iran's nuclear program with appropriate safeguards to prevent renewed conflict. She also underscored Italy's commitment to strengthening

political coordination with Egypt to achieve these goals.

The discussion also addressed the situation in Lebanon, where Meloni called for direct negotiations leading to a ceasefire, noting that Hezbollah had made incorrect strategic choices, while Israel's response had gone beyond legitimate self-defense. She further stressed the importance of the ongoing Islamabad negotiations in reaching a final agreement to end the regional conflict.

UAE Leaders Discuss National Progress and Stability



The President of the United Arab Emirates met with Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum in the presence of Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, where the leaders exchanged cordial and fraternal conversations.

During the meeting, they prayed for the continued protection of the UAE, wishing the

nation lasting security, stability, and prosperity.

The discussions also highlighted ongoing national efforts carried out by various state institutions, including military and civilian entities, as well as specialized teams working to support the country's development and preparedness across different sectors.

Beirut Safety Plan Reviewed in Baabda Meeting



Lebanese President Joseph Aoun held a meeting at the Baabda Palace on Thursday morning, attended by Minister of National Defense Major General Michel Menassa and Minister of Interior and Municipalities Ahmad Al-Hajjar.

During the meeting, officials reviewed the current security situation across the country, as well as measures being implemented by the Lebanese

Army, Internal Security Forces, and other security agencies to strengthen stability and prevent any security breaches. The discussions were in line with directives approved during the Cabinet's latest session.

The meeting also addressed the ongoing security plan in Beirut, particularly efforts to secure shelters and ensure the safety of individuals inside them.

Maldives President Departs Jeddah After Official Visit



President of the Republic of Maldives, Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, departed from King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah, he was seen off by several senior officials, including Prince Saud bin Mishaal bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Governor of the Makkah Region, and other high-ranking representatives.

Those present at the farewell also included the Deputy Mayor of Jeddah, Eng. Ali bin Mohammed Al-Qarni, the Director of Makkah Region Police, Major General Saleh Al-Jabri, the Ambassador of the Republic of Maldives to Saudi Arabia, Ahmed Sareer, and Ahmed Abdullah bin Dhafer, Director of Royal Protocol in the Makkah Region.

celebs

Seth Rogen declares second season of The Studio will reflect the loss of Catherine O'Hara

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Seth Rogen says the second season of *The Studio* will reflect the loss of Catherine O'Hara.

The actor, 43, who co-created the *The Studio* alongside Evan Goldberg, spoke about the impact of *Home Alone* star Catherine's death after she passed away earlier this year aged 71, describing the show as now feeling "a little anchorless" without her.

In an interview with *The Times*, Seth said about the future of *The Studio*: "If anything, we're acknowledging the idea that we are a little anchorless."

"But, honestly, that is a part of



Catherine O'Hara

life and what we all experience.

"And so while we try not to dwell too much on heavy themes in this show, they will be there in this second season. We are not ignoring it."

Evan, 43, added: "It has been an unbelievable challenge."

"Obviously, emotionally, deal-

ing with the loss, but also when it comes to the show itself.

"We wrote it for her to be there. We had it all set, and the shock waves permeate throughout the entire new season. It's been difficult. You worded it better than we could - she was the anchor, and now the anchor is gone."

Catherine, known for roles in *Schitt's Creek* and *Home Alone*, died on 30 January from a pulmonary embolism after missing the start of filming for the show's second season.

She had starred in the first season as studio executive Patty Leigh, a role that later earned her a posthumous win at the SAG

Awards on 1 March, making her the first woman to receive the honour after death.

Following Catherine's death, Seth and other cast members withdrew from an Apple TV+ event scheduled for 3 February. In a joint statement, Apple and Lionsgate said: "We are all heartbroken by the loss of Catherine O'Hara."

"An undeniable legend, icon, and incomparable talent, Catherine elevated every project she was a part of, including the singular genius she brought to her role on *The Studio*, and every transcendent performance she gifted to us."

Seth later accepted Cather-

ine's award on her behalf at the SAG Awards.

He said: "I was asked to assume the honor of accepting this award on O'Hara's behalf."

"I know she would have been honored to receive this award from her fellow performers who I know she respected so much. She was such a big fan of all of yours."



Seth Rogen

Zendaya hints that Euphoria will come to an end after season three

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Zendaya has indicated that *Euphoria* will come to an end after the forthcoming third season.

The acclaimed HBO series will return to screens this weekend after a four-year hiatus and the 29-year-old actress, who portrays the troubled Rue Bennett in the series, has suggested that it will bring the show to its conclusion.

Quizzed on *The Drew Barrymore Show* if season three spells the end for *Euphoria*, Zendaya said: "I think yeah."

When Barrymore asked the question again, The Drama actress replied: "Yes, I think so."

Zendaya added: "Rue taught me so much about life... that crew has also seen me grow up. I owe so much to that show. Rue taught me much about empathy and about redemption. She taught me a lot, and I'm very grateful for all of it."

The eight-episode third series of *Euphoria* begins on Sunday (12.04.26), with the four-year delay partly caused by creator Sam Levinson's decision to jump the ensemble cast - which also includes Sydney Sweeney, Jacob Elordi and Maude Apatow - forward five years so they are out of high school and into adult life.

Zendaya previously described how filming season three of *Euphoria* felt like "trying to get eight episodes in at once" because of her packed schedule - as she has roles in movies *The Odyssey*, *Spider-Man: Brand New Day* and *Dune: Part Three* all still to come this year.

Asked what fans can expect from the new season, she told *Variety*: "I've seen a little bit, but gosh, it was a whirlwind."

"I did what I do in eight months in like four months, so I was just like - it was like trying to get eight episodes in at once. "It just flew by for me! But I'm excited, I hope it turns out beautifully."

She told *Fandango*: "I just hope people don't get sick of me, and I really appreciate everyone who supports any of the movies [and] supports my career in any kind of way."

"I'm deeply appreciative. "I just hope you guys don't get sick of me this year because I'll tell you what - I'm disappearing for a little bit."

Dakota Johnson 'really likes' Role Model

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Dakota Johnson and *Role Model* have been dating since "late last year".

The 36-year-old actress and *Role Model* were recently spotted kissing and holding hands in Los Angeles, and an insider has now revealed that it's "definitely more than a fling".

A source told *People*: "It's definitely more than a fling, or just a flirt."

Despite this, Dakota is keen to progress things cautiously, following her split from Coldplay's Chris Martin in 2025.

The insider explained: "She does really like him, but is also taking things slow after her previous long-term relationship."

Dakota and *Role Model* - whose real name is Tucker Pillsbury - were first seen spending time together in December, and things appear to be going from strength

to strength.

The source said: "[They are] very much on the same page, and it just feels easy. She thinks he's cute and he treats her incredibly well."

Meanwhile, Dakota previously claimed she was "lucky" that she was allowed to discover her own sexuality.

The actress - who is the daughter of Don Johnson and Melanie Griffith - revealed that she feels fortunate to have grown up in such an open-minded household.

The *Fifty Shades of Grey* star told *Bustle*: "I was lucky that I grew up with a mom who was very open - at times maybe too open - about sexuality, but it was always like, whatever you're into and when you want to have sex, you just let me know and we'll get birth control."

"It was really healthy, and it made me feel like I was allowed to discover my sexuality on my own,

which I think is such a gift.

"We've progressed so much in some societies, for people to be allowed to say that they feel neither here nor there in terms of gender. That's an incredible thing. It's such a leap forward."

By contrast, Dakota acknowledged that other parts of the world aren't so forward-thinking.

The movie star - who lives in Malibu, California - added: "Then there's Alabama, and Texas, and the rest of the world that is in complete disarray."

Dakota Johnson



Demi Lovato: I've fallen more and more in love



Demi Lovato and Jordan 'Jutes' Lutes

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Demi Lovato has fallen "more and more in love" with Jordan 'Jutes' Lutes since their wedding day.

The 33-year-old pop star married Jutes in May 2025 and she admits that their relationship has grown even stronger since then.

She told *E! News*: "I really thought on my wedding day - that was maxed out, like the most amount of love that you'll ever feel for a person, and then time goes by and you just form this connection that is so intimate and so fulfilling that you just fall completely more and more in love."

Demi said the secret to their strong bond is simply having fun together.

The singer said: "We laugh, we have so much fun together. We stay up late laughing until we're crying and it just feels like a giant sleepover with your best friend that you happen to be really, really attracted to."

The couple will spend their first wedding anniversary apart in May, as Demi prepares to head out on her *It's Not That Deep* tour.

Demi explained that feeling her best on the road is important to her.

She said: "I feel like feeling fresh just helps me show up as my best self, whether I'm in the studio or I'm about to perform in front of thousands of people. It's about those get ready moments when I'm about to step on stage or in the studio or wherever, walk in the room that can make all the difference and when you feel fresh."

Meanwhile, Demi recently admitted to being very "particular" about her wedding menu.

The singer - who was diagnosed with an eating disorder during her younger years - said at 92NY in New York City: "We were particular with what we had on the menu when we did a testing, so the caterer came to my house and cooked, I think it was 18 different foods."

"And that was intimidating, but I got through it with the support of my loving husband and we ended up deciding on a few dishes and yeah, we were particular about what we had at the wedding. We wanted foods that we loved."

Classifieds

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Arsenal suffer major blow in Premier League title charge



Arsenal forward Viktor Gyokeres scores from the penalty spot

AFP | London

Arsenal suffered a huge blow in the Premier League title race on Saturday, losing 2-1 at home to Bournemouth to give Manchester City renewed hope they can catch the long-time leaders.

The visitors took the lead at a nervy Emirates through Junior Kroupi but Mikel Arteta's men levelled through a Viktor Gyokeres penalty later in the first half.

The Gunners made multiple attacking changes early in the second period but struggled to create clear-cut chances against Andoni Iraola's enterprising team.

Bournemouth were back in front in the 74th minute after a fluid move finished off by Alex Scott, who rifled the ball past David Raya.

Arsenal pushed for a leveller but slumped to just their second home defeat in the league this season.

With six games to go, Arsenal, chasing their first Premier League title since 2004, are nine points clear of second-placed City.

But Guardiola's men can close to within three points of the top if they beat Chelsea on Sunday and overcome the Gunners in an Etihad summit meeting next week.

Arsenal came into the match lifted by their last-gasp 1-0 win in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final against Sporting Lisbon in midweek.

But they were sluggish against a bright Bournemouth team who played the more fluid football in the opening stages.

Iraola's team took a deserved lead in the 17th minute when Kroupi tapped in from close range after the ball fell to him following a wicked lopping deflection off William Saliba.

The goal followed a well-worked move, with Bournemouth captain Ryan Christie playing a sweetly measured ball into the path of Adrien Truffert, whose cross was deflected into his path by Saliba.

Kroupi, 19, is the first teenager to score 10 goals in his debut Premier League season since Robbie Keane for Coventry City in 1999/2000.

Sinner brushes past Zverev to reach Monte Carlo final



Jannik Sinner in action

AFP | Monte Carlo

World No.2 Jannik Sinner eased his way into the final of the Monte Carlo Masters for the first time with a clinical 6-1, 6-4 semi-final win over Alexander Zverev on Saturday.

The Italian becomes the first player to reach all three finals of the season's first three Masters 1000 events since Novak Djokovic in 2015.

Roger Federer, in 2006, and Rafael Nadal, 2011, are the only two other players to achieve the feat.

Sinner will face either world No.1 and defending champion Carlos Alcaraz or local boy

Valentin Vacherot, ranked 23 in the world, who meet later on Saturday.

If it is Alcaraz, it will be the first meeting this season between the world's top two players which would decide who will be world No.1 come Monday when the new ATP rankings are released.

As in Indian Wells and Miami, Sinner, 24, had the measure of Zverev who has not prevailed in their meetings since the round of 16 at the US Open in September 2023.

Extremely aggressive from the start, Sinner blew the German away in the opening set, breaking him three times and wrapping it up in 34 minutes.

10-man Muharraq stun Al Ahli to reach final



Soufiane Mahrouk celebrates after doubling Muharraq's lead



Arthur Rezende receives his marching orders

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Muharraq overcame rivals Al Ahli in the Kingdom's "Clásico" yesterday to book their place in the final of the 49th edition of the King's Cup.

In doing so, they set up a meeting with Riffa, who also advanced after a dramatic semi-final win against Al Khalidiya on Friday.

Muharraq held on for a 2-1 victory at Khalifa Sports City Stadium despite playing more than half the match with 10 men.

The contest was defined by early mistakes, VAR interventions, and relentless late pressure.

The Red Wolves, led by Portuguese head coach Fernando Manuel de Jesus Santos, made a dream start.

Just two minutes in, they capitalised on a costly defensive error as Saud Al Asam's misplaced pass was intercepted by Abdulwahab Al Malood.

The move was worked quickly into the path of Edimar Ribeiro da Costa, who released Arthur Rezende. The Brazilian finished first time with a composed side-foot past Sayed Shubbar Ebra-

him. Al Ahli responded almost immediately when Rodrigo Varanda tapped into an empty net. However, the effort was ruled out for a foul in the build-up, denying the Eagles a swift equaliser.

The match then swung dramatically early in the second half. In the 48th minute, Rezende was sent off after a high boot caught Hamza Buihanghet, leaving the Moroccan bloodied.

Following a lengthy VAR review, referee Mohammed Rashid brandished a straight

red card, reducing Muharraq to 10 men.

Even so, Muharraq struck again in the 57th minute to extend their lead. Edimar once more proved pivotal, threading a precise pass through the defence to Soufiane Mahrouk.

He held off pressure from Saud Al Asam and finished powerfully to make it 2-0.

Al Ahli responded with sustained pressure and were rewarded in the 68th minute. Abdulla Al Hashash reacted quickest to a loose ball in the area and fired a bouncing half-volley into the corner, setting up a tense

final stretch.

The closing stages brought further controversy. In stoppage time, Al Ahli were initially awarded a penalty after a challenge involving Muharraq captain Waleed Al Hayyam on Sayed Mohammed Amin. However, following another VAR review, the decision was overturned and the yellow card rescinded.

Ultimately, Muharraq withstood the pressure to secure victory, booking their place in the final where they will meet Riffa, who beat them in last February's Khalid bin Hamad Cup decider.

Iyer leads Punjab's chase of 220 to down Hyderabad



Punjab Kings' Shreyas Iyer (R) plays a shot

AFP | Chandigarh

Shreyas Iyer led from the front with an unbeaten 69 to steer Punjab Kings to a six-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in a high-scoring IPL contest on Saturday.

Openers Priyansh Arya, who hit 57 from 20 balls, and Prabhsimran Singh (51) set up Punjab's chase of 220 in a stand of 99 before Iyer played anchor and then bossed the opposition bowling in Chandigarh.

It was Punjab's 10th chase of over 200 in the T20 tournament.

Punjab registered their third win in four matches to stay unbeaten in this edition of the 10-team tournament. They shared one point with Kolkata Knight Riders in one rained-off match.

Left-handed Arya came out roaring as he hit a string of fours and sixes to dominate the first six overs of powerplay with good support from Prabhsimran.

But the two departed in quick succession to left-arm wrist spinner Shivang Kumar who also dismissed Cooper Connolly for 11 to finish with 3-33.

Muharraq move closer to title

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Muharraq moved within one win of retaining their Zain Bahrain Basketball League title after defeating Manama 88-80 in Game 2 of their best-of-five final series at Khalifa Sports City Arena last night.

The Red Wolves now lead the series 2-0 under head coach Peter Schomers, leaving Manama, coached by Salman Ramadhan, needing a response in Tuesday's Game 3.

Manama made the stronger start, taking a 21-17 lead in the opening quarter after a dominant 9-0 run led by Ahmed Salman, Mohamed Ghazi, and new signing Donovan Smith. Muharraq struggled early with turnovers from Mohammed Buallay and Mohamed Nasser disrupting their rhythm.

The lead grew to 19-6 midway through the period as Smith controlled the paint and Salman created from the perimeter. Muharraq settled late through Nick West's free throws and Mahmood Abbas Isa's midrange scoring, but still trailed at the end of the quarter.

Muharraq responded in the second, gradually working their



Muharraq's Younis Kuwayed drives past Ali Jaber

way back into the game. The teams traded baskets before the score was level at 39-39, with Manama briefly edging ahead again through Salman and Smith.

Defensive pressure proved key for Muharraq as Michael Warren

sparked a shift in momentum with steals and transition points. Isa and Nader Ali added timely shooting, with Ali's three-pointers helping Muharraq edge in front 46-44 by halftime.

Manama regained the lead in a closely contested third quarter.



American Donovan Smith goes for a shot under pressure from his compatriot Wayne Chism

Ali Jaber provided energy off the bench with rebounds and second-chance points, while Emran Hasan hit key three-pointers to push Manama ahead.

Ahmed Salman continued to score efficiently, while Muharraq stayed in touch through

Bader Abdulla and Isa. Manama finished the quarter stronger to take a 67-64 lead into the final period.

Muharraq took control in the fourth.

In a physical closing stretch, their defence tightened, forc-

ing turnovers and limiting Manama's scoring opportunities. Abdulla led the decisive run, knocking down crucial jump shots and converting from the line, while Isa added important three-pointers.

Warren controlled the tempo as Muharraq's experience showed down the stretch. They pulled clear in the final minutes, while Manama's offence faltered under pressure with missed shots and costly turnovers.

Captain Abdulla led Muharraq with 18 points to earn Man of the Match honours. Isa added 16, Warren scored 14, and Nasser contributed 13 in a balanced effort.

Smith finished with 25 points for Manama, Salman added 22, and Emran Hasan had 16, but their late-game execution proved decisive in the outcome. Muharraq now stands one win away from history. Manama are the league's most decorated side with 25 titles, but now face the reality of the champions closing in on a fifth crown of their own.

If Manama win Game 3 on Tuesday, the series will continue with Game 4 on April 17 and, if needed, Game 5 on April 20. All remaining games are scheduled for 7pm at Khalifa Sports City.

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