

Hantavirus Guidance

A hantavirus outbreak aboard a cruise ship has triggered international concern over potential spread among evacuees returning to their home countries. | P11

Commends Press Role



His Majesty receives Jaffer Salman

TD | Manama

HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received author and journalist Jaffer Salman, praising his media work in defending Bahrain and its national positions across television appearances, social media and written commentary.

The King commended the “honourable national stances” reflected in Salman’s writing, saying it expressed loyalty, belonging and love for the Kingdom. He wished him continued success in his work.

His Majesty also said Bahrain takes pride in its citizens and their contributions to national development, highlighting the role of journalists, writers and intellectuals in shaping public opinion, strengthening unity and supporting the country’s interests.

Firefighters Rescue Residents

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Civil Defence teams responded yesterday to a gas leak explosion caused by a stove at a Jurdab house, injuring one woman.

In a separate incident, Civil Defence rescued four people and extinguished a fire at a multi-storey residential building in Bani Jamra.

The National Ambulance transferred a two-month-old infant to the hospital after the infant suffered suffocation.

Palestine Condemns Bahrain Threats

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State of Palestine condemned any plans or actions that could undermine the security or stability of the Kingdom of Bahrain, expressing full solidarity with the Gulf state.

Safeguarding National Security

Parliament Delegation Submits Reply to Royal Speech



Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh

TD | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received the heads of Bahrain’s two parliamentary chambers and the members tasked with replying to His Royal Address.

They delivered the Shura

Council’s and Council of Representatives’ formal reply to the speech His Majesty gave when opening the fourth session of the sixth legislative term.

His Majesty thanked the two heads and members of both chambers for their work in serv-



HM the King with the Kingdom’s top legislators

ing Bahrain and its people. He praised the legislative branch for its many gains and its work supporting Bahrain’s growth plans across different fields.

HM The King also thanked the executive and legislative branches for their coordination

and joint work, which brings growth and prosperity to Bahrain and its people.

He praised the ideas and proposals in the two chambers’ reply, saying they would help strengthen the national path and improve performance.

HM The King said Bahrain

belongs to all its people and reassured citizens that ‘things are well’.

He thanked Bahrainis across all areas and from all parts of society for standing together, praying that God protect Bahrain and its people and keep it safe, secure and at peace.



Speaker of the Parliament Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam

Strategic Alliance

Bahrain, Jordan reaffirm shared commitment to regional security

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Bahrain and Jordan reaffirmed their “strategic partnership” and shared commitment to regional security during high-level meetings in the capital, underscoring close coordination across political and parliamentary levels.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa met Jordanian Senate President Faisal Akef Al-Fayez at Gudaibiya Palace, where both sides highlighted the “long-standing” ties between the two kingdoms, supported by King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and King Abdullah II.

The Crown Prince stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation between Bahrain and Jordan, particularly between executive and legislative institutions, to advance shared development goals and regional stability.

He also praised Jordan’s support for Bahrain and King Abdullah II’s role in deepening bilateral relations, while reaffirming Bahrain’s backing for Jordan’s security, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

‘Unified stance’ with Jordan

Separately, senior Bahraini officials reiterated the alignment between both countries on security issues during meetings with the Jordanian delegation.



HRH Prince Salman holds talks with Jordan’s Senate President Faisal Akef Al-Fayez



Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh and, below, Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam with Al-Fayez and members of the Jordanian delegation



Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh described bilateral ties as reflecting a “unified vision” and condemned recent Iranian attacks against Gulf states and Jordan, calling them



HRH Prince Salman highlighted the need to deepen Bahraini-Jordanian cooperation, especially between the executive and legislative branches.

violations of international law and threats to regional peace.

He said the relationship, rooted in the leadership of both leaders, spans political, economic, cultural and health cooperation, and called for deeper Arab coordination.

Stronger legislative coordination

Speaker of the Parliament, Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam also reaffirmed Bahrain’s support for Jordan, saying both countries’ security is “inseparable,” and called for expanded parliamentary cooperation in regional and international forums.

Both sides reiterated support for the Palestinian cause and called for stronger Arab solidarity amid ongoing regional tensions.



Cabinet praises economic relief for businesses

Package aims to sustain firms and protect jobs

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's Cabinet on Sunday commended an economic support package approved by the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) for 7,250 Bahraini businesses affected by recent regional tensions, as ministers reviewed key political, security and economic developments.

The weekly meeting, chaired by HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa at Gudaibiya Palace, aims to ensure business continuity and safeguard the national workforce.

Following a Royal Order by HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to conclude the fourth session of the sixth legislative term of the Shura Council and



the King's meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during his recent visit to Bahrain.

On security matters, ministers praised the Ministry of Interior and security agencies for uncovering a group allegedly linked to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), and directed continued investigations and legal proceedings against those involved.

Council of Representatives, the Cabinet reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to strengthening cooperation with the legislative authority.

It also reiterated support for diplomacy and international cooperation following

The Cabinet reviewed regional developments, strongly condemning attacks attributed to Iran against the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, as well as a strike on a commercial vessel linked to Qatar, reaffirming Bahrain's solidarity with all three countries.



Cabinet Decisions

Amendments to GCC Unified Customs Law Executive Regulations

MoU between Ministry of Education and RCSI - Medical University of Bahrain

MoU between Bahrain Polytechnic and OutSystems

Bahrain's accession to the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

Government responses to Council of Representatives proposals

Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture priority projects (2023-2026)

Government digital service performance (Sijilat, Tawasul, Benayat) for Jan-Apr 2026

Bahrain's participation in Euro-Mediterranean, Arab League, and Western Balkan meetings

Outcomes of GCC Ministerial Committee for Food Safety meeting

GCC ministerial committee engagements

Participation in "Make it in the Emirates" exhibition and forum

Smart Mobility Push



Bahrain and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) have discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in land transport, innovation and support for startups and small businesses, officials said.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Regional Office Director Dr. Hashim Hussein met with Fatima Abdullah Al Dhaen, Undersecretary for Land Transport and Postal Services at Bahrain's Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications, during talks in Manama.

The meeting focused on enhancing joint cooperation in land transport and economic development, emphasizing fostering innovation and improving logistics services.

Al Dhaen praised the role of UNIDO's regional office in Bahrain, highlighting its initiatives and programmes that support the business environment, industrial development and entrepreneurship at both the local and regional levels.

She also congratulated Dr. Hussein on the 30th anniversary of UNIDO's regional office

“Strengthening cooperation between Bahrain and UNIDO reflects a shared commitment to innovation, sustainable transport and empowering entrepreneurs, helping create a more dynamic and future-ready economy.”

in Bahrain, as well as the 25th anniversary of the Entrepreneurship Development and Innovation Programme (EDIP), which supports entrepreneurs and start-ups.

Both sides discussed opportunities to support entrepreneurs, SMEs and start-ups operating in the transport sector through knowledge exchange and developing initiatives aimed at enhancing innovation, sustainability and efficiency in logistics and transport services.

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Shura Approves Maritime Emissions Pact

Bill brings Bahrain under international rules to curb ship emissions

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Shura Council approved a bill on Sunday allowing Bahrain to join a global maritime pact aimed at cutting ship emissions after the government confirmed that ports, ship operators and the private sector were ready to meet its terms.

The bill brings Bahrain under Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, attached to Decree No. 7 of 2026. The annex deals with air pollution from ships, mainly through rules on fuel, engines and vessel operation.

Bader Hood Al Mahmood, Undersecretary for Ports and Maritime Affairs at the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications, told the chamber that

Bahrain had checked the ground first.

"The government does not join any annex of an international convention before making sure all its terms can be fully carried out in Bahrain—operationally, financially and technically," he said.

He said Annex VI covers two main areas: the fuel ships use and the engines that produce emissions. Bahrain, he added, was ready to apply the rules through its ports, ship operators and the relevant bodies.

Mr Al Mahmood said Bahrain has more than 230 registered ships, but the annex would cover only 62 of them. He said the government, the private sector and ship operators were ready for the financial and operational duties tied to accession.

Regarding the delay, he said



"Joining now allows Bahrain to actively participate in international maritime discussions and ensure its economic interests are protected."

BADER HOOD AL MAHMOOD, UNDERSECRETARY AT THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOR PORTS AND MARITIME AFFAIRS.

the government wanted to ensure both state bodies and the private sector could carry out the international duties. Bahrain joined the main convention in 2005, when Annexes I and II were mandatory, after confirming that those duties could be fully met, he said.

The other annexes were op-

tional. Mr Al Mahmood said Bahrain chose to join Annex VI now so it could participate in talks at the International Maritime Organisation regarding how the rules are applied and any limits that might affect Bahrain's economy and the Gulf economy.

"Not joining would have de-

prived Bahrain of the right to vote on international decisions with an economic effect," he said. Joining, he added, gives Bahrain the right to participate, vote, and defend its interests in matters affecting the maritime sector and the wider economy.

The Shura Council's Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee said the bill builds on Bahrain's earlier accession to the 1973 convention, as amended by the 1978 protocol, and fits with the Maritime Law issued by Law No. 10 of 2022.

The committee also linked the bill to Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030 and the kingdom's aim of reaching net zero by 2060. Mr Al Mahmood said Annex VI was among the main items Bahrain had studied so it could join 'at the right time'.

Bahrain Condemns Tanker Hijacking

Expresses full solidarity with Egypt over abducted sailors

Bahrain strongly condemned the hijacking of an oil tanker in Yemeni territorial waters, calling it a "flagrant violation" of international law after the vessel was forcibly diverted to waters near Somalia's Puntland region.

The tanker was carrying eight Egyptian sailors at the time of



the incident, according to Bahrain's foreign ministry.

In a statement, the ministry denounced the seizure as a breach of international maritime law, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and relevant UN Security Council resolutions on maritime security and anti-piracy operations.

Bahrain expressed full solidarity with Egypt's "leadership, government and people," and voiced support for Cairo's efforts to ensure the safety and immediate release of the sailors.

The kingdom also urged the international community and relevant authorities to take urgent, coordinated action to

end what it described as a criminal act, secure the sailors' return to their families, and hold the perpetrators accountable under international law.

It said such incidents threaten maritime navigation, civilian safety, and regional and international stability.

Recruitment Made Easier

Employers can now request additional candidate lists via national platform.

The Ministry of Labour launched an upgraded digital service allowing employers to request additional candidate nominations for recruiting Bahraini citizens, as part of wider government efforts to improve and streamline public services.

The ministry said the revamped service reduces processing time from five working days to just one day after fully automating the procedure through the national employment platform.

The service enables employers to seek a larger pool of qualified candidates when needed, allowing them to compare applicants and select the most suitable person for a vacancy.

Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Undersecretary of the Ministry said the initiative is part of the ministry's push to adopt innovative digital solutions aimed at accelerating recruitment procedures and improving employers' access to suitable candidates.

He added that the service's full electronic transformation, along with simplified procedures and improved user experience, would help save time and boost the efficiency of government services.



- Over 1,300 government services documented, translated and published
- Around 800 services re-engineered and improved
- Part of Bahrain's digital transformation strategy to enhance efficiency and service quality

AC Repair Quality Concerns Rise

Consumers report misleading discounts and poor workmanship from online AC service providers

TDT | Manama
Neethu V

With rising temperatures, air conditioning units are under increased strain, leading to more frequent breakdowns and servicing needs. As demand grows, consumers are raising concerns about providers advertising discounted services on social media and questioning the service quality.

Speaking to TDT, a resident shared her recent experience, highlighting how online advertisements can sometimes be misleading.

She found a social media Advertisement offering discounted AC repair services and contacted the provider. Around four technicians were sent to service a split air conditioning unit and refill the gas.

The workers allegedly handled the equipment in an unprofessional manner, including improper cleaning practices and suspected damage to internal components during the servicing. Within days of the repair, the unit reportedly began malfunctioning again, with water leakage and cooling issues recurring.

Reflecting on the incident, the resident said that low prices advertised on social media can sometimes signal inadequate training or lower service quality.

She later filed a complaint with the authorities, citing concerns over the quality of workmanship.

Experts note that while routine cleaning may appear straightforward, tasks such as handling refrigerant gas, checking pressure levels, and repairing internal components require proper technical



- AC technicians in Bahrain must hold valid trade licenses and certifications.
- Licenses are verified through the LMRA
- Mandatory training and annual license renewal are required.
- Compliance with environmental rules set by the Supreme Council for Environment is essential, especially in handling refrigerants.

more prone to leakage if not properly maintained," he said.

Shiju added that in some cases, technicians do not conduct thorough inspections and may simply reconnect damaged wires or circuits without identifying the underlying issue.

Authorities have repeatedly urged the public to exercise caution when engaging with online advertisements for services. The General Directorate of Anti-Corruption, Economic and Electronic Security has consistently emphasized the importance of digital vigilance and responsible use of social media. It has also stressed the need to verify information, avoid misleading content, and rely on trusted sources to protect consumer safety.

Delivery Rider Death Case Moves to Court

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

First High Criminal Court has begun proceedings in the case of a young woman charged over a traffic accident that led to the death of a delivery motorcycle rider earlier this year.

The court adjourned the case until May 17 to allow the defence team additional time to study the file and prepare its response.

During the hearing, the 23-year-old defendant admitted the charges brought against her, including unintentionally causing the fatal accident, damaging third-party property and driving without sufficient care and attention.

According to court records, the incident took place on February 22 while the defendant was driving on Zaid bin Amira Street.

Prosecutors said she attempted to make a left turn at the entrance to a health centre intersection without ensuring the road was clear or giving priority to oncoming traffic, resulting in a collision with the victim's motorcycle.

The impact caused the motorcycle to overturn, leaving the rider with serious injuries. He was transported to the hospital by ambulance but later died on March 3 due to complications from the injuries sustained in the crash.

Maid Loses Part of Ear in Alleged Assault

High Criminal Court heard disturbing testimony from a Filipina domestic worker who alleged she lost part of her ear after being attacked by her employer's son.

The 47-year-old woman told the court the incident began when the 35-year-old defendant confronted her over a missing mobile phone before allegedly chasing and assaulting her inside the home.

She testified that the man pushed her to the floor, beat her and bit her ear during the struggle. The victim said she later discovered part of her ear lying on the floor.

A medical report presented to the court stated that the woman lost around one-third of her left ear, resulting in a permanent disability estimated at seven per cent. Doctors reportedly concluded the injury was caused by a "bite of great force."

The defendant's sister also testified, saying she found her brother holding the maid by the neck while demanding his phone. She said the victim was bleeding heavily and part of her ear was missing.

Court records showed the defendant, who reportedly has a history of psychiatric illness, admitted to the assault during questioning before later claiming the incident was accidental.

Smart Cameras Sought to Stop Yellow-Line Drivers



A driver crosses into the emergency lane, committing a clear traffic violation

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Smart Cameras Sought to Stop Yellow-Line Drivers

An urgent parliamentary proposal seeks to protect emergency lanes on Bahrain's public roads and highways by using smart traffic systems to stop drivers crossing the yellow line during congestion.

The proposal, submitted by MP Dr Muneer Seroor, calls for modern technology, artificial intelligence and better road design to curb a practice he says puts lives at risk and slows ambulances, Civil Defence vehicles and security patrols heading to crashes and emergency calls.

Dr Seroor said some drivers treat the yellow-line lane as 'an extra driving space' when roads become crowded, rather than leaving it clear for emergency use.

He said the problem has persisted despite traffic fines, meaning the response should move beyond ordinary penalties.

The proposal argues that the yellow line on highways is more than a road marking, describing it as 'a lifeline' for ambulances and Civil Defence crews.



Recurring violations require smarter solutions, not just punishment.

DR MUNEEER SEROOR, MP

"Any obstruction may delay the response in critical moments, when human life is measured in minutes and seconds," Dr Seroor said.

Ambulance Calls Hit 4,498 in March

The Interior Ministry operations room received 1,506 reports in March, while National Ambulance answered 4,498 calls and Civil Defence dealt with 1,674 reports, according to ministry figures.

Emergency patrols handled 24% of traffic cases and 70% of response reports.

Security cases made up the remaining 6%.

National Ambulance took the largest share of calls among the services listed. These included 3,313 cases of illness, 323 road accidents, 538 transfers from private hospitals and health centres to emergency departments, 37 fire-related cases and 287 other incidents.

The General Directorate of Civil Defence received 523 requests for help, 232 fire reports, 79 road accident reports and 88 reports involving fallen trees, poles and signs.

The Coast Guard Command received 32 reports linked to accidents and rescue work. These included 12 accident and rescue calls, 11 marine incidents and six requests for help.

Reports sent through the MyGov app reached 1,906 in March. Cybercrime reports formed the largest group, with 892 cases, followed by 673 reports to general directorates and 303 to the Anti-Economic Crimes Directorate.

The app also received 21 reports for the Child Protection in Cyberspace Unit, 12 for the Anti-Corruption Crimes Directorate and five for the Search and Follow-up Directorate and Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs.

Modernising Business Law to Boost Investor Confidence

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

Bahrain introduced amendments to its Commercial Companies Law as part of efforts to modernise the Kingdom's business environment, strengthen corporate governance and enhance investor confidence.

The reforms, issued under Decree-Law No. 38 of 2025, aim to align Bahrain's commercial legislation with global economic and technological developments while simplifying procedures for businesses and investors.

Speaking in an interview, Lawyer Manal Dhahi, Owner of a legal consultancy and law firm said the amendments represent a significant shift in the legal framework regulating companies in Bahrain.

She said one key change is



Lawyer Manal Dhahi, owner of a legal consultancy and law firm

the wider adoption of digital solutions, including electronic board meetings, online general assemblies and electronic voting systems.

According to Dhahi, the measures are expected to speed up corporate decision-making

and facilitate investor participation from inside and outside Bahrain while maintaining secure procedures and data protection standards.

The amendments also allow the establishment of a closed joint-stock company owned by a single shareholder, a move Dhahi described as providing greater flexibility for investors operating within a regulated legal structure.

The reforms further seek to strengthen transparency and accountability by abolishing the "joint participation company" structure and widening the scope of personal liability for company directors and de facto managers.

Dhahi said the changes would help limit the misuse of corporate entities and reinforce protections for creditors and stakeholders.

GCC Advances Digital Integration

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain chaired the 28th meeting of the GCC Digital Government Executive Committee as part of its presidency of the 46th Gulf Cooperation Council round.

The virtual meeting was chaired by Mohamed Ali Al Qaed, Chief Executive of the Information & eGovernment Authority (IGA), and attended by heads and representatives of digital government bodies from GCC member states.

Al Qaed stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation among GCC countries in digital government to improve services, boost efficiency, and keep pace with rapid technological change, particularly in artificial intelligence.

He also highlighted digital integration as a strategic priority for building a unified and responsive GCC digital ecosystem.

The meeting discussed several agenda items, including the GCC Digital Government Award, updates on a workshop related to UNESCO's recommendation on the ethics of artificial intelligence, and the "MyGov App" initiative aimed at improving service integration and user experience.



Mohamed Ali Al Qaed chairs the virtual meeting

Fake Signature Conviction

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

An employee in a member of parliament's office was convicted by Bahrain's First High Criminal Court for forging an official document, according to court records.

The court sentenced the employee to one year in prison, suspended for three years, and ordered the confiscation of the forged document.

The case centred on an "end of secondment" form used to

cancel an employee's assignment to the parliamentary office. The court found that the defendant had forged the MP's signature on the document without his knowledge or consent.

The investigation began after the MP received an official notification from the Council of Representatives regarding the cancellation request.

He denied signing the document, prompting a forensic examination.

A handwriting expert con-

cluded that the signature was forged and confirmed that the employee had filled in the personal details on the form.

During questioning, the defendant admitted using the office phone and sending emails related to ending her secondment but denied forging the signature, claiming the process had been handled by the MP.

The court ruled that the offences formed part of a single criminal plan but opted for a suspended sentence after the MP waived his complaint.

Heartfelt Mother's Day at BIS

Kindergarten students at Bahrain Indian School marked Mother's Day with a creative activity, planting flowers and decorating personalised pots as gifts to express love and gratitude for their mothers. Principal Saji Jacob said such activities play an important role in holistic development, helping children build emotional intelligence from a young age.



Youth Visit Council



Young men and women participating in the Parliamentary Youth Program attended a session of the Shura Council, where they observed parliamentary proceedings and received briefings on the council's legislative and oversight roles as part of efforts to enhance youth awareness and civic engagement. (By: Rehab Mohammad)

Northern Council Sets Priorities

Members call for improved public services and stronger community facilities

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Air-Conditioned Bus Stops

A member of Bahrain's Northern Municipal Council called for upgrading public bus stops across his constituency, including the installation of air-conditioning, internet access and improved seating facilities.

Mohammed Saad Al Doseri submitted the proposal during the council's 17th ordinary session under urgent matters, saying the improvements are needed to enhance daily commuting conditions.

He said many passengers are exposed to harsh weather, particularly during summer, while waiting at stations with limited shade and basic services. The upgrades, he added, would improve comfort, safety and the overall appearance of public transport infrastructure.

The proposal identified several locations in need of development, including areas in Budaiya, Salman City, Al Janabiya and Jasra. Council members said improved stations could encourage greater use of public transport.



A bus stop that needs an upgrade for public convenience



Public park benches need maintenance to ensure cleanliness

Park Security Measures

Members of Bahrain's Northern Municipal Council have called for stronger security measures in public parks and walkways following repeated

incidents of vandalism across the governorate.

The proposals, discussed during the council's 17th ordinary session, included deploy-

ing security guards, expanding surveillance camera coverage and improving maintenance response times.

Council members said sev-

eral parks, including Budaiya Coast, Barbar Park and A'ali Grand Garden, have suffered recurring damage to facilities, playgrounds and public spaces. They warned that repeated vandalism is increasing maintenance costs and disrupting community use.

Additional recommendations included setting clear opening hours, installing warning signs on penalties for vandalism and increasing community police presence where possible.

Council Loyalty Pledge

Members of Bahrain's Northern Municipal Council renewed their pledge of allegiance to Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa ahead of their 17th ordinary session, reaffirming support for the Kingdom's leadership.

The pledge was led by council chairman Sayed Shubber Ibrahim Al Wadaei and signed by members around 30 minutes before the session began.

In remarks opening the meeting, the chairman highlighted regional developments and stressed the importance of national unity and responsibility in maintaining Bahrain's stability and security.

Council members said the gesture reflected solidarity with the leadership and support for efforts to preserve public order and social cohesion during a sensitive regional period.



Northern Municipal Council chairman Sayed Shubber Ibrahim Al Wadaei with members

Council urges urgent fix for rainwater drainage

Ghadeer Alkumaish
TDT | Manama

During its 17th regular meeting, attended by several government entities, the Northern Municipal Council called for urgent action to address rainwater drainage and stagnant water accumulation, warning of rising public health and environmental risks.

Members said the lack of coordination slowed efforts to address recurring flooding and water pooling in several areas, which they warned contributed to mosquito proliferation and related health concerns.

Council member Abdullah Al-Dhuwadi said the problem has persisted for years, with some locations seeing worsening water accumulation. He highlighted overlapping responsibilities among authorities,

which complicates efforts to implement a clear solution.

Abdullah Mubarak Al-Qubaisi also stressed that drainage issues have remained unresolved for more than four years, calling for immediate and practical measures rather than further delay, citing risks to public health and the environment.

Representing the Ministry of Health, Mohammed Al-Awadhi said mosquito control and stagnant water management are shared responsibilities across multiple agencies.

He noted ongoing coordination with municipalities and the Supreme Council for Environment, adding that monitoring and field response efforts continue.

At the conclusion of the meeting, members unanimously agreed to submit a letter to the Prime Minister through the



Zainab Mahmood Al Derazi

Minister of Municipal Affairs, urging accelerated and comprehensive action on the drainage system issue.

Al Lawzi mosque plan approved

A proposal to establish a permanent mosque in Al Lawzi, responding to the growing demand for worship space in the rapidly developing area, submitted by council member Zain-

ab Mahmood Al Derazi, was unanimously endorsed during the council's regular meeting. It recommends converting a plot in Block 1020, originally designated for a kindergarten, into a mosque to be managed by the Sunni Endowments Directorate.

An urgent recommendation has been forwarded to the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture to take the necessary steps for implementation.

Council members said the decision reflects population growth in Al Lawzi, which has placed increasing pressure on existing facilities and religious infrastructure.

They noted that temporary structures currently used as a mosque are no longer sufficient, particularly during peak prayer times, making a permanent facility a pressing need.

Bahrain reviews real estate laws with developers

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's real estate regulator held a briefing session with property developers on the latest legislative and regulatory updates aimed at supporting the sector's growth and sustainability, officials said on Sunday.

The session, organised by the Real Estate Regulatory Authority Bahrain in cooperation with the Bahrain Real Estate Development Association, brought together industry stakeholders to review recent developments, discuss challenges, and explore opportunities to enhance competitiveness at both the local and regional levels.

The authority said the meeting is part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen engage-



Real estate developers are a key pillar in driving Bahrain's urban and economic development.

ENG. ESSAM BIN ABDULLAH KHALAF

ment with partners in the real estate sector and improve the regulatory environment.

Speaking at the event, Chairman of the Board of Directors Eng. Essam bin Abdullah Khalaf underlined the key role of real estate developers in supporting urban and economic development, describing real estate projects as a cornerstone of investment growth and sustainable development goals.

Parcel Drug Plot

15 Years for Smuggler

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

Court documents showed that an Asian man has been sentenced to 15 years in prison in Bahrain after authorities uncovered around three kilograms of marijuana hidden inside food and household packages at Bahrain International Airport.

The parcel, which arrived from an Asian country in October 2025, initially appeared ordinary during routine screening. However, customs officers detected suspicious density during an X-ray inspection and placed it under surveillance.

Three days later, the suspect arrived at the post office to collect the shipment.

Officers arrested him immediately after he signed for the parcel, which they opened to find 21 concealed bags con-

taining narcotics.

Authorities said the drugs had been carefully hidden to avoid detection. According to court records, the man broke down in tears and apologised after the drugs were discovered.

Investigations revealed he had agreed to receive BD1,500 for collecting the shipment on behalf of an overseas contact. Officials also said he used another person's identity without their knowledge.

Further inquiry suggested the man was linked to an organised trafficking network involved in importing and distributing drugs in Bahrain.

The First High Criminal Court of Appeal upheld the original verdict, sentencing him to 15 years in prison, imposing a BD10,000 fine, ordering the confiscation of the drugs, and deportation after serving his sentence.

Bahrain and China Discuss Judicial Cooperation



Marika Buttrani Paulson with Chinese judiciary members

TDT | Manama

Bahrain and China underscored their growing cooperation in legal and judicial affairs during a series of meetings held in Beijing and Shanghai, according to an official statement.

Marika Buttrani Paulson, Secretary General of Bahrain's international dispute resolution body, met members of the judiciary in both Chinese cities as part of an official visit to the People's Republic of China.

During the meetings, Paulson highlighted the impor-

tance of the close ties between Bahrain and China, noting mutual efforts to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in ways that serve the interests of both countries and their peoples.

The discussions also included exchanges of legal and judicial expertise and a review of topics of shared interest between the two sides.

The visit is part of ongoing efforts to enhance institutional cooperation and professional exchange between Bahrain and China in the field of justice and dispute resolution.

Oil rises, stocks mixed on US-Iran deadlock

● Oil prices spiked more than 4%

● Beijing has said it is ready to work with Washington in pursuit of “more stability”

● UK government bond yields rose only slightly after Prime Minister Keir Starmer vowed to prove his “doubters” wrong

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Global stock markets diverged while oil prices rose yesterday after US President Donald Trump rejected Iran's terms for ending the war in the Middle East.

Wall Street's three main indices moved in mixed directions as trading got underway, with the Dow edging higher while the broader S&P 500 and tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite both dipped.

In Europe, London rose while Paris and Frankfurt fell in afternoon trading after a mixed session in Asia, where Tokyo declined and Chinese indices advanced.

Key figures at around 1330 GMT

Brent North Sea Crude:	▲ 1.7% at \$103.01 a barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ 1.5% at \$96.84 a barrel
New York - DOW:	▲ less than 0.1% at 49,629.56 points
New York - S&P 500:	▼ 0.2% at 7,387.51
Nasdaq Composite:	▼ 0.4% at 26,136.16
London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.4% at 10,277.09
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.8% at 8,051.21
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▼ 0.2% at 24,295.39
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 0.5% at 62,417.88 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▲ 0.1% at 26,406.84 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 1.1% at 4,225.02 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1783 from \$1.1779 on Friday
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.3620 from \$1.3625
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 157.07 from 156.76 yen
Euro/pound:	▲ at 86.53 pence from 86.45 pence

The stalemate between the United States and Iran dashed investors' hopes of an imminent peace deal and heightened concerns over further violence and disruptions to oil supplies through the Strait of Hormuz.

Oil prices spiked more than 4% following the exchange, before easing to gains of under 2% as trading opened in New York.

“The price of oil remains highly reactive to news around the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, both positive and negative,” said Kathleen Brooks, research director at trading group XTB.

“Signs that tankers are getting through the Strait, even if it is a trickle, could weigh on the oil price in the coming days,” she added.

But Briefing.com analyst Patrick O'Hare said Monday's gains were a “token response” compared to the 10% drop when the peace proposal was announced.

“There is a dose of concern, then, that the Iran situation could take a turn for the worse, but frankly there isn't any real fear that it will,” he said.

O'Hare also noted that traders see Trump as unlikely to aggravate the oil supply situation

ahead of his summit meeting with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping this week.

Beijing has said it is ready to work with Washington in pursuit of “more stability” as the two countries remain at odds over key issues including trade tariffs, the Middle East war and Taiwan.

In Asia, Tokyo stocks fell, Hong Kong was little changed and Shanghai jumped more than 1%, while Seoul climbed around 4%, supported by a rally in tech stocks.

A tech-led surge driven by strong quarterly earnings and optimism about artificial intelligence has pushed several markets to record highs despite the Mideast crisis.

In Tokyo, Nintendo shares plunged almost 10% after the Japanese gaming giant warned Friday of lower profits this year and said it would raise the price of its Switch 2 console.

UK government bond yields rose only slightly after Prime Minister Keir Starmer vowed to prove his “doubters” wrong in a speech seeking to quell a growing threat to his leadership following disastrous local election results.

“The relatively mild reaction in the bond market... suggests that traders do not believe that the threat to Keir Starmer will materialise,” Brooks said.

Macron announces 23 bn euros of investment at Africa summit

AFP | Nairobi, Kenya

French President Emmanuel Macron announced 23 billion euros (\$27 billion) of investment for Africa during a major summit on the future of the continent hosted by Kenya yesterday.

France has brought together dozens of heads of state and business leaders for the two-day Africa Forward summit in Nairobi, aimed at renewing France's engagement with the continent after years of strained ties with its former colonies.

The investments Macron announced include 14 billion euros in private and public funds from French entities, and nine billion euros from African investors, focused on energy transition, digital and AI, the maritime



Former French football manager Claude Le Roy (back R) watches as France's President Emmanuel Macron (C) plays football at a sport demonstration during the Africa Forward summit in Nairobi

economy and agriculture.

They would create 250,000 direct jobs in France and Africa, Macron said.

“We are not simply here to come and invest on the African continent alongside you -- we need the great African business leaders to come and invest in France,” he told the audience at Nairobi's convention centre.

“And that too is what underpins this relationship, now entirely free of hang-ups,” he added.

Ahead of the summit, Macron told The Africa Report that colonialism could no longer be blamed for all of Africa's challenges.

“We must not exonerate from all responsibility the seven decades that followed independence,” he told the magazine,

calling on African leaders to improve governance.

Europe's former colonial powers were not “the predators of this century,” he added.

In a speech at the summit, Macron also said that the process of returning African artworks looted during the colonial era had become “unstoppable”.

The French parliament last week passed a law paving the way for Macron to return looted African cultural artefacts.

“International order” Macron has sought to position Europe as a more reliable trade partner than China and the United States.

“Europe defends the international order, effective multilateralism, the rule of law, free and open trade,” he told The Africa Report.

On critical minerals and rare earths, China, he said, “operates according to a predatory logic: it does the processing at home” and creates “dependencies with the rest of the world”.

He has also emphasised the need for an overhaul of international finance, to set up a system of financial guarantees to bring in private investment, he added.

“There is no reason today for there to be so little private investment coming into a continent as full of energy and youth as yours,” he told the audience at the close of the summit's first day.

France has struggled to maintain ties with its former colonies in recent years, withdrawing its troops from Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger after the military in each of those countries seized power between 2020 and 2023.

He defended France's military presence in the Sahel region, as it had been requested to fight the jihadist threat.

“When our presence was no longer wanted after the coups, we left,” he told The Africa Report. “That wasn't a humiliation but a logical response to a given situation.”

“A new era is about to start. The Sahel will one day regain normal governance” with democratically elected leaders who “genuinely care about their people”, he added.

World's 'largest energy shock' may affect markets into 2027: Saudi Aramco CEO

Aramco had announced a net profit rise of more than 25% in the first quarter of 2026



AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The Middle East war triggered the world's largest energy shock with market recovery likely to extend into 2027 even if the Hormuz blockade is lifted soon, Saudi oil giant Aramco's CEO told investors yesterday.

A day earlier, Aramco had announced a net profit rise of more than 25% in the first quarter of 2026 compared to the same period last year, fuelled by higher oil prices as exports remain blocked in the Strait of Hormuz.

“The energy supply shock that began in the first quarter is the largest the world has ever experienced,” said Aramco CEO and president Amin H. Nasser.

“If the Strait of Hormuz opens today, it will still take months for the market to rebalance, and if its opening is delayed by a few more weeks, then normalisation will last into 2027,” he added.

Crude prices jumped during the first quarter from the mid \$60s in early February to more than \$100 a barrel

in March as Iran's shutdown of the key waterway sparked a global energy crisis.

The market has seen an “unprecedented supply loss of about a billion barrels of oil”, he said, putting the figure at roughly 880 million barrels.

“If the current disruptions continue at this rate, the market will lose around 100 million barrels for every week the Strait of Hormuz remains closed,” he added.

The loss was offset in part by oil flows bypassing Hormuz, the release of strategic government petroleum reserves and Saudi Arabia's East-West pipeline -- which avoids the blockaded strait, he said.

Saudi Arabia has used the pipeline at its maximum capacity of 7 million barrels per day to deliver oil despite the blockade.

“If and when normal trade and shipping resumes, we anticipate very robust return to demand growth significantly higher than the initial estimate for the growth in 2026,” Nasser said.

UK PM vows legislation to nationalise British Steel

AFP | London, United Kingdom

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced yesterday that he would introduce legislation to nationalise Chinese-owned British Steel, after the government took control of the company last year.

“Legislation will be brought forward this week to give the government powers... to take full national ownership of British Steel,” Starmer said in a speech aimed at resetting his leadership after disastrous local elections.

The country's last factory that can make steel from scratch faced imminent closure last year after its Chinese owner Jingye said the plant was no longer financially viable.

After unsuccessful negotiations with the company, the

UK government passed emergency legislation to prevent the struggling plant's blast furnaces going out.

Since then, “it has not been possible to agree a commercial sale with the current owner,” the government said in a statement yesterday.

“The government believes introducing legislation to provide a route to public ownership is the appropriate next step,” it said, adding that the move remained subject to a public interest test.

Nationalisation would bring British Steel back into government ownership for the first time since 1988.

The government has seen the possible closure of the plant in northern England as a threat to Britain's long-term economic security, given the decline of the UK's once-robust steel industry.



The African Union represents 55 countries and more than 1.5 billion people – making it one of the world's largest political blocs.

Trump to suspend US federal gasoline tax over high prices: US media

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump said yesterday that he intended to suspend a federal gasoline tax "for a period of time" as consumers cope with surging energy prices in the wake of the Iran war.

"We're going to take off the gas tax for a period of time, and

”

We're going to take off the gas tax for a period of time, and when gas goes down, we'll let it phase back in

TRUMP TOLD CBS NEWS

when gas goes down, we'll let it phase back in," Trump told CBS News.

Suspending the tax would require an act of Congress, where Trump's Republican party holds

a razor-thin majority in both houses.

Trump ally Senator Josh Hawley said he would introduce legislation to do so on Monday. In the House, Republican Anna Paulina Luna made a similar pledge to introduce a bill "this week."

US federal taxes on gasoline amount to 18.4 cents per gallon

on gasoline and 24.4 cents per gallon for diesel, according to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA).

US fuel prices have skyrocketed since Trump launched the war on Iran, with gasoline and diesel both up about 50 percent since late February.

Iran's retaliatory action has included virtually closing the

key Strait of Hormuz, through which about a fifth of the world's oil and natural gas passes.

On Monday, the average price of a gallon of regular gasoline in the United States was \$4.52, with diesel at \$5.64, according to the AAA motor club.

Suspending the federal fuel tax would bring those prices down by about four percent.

EU drops plans to revise chemical rules

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The EU confirmed yesterday it would not be revising chemical safety rules to avoid hitting an already struggling industry with fresh uncertainty.

European Union environment chief Jessika Roswall said it was not the right moment to discuss legal changes, as Europe's chemical sector suffers from high energy costs and competition from Asia.

"The timing for that is not now," Roswall told a group of journalists.

Bruussels had promised to review the text regulating



European Union environment chief Jessika Roswall

a fresh EU drive to cut red tape and support businesses, as Europe seeks to retain its industrial edge.

This came on the back of big gains in the 2024 European elections by right-wing parties that have been clamouring for the EU to ditch some of its green policies.

Last year, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz argued Brussels needed to soften rather than strengthen environmental rules to help revive Germany's sluggish economy.

Caught in the middle, the European Commission opted to leave things as they were.

the manufacturing and use of chemicals known as "REACH" in 2022, with NGOs pushing for stricter rules to better protect human health and the environment.

But those goals clashed with

London Heathrow airport traffic dips due to Mideast war

AFP | London, United Kingdom

London's Heathrow Airport announced yesterday that passenger numbers dropped in April as the Middle East war disrupted global air travel.

The airport handled 6.7 million passengers last month, down 5.3 percent from one year earlier, Heathrow said in a statement.

Heathrow, Europe's busiest airport, said that the decline reflected "the ongoing impact of the Middle East conflict on some markets and short-term adjustments to travel plans."

"While we have seen some short-term disruption linked



to the Middle East conflict, demand for travel remains strong with current fuel supplies stable," said the airport's chief executive Thomas Woldbye.

"April was still our busiest month so far this year, underlining the strength of a global hub airport that can adapt quickly in times of uncertainty," he added.

The number of transit pas-

sengers, however, rose 10 percent year-on-year in April, matching a similar increase recorded in the previous month, as passengers rerouted through London.

Gulf airlines Emirates, Etihad and Qatar Airways have built their business model on connecting passengers on long-haul flights across the globe.



BAHRAIN FAMILY LEISURE COMPANY B.S.C.



Condensed interim statement of financial position as at 31 March 2026
(Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)

	31 March 2026 (Reviewed)	31 December 2025 (Audited)
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	45,812	49,143
Right-of-use assets	511,179	337,541
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	876,275	859,835
	<u>1,433,266</u>	<u>1,246,519</u>
Current assets		
Inventories	13,402	16,270
Trade and other receivables	151,094	90,742
Term deposits	-	100,000
Cash and bank balances	112,731	156,075
	<u>277,227</u>	<u>363,087</u>
Total assets	<u>1,710,493</u>	<u>1,609,606</u>
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Capital and reserves		
Share capital	1,000,000	1,000,000
Statutory reserve	198,732	198,732
Capital reserve	17,061	17,061
Accumulated losses	(187,473)	(117,765)
Treasury shares	(100,000)	(100,000)
	<u>928,320</u>	<u>998,028</u>
Non-current liabilities		
Employees' terminal benefits	47,448	46,772
Non-current portion of lease liabilities	390,796	247,194
	<u>438,244</u>	<u>293,966</u>
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	192,187	202,947
Current portion of lease liabilities	151,742	114,665
	<u>343,929</u>	<u>317,612</u>
Total liabilities	<u>782,173</u>	<u>611,578</u>
Total equity and liabilities	<u>1,710,493</u>	<u>1,609,606</u>

Condensed interim statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the three months period ended 31 March 2026
(Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)

	Three months period ended 31 March 2026 (Reviewed)	Three months period ended 31 March 2025 (Reviewed)
Operating income	157,758	311,263
Operating costs	(214,131)	(295,700)
Operating (loss)/profit for the period	<u>(56,373)</u>	<u>15,563</u>
Non-operating expenses		
Legal and professional expenses for proposed business combination	(32,885)	(9,723)
General and administrative expenses	(45,942)	(37,815)
Selling and advertising expenses	(2,658)	(2,137)
Finance cost on lease liabilities	(11,201)	(9,007)
Directors' fees	(9,500)	(12,000)
	<u>(102,186)</u>	<u>(70,682)</u>
Total non-operating expenses	<u>(102,186)</u>	<u>(70,682)</u>
Loss before investment and other income	<u>(158,559)</u>	<u>(55,119)</u>
Investment and other income	88,851	26,203
Net loss and other comprehensive loss for the period	<u>(69,708)</u>	<u>(28,916)</u>
Basic and diluted loss per share	<u>Fils (7.75)</u>	<u>Fils (3.21)</u>

Condensed interim statement of cash flows for the three months period ended 31 March 2026 (Reviewed)
(Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)

	Three months period ended 31 March 2026 (Reviewed)	Three months period ended 31 March 2025 (Reviewed)
Operating activities		
Net loss for the period	(69,708)	(28,916)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	3,331	3,208
Amortisation of right-of-use assets	40,792	41,997
Unrealised fair value (gains)/losses on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(16,440)	41,211
Allowance for impaired trade receivables	7,755	-
Interest income	(1,343)	(4,725)
Finance cost on lease liabilities	11,201	9,007
Dividend income	(70,718)	(62,364)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Inventories	2,868	(3,008)
Trade and other receivables	2,611	(37,986)
Trade and other payables	(10,760)	(19,309)
Employees' terminal benefits, net	676	292
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(99,735)</u>	<u>(60,593)</u>
Investing activities		
Net movement in term deposits	100,000	-
Interest received	1,343	1,031
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>101,343</u>	<u>1,031</u>
Financing activities		
Repayment of lease liabilities	(44,952)	(47,805)
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(44,952)</u>	<u>(47,805)</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	<u>(43,344)</u>	<u>(107,367)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of the period	156,075	189,820
Cash and cash equivalents, end of the period	<u>112,731</u>	<u>82,453</u>

Condensed interim statement of changes in shareholders' equity for three months period ended 31 March 2026
(Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)

	Share capital	Statutory reserve	Capital reserve	Accumulated losses	Treasury shares	Total
At 31 December 2024 (Audited)	4,000,000	794,927	68,245	(3,360,481)	(400,000)	1,102,691
Net loss and other comprehensive losses for the period	-	-	-	(28,916)	-	(28,916)
At 31 March 2025 (Reviewed)	4,000,000	794,927	68,245	(3,389,397)	(400,000)	1,073,775
At 31 December 2025 (Audited)	1,000,000	198,732	17,061	(117,765)	(100,000)	998,028
Net loss and other comprehensive losses for the period	-	-	-	(69,708)	-	(69,708)
At 31 March 2026 (Reviewed)	1,000,000	198,732	17,061	(187,473)	(100,000)	928,320

The reviewed condensed interim financial information were approved, authorised for issue by the Board of Directors and signed on their behalf by:

Abdul Latif Khalid Al Aujan
Chairman

Ahmed Janahi
Vice-Chairman

Washington targets IRGC oil network

12 individuals and firms accused of facilitating Iranian oil sales to China targeted by US Treasury

Washington | United States

The United States on Monday issued sanctions against 12 individuals and entities that it said facilitated the sale and shipment of Iranian oil to China, days ahead of US President Donald Trump's visit to Beijing.

In a statement, the US Treasury alleged that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) "relies on front companies in permissive economic jurisdictions to obfuscate its role in oil sales and funnel the revenue to the Iranian regime."

It listed three Iran-based individuals and nine companies -- based in Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates -- as being subject to the new sanctions.

Sanctioned entities will see any US-based assets blocked, with all transactions with them by US entities and individuals also banned.

As part of its war on Iran, the United States has tightened sanctions against Tehran's government and the IRGC in an attempt to economically stifle them.

"As Iran's military desperately tries to regroup, Economic Fury will continue to deprive the regime of funding for its weapons programs, terrorist proxies, and nuclear ambitions," US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said, referring to the economic measures the US is imposing on Iran alongside its military pressure.

The war has roiled global energy markets, with Tehran having virtually blocked the key Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly a fifth of the world's oil and gas normally flows.

Washington eased some sanctions on Iranian oil in March in an attempt to address global supply shortages, but it has since



People record footage as a US Air Force C-17 Globemaster III lands at Beijing Capital Airport in Beijing on May 11, 2026, ahead of a visit by US President Donald Trump. President Trump will visit China from May 13 to 15, with the US leader expected to discuss Iran and trade with his Chinese counterpart

tightened restrictions again.

Much of Iran's oil is bound for Asia, with China a major importer. Beijing is one of Tehran's biggest trading partners overall.

US President Trump is due in Beijing later this week for key talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, with a full slate of trade disputes on the agenda.

The US-Israeli war on Iran will also top the agenda, with Washington seeking greater pressure on Tehran from Beijing.

The US State Department sanctioned three China-based satellite firms on Friday for enabling Iran's military operations.

The US Treasury Department earlier sanctioned several mainland China- and Hong Kong-based firms for aiding Iran's weapons supply.

The latest sanctions come as Washington continues to escalate financial pressure on Tehran.

Israel jails soldiers for desecrating Virgin Mary statue in Lebanon



Jerusalem, Undefined

The Israeli military said on Monday it had sentenced two soldiers to imprisonment after one of them was photographed placing a cigarette in the mouth of a statue of the Virgin Mary in southern Lebanon.

An image widely shared online last week showed an Israeli soldier with his arm around the statue of the mother of Christ while holding a cigarette up to her mouth.

According to the military, the incident took place several weeks ago in southern Lebanon and was investigated by commanders on the ground.

"At the conclusion of the investigation, the soldier documented carrying out the act was sentenced to 21 days of military prison, and the soldier who filmed the incident was sentenced to 14 days of military prison," the military said on Monday.

In a separate post on X, military spokeswoman Ariella Mazor said: "The IDF views the incident with utmost severity and emphasises that the conduct of the soldier completely deviates from the values expected of its personnel."



Peace hopes dashed for quick deal

Lebanese canvass US envoy

Lebanese leaders urged the US ambassador to Beirut to pressure Israel to halt its attacks as it pounded the country from the air despite a truce in the Israel-Hezbollah war.

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun

and Prime Minister Nawaf Salam separately met ambassador Michel Issa in preparation for a third direct meeting between Lebanese and Israeli representatives set to take place in Washington on Thursday and Friday.

The sharp exchange of messages raised the spectre of a return to open conflict in the Gulf, dashed hopes of a quick negotiated deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz to commercial shipping and sent oil prices higher.

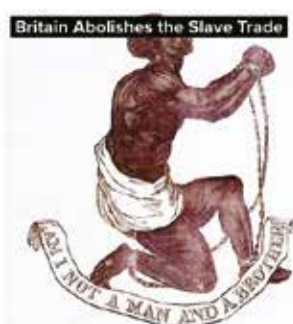
Trump described Tehran's response to the latest US outline for peace talks as "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE" in a social media post.

1789

William Wilberforce makes his first major speech on abolition in the UK House of Commons, reasoning the slave trade morally reprehensible and an issue of natural justice

1940

Nazi blitzkrieg and conquest of France begins with German forces crossing the Muese River



1943

Axis forces in North Africa surrender

1949

The Soviet Union lifts its blockade of West Berlin after the US, the UK, and their allies successfully supply the city during the Berlin Airlift

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran said Monday it had demanded the release of its frozen assets and the end of a US blockade of its ports, after President Donald Trump angrily rejected Tehran's terms for ending the Middle East war. Trump reacted with fury after Iran responded to the latest US proposed outline for peace talks with a counteroffer he deemed, in a brief social media post, "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE".

The impasse unnerved global energy markets, with international benchmark Brent crude prices rising 4.65 percent to \$99.95 a barrel during early Monday trade in Asia.

The US leader did not say what had offended him in Iran's response, but Tehran's foreign ministry said it had called for an end to the US naval blockade and to the war "across the region" -- implying a halt to Israel's strikes targeting Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Crucially, ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei told reporters, Iran demanded the "release of assets belonging to the Iranian people, which have for years been unjustly trapped in foreign banks".

Hormuz meeting

The United Kingdom and France will host a multinational meeting of defence ministers involving 40 countries Tuesday on military plans to restore trade flows through the Strait of Hormuz, the British defence ministry said.

This would suggest not just a return to the status quo before the United States and Israel launched the war on February 28, but a victory for the Islamic government's long-standing campaign against economic isolation.

"We did not demand any concessions. The only thing we demanded was Iran's legitimate rights," Baqaei said. An end to international sanctions would also diminish Washington's leverage over Tehran as it tries to secure a lasting end to Iran's nuclear enrichment.

The US, Israel and their allies have long accused Iran of seeking an atomic bomb, an accusation Tehran has repeatedly denied.

The Wall Street Journal, citing people familiar with the

matter, said Iran's counter-proposal had included the possibility of diluting some of its highly enriched uranium, with the rest transferred to a third country.

Iran had sought guarantees that the transferred uranium would be returned if negotiations failed or Washington abandoned the agreement, sources told the Journal.

Trump is expected to press China's President Xi Jinping -- a major buyer of Iranian oil -- on the Iran issue when he visits Beijing on Thursday, according to a senior US official.

US officials have stressed it would be "unacceptable" for Tehran to control the international waterway -- the export route for a fifth of the world's oil.

The US Navy is also blockading Iran's ports, at times disabling or diverting ships heading to and from them.

In a social media post on Sunday, the spokesman for the Iranian parliament's national security commission warned Washington: "Our restraint is over as of today."

"Any attack on our vessels will trigger a strong and decisive Iranian response against American ships and bases," Ebrahim Rezaei said.

Trump angrily rejects Iran's terms



UN warns of crisis

Tens of millions of people could face hunger and starvation if fertilisers are not soon allowed through the Strait of Hormuz, the head of a UN task force aimed at averting a looming humanitarian crisis told AFP.

"We have a few weeks ahead of us to prevent what will likely be a massive humanitarian crisis," Jorge Moreira da Silva, executive director of the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and leader of the task force, told AFP in an interview.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I want to express my support for the government of Spain & others as they manage the #hantavirus in close coordination with our @WHO colleagues. While the current public health risk from the virus remains low, it's important that international health efforts ensure the safety of all, including passengers & crew of the MV Hondius.

@antonioguterres

02



Most passengers and crew of the MV Hondius cruise ship successfully disembarked today. I'm grateful to Ministers @Monica_Garcia_G, Fernando Grande-Marlaska and @avtorresp, their @sanidadgob, @interiorgob and @territoriogob teams, and the whole government of #Spain for their leadership and technical excellence shown throughout this operation. @WHO continues to work closely with experts in all involved countries, as coordination remains key to keeping passengers, crew, responders and communities healthy and safe. #hantavirus

@DrTedros

03



I had a call with His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan @Mohamed-BinZayed, President of the UAE. I condemned the recent strikes from Iran against the UAE. And we must make every effort to truly protect life in the Gulf region, which is of global importance.

@ZelenskyyUa

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

Growing concerns about AI's sweeping takeover of American Universities



ELVES HANAFI, PHD IN AMERICAN STUDIES

There is no gainsaying that the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the last few years has generated a paradigm shift in the way laypeople, think-tanks, and officials all over the globe used to address daily issues and make future projections. Indeed, with AI, humanity has, albeit to various degrees, entered a brave new era, marked by an abrupt reconfiguration of pre-AI systems regulating human societies and worldviews.

In the US, pundits and commentators tend to jump headlong onto the marketplace to reflect on the omnipresence of such technology and draw conclusions regarding its implications for job security in the face of inevitable automation. While some have adopted a gloomy stance toward the new machine by highlighting the radical replacement of workers with chatbots, others have chosen the path of least resistance, hailing a potential transition into a smarter world where new employment opportunities will very likely be created.

Such controversy has lately spilled over into the US political scene as well, manifesting itself in a tug-of-war between states and national governments over AI regulation. Heretofore, all US fifty states have introduced preemptive legislative measures to rationalize the use of AI, especially in the areas of biological activities, children's entertainment, and economic restructuring. At the national level, however, the incumbent US President, Donald Trump, has chosen to stand at the other end of the spectrum, striking back with an executive order on December 11, 2025, intended to ban any form of oversight over AI, threatening to withhold federal funding from those states bent on enforcing "onerous AI laws."

Notwithstanding the legitimacy of such political and economic concerns, the debate, however, tends to lose sight of another no less important casualty of AI largescale disruptions: tertiary education. A growing number of US scholars and researchers have recently drawn attention to AI's potential threat to human agency through its systemic debilitation of the faculties of critical thinking and creativity. These critics, while cognizant of the inherent repercussions of AI on labor and democracy, deem it more urgent to scrutinize how AI is jeopardizing to the quality of education, in the first place.

The question perplexing a sizeable number of these educators is who is controlling higher education in the US and to what end. Media theorist Neil Postman, for instance, believes that the ascension of AI is not an arbitrary development, but rather an extension of a culture dominated by a "technopoly" where automation and digitalization reign supreme. Others like professors Sheila Slaughter and Gary Rhoades refer to the rise of "academic capitalism," a situation where postsecondary education is shaped by the heavy hand of the global economy, turning technology into a control panel powerful enough to redefine the meaning and scope of teaching and learning. Accordingly, what is commonly popularized as efficiency, innovation, and creativity is in actual fact a complete surrender to technological imperatives and instructions. Invaluable educational attributes, such as reflection, dialogue, knowledge, discernment, and productivity, have, for the most part, been substituted with automation, optimization, data delivery, commodity, and prompting. The upshot, Philosophy professor Troy Jollimore ominously predicts, will be seen in those "Massive numbers of students [who] are going to emerge from university ... essentially illiterate."

Nothing is more outrageous to educators than the preposterous connection of AI with students' cheating. On this specific point, educators have proved to be quite resilient. While powerless to regulate AI, they have, nonetheless, devised their own means to curb its repercussions on the quality of educational outcomes.... (to be continued)

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

EU agrees long-stalled sanctions on Israeli settlers

● The move in response to rising violence and settlement expansion in the Israeli-occupied West Bank had been stalled by former Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orban.

● The occupied West Bank has been gripped by almost daily violence since the start of the Gaza war

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

European Union foreign ministers yesterday agreed new sanctions on Israeli settlers over violence against Palestinians, as a change of government in Hungary ended months of blockage.

"It's done. The European Union is sanctioning today the main Israeli organisations guilty of supporting the extremist and



An armed Israeli woman in military uniform stands with children as they enjoy the Palestinian water spring of Ein al-Auja as they celebrate the Israeli Independence Day at the Israeli-occupied West Bank village of Ras Ein al-Auja, whose Bedouin community was displaced by Israeli settlers earlier this year

violent colonisation of the West Bank, as well as their leaders," French Foreign Minister Jean-

Noel Barrot wrote on social media. "These most serious and intolerable acts must cease without delay."

The move in response to rising

violence and settlement expansion in the Israeli-occupied West Bank had been stalled by former Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orban.

But the ouster of the nationalist leader and Israel ally, by rival Peter Magyar, now appears to have paved the way for the veto to be lifted.

EU officials said seven settlers or settler organisations would be blacklisted. The bloc also agreed to sanction representatives from Palestinian militant group Hamas.

The occupied West Bank has been gripped by almost daily violence since the start of the Gaza war in October 2023, involving Israeli troops and settlers.

There has been a surge in deadly attacks by Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank since the start of the Iran war on February 28, Palestinian officials and the United Nations have said.

While the EU is moving ahead with the sanctions on Israeli settlers, there remains no consensus among member states to take further steps

against Israel such as curbing trade ties.

A number of countries are pushing to ban products from Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

"The work on trade measures for products coming from the illegal settlements moves forward," an EU diplomat said.



More than 700,000 Israeli settlers now live in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem – settlements widely regarded as illegal under international law, though Israel disputes this.

EU rejects Putin pitch for Schroeder as Ukraine mediator



Gerhard Schroeder
AFP | Brussels, Belgium

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas yesterday pushed back on Russian President Vladimir Putin's proposal for ex-German leader Gerhard Schroeder to act as mediator on the war in Ukraine.

"If we give the right to Russia to appoint a negotiator on our behalf, you know, that would not be very wise," Kallas told reporters at foreign ministers' talks in Brussels.

"Gerhard Schroeder has been a high-level lobbyist for Russian state-owned companies. So it's clear why Putin wants him to be the person so that actually, you know, he would be sitting on both sides of the table," she said.

Asked Saturday whom he would like to help restart talks with Europe, Putin said he would "personally" prefer Schroeder, who led Germany from 1998 to 2005.

The former chancellor has remained close to the Kremlin leader, standing apart from most Western leaders since Russia's invasion of Ukraine -- which he never publicly condemned.

Donald Trump declares Iran ceasefire on 'life support'

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump said yesterday that the Iran ceasefire is on "life support" and that he is considering restarting naval escorts through the Hormuz Strait waterway as he seeks "complete victory" in the war.

Amid growing pressure at home over the war's impact on the US economy, Trump warned that Iran's rejection over the weekend of Washington's demands meant the already tenuous ceasefire is now "unbelievably weak."

"I would say it's one of the weakest right now, it's on life support," he told reporters in the White House. "I would say the ceasefire is on massive life support."

Separately, Trump told Fox News that he was considering

renewing a US attempt to escort oil and other commercial shipping through Hormuz, but that he had not yet taken a final decision.

The initiative, dubbed Operation Freedom, was first launched on May 6 but abandoned less than two days later.

The United States sent Iran a set of conditions for easing the conflict, mostly related to preventing the country from being able to expand its nuclear program.

At the weekend, Iran sent counter-proposals which

Trump told reporters on Monday were "garbage."

The impasse does not mean the United States will back off, Trump said.

"We're going to have a complete victory," he said. Iran thinks "I'll get tired of this. I'll get bored, or I'll have some pressure. But there's no pressure."

Asked if he was still willing to negotiate with Iran, Trump said the leadership there was divided into "moderates" and "lunatics."

"The lunatics want to fight til the end. You know, it'll be a very quick fight."



White House press gala shooting suspect pleads not guilty

AFP | Washington, United States

A California man charged with attempting to assassinate US President Donald Trump at a White House press gala last month pleaded not guilty on Monday.

Cole Allen, 31, entered the not guilty plea during an appearance before Judge Trevor McFadden in a federal

district court in the nation's capital.

Allen appeared in court wearing an orange jumpsuit and wearing handcuffs.

McFadden scheduled a status conference on the case to be held on June 29.

Allen faces four charges in connection with the April 25 attack at the White House Correspondents' Association

(WHCA) dinner at a downtown Washington hotel and potentially faces life in prison if convicted.

He is charged with attempting to assassinate the president, transportation of a firearm and ammunition across state lines with intent to commit a felony, using a firearm during a crime of violence and assaulting a federal officer.

Venezuela has 'never considered' becoming 51st US state

AFP | The Hague, Netherlands

Venezuela has "never" contemplated becoming the 51st US state, as suggested by US President Donald Trump following the capture of deposed leader Nicolas Maduro, the country's acting president said on Monday.

"That would never have

been considered, because if there is one thing we Venezuelan men and women have, it is that we love our independence process, we love our heroes and heroines of independence," Delcy Rodriguez told reporters as she left a hearing at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

70 Labour MPs Demand Starmer's Resignation

AFP

Calls for UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer to resign have intensified, with a total of 70 Labour MPs now publicly urging him to step down or set a clear timetable for his departure, according to BBC monitoring of post-local election statements.

The growing pressure follows last week's local election results, which several Labour figures have described as a setback for the party. The tally of dissenting MPs has steadily increased over recent days, reflecting widening internal divisions within the governing party.

However, not all within Labour are calling for a change in leadership. Several MPs have spoken out in defence of Starmer, urging unity and stability. Chris Ward said this is "not the time to divide the party," warning against what he described as a damaging leadership contest. Similarly,

Mike Tapp argued that "the country needs stability, not another revolving door of leaders," stressing the importance of focus amid global uncertainty.

Angela Eagle also cautioned against internal disruption, saying the timing is particularly sensitive ahead of the King's Speech, which outlines the government's legislative agenda.

Meanwhile, Labour Party chair Anna Turley reaffirmed her support for the Prime Minister, saying she is "proud" of Starmer's leadership and urging the party to "step up" rather than step away from responsibility.

Despite these appeals for unity, resignations within the wider government team have added to the pressure. Melanie Ward has resigned from her role as parliamentary private secretary to Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy, stating that the election results sent a "clear message".

Hantavirus crisis: WHO recommendations

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

A deadly hantavirus outbreak on a cruise ship has spurred global concern over the potential spread of the virus among and from ship evacuees as they head back to their home countries.

Here are the World Health Organization's main recommendations to limit the transmission risks and to better protect those exposed to the rare virus, which usually spreads among rodents, and for which there is no vaccine or treatment.

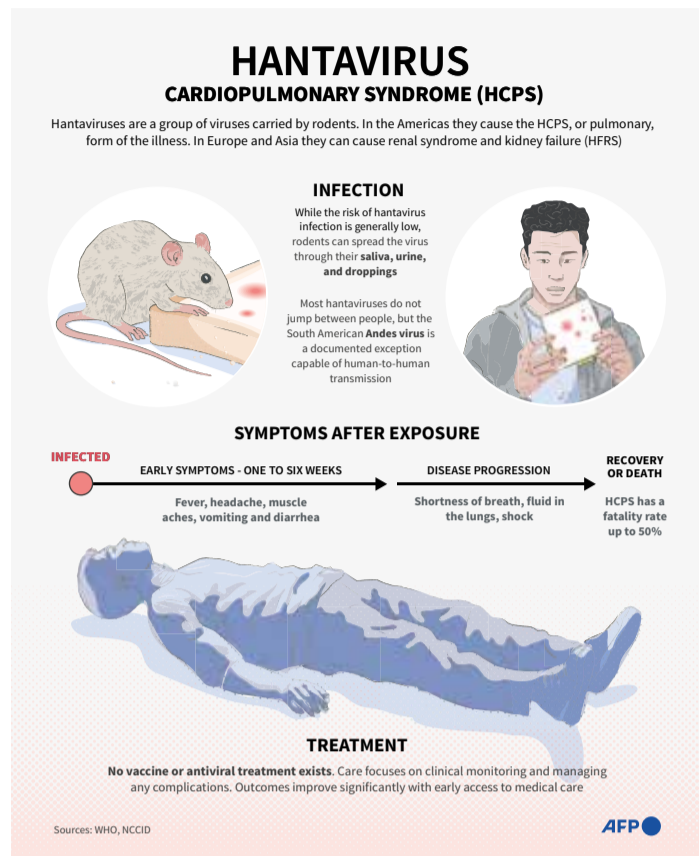
Quarantine

All of the nearly 150 people who were onboard the Dutch-flagged MV Hondius when it arrived early Sunday in the Canary Islands for disembarkment have been classified as "high-risk" contacts, according to the WHO's epidemic and pandemic preparedness and prevention director Maria Van Kerkhove.

The United Nations health agency is recommending that all of them be quarantined and kept in isolation for six weeks.

"For people returning home, our recommendations are active monitoring and follow up and daily checks for symptoms at home or in a specialised facility for the full incubation period of 42 days, after last potential exposure," the WHO told AFP on Monday, adding that it considered that the isolation period started "on 10 May".

"Should any early symptoms or sudden onset of respiratory distress occur, people should



immediately inform health authorities and self-isolate until medical evaluation is conducted," the agency stressed.

Why 42 days? Van Kerkhove said that corresponded to the longest likely incubation period of Andes virus -- the only hantavirus strain known to spread between humans -- at the heart of the outbreak.

Olivier Le Polain, who heads WHO's epidemiology and analytics for response division, stressed that people are "in the first few days, in the first few

moments of illness", which is why it is wise not to wait for symptoms to appear before placing a contact in isolation.

What should countries do?

The WHO has urged countries to strengthen health coordination, contact tracing and surveillance of suspected cases.

The organisation is working with "all of the countries to receive further information about any of the cases that we're following up, any of the

people that might become suspect cases", Van Kerkhove said.

Other people who had left the ship before the outbreak was understood, as well as people they come in contact with could also be considered high-risk contacts.

WHO has said that high-risk contacts "may include cabin mates, intimate partners, persons with prolonged close indoor exposure, healthcare workers with unprotected exposure, and individuals handling contaminated materials or body fluids without appropriate personal protective equipment".

The agency has urged countries to provide "clear and transparent communication to affected individuals and the general public" about the situation.

Various country approaches

Each country chooses what health protocols it wants to put in place, with most following WHO's guidelines.

But in the United States, Jay Bhattacharya, acting director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), said the 17 returning American passengers would not necessarily be quarantined.

Depending on the estimated risk, passengers can choose to go

home "without exposing other people on the way", he said Sunday.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who was on Tenerife to help supervise the evacuations, said that policy "may have risks".

Several countries, including Germany, Britain, Switzerland and Greece, have opted for a 45-day quarantine.

Australia and France, for their part, have announced minimum observation periods of three and two weeks respectively, which can then be extended.

In healthcare facilities

There is as of now no licensed treatment for hantavirus, which can have a fatality rate up to 50 percent.

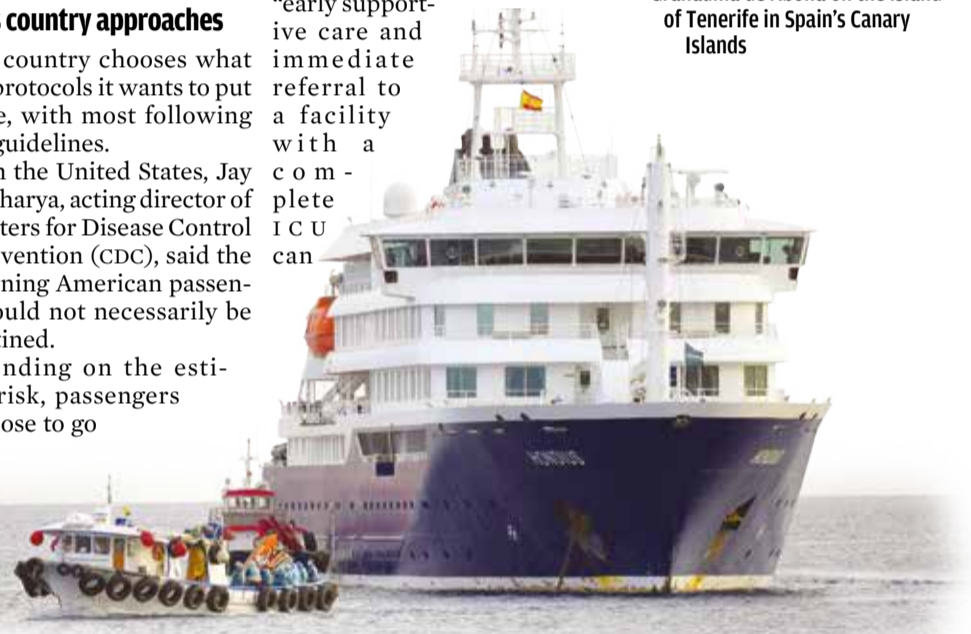
But the WHO said "early supportive care and immediate referral to a facility with a complete ICU can

improve survival".

The UN health agency recommends that healthcare facilities systematically apply standard precautions to all patients, including hand hygiene, surface cleaning and waste management.

For the management of suspected or confirmed cases, the WHO recommends implementing additional measures, with particular precautions taken in the case of any procedures likely to generate aerosols.

US passengers from the Dutch flagged hantavirus-stricken cruise ship MV Hondius are transferred by boat to the industrial port of Granadilla de Abona on the island of Tenerife in Spain's Canary Islands



Beatles to open first London museum on site of last gig

AFP | London, United Kingdom

The Beatles' first official London museum is set to open next year in the Mayfair building where the band recorded its final album and played its last gig, Paul McCartney announced Monday.

The attraction -- "The Beatles at 3 Savile Row" -- will feature seven floors of never-seen-before archive material and a recreated basement studio where the Fab Four recorded their 1970 "Let It Be" album.

Visitors to the venue on the upmarket central London block -- better known globally for its traditional bespoke tailors -- will also get access to its rooftop where the band staged an iconic performance in 1969.

"Tourists come to England and they can go to Abbey Road, but they can't go inside... so I thought this was a terrific idea," McCartney told the BBC.

The 83-year-old pop legend said it stemmed from efforts by Apple Corps -- the company which has overseen the band's business interests since 1968 -- to reexamine "what the Beatles mean, and what people want these days from us".

The company previously owned the Savile Row building for eight years from 1968 and it served as the band's headquarters for two years prior to their 1970 break-up and for business



The Beatles during their famous rooftop performance in London in 1969, which became their final public live performance.

purposes afterwards.

"We're thrilled to bring Apple Corps back to its spiritual home and give The Beatles fans something truly special," its CEO Tom Greene said in a statement.

"Every single day, fans are taking pictures of the outside of 3 Savile Row, he added. "But next year they can go in and explore all seven floors of the iconic building, including the rooftop where even the railings remain the same from that famous day in 1969."

Footage of the famous January 30, 1969, concert -- the last time anyone saw the Fab Four

perform publicly -- was recently restored and included in Peter Jackson's "Get Back" documentary about the band.

Speaking to the BBC, McCartney said visitors will ascend the Savile Row building and see "various things" including memorabilia before they can "pretend to be a Beatle" on the roof.

It will also feature rotating exhibitions and a fan store, according to Apple Corps.

"There are so many special memories within the walls, not to mention the rooftop," McCartney added in the official

statement.

Ringo Starr, 85, the only other living Beatle, called the exhibition "like coming home".

Apple Corps promised further details about it, and a second experience currently in development, in "due course".

In the meantime fans can register for tickets on the band's website.

The band's hometown of Liverpool, in northwest England, already boasts two attractions -- Liverpool Beatles Museum and The Beatles Story -- but neither are officially licensed by Apple Corps.

Turkey-Syria border gate to reopen after 12-year closure

● The crossing, which lies just over the border from Tal Abyad in northern Syria, was closed by Turkey in 2014

AFP | Istanbul, Turkey

One of the border crossings between Turkey and Syria is to reopen on Tuesday, ending a 12-year closure, local officials said Monday.

The reopening of the Akcakale crossing, which sits roughly in the middle of Turkey's 900-kilometre (550-mile) border with Syria, is the latest step in Damascus's move towards normalisation with its neighbours.

The crossing, which lies just over the border from Tal Abyad in northern Syria, was closed by Turkey in 2014 after the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) took over the town following the defeat of Islamic State group militants.

Turkey has long viewed the SDF as linked to the Kurdish militant PKK and a major threat along its southern border.

It was partially reopened in 2019 for trade, funerals and the crossing of government officials after a Turkish military operation against IS jihadists

and Kurdish fighters.

The decision will now mean the crossing is open to civilians.

"In light of the normalisation of life in the region... entry and exit procedures using passports to and from the Syrian Arab Republic via the Akcakale Land Border Crossing will start on Tuesday," the Sanliurfa governor's office said in a statement.

The move will mean six of the 12 crossings between Turkey and Syria will be open.

Turkey has forged close ties with Syria's new rulers, with President Ahmed al-Sharaa joining a diplomacy forum in Turkey's southern Antalya resort in April.



Turkey closed several key border gates with Syria during the Syrian civil war, and by 2018 had completed a 764-km border wall -- one of the world's longest security barriers.

GCC Showcases 45 Years of Progress

Forum in Riyadh focuses on Gulf achievements and future cooperation

Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary-General Jassim Mohammed Al Budaiwi said on Monday that a forum highlighting Gulf achievements aimed to showcase how regional integration has directly improved the quality of life of Gulf citizens and strengthened the bloc's international standing.

Speaking at the "Gulf Achievements Forum" in Riyadh, Al Budaiwi said the GCC's accomplishments resulted from decades of joint cooperation and political coordination among member states.

"The achievements are not merely temporary gains or economic indicators, but the outcome of an integrated Gulf system that transformed challenges into opportunities," he said during the event organised by the GCC General Secretariat in cooperation with the Gulf Radio and Television Organisation.

Senior media officials, specialists and Gulf students studying at universities in Saudi Arabia attended the forum.

Al Budaiwi said the gathering comes ahead of celebrations



marking the 45th anniversary of the GCC, founded on May 25, 1981.

He said recent regional and international developments had demonstrated that the strength of GCC countries lies in their unity and cohesion, describing joint Gulf action as "a strategic necessity" given security challenges and global economic transformations.

He said the GCC states built a balanced regional model that combines preserving identity and values with openness to the world and adaptation to economic and technological changes.

Al Budaiwi highlighted achievements in political coordination, military and security cooperation, economic integration, infrastructure, digital transformation, education, healthcare and food security.

He added that Gulf citizens remained central to development efforts, benefiting from freedoms related to movement, employment, investment, property ownership, education and healthcare across GCC member states.

The secretary-general also stressed the importance of building on current achievements to create sustainable gains capable of meeting future generations' aspirations.

He said the forum seeks to document Gulf achievements, strengthen awareness of their developmental impact and reinforce a shared Gulf identity.

Al Budaiwi described the GCC as no longer "just a regional bloc linked by geography and history", but a global strategic force capable of shaping opportunities, development and stability.

Qatar, Kuwait discuss regional de-escalation efforts

Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani on Monday held a phone call with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, during which they discussed bilateral relations and regional developments, according to the Qatari foreign ministry.

The two sides reviewed cooperation between Qatar and

Kuwait and explored ways to further strengthen ties across various fields.

They also exchanged views on the latest regional situation, including developments linked to the ceasefire between the United States and Iran, as well as ongoing efforts aimed at de-escalation and stabilising the region.

During the call, Sheikh Mohammed stressed the importance of all parties engaging constructively with mediation efforts. He said such initiatives should help address the crisis's root causes through dialogue and peaceful means, leading to a sustainable agreement that prevents renewed escalation.

Both officials underscored the importance of continued coordination to support security and stability in the region.



Oman boosts research and innovation drive

His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, on Monday praised efforts to strengthen scientific research and innovation in Oman, saying they were key to building a knowledge-based economy.

Chairing the first board meeting of the Research Council for Scientific Research and Innovation for 2026, Sayyid Theyazin highlighted the council's role in turning research and knowledge into economic value and supporting innovation across key sectors.

He stressed that scientific advancement and innovation are essential pillars for economic diversification and sustainable development in the Sultanate of Oman.

The board reviewed the council's annual report for 2025, in-



cluding key indicators, achievements and initiatives aimed at enhancing the national research and innovation ecosystem.

Members also discussed upcoming programmes and strategic plans for the next phase, focusing on strengthening scientific output and institutional capacity.

The meeting further reviewed an initiative to launch a compe-

tion for the Sultan Haitham Research Chair in higher education institutions, designed to promote advanced academic research.

Oman's preparations to host the annual meeting of the Global Research Council (GRC) in 2028 were also presented, marking a significant step in the country's growing role in international scientific cooperation.

Strengthening Youth Ties Between Qatar and Egypt



Qatar and Egypt discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in youth and sports, during a meeting held in Egypt's New Administrative Capital, officials said.

Qatar's ambassador to Egypt and permanent representative to the Arab League, Sheikh Jassim bin Abdulrahman bin Mohammed Al Thani, met Egyptian Youth and Sports Minister Ashraf Sobhi at the ministry headquarters.

The two sides reviewed existing cooperation and explored opportunities to enhance bilateral ties, particularly in youth development and

sports programmes.

They also discussed expanding the exchange of expertise between institutions in both countries, focusing on initiatives aimed at supporting and empowering young people.

Both officials stressed the importance of strengthening joint efforts to develop the sports sector and broaden youth participation in programmes serving shared development goals.

The meeting comes amid continued efforts by both countries to deepen cooperation across cultural, educational, and sporting fields.

Pakistan, UN discuss regional stability



The United Nations Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for the Middle East conflict, Jean Arnault, met Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday to discuss regional developments and ongoing diplomatic efforts.

During the meeting, Arnault conveyed the UN chief's appreciation for Pakistan's role in supporting regional peace and stability, and reaffirmed the United Nations' continued engagement in that regard.

Dar briefed the envoy on the latest regional situation, highlighting Pakistan's sustained diplomatic outreach and ongoing consultations with relevant parties.

He also expressed gratitude to the UN Secretary-General for what he described as his "invaluable contributions" and consistent support for Pakistan over the years.

Saudi military students visit counter-terror body



The Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC) on Sunday received a delegation of trainees from Saudi Arabia's National Defence University, alongside peers from allied and friendly countries, at its headquarters in Riyadh.

The visit aimed to strengthen cooperation and enhance the exchange of expertise between academic and military institutions, according to the coalition.

The delegation was briefed on the coalition's strategic roles and key initiatives across its four main areas of focus: ideological, media, counter-terror financing, and military domains. Of-

ficials said these programmes are designed to support member states' efforts in combating extremism and terrorism, while improving coordination among them.

Visitors were also introduced to training and qualification programmes implemented in cooperation with member states, as well as initiatives aimed at developing capabilities and unifying military concepts for joint operations. These efforts, the coalition said, are intended to improve readiness and strengthen integration among relevant security and defence institutions.

During the visit, IMCTC Assistant Military Commander Major General Pilot Abdullah bin Hamid Al-Qurashi stressed the importance of cooperation with military education and defence training institutions. He said such exchanges help promote knowledge-sharing and reinforce concepts of collective action among member countries.

At the end of the visit, the delegation expressed appreciation for the coalition's counter-terrorism efforts, praising its initiatives and programmes that contribute to enhancing cooperation and developing capabilities across related fields.

UAE slams 'piracy' after ship fire near Hormuz

The United Arab Emirates strongly condemned a drone attack targeting a cargo ship operated by a South Korean company in the Strait of Hormuz, describing it as a serious threat to international maritime security.

The vessel caught fire following the attack, though no injuries were reported, according to the statement.

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the UAE said the incident represented a "dangerous escalation"



aimed at undermining the stability of critical global shipping routes.

The ministry stressed that the attack posed a grave risk to freedom of navigation and international trade. It also expressed the country's solidarity with South

Korea, pledging support for measures to protect its vessels and maritime interests.

It said the attack constituted a "flagrant violation" of UN Security Council Resolution 2817, which prohibits targeting commercial vessels and obstructing international sea lanes.

The UAE further warned that using the Strait of Hormuz as a tool for "economic coercion or blackmail" amounted to acts of piracy, posing a direct threat to regional stability and global energy security.

UAE, Ukraine deepen economic partnership talks

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation, particularly in economic and development fields, during a phone call on Sunday.

Both leaders reviewed ways to advance their comprehensive economic partnership and stressed the importance of deepening cooperation in a manner that serves mutual interests and supports prosperity for their peoples.



The two sides also exchanged views on developments in the Middle East, expressing concern over escalating tensions and their wider implications for regional and global security, including risks to international shipping routes, energy supplies, and the global economy.

During the call, President

Zelensky reiterated Ukraine's condemnation of what he described as Iranian attacks targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure in the United Arab Emirates, calling

them a violation of state sovereignty and international law.

He also expressed appreciation for the UAE's continued mediation efforts between Ukraine and Russia regarding prisoner exchanges, praising the humanitarian outcomes those initiatives achieved.

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Gulf Games Begin with Dazzling Opening Ceremony

TDT | Manama

Bahrain reaffirmed its commitment to regional sporting excellence and Gulf unity through its participation in the opening ceremony of the 4th GCC Games, held yesterday at the Al Shaqab Indoor Arena in Doha.

The ceremony officially launched the Games, hosted by Qatar until May 22. It featured a large-scale artistic showcase celebrating Gulf and Qatari heritage, culminating in an operetta titled "One Gulf... One Heart." Athletes from across the GCC gathered in a unified celebration of sport, culture, and shared ambition.

Leading Bahrain's delegation during the parade of nations was His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Vice President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee.

The national flag was carried by athletes Rashed Sanad and Bayan Salman, symbolising Bahrain's sporting pride and competitive spirit.

Bahrain fields a strong contingent across 18 sports, underscoring its continued rise as one of the region's leading sporting nations. The delegation competes in disciplines including athletics, swimming, shooting, volleyball, padel, boxing, fencing, karate, taekwondo, and table tennis, among others.

Events are being staged across 10 world-class venues in Doha, including Aspire Dome, Al Gharafa Sports Club, Qatar Sports Club, Lusail Shooting Range, and the Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex, reflecting the scale and organisation of this year's edition. Bahrain arrives with a strong



Athletes Rashid Sanad and Bayan Salman carry Bahrain's flag during the ceremony

track record in the competition. It topped the medal table at the inaugural 2011 GCC Games and has remained a consistent con-

tender ever since, most recently securing 64 medals, including 20 gold, at the 2022 Games in Kuwait.



Bahrain's billiards, taekwondo, 3x3 basketball, table tennis, and swimming teams are all in action today

On the field of play, Bahrain's campaign begins today in 3x3 basketball at Al Gharafa Hall, with both men's and women's teams opening their round-robin fixtures against regional opponents.

In handball, expectations are high as the men's national team

begins its campaign later this week following a landmark year that included winning the Asian Men's Handball Championship and qualifying for the 2025 IHF Men's World Championship in Germany.

Under head coach Robert Heidin, the squad has prioritised continuity and cohesion, completing final preparations at the Bahrain Handball Federation Arena in Um Al Hassam. Handball remains one of Bahrain's most successful disciplines at the GCC Games, with gold in 2011 and silver in both 2015 and 2022.

As competition unfolds in Doha, Bahrain's athletes continue to pursue strong performances across multiple disciplines, carrying national ambitions onto one of the Gulf's most prominent regional sporting stages.

Salem Clinches Overall Golf Title

TDT | Manama

The final event of a disrupted season concluded with strong performances as Hussain Salem secured the overall title, while Nasser Yaqoob Saleh won the Medal in challenging windy conditions.

Salem produced an impressive round, shooting three under his handicap to finish with a net 67 and a gross 73, securing the overall win. Saleh responded with a solid gross 72 to edge ahead and claim the Medal by a single shot.

The blustery weather added difficulty for players, forcing careful club selection and shot planning, though it also provided a cooler playing experience.

The competition marked the end of a season heavily affected by regional tensions, which led to a nearly two-month closure of the course.

Following the round, players attended a dinner before the prize distribution ceremony. Awards were presented by TD



Rashed Al Qutami and Captain Steve Newall.

In the divisions, Jasper Meinema and Mohamed Ali Al Kowari shared top honours in Division One, while Abdulla Mubarak Al Jowher led Division Two. Chaitanya Kodange topped Division Three.

Organisers noted that, although the traditional Winners Trophy and Consolation Cup were not held due to the seasonal shift, club members will now move into summer social competitions, with hopes for a full competitive season resuming at the end of September.

'I'll never forget this day': Barca's Flick after Liga triumph

AFP | Barcelona

Hours after the death of his father, Barcelona coach Hansi Flick led the Catalan giants to a second straight La Liga title with a Clasico win over rivals Real Madrid and said it was a day he would "never" forget.

Flick's Barca side earned a 2-0 win over Los Blancos and the coach said he was grateful to his team for their support and commitment.

"I'm proud. I'll never forget this day. Never. I'm happy about this (triumph) and the atmosphere in this stadium is unbelievable," Flick told reporters.

The German coach said his mother called him in the morning to tell him that his father had died.

"This morning, my mum called me and she said that my father passed away. And so I thought about (whether) I should hide it, or should I speak with my team? Because for me it's like a family," explained Flick.

"And I said, okay, I want to



Barcelona's team celebrates winning the 2025-2026 Spanish League

get the information to the players. And what they did (then) was unbelievable. I will never forget this moment.

"I'm really happy and really proud about everyone. Every player in the team. My staff around as well, and the club."

Flick, who was tossed into the air by his players in celebration at full-time, said he had "never" felt so much love in a stadium as on this day.

The coach said his team were still hoping to match the record of 100 points in a La Liga season in their final three league

matches, and their big goal for next season was to end their 11-year wait for the Champions League.

Spanish media have reported Flick will extend his contract, which expires in 2027, by a year. "I'm feeling in the right place, at the right time, and I think we all want to continue, and we want to give more for this club," added Flick.

"I know everyone here and also in Barcelona wants to win the Champions League. We try next season again, and hopefully we can achieve this goal."

Miha Frlic charges toward historic gold at BRAVE CF 106

TDT | Manama

Top-ranked heavyweight contender Miha Frlic stands on the brink of a defining moment that could echo across Slovenian sporting history.

He is set to challenge Pavel "The Experiment" Dailidko for the BRAVE CF Heavyweight World Championship in the main event of BRAVE CF 106, scheduled for Saturday, June 6, at Hala Tivoli in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

A triumph would enshrine Frlic as the first Slovenian to capture a recognized World Title in the sport of mixed martial arts, elevating him into national legend status.

"I know what is at stake," Frlic stated. "This is bigger than



me. This is for my country, for every person who believed in this dream. I am ready to carry that responsibility and turn it into history."

Frlic's ascent has been built on

discipline, grit, and undeniable power.

Sporting an unblemished 7-0-1 slate, including a perfect 4-0 record under the BRAVE Combat Federation banner, the Slovenian



powerhouse has dismantled every obstacle placed before him.

His aggressive style, paired with concussive finishing instincts, has made him one of the

most feared competitors in the division.

He cemented his place as the frontrunner for a shot at divisional gold at BRAVE CF 104 this past February, where he obliterated

Samuele "Tank" Di Guardo in the opening round, a statement performance that left no room for debate.

"It was never easy getting here," Frlic admitted. "There were sacrifices people did not see, moments when I had to push beyond limits. Every fight, every camp, every setback shaped me into the fighter I am today."

Now, destiny aligns with opportunity in front of a home crowd eager to witness history unfold. For Frlic, the stage could not be more fitting.

"To become World Champion in Slovenia, in front of my people, is the ultimate dream," he said. "I will give everything to make sure that when the night ends, we celebrate together and make history that will never be forgotten."

Muharraq Go Top After Win Over Al Khaldiya

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

The Nasser bin Hamad Premier League title race will go down to the final day as reigning champions Muharraq came from behind to beat leaders Al Khaldiya 2-1 in a dramatic Matchweek 21 contest at Bahrain National Stadium last night.

Al Khaldiya arrived knowing a win would seal the championship with a game to spare, and they started like champions in waiting. Inside the opening minute, Hazza Ali almost delivered a sensational opener, striking from long range and forcing Vladan Djekic into a fingertip save that rattled the crossbar.

Their pressure was rewarded in the 11th minute. Captain Dominique Mendy arrived perfectly to meet a cutback from the right and struck a first-time finish into the top corner, giving the leaders a dream start and putting one hand on the trophy.

Muharraq, however, refused to collapse. Hussain Abdulkarim wasted a golden chance to respond, but the momentum was already tilting. In the 24th minute, Abdulkarim was brought down in the box by Mohammed Adel, and Arthur Rezende calmly converted the penalty to bring Muharraq level.

What followed was a complete swing in momentum. Eleven minutes later, Muharraq struck again. Soufiane Mahrouk kept a loose ball alive at the byline



Arthur Rezende converts from the penalty spot to bring Muharraq level

and clipped in a second delivery, where Rezende controlled brilliantly and fired a composed half-volley beyond Ricardo Silva for a rapid turnaround and his second goal of the night.

Al Khaldiya's night unravelled further with 20 minutes left goalkeeper Silva was sent off with less than 20 minutes remaining. Racing out to clear a counterattack, the Portuguese misjudged the flight of the ball and handled outside the penalty area.

Even then, they almost res-

cued a point in stoppage time. Mohammed Adel drilled a dangerous ball across the face of goal, but Joel Beya failed to apply the finishing touch from close range.

There was still time for one final twist. Muharraq thought they had sealed the result when Facundo Tobares rolled into an empty net after substitute goalkeeper Hamad Al Doseri collided with Sami Frioui, but the goal was ruled out for a foul.

The result means Muharraq

leapfrog Al Khaldiya to move top on 52 points, one ahead of Khaldiya into Friday's decisive final round. Muharraq will now face A'ali knowing victory guarantees the championship, while Al Khaldiya must beat Al Najma and hope their rivals drop points.

Elsewhere, Al Hidd climbed above Al Ahli into sixth place after a 1-0 win at Khalifa Sports City.

After a tight first half, Mohammed Al Akash scored the

decisive goal in the 58th minute — his sixth league goal of the campaign. Walid Karoui's blocked effort fell kindly into his path, and the forward made no mistake from inside the area.

The win moves Shukri Al Bajawi's side onto 27 points, while Al Ahli drop to seventh on 26.

At Al Ahli Stadium, Riffa strengthened their hold on third place with a 2-0 win over Al Malkiya.

Al Malkiya thought they had taken the lead through Isa Al

Pos	Team	Pts
1	Muharraq	52
2	Al Khaldiya	51
3	Riffa	46
4	Al Malkia	33
5	Aali Club	31
6	Al Hidd	27
7	Al Ahli	26
8	Sitra	24
9	Al Najma	22
10	Al Budaiya	21
11	Al Shabab	14
12	Bahrain SC	7

Bari midway through the first half, but the effort was ruled out for offside.

Riffa eventually broke through in the 64th minute when Wellington Machado surged down the left before finding Gabriel Monteiro, who guided his finish into the far corner.

Samuel Toscas wrapped up the victory deep into stoppage time with a spectacular half-volley from outside the area that flew into the near post.

The result keeps Riffa third on 46 points, while Al Malkiya remain fourth on 33.

Attention now turns to Friday's final round, with all 12 league sides in action and the title race still hanging in the balance.

Asian club handball draw set for Kuwait

TDT | Manama

The Asian Handball Federation (AHF) has confirmed that the draw for the 28th Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship will take place on May 16 at the Al Raya Hotel in Kuwait City, marking a key step in preparations for the continental tournament.

Originally postponed from 2024, the championship will now be held in Kuwait from June 6 to 15. The competition will also serve as a qualifier for the 2026 IHF Men's Super Globe, which is scheduled to take place in Egypt in October.

All matches will be staged at the Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Sports Complex, where eight of Asia's leading clubs will compete for the continental title and a place on the global stage.

Bahrain's Al Najma will be among the contenders after a dominant domestic campaign. They finished top of the regular season in the 2025-26 Khalid Bin Hamad Bahrain



Tournament Organising Committee Chairman, Sameh Al Hajri

Handball League with 56 points, recording 17 wins, 2 draws, and just 1 defeat. Their strong performance secured qualification for the Golden Square semi-finals, which will take place later this month.

The Bahraini side will join a competitive field that includes Kuwait Club and Burgan from Kuwait, Qatar's Al Duhail and Al Arabi, UAE side Sharjah, Saudi Arabia's Al Khaleej, and a Chinese club.

Saudi title on the line

Ronaldo targets first Saudi silverware as Nassr face Hilal in title decider

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Tonight's Riyadh derby could go a long way in deciding the Saudi Pro League title as leaders Al Nassr host rivals Al Hilal at Al Awwal Park. Kick-off is at 9pm local time, with both sides aware the result could shape the destination of the title.

Al Nassr enter the match five points clear at the top following a 4-2 win over Al Shabab, though Al Hilal still hold a game in hand as the season nears its conclusion. A victory for Nassr would put them within touching distance of a first league crown in seven years and a 10th Saudi title overall, while defeat would reopen the race.

Al Hilal, the defending champions, are aiming for a record-extending 20th league title and were boosted by Nassr's shock defeat to Al Qadsiah, which briefly reignited their challenge. Simone Inzaghi's



Cristiano Ronaldo is closed down by Darwin Nunez during the reverse fixture

side remain firmly in contention with games in hand still to play.

All eyes will again be on Cristiano Ronaldo, who recently reached 100 Saudi Pro League goals and continues his search for a first major trophy in Saudi Arabia since joining in 2022. His

form has been central to Nassr's charge this season.

The match also features another major subplot involving Ronaldo's former Real Madrid teammate Karim Benzema, who joined Al Hilal earlier this year and is chasing consecutive



league titles after leading Al Ittihad to a domestic double last season.

On the touchline, Jorge Jesus faces his former club, having guided Hilal to a league and cup double in 2024 before taking charge of Nassr.

Looking ahead, victory for Al Nassr would place them firmly on course for the title with only one match remaining against Damac, while a Hilal win would dramatically reopen the championship race ahead of fixtures against Neom and Al Fayha.

BIC wraps up another incredible National Race Day season



● Ali Almansoori dominates Bahrain Touring Car Challenge

● Al Sulaiti and Al Darwish claim victories in Bahrain Motorcycle Championship

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', hosted a thrilling seventh and final round of National Race Day (NRD) over the weekend, wrapping up an incredible 2025/2026 season of local racing.

The event featured an ac-

tion-packed double-header under lights, with the Bahrain Touring Car Challenge (BTCC) and the Bahrain Motorcycle Championship (BMC) hitting the tarmac.

Ali Almansoori starred once again in the BTCC, winning both the meeting's races to complete an unprecedented sweep of all 14 sprints held this past campaign. He closed his perfect run on a high - topping every session in the finale along BIC's 2.55-kilometre Inner Track.

Meanwhile, in the BMC, Saeed Al Sulaiti triumphed in the series' 1,000cc class, while Yousef Al Darwish was victorious amongst the 600cc riders.

NRD was organised and run by BIC in cooperation with the Bahrain Motor Federation, the Circuit Racing Commission, and the Bahrain Motorcycle Com-



mission.

Almansoori kicked off the curtain-closing weekend by topping the BTCC's practice timesheet with a fastest lap of 1min 18.273secs. He went on to secure pole position for the meeting's first race with a best time of 1:15.815 in qualifying.

Almansoori then powered his Honda Civic challenger to a dominant victory after 15 laps in race one. He secured the top podium step in a total winning time of 19:59.614. Almansoori built a comfortable 14.174s gap from runner-up Moaaz Elzahrawi, while Ahmed Bajnaid came third nearly two minutes adrift. Both Elzahrawi and Bajnaid were also behind the wheel of a Honda Civic.

Almansoori then started race two from the back of the grid with James Taylor on pole in his

Volkswagen Scirocco.

That mattered little, however, as Almansoori charged to the front early on and stayed in charge until the end, creating another commanding lead from the rest of the field. He claimed his season-ending triumph in a time of 23:32.997 - 19.351s ahead of Bajnaid. Taylor joined them on the podium in third after finishing 21.913s from Almansoori.

In the BMC, Al Sulaiti and Al Darwish set the practice pace in their respective categories, with Al Sulaiti clocking a lap of 1:06.522 on his BMW S 1000 RR and Al Darwish posting a mark of 1:10.003 riding his Kawasaki 600.

Al Sulaiti rode his momentum into qualifying, where he bagged overall pole position with a lap of 1:05.591. Mohamad Alzaidan



on his Kawasaki ZX6 claimed the leading grid spot amongst the 600cc entrants with a fastest time of 1:09.631.

In the round's sole 14-lap race, Al Sulaiti clinched the overall victory in 15:45.993. Fahad Al Gharabally followed 21.721s behind on his Suzuki GSXR also as a 1,000cc competitor, while Al Darwish completed the overall podium and took the 600cc spoils 29.593s back.

Finishing third amongst the 1,000cc bikers was Fahad Algosaiabi on his BMW 1000RR, while

climbing onto the BMC's 600cc podium alongside Al Darwish were Alzaidan and Abdulrahman Ahmed riding his Honda CBR600RR.

Following each of the round's races, the winners were awarded their respective trophies in podium ceremonies.

This season's national champions in the BTCC and BMC, as well as in the Kingdom's other racing series, will be presented their respective accolades in the End-of-Season Ceremony, scheduled for 15 May at BIC.

Lewis-Skelly says leaders Arsenal know 'job is not yet done'

AFP | London

Myles Lewis-Skelly is adamant Arsenal know better than anyone what they must do to secure the club's first Premier League title in more than 20 years.

The Gunners moved closer to being crowned champions of England for the first time since 2004 following a 1-0 win at West Ham on Sunday but only after the hosts had a stoppage-time equaliser ruled out following a lengthy VAR review.

Victory left leaders Arsenal five points clear of second-placed Manchester City, with two games to play -- at home to already-relegated Burnley and away to Crystal Palace before the Gunners face Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League final on May 30.

"We have to stay humble," said teenage rising star Lewis-Skelly, now back in Arsenal's starting line-up after spend-



Arsenal's Myles Lewis-Skelly (R) tackles West Ham's Tomas Soucek (L) during much of the season on the sidelines.

"(The dressing room is) just joy, excitement, fulfilment -- everything you can describe," he explained. "We are buzzing, but we know that the job is not done."

"We have got two more (domestic) 'finals' (against Burnley and Palace) left now, and we have to take each game as it comes. The next one is Burnley -- and then we go on from there."

BIC hosts Batelco Fitness on Track tonight



Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', hosts the widely popular Batelco Fitness on Track tonight, 12 May, in Sakhir.

The activity will be held from 6pm to 10pm and will be an ideal opportunity for partici-

pants of all ages to take part in a unique physical activity within the safe and controlled setting of a world-class Formula 1 venue.

Batelco Fitness on Track can be done either on foot or on a bicycle, with runners and walkers utilising BIC's 2.55-kilometre Inner Circuit and cyclists enjoying their ride along the



3.543-kilometre Outer Circuit, with a separate dedicated area available for children's cycling.

The cost to participate is BD2 for cyclists and BD1 for runners. Registration and payment can be completed in advance via the circuit's official website bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

Children under the age of 12 can participate free of charge if accompanied by a paying adult.

For more information on Batelco Fitness on Track or for other events and experiences at the circuit, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline, or follow BIC's official social media channels.