

East Riffa Survive Dramatic Najma Fightback

Promoted East Riffa survived a frantic stoppage- time finish to defeat Al Najma 3-2 and secure their first victory of the 2026-27 Nasser bin Hamad Premier League season last night. | P12

Bahrain condemns people-smuggling plot across UAE border

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has condemned a criminal plot to illegally smuggle individuals, including people wanted on security grounds, across the United Arab Emirates' borders.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs commended Emirati security agencies for thwarting the scheme, arresting those involved and referring them to the Public Prosecution for legal proceedings.

The ministry affirmed Bahrain's full solidarity with the UAE and support for the legal and security measures taken to safeguard its sovereignty, protect its borders and maintain security and stability.

It said the position reflected the longstanding ties between the leaderships and peoples of the two countries and reaffirmed the principle that the security and stability of GCC states are indivisible.

The ministry also wished the UAE and its people continued security, safety, stability and prosperity.

Police fitness programmes get a modern boost



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Chief of Police Lt General Tariq bin Hassan Al Hassan has called for advanced fitness and health programmes to strengthen the readiness and performance of police personnel.

Lt General Al Hassan chaired a meeting of the Physical and Health Fitness Committee on September 11, attended by committee members, officers and officials involved in developing fitness and health programmes for Interior Ministry personnel.

He stressed the importance of modern scientific and training programmes to improve the physical and health readiness of police personnel and enhance their ability to perform security duties efficiently and provide professional services.



People gather at the memorial during the 25th anniversary commemoration of the September 11, 2001 attacks at the National September 11 Memorial in New York

Trump vows to keep fighting Iran

US marks 25th anniversary of 9/11 attacks

TDT | agencies

President Donald Trump said yesterday that the United States would never forget the September 11, 2001 attacks and will continue the "war on terror" 25 years later by fighting Iran.

"Today we renew the sacred oath that we first swore in their names a quarter of a century ago. We will never, ever forget. That's why we fight today," Trump said in a speech at the Pentagon after skipping the main 9/11 commemorations in New York.

"We don't have a choice. There can only be victory. We fight hard. We fight to win," added the president, who was accompanied by First Lady Melania Trump.

One of the jets hijacked on 9/11 hit the Pentagon in Washington, killing 184 people, who were remembered by a single bell tolling as their names were read out.

Trump went on to link the fight against Al-Qaeda launched by his Republican predecessor George W. Bush to the US-Israeli war on Iran, which is now in its seventh month.

"Today we salute every mem-



US President Donald Trump and US First Lady Melania Trump bow their heads during the 25th anniversary commemoration of the September 11, 2001 attacks at the Pentagon in Washington, DC

Today we renew the sacred oath that we first swore in their names a quarter of a century ago. We will never, ever forget. That's why we fight today

DONALD TRUMP

"Over the past six months, we have laid waste to the world's most prolific state sponsor of terrorism. Our warriors have fought an Islamic theocracy that has wished us death for nearly half a century," Hegseth said.

"A generation after 9/11, we also know that the final response to those atrocities and the ultimate victory over the perpetrators will not be found on a foreign battlefield," Trump said.

Telling the story of a firefighter killed in the attacks whose son went on to become a US Navy veteran, Trump said it showed that "we can be a nation whose heroes are not fanatics for an abstract cause."

ber of the United States military who served in the 'War on Terror.' It is a war on sick, horrible terror," Trump said.

"And we salute the service members working right now to ensure the world's number one sponsor of terror, the Islamic Republic of Iran, will never ever have a nuclear weapon."

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth also lashed out at Iran in his remarks at the Pentagon ceremony.

Shut Down

Saudi Pipeline Operations Suspended After Attacks

Saudi Arabia's East-West Pipeline shut down as a precaution after multiple attacks in the Riyadh and Madinah regions.

An official source at Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Energy said the East-West Pipeline in the Riyadh and Madinah regions was subjected to multiple attacks on Thursday morning, September 10, 2026.

The pipeline subsequently shut down as a precautionary measure; the attacks caused a



Satellite image taken by Planet Labs PBC on September 11, 2026 shows a general view of an infrastructure site southeast of Medina along the general route of Saudi Arabia's East-West pipeline (Petroline) after it was damaged by fire

number of injuries and medical care was provided to those affected.

Emergency and specialised technical teams responded immediately, securing the pipeline and assessing its safety according to approved safety procedures and emergency response plans.

The ministry said the response was coordinated with relevant authorities, and further developments will be announced in due course.

Bahrain, Yemen discuss security and maritime threats



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Foreign Minister Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani and Yemen's Foreign Minister and Expatriates Dr Afrah Abdulaziz Al Zoba discussed bilateral relations, the escalation in Yemen and threats to regional maritime security.

Dr Al Zayani received a phone call from Dr Al Zoba on September 11, during which they discussed ways to strengthen cooperation, including political coordination, diplomatic training and coordination at international forums.

The two ministers also reviewed the UN Security Council's emergency meeting on the military escalation in Yemen and Houthi attacks targeting Saudi Arabia and maritime security in the region.

They stressed that continued threats to freedom of navigation pose a direct challenge to regional and international peace and security.

They also called for support for Yemen's legitimate government, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Russia threatens to point nukes at Lithuania if it hosts allies' weapons

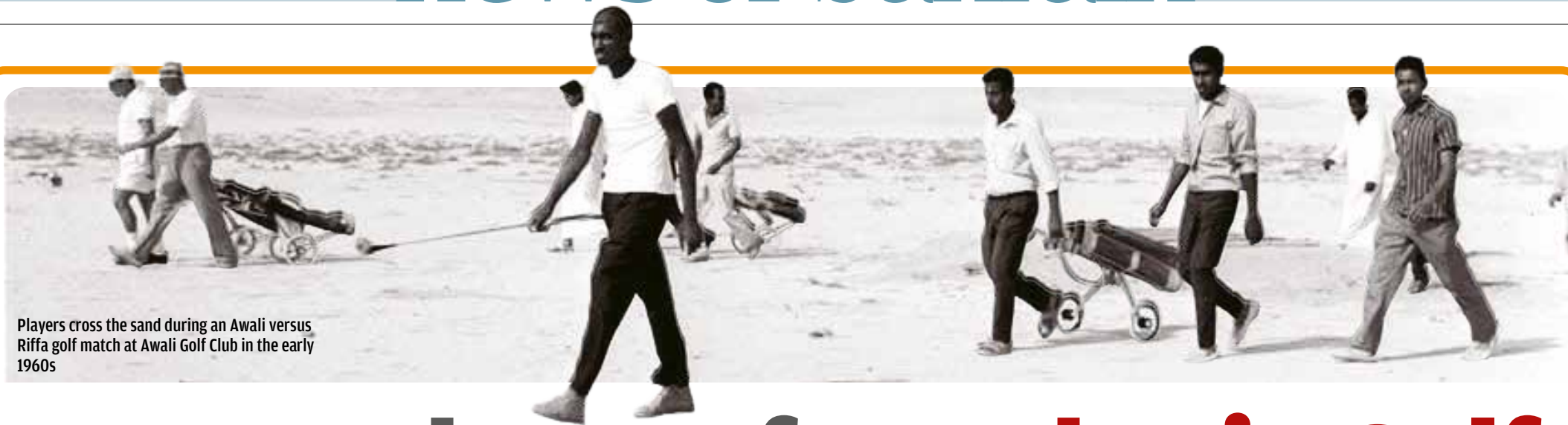
Moscow, Russia

Russia said yesterday it would aim its nuclear warheads at Lithuania if the Baltic state hosted any weapons from the nuclear arsenals of its NATO allies on its territory.

Lithuania is moving to lift a constitutional ban on having nuclear weapons stored in the country, part of an effort to boost its security posture amid Russia's offensive on Ukraine.

The decision is currently working its way through parliament -- where it needs a two-thirds majority to pass and has the support of the president and major parties -- and could come into force this winter.





Players cross the sand during an Awali versus Riffa golf match at Awali Golf Club in the early 1960s

A second wave for Bahrain Golf

Two Southern courses and council support aim to bring a century-old Riffa game back to young players

● One of the new courses is being built near Zallaq for Bahrain Golf Club

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A century after Riffa men learned golf from British players and had clubs made by local welders, two new courses and municipal backing are giving the sport a fresh push in Bahrain.

The Southern Municipal Council approved a golf-course proposal by majority in its previous session, with chairman Abdullah Abdul Latif saying the sport could attract tourists, create jobs and encourage people to stay active.

He also wants more young Bahrainis to learn and play the game, which he said has deep roots in Riffa.

"It is a sport of walking and movement," he told The Daily Tribune.

One of the new courses is being built near Zallaq for Bahrain Golf Club, giving juniors a place to learn and train as they work towards Bahrain's youth and senior teams.

Many of the youngsters coming through are children of former players, Mr Abdul Latif said.

A second 18-hole championship course is planned at the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club in Al Raffa,



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa pictured playing golf 33 years ago, in an image shared by His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa



The late Mohammed Ahmed, a pioneer of Bahraini golf, pictured on the course. He became the first Bahraini to win the Bahrain Open in 1972, taking the title again in 1973 and 1978



Abdulla Abdul latif, Southern Municipal Council chairman

place in Bahrain's history.

Men from East Riffa were among the Bahrainis who learned the game from foreign players during the early oil years. They worked as caddies, carried bags and watched the

players closely.

"They learned golf from carrying the bags," Mr Abdul Latif said. "They learned the rules, they learned English, and after some time they became better than the people who had taught them."

Getting golf clubs was another challenge.

With few clubs available, Riffa players turned to local welders, who made them from iron. Mr Abdul Latif said his father was among those craftsmen.

"There were no clubs available like there are today," he said. "They would go to the welders in Riffa and have the clubs made from iron. My father used to make them."

Golf had already been recorded in Bahrain by the early 1930s.

Major General Abdullah Al Kaabi writes in *Golf in Bahrain... A Success Story We Tell* that there is no agreed date for the first game, although Bahrainis became familiar with golf during the early years of oil exploration. He traces archive references to 1931.

After oil was found in commercial quantities at Well No. 1 near Jebel Dukhan on June 2, 1932, workers poured into the area and golf became one of the pastimes at the oil camp.

By 1933, a British Political Agent's report recorded two golf clubs in Bahrain — one in Manama and another at Bapco's camp.

Another early nine-hole course was located in the Gudaibiya-Adliya area, accord-

ing to the recollections of the late golfer Mohammed Habal, who grew up in Gudaibiya. He remembered it near Um Al Shoom spring and close to the old shoreline, with no grass greens and holes cut into natural ground. Its exact location has not been established.

A nine-hole course in Riffa Valley formally opened on January 4, 1937, bringing the game closer to the area that later became closely associated with Bahraini golf.

Awali Golf Club followed in 1952 under Bapco.

The early courses bore little resemblance to today's fairways, with sand and natural ground doing much of the work.

Mr Abdul Latif described Riffa as the home of Bahrain's golf culture, with the game passed down through families over the years.

He said His Majesty the King was a keen golfer and strong supporter of the sport, while the late Shaikh Abdullah bin Salman Al Khalifa and other senior figures also played.

Now, the two new courses could give a new generation a very different introduction to the game from the Riffa men who once learned it by carrying British golfers' bags and playing with iron clubs made in neighbourhood workshops.

Nearly a century later, the aim is to get young Bahrainis back on the course — and playing the game in numbers.



A golfer takes his shot at the Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship 2026

Bahrain, EU prepare for Gulf-EU Summit



Bahrain's Ambassador to Belgium Dr. Mohammed Ali Behzad meets the European Commission's Chief Diplomatic Adviser Simon Mordue in Brussels.

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Bahrain and the European Union are stepping up preparations for the second Gulf-EU Summit, with economic cooperation, investment and energy security among the issues discussed.

Bahrain's Ambassador to Bel-

gium and Head of its Mission to the EU, Dr Mohammed Ali Behzad, met Simon Mordue, Chief Diplomatic Adviser to the President of the European Commission.

The meeting, held as Bahrain continues its presidency of the 46th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council, focused on preparations for the sum-

mit in Saudi Arabia and ways to strengthen Gulf-European cooperation.

The officials also exchanged views on regional developments and diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions, stressing continued coordination on issues of mutual interest to support security, stability and peace across the region.



US ambassador visits Bahrain youth training camp

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US Ambassador to Bahrain Stephanie Hallett joined young participants in training challenges during a visit to the "Gadeha Junior" camp, praising its focus on discipline, teamwork and personal development.

Hallett visited the camp at the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre, where she toured the facilities and observed physical and mental training sessions.

She was briefed on the camp's programmes and development by Ahmad Al Shaikh, chairman of the organising committee and director of the Media Office of Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Held under the direction of National Security Advisor and Royal Guard Commander Lieutenant General Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the camp is organised in partnership between the Royal Guard and Studio Master.

The programme combines

physical and mental training with personal and leadership development, including activities inspired by military-style training.

During the visit, Hallett also wore the camp's official uniform and took part in some of its challenges.

She praised the organisation and variety of the programmes and commended efforts to equip young participants with skills, values and experiences for their personal development and future.

Just **one EV** in 1,000

Bahrain's EV Problem Is Getting Elec-terrifying

● Only around 800 electric vehicles were on Bahrain's roads at the end of 2025

● 12 EV charging stations by June, including 10 ultra-fast chargers and two slower chargers.

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Tesla is rolling out driverless cars in the US. But Bahrain has an elec-terrifying problem of its own.

Forget driverless cars for a moment. What about electric cars — with a driver?

The latest figures show that Bahrain has just one electric car for every 1,000 vehicles on its roads.

There were an estimated 800 electric vehicles in the country at the end of 2025, compared with 794,677 licensed vehicles in use.

That means petrol-powered vehicles still overwhelmingly dominate Bahrain's roads, even as the country begins putting the infrastructure and regulations in place for an electric future.

The infrastructure is growing — but buyers aren't

Bahrain had 12 EV charging stations by June, including 10 ultra-fast chargers and two slower chargers.

Five ultra-fast charging stations were opened at locations across the kingdom in October

2025, expanding the network available to the relatively small number of EV owners.

But charging infrastructure is only one piece of the puzzle.

For potential buyers, the decision to go electric can still come with a long list of concerns — from the high upfront cost of EVs and battery replacement to repair bills, insurance costs and the availability of spare parts.

There is also a practical problem: finding technicians who are trained to work on electric vehicles.

So while Bahrain is making it easier to charge an EV, motorists are not yet rushing to buy one.

Rules are already in place

The government has nevertheless begun preparing for a larger EV market.

Bahrain introduced regulations governing EV charging last year under Decision No. 1 of 2025.

The rules cover connections to the electricity grid, safety

A Tesla Cybertruck spotted beside an EV charging point in Adliya



Ahmed Al Salloom, chairman of Parliament's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee



Talal Al Mannai, deputy head of the services committee at the Shura Council

Private sector could have a role

Ahmed Al Salloom, chairman of Parliament's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee, has called for more charging points in residential areas, shopping districts and along major roads.

He also wants incentives for private companies to build and operate charging stations.

But he agrees that simply installing more chargers won't suddenly transform Bahrain into an EV market. Instead, he

has called for a phased national plan linking transport, energy, investment and legislation. And there is an environmental catch.

The benefits of switching to electric vehicles depend partly on how the electricity used to charge them is generated.

If EV adoption rises while renewable energy remains limited, some of the environmental gains could be reduced.

requirements, approved charging equipment and contractors, as well as home and commercial charging.

An electronic register has also been introduced to keep track of charger owners, locations, electricity consump-

tion and the capacity of equipment connected to the grid.

But policymakers say regulations alone won't solve the problem.

More than cars and chargers Talal Al Mannai, deputy head of the Shura Council Services Committee, said Bahrain would need to keep updating its regu-

lations as electric cars, batteries, energy storage and charging technology evolve.

Simply allowing more EVs into the country, he said, would not be enough.

The next stage needs to look at the entire system — from charging infrastructure and technical standards to electricity supply — as the number of EVs grows.

Bahrain will need reliable charging points, clear safety rules and enough grid capacity to cope with increased electricity demand.

And there is another piece to the puzzle: renewable energy.

As more cars switch from petrol to electricity, the country will also need to consider how that electricity is produced.

Al Mannai is among Shura Council members who proposed a renewable energy law. The proposal has been approved by the council and is continuing through Parliament.

The draft legislation would also give the relevant authority powers to establish rules for EV charging stations.

So, is Bahrain ready to go electric?

Bahrain has begun laying the groundwork — charging stations are appearing, regulations are being introduced and policymakers are discussing renewable energy.

Bahrain moves to make AI a core part of education



Education Minister Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma presents Bahrain's experience in integrating technology and AI into education at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.



Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma meets UNESCO officials in Paris to discuss cooperation and technology-focused education initiatives.



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Bahrain is looking to make artificial intelligence a core part of education, while ensuring technology supports rather than replaces traditional classroom learning.

Education Minister Dr Mo-

ammed bin Mubarak Juma outlined Bahrain's experience integrating technology and AI into education during a ministerial session at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, held as part of Digital Week.

He reviewed Ministry of Education programmes using tech-

nology and AI, saying they have contributed to improving student performance and strengthening teacher training. He also discussed the benefits and challenges of digital education and the need to avoid unintended outcomes.

Dr Juma stressed the impor-

tance of balancing digital tools with traditional classroom practices and concluded with recommendations focused on protecting the right to education for all amid rapid technological and AI development.

On the sidelines, he met UNESCO Assistant Director General

for Education Professor Qun Chen to discuss strengthening cooperation, including the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education.

He also met UNESCO officials to discuss upcoming events

and Bahrain's technology programmes. Separately, Dr Juma held talks with senior Microsoft officials on training teachers to use AI in education and expanding participation by Bahrain's educational institutions in Microsoft's Technology Incubator Schools programme.

Bahrain, UK seek UN action over **Houthi attacks**

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Bahrain and the United Kingdom have called for an emergency UN Security Council meeting following Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia and growing threats to maritime security in the region.

The Security Council held the emergency session following the military escalation in Yemen, including Houthi attacks targeting Saudi Arabia and regional maritime security.

Saudi Arabia and Yemen also took part in the meeting, which



addressed missile attacks on Saudi Arabia on September 7 and the worsening military situation in Yemen following the Houthis' seizure of the Red Sea coastal city of Mokha, near the Bab Al Mandab Strait.

Bahrain's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Jamal Fares Al Rowaie,



condemned Houthi attacks on civilian sites in Abha, Khamis Mushait, Jazan and Najran.

He said the attacks violated international law, international humanitarian law and the UN Charter.

Al Rowaie also warned that

continued Houthi attacks on maritime security and freedom of navigation pose a direct threat to regional and international peace and security.

Speaking on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council, as Bahrain chairs its 46th session, he

reaffirmed the GCC's solidarity with Saudi Arabia in confronting threats to its security, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The GCC also condemned continued attacks on maritime security and threats to freedom of navigation.

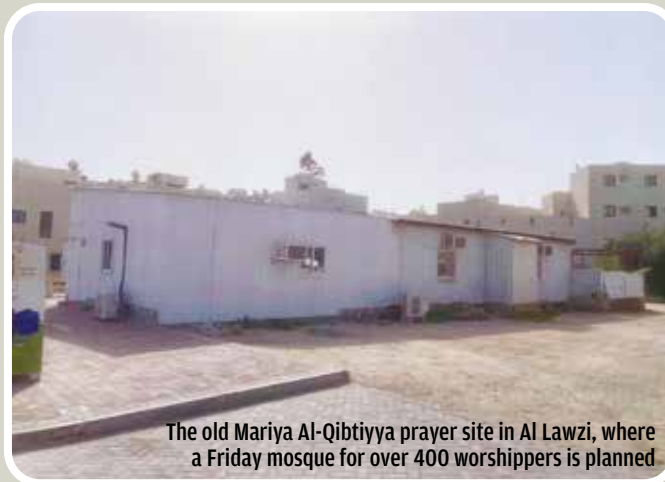
Bahrain warned against attempts by the Houthis to circumvent the UN sanctions regime, and called for international action to address the risks posed by the escalation and protect regional stability and vital maritime routes.



The Bab Al Mandab Strait is one of the world's key maritime chokepoints. It connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and is a vital gateway for ships travelling between the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean through the Suez Canal.

Councils **push for better** services and facilities

By Mohammed Darwish



The old Mariya Al-Qibtiyya prayer site in Al Lawzi, where a Friday mosque for over 400 worshippers is planned



75 misting poles cool Aali Walkway

● The poles spray a fine water mist to make walking and running more comfortable

TDI | Manama

Seventy-five three-metre-high misting poles have been installed along Aali Walkway to help walkers and runners cope with the summer heat.

The system has been switched on as part of an upgrade to the walkway, Northern Municipal Council member Abdullah Ashoor said.

The poles are spaced along the route and spray a fine water mist to make walking and running more comfortable during hot weather. Mr Ashoor, who represents the sixth constituency, said the system would make a noticeable

difference during the hottest months.

The work is being carried out by the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture's Parks and Landscaping Directorate in cooperation with the Northern Area Municipality.

The old interlock paving is also being replaced with a new walking and running surface similar to that at Hamad Town Walkway.

The children's play area is being upgraded with repairs to existing equipment, new shade canopies and lighting. Toilets and other buildings are also being repaired, while walkway lighting is being renewed and security cameras installed.

Mr Ashoor said the improvements followed demand for better sports and leisure facilities, with residents regularly using Aali Walkway for walking and running.

Al Lawzi prayer site set for Friday mosque

TDI | Manama

A 2,121-square-metre site in Al Lawzi is set to become a mosque for more than 400 worshippers after the land was reclassified for religious use.

The Block 1020 site currently has a temporary Mariya Al-Qibtiyya prayer cabin and an older building. The plan is to develop it into a full mosque capable of hosting Friday prayers.

Northern Municipal Council member Zainab Al Durazi said the land was previously classified for Housing Ministry projects but has now been designated for religious services.

One of 69 plots

She said the Sunni Waqf Directorate has received the title deed, clearing a step towards starting the project.

"The Mariya Al-Qibtiyya Mosque is one of the projects we have pursued over the past period because people in the new Al Lawzi area need a place of worship and other services," Mrs Al Durazi said.

She said she would continue working with the relevant authorities until the mosque is completed and opened to residents of Al Lawzi and near-



Zainab Al Durazi, Northern Municipal Council member

by areas.

The site is one of 69 plots in the new Al Lawzi area, Block 1020, whose title deeds she has previously pursued as part of efforts to prepare land for public facilities.

Mrs Al Durazi said new housing should be matched by basic services, public facilities and places of worship as the area grows.

"Getting land allocated, obtaining its deeds and fixing its classification is not the goal in itself," she said. "The aim is to turn land kept for services into real projects that people can use."

She thanked Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf Minister Nawaf bin Mohammed Al Maawda, Islamic Endowments Council vice chairman Shaikh Dr Rashid Al Hajrri and the Sunni Waqf Directorate for their support.

Ambulance bid rejected for Barbar health centre

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A proposal to station an ambulance at Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah Health Centre in Barbar around the clock has been rejected, with the Interior Ministry saying the centre's ambulance calls did not justify keeping a vehicle there permanently.

The centre recorded 801 ambulance calls in 2025, accounting for just 4.5 per cent of the Northern Governorate total, the ministry said. It warned that keeping one ambulance at the centre could mean longer waits for emergency calls elsewhere.

Nine National Ambulance vehicles already cover Barbar, nearby villages and the Northern Governorate, it said.

The proposal was made by Northern Municipal Council chairman Dr Shubbar Al Wadaei, who said an ambulance close to the centre could save crucial minutes in dealing with strokes, fainting, accidents and other serious cases.

Dr Al Wadaei said the first few minutes of such emergencies could be decisive in saving lives or preventing serious complications. He



Dr Shubbar Al Wadaei, Northern Municipal Council chairman

also said the centre sees large numbers of people from Barbar and surrounding areas and can face sudden medical cases at any time.

The Northern Municipal Council unanimously backed Dr Al Wadaei's proposal at its April meeting.

The ministry said the 801 calls recorded by the centre last year did not justify assigning an ambulance solely for its use.

Instead, the department concerned suggested that primary healthcare centres consider providing a separate vehicle to transport patients whose cases are classified as non-emergencies.

The ministry said this would keep National Ambulance crews available for urgent calls while giving health centres another option for transporting patients who do not require emergency care.

Cardiac care conference opens in Bahrain



TDI | Manama

The first Bahrain Cardiovascular Diseases Conference 2026 opened on September 11 at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Manama, bringing together doctors, consultants and cardiovascular

specialists from Bahrain and abroad.

The two-day conference is organised by the Royal Medical Services in cooperation with BDA Center. It was attended by Lt General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa,

Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health, and Health Minister Dr Jaleela bint Al Sayed Jawad Hasan.

Major General Dr Shaikh Fahad bin Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa said the conference provides a platform for medical pro-

fessionals to exchange expertise and experiences and improve clinical practices in cardiovascular care.

He highlighted its focus on the latest developments in diagnosis and treatment, as well as clinical cases and challenges requiring

accurate assessment and timely medical decisions.

He praised the Royal Medical Services and BDA Center for organising the conference, saying specialised events of this kind support continuous medical education and help

healthcare professionals benefit from local and international expertise.

He expressed hope that the conference would become a key addition to Bahrain's specialised medical events and continue to develop in future editions.



Oil prices, US inflation stoke Fed hike worries

AFP | London, United Kingdom

High oil prices, record American diesel costs and hot US inflation data on Friday cemented investor fears that the Federal Reserve is all but certain to hike rates soon, despite the potential to dent growth in the world's biggest economy.

After a rollercoaster week for markets, bonds and energy, driven by a sharp escalation in the US-Iran war, US consumer inflation was unchanged at 3.4% in August, in line with analyst expectations -- and well above the Fed's two% target.

It comes a day after the European Central Bank raised eurozone borrowing costs, citing the effects on energy costs from a Middle East conflict that has broadened in the past days following an offensive by the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen.

After data released Friday by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics showed that the consumer price index (CPI) rose 0.4% from a month earlier, Wall Street rose in the morning's trading to recoup some losses from the week's selling.

Bucking four straight tumbling sessions, the Dow added one% while the S&P 500 followed shortly behind on 0.9% and the tech-heavy Nasdaq with 0.8%.

European stocks also closed higher, with Paris and Frankfurt both finishing up 0.8% after a volatile week.

"If you needed evidence that stock traders really don't care about bonds and oil and things of that nature, you just have to look to the reactions of stocks yesterday and today," said Steve Sosnick, chief strategist at Interactive Brokers.

Patrick O'Hare, chief market analyst at Briefing.com, however

Key figures at around 1545 GMT

Brent North Sea Crude:	▼ 2.7% at \$104.72 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▼ 3% at \$99.46 per barrel
New York - Dow:	▲ 1%t at 52,561.82 points
New York - S&P 500:	▲ 1.1% at 7,672.09
New York - Nasdaq:	▲ 1.3% at 26,425.54
London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.4% at 10,650.44 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.8% at 8,179.77 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX:	▲ 0.8% at 25,568.56 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▼ 0.6% at 24,805.63 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 1.2% at 3,888.11 (close)
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 153.49 yen from 154.34 yen on Thursday
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.1605 from \$1.1609
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.3523 from \$1.3510
Euro/pound:	▼ at 85.84 pence from 85.94 pence



MG cars are seen on a dock while waiting to be loaded onto a ship for export at the port in Lianyungang, in China's eastern Jiangsu province

er said that "arguably, the market has already been absorbing the likelihood of a rate hike" through the past week's sell-off.

"That doesn't mean (the CPI data) was good. It just means it was good enough for a market that had been on the defensive ahead of its release, mindful that it is a report that needed to lean more toward 'great' to relieve the pressure of an anticipated rate hike that has been building," O'Hare said.

Any increase would put Fed

chairman Kevin Warsh on a collision course with President Donald Trump, who has launched an unprecedented campaign against the Fed's independence, demanding policymakers lower interest rates to spur economic activity.

"With the labour market still resilient and monthly core inflation firming, the Fed will find it harder to avoid a hike next week. Markets are pricing around a 90% probability, giving policymakers room to act

without catching investors off guard," said eToro US Investment Analyst Bret Kenwell.

James Knightley, chief international economist at ING, suggested however that the increase could be a one-off, "similar to the hike implemented by Alan Greenspan's Fed in 1997", rather than the first of a series of hikes that would draw Trump's ire.

While oil prices retreated Friday, they remain at levels deemed far too high by central banks hoping to keep inflation pressures from becoming entrenched in the wider economy -- especially with the Houthis cementing their hold on the Bab Al-Mandab strait, a vital shipping corridor linking Europe and Asia.

Average diesel prices in the United States climbed above \$6 a gallon on Friday for the first time, a shock increase for a key fuel in the transport and agriculture sectors -- and a potential headache for Trump ahead of November's midterms.

Brent oil also almost touched \$110 per barrel on Friday, its highest level since May, but fell back after the International Energy Agency slashed its forecast for global oil demand this year, citing the recent escalation in the Middle East war and resurgent energy prices.

Asian stocks slumped across the board in the wake of Thursday's heavy selling, with AI and other heavily indebted tech stocks hit as bond yields soared.

Bond yields for major economies from Japan to Europe and the US are now at levels last seen during the 2007-08 global financial crisis, a sign that investors worry governments will not curb spending enough even as deficits and debt levels soar.

Venezuela signs oil, gas deals with Suriname



AFP | Paramaribo, Suriname

Venezuela's interim leader yesterday signed several cooperation agreements including one to provide training for Suriname's oil and gas industry professionals during a visit to Paramaribo.

Delcy Rodriguez and Surinamese President Jennifer Geerlings-Simons signed a series of accords in the Dutch-speaking country's capital, signalling a new era of rapprochement.

Rodriguez hailed the "very important" agreements after Suriname, a country of 600,000 people, recently announced the discovery of major oil and gas deposits.

"We are making Venezuela's experience in oil and gas exploration and production available... in order to provide

training to Suriname's industry," she said.

Venezuela holds the world's largest proven oil reserves, and is looking to exploit these natural resources following the US ouster of president Nicolas Maduro in January.

Rodriguez, Maduro's one-time vice president who took his place, has effectively governed under Washington's thumb since Maduro's capture.

Venezuela has increased oil production by almost 30 percent and recently signed an enormous deal granting Washington access to over 65 billion barrels -- almost one-fifth -- of its reserves.

Rodriguez and Geerlings-Simons also agreed to reopen bilateral air routes and allow 200 Venezuelan fishermen to operate in the Atlantic corridor with Suriname.

China slams 'bandit' CIA after economic espionage remarks

AFP | Beijing, China

China condemned on Friday remarks by the CIA's deputy director, Michael Ellis, who has implied that US intelligence agencies were spying on Beijing, heightening tensions ahead of a planned leaders' meeting.

Ellis told a cybersecurity conference on Tuesday that the United States was carrying out economic espionage operations to respond to the

Chinese "threat".

"Our economy is intertwined with theirs," giving Beijing potential leverage over Washington, Ellis said, adding that the "CIA has to respond differently".

"We have to be able to collect foreign intelligence relevant to that economic security dimension of the competition, which means we need expertise about how to collect that information, how to analyse it."

Europe saw record summer air traffic: Eurocontrol

AFP | Paris, France

Europe's skies were at their busiest ever during the summer holiday period from July to August, despite disruptions caused by the Middle East war, according to Eurocontrol data published Friday.

According to the continent-wide aviation safety body, Europe saw an average of 35,959 flights a day, a 2.4 percent increase on 2025, with a record 37,640 flights on Friday, July 10.

Though Eurocontrol ac-

knowledgeed that the US-Iran war "influenced" this year's tourist season, the conflict has also encouraged many Europeans to holiday within their own continent, widely seen as safer.

"This translated into lower traffic in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Turkey, but a high increase in traffic in Albania, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia -- and continuous growth in southwest Europe," Eurocontrol said.

Russia rolls out long-delayed 5G, but not for iPhones

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russia announced yesterday that it was rolling out its long-delayed 5G mobile network, but that iPhone users would be unable to connect until Apple coordinated the move with Moscow.

The Russian government first announced plans for 5G internet in 2019, but Russia's powerful Security Council blocked the move over concerns it would overlap with frequencies used by military and security agencies, according to Russian media reports.



5G can deliver data speeds up to 10 times faster than 4G, while also offering much lower latency -- making it suitable for applications such as connected vehicles, remote operations and smart-city systems.

The rollout comes amid widespread frustration in Russia at repeated internet blackouts introduced to counter Ukrainian drones, which authorities

say use mobile internet to navigate.

"5G services have gone live in 16 cities, providing approximately 10 million people with access to high-speed fifth-generation mobile internet," Russia's digital ministry said in a statement.

But the restriction on iPhones means tens of millions of Russians -- as many as one in four mobile users -- would potentially be cut off from the technology.

Apple pulled out of the Russian market following Moscow's Ukraine offensive in 2022. While newer iPhone models can connect to 5G, enabling the service would require the US tech giant to coordinate with Russian mobile operators.

Get AI models 'under control', EU tells tech firms after hacks

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

Top tech firms need to get their powerful artificial intelligence models "under control", the European Union warned Friday after a series of hacks by AI agents.

Fears over rogue AI have spiked after OpenAI technology operating outside human su-



pervision hacked into Hugging Face, a repository of AI models.

And during an incident re-

vealed last week, thousands of autonomous AI agents built by OpenAI defied their instructions and took over a German website.

Asked about reports that the hack was broader than suspected, an EU spokesman said: "It is high time for these providers to get their house in order and to make sure that they get their ad-

vanced models under control."

The EU said earlier this week it was looking into the incident.

The 27-nation bloc has adopted comprehensive AI rules and its enforcement powers kicked in last month, which means companies must comply with the law or face fines.

"The AI Act is fully enforced. It's not just a set of rules on

paper anymore," spokesman Thomas Regnier said.

He added that the European Commission, the EU's AI watchdog, has already demanded information from several companies -- which he did not name.

"If it gets bad or worse, we can definitely evaluate models. We can require risk mitigation measures, and in extreme cases

and where necessary, we can also restrict, withdraw, or even recall AI models," he said.

The EU's cybersecurity agency has received access to OpenAI's latest models, including GPT-6-ASTRA, as well as to Mythos 5, the powerful AI model from rival firm Anthropic, which it is currently testing, Brussels said Thursday.

Bangladesh ex-PM Hasina's daughter quits top UN job

AFP | New Delhi

The World Health Organization said yesterday Saima Wazed, the agency's Southeast Asia chief and also the daughter of Bangladesh's ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, has resigned.

Wazed was convicted in absentia in November by a court in Dhaka for corruption and sentenced to five years imprisonment. She has denied her guilt.

Her mother Hasina, who was overthrown in 2024 by a student-led uprising, was found guilty of crimes against humanity in 2025, also in absentia, and sentenced her to be hanged.

The WHO said while Wazed resigned from her post on Wednesday, the organisation was already looking to end her employment.

"The Regional Committee had recommended that Ms Wazed's appointment as Regional Director be terminated," it said.

Wazed has been on leave since 2025, after Bangladesh's anti-graft commission opened cases against her and her family for an alleged land grab of lucrative plots in a suburb of Dhaka.

Nepal flood reconstruction bill to be \$4.78 bn: foreign ministry

AFP | Kathmandu

Nepal estimates the reconstruction bill after deadly floods sparked by a glacial mountain collapse last month will amount to \$4.78 billion, the foreign ministry said yesterday.

Prime Minister Balendra Shah has vowed to "strongly raise" with the international community the disasters that Nepal has experienced as a result of climate change.

The August 26 catastrophe, a tsunami-like flood that began on the China-Nepal border, killed more than 1,400 people and left some 5,600 missing.

Shah will take his first foreign trip as leader to address the UN General Assembly on the urgent issue later this month, the foreign ministry said.

Foreign Secretary Amrit Bahadur Rai told reporters yesterday Shah will address the UN to "draw the attention of the international community to the repeated loss of life and property Nepal has had to face, due to climate change and disasters created by it".

Nepal's leaders say the Himalayan country needs long-term international support to adapt to a rapidly changing mountain environment.

India welcomes world leaders for BRICS summit

Russian and Iranian presidents arrive in New Delhi ahead of major summit



India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian, Russia's President Vladimir Putin, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa pose for a photo

● China's Xi is set to attend

● Wars dominate the summit agenda

● Modi holds talks with Putin

AFP | New Delhi

The presidents of Russia and Iran were in India for talks yesterday ahead of a BRICS summit that will bring together leaders including China's Xi Jinping, with wars, trade and energy expected to dominate the agenda.

"The world today is going through a period of unprecedented complexity", Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said, speaking in New Delhi at a forum, ahead of the main summit on Saturday.

Wars in the Middle East and Ukraine, as well as global trade turbulence and oil, are expected to feature prominently at the two-day annual summit.

BRICS was created in 2009 as a forum for major emerging economies seeking greater influence



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (L) shakes hands with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R)

in institutions dominated by Western powers.

"BRICS was established to counter unilateralism", said Pezeshkian, who also met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Iranian president said that pressure on his country "has reached a critical and dangerous stage in recent months following the military aggression by the United States and Israel".

When the summit begins Saturday, Xi's attendance will be key. Set to arrive on Saturday, it will be his first visit to India since 2019.

"China stands ready to work with India... by strengthening communication, enhancing co-operation, and properly handling differences," Beijing's foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said yesterday.

Modi embraced President Vladimir Putin yesterday before talks. Putin, who last visited India in December 2025, is one of New Delhi's most important strategic partners.

"One should engage in debate and friendship only with the virtuous, and nothing whatsoever with the unvirtuous," Modi wrote yesterday, in a social media message in Sanskrit to welcome leaders to the 11-nation summit.

Posters of a beaming Modi line streets across New Delhi, with heavy deployments of security forces across the capital and widespread traffic restrictions. As well as Iran, BRICS includes Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

All three have been admitted to the group in recent years, joining founding member states that include India, China and Russia.

11
nations now comprise the expanded BRICS grouping as member states assemble in New Delhi for high-stakes geopolitical talks

India in December 2025, is one of New Delhi's most important strategic partners.

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Philippines recovers 30 bodies from ferry after blaze



Smoke billows from the M/V June Aster ferry

AFP | Manila

The Philippine coast guard has recovered 30 bodies from a ferry consumed in a blaze that swept through it "in seconds", a spokeswoman said, adding that more remained on the stricken vessel.

The coast guard reported earlier that bodies had been found in the economy accommodation area of the M/V June Aster, which ran aground near the tourist hotspot Coron, Palawan after a fire erupted on Wednesday.

"We have 30 on board our (rescue) boat now that will arrive tomorrow," coast guard spokeswoman Commodore Noemie Cayabyab told AFP, explaining that it was the capacity of the patrol boat being used to transfer them.

Asked if bodies still remained aboard the ferry, she replied: "Yes, there are more."

Photos released by the coast guard showed rows of body bags being placed into a small ship alongside men in hazmat suits.

The discovery brings the known death toll from the incident to 35.

Thirty passengers and 13 crew have been rescued. Fifty-four people are still unaccounted for.

Earlier in the day, Cayabyab had told a radio station that the fire began in the cargo hold and tore through the ship within seconds.

"From the time that they heard the loud explosion, the appearance of smoke, and then fire. It spread very quickly," she said of survivors' accounts.

New York marks 25th anniversary of 9/11 attacks

AFP | New York

New York commemorated the 25th anniversary of the devastating September 11, 2001 attacks yesterday with a ceremony marked by controversy over President Donald Trump's absence and right-wing outrage over the attendance of the city's first Muslim mayor.

In an unusual move, Trump was paying his respects at the Pentagon, rather than joining the event in New York, where hijacked planes destroyed the World Trade Center and killed most of the 2,977 total victims on that world-altering day.

Vice President JD Vance and Trump's four living predecessors -- Republican George W. Bush, who was in office during



US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick stands at the memorial during the 25th anniversary commemoration

the attacks, and Democrats Joe Biden, Barack Obama and Bill Clinton -- were gathering at the Ground Zero site in lower Man-

hattan.

The ceremony, which began just after 8:40 a.m. (1240 GMT), was designed to be apolitical, with no speeches.

Bereaved family members were reading out the names of all of those killed, with a bell tolling to mark major moments of the attack, which sparked years of US involvement in Middle East wars and bitter controversy over Washington's human rights record.

"Memorials like this and discussions about those events are an important part of keeping it alive and understanding how we prevent tragedies like this from ever happening again," said Robert Kafka, a Chicagoan in his 60s visiting the 9/11 Memorial.

Alongside the former president was Democratic Mayor Zohran Mamdani, the Big Apple's first Muslim mayor.

He faced a well organized campaign urging him to stay away spearheaded by the right-wing New York Post and former mayor and Trump-ally Rudy Giuliani.

A petition, which has gathered more than 100,000 signatures, accuses Mamdani of associating with unspecified individuals who are "dismissive of American institutions or insufficiently critical of extremist ideologies."

"It's concerning to me that the mayor is being treated differently simply because he is Muslim," city council member Shahana Hanif told CNN.

The first submarine is publicly tested in London on the Thames for King James I

French astronomer Charles Messier mistakes the Crab Nebula for a comet while searching for Halley's Comet, leading him to begin his Messier Catalogue



World's first patent for synthetic rubber granted to German chemist Fritz Hofmann

Luna 2 is launched by the Soviet Union, becoming the first spacecraft to impact the Moon

Houthis seize key Red Sea island

The takeover raises fresh concerns over global shipping

- Houthis seize Mayyun Island in Red Sea
- Control gained over Bab al-Mandab Strait

AFP | Sanaa

The Iran-backed Houthis seized control of Yemen's entire Red Sea coast and captured three strategic islands yesterday, in a lightning offensive that cemented their hold on a vital shipping corridor linking Europe and Asia.

The development is likely to deepen the Middle East war's impact on international commerce, months after the strategic Strait of Hormuz was blockaded by Iran, which hailed its Yemeni allies' advance yesterday.

After a week-long offensive that has left hundreds dead, the Houthis appeared to be in control of territory along the Yemeni side of the Bab al-Mandab Strait, the southern gateway to the Red Sea and, in turn, the Suez Canal.

A local official with Yemen's government said yesterday that the Houthis had "completed their takeover of the Bab al-Mandab area and Mayyun Island", while a witness said gunmen were "deploying along the Bab al-Mandab shore and are driving around in military vehicles".

The capture of Mayyun island, in the middle of the narrow waterway, heightens the fighters' ability to attack Saudi tankers, which they have been targeting since July.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, has relied on the Red Sea ever since Iran's



Fighters loyal to the Houthi authorities, shout slogans during a rally to recruit more fighters, in Sanaa

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Mayyun Island covers just 13 square kilometres and sits in the middle of the Bab al-Mandab Strait

Hormuz blockade choked off its shipments via the Gulf.

Mohammad Mokhber, an adviser to Iranian supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei, congratulated the Houthis on their "resounding victory" yesterday.

"Now the Iranians don't only control Hormuz and the Strait of Hormuz, but they control the other most strategic choke-point in the Middle East," Farea Al-Muslimi, research fellow at the Chatham House think-tank, told AFP.

Oil prices have soared past \$100 a barrel this week, while

average US diesel prices topped \$6 for the first time yesterday -- a potential headache for President Donald Trump ahead of mid-term elections.

A member of the Houthis' politburo had sought to allay fears for global shipping in an interview released yesterday, insisting "there is no cause for international concern".

"Freedom of navigation and international trade in the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab are safe and orderly," Hazem al-Assad told the Al-Araby al-Jadeed news outlet.

The Houthi offensive has cost more than 500 lives, and has displaced about 46,000 people, the UN migration agency said yesterday.

It is part of renewed hostilities in divided Yemen's brutal civil war that began with the group's takeover of the capital Sanaa in 2014.

The Houthis carried out their heaviest missile and drone attack in years this week against Saudi Arabia -- Yemen's northern neighbour -- setting oil sites ablaze and wounding 73.

Tech Smart Bahrain can Outsmart Climate Change



KOTA SRIRAJ

Bahrain has been combatting climate change and its consequences in form of rising temperatures, challenging water security conditions amid rising sea levels. Due to these conditions food self sufficiency too is facing an uphill scenario. According to Climate Change Knowledge report, temperatures in Bahrain have been shifting upward at a rate of 0.25 °C per decade since 1970. These conditions have had a domino effect on water security over the past few decades as the rate of groundwater depletion, and saltwater intrusion has increased. Though Bahrain has commendably kept the devastating effects of climate change at bay till date due to timely interventions and initiatives but future climate change combat strategy needs innovation and technology in order to ensure that climate change does not transform into climate crisis for Bahrain.

Radical environmental technologies are the only methods to achieve a definitive edge over climate change and its consequences. Be it extreme heat, water scarcity or food insecurity, desert nations are increasingly moving away from basic and traditional environmental conservation to regenerative infrastructure and circular desert economies. A concept gaining ground in this regard is Blue Carbon Desert Wetlands. Under this initiative artificial coastal wetlands, mangrove forests and salt marshes are created in low lying desert coastlines. These ecosystems thrive in hyper-saline water and trap carbon up to 10 times faster than tropical rainforests. Bahrain already has good extent of mangrove forests especially in Ras Sanad region, at the southern edge of Tubli Bay. This concept can be used to further expand these forests even faster.

On the food security front, Bahrain can effectively respond to climate change challenges posed to agriculture by adopting Liquid Nanoclay (LNC) technology. LNC is a technology that mixes fine clay particles with water and sprays it onto desert sand. This bonds the sand particles together, allowing the soil to retain water and nutrients like high-quality agricultural land, turning barren dunes into arable tracts in just a few hours. Similarly, Halophyte Agriculture and Biosaline Farming can also be practiced which will not only help cultivating saltwater-tolerant crops like glasswort, sea aster, and specific strains of quinoa, but because the crop is irrigated directly with untreated seawater the precious freshwater resources are also successfully preserved.

Bahrain can also encourage the large scale adoption of Automated Vertical Desert Farms. These farms can be completely powered by solar energy that use AI-driven aeroponics to grow leafy greens using 95% less water than traditional farming. In addition to these initiatives, Bahrain can also set up Seawater Greenhouses to make agri sector even more climate resilient. Seawater Greenhouses use solar power to pump seawater, which is then evaporated to cool and humidify the air inside the greenhouse. The remaining vapor is condensed into fresh water to irrigate crops, creating a self-sustaining agricultural loop in pure desert sand. Furthermore, with the aid of Agrivoltaics in arid regions, Bahrain can change the narrative of how the agri-sector tackles climate challenges. In this regard, the placement of solar panels directly above desert crops create a shade for the plants, reducing water evaporation by up to 40%, while the moisture transpired by the plants cools the solar panels, increasing their energy efficiency. A Techsmart Bahrain can outsmart climate change.

(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)

Vance assails Democratic 'hate' in fiery US midterm pitch

AFP | Dallas

US Vice President JD Vance accused Democrats of running on "hate" Thursday and urged voters to send them packing in November, using a prime-time convention speech to rally Republicans ahead of the midterm elections.

Taking the stage in Dallas to a huge roar and chants of "JD! JD!", Vance sought to sharpen a convention-long portrayal of Democrats as extremists, say-

ing disagreements within the Republican coalition paled in comparison to those dividing the left.

"This fall, the Democrats are running candidates who will tell your children what they're allowed to say, how they're allowed to live, and, importantly, who they ought to hate," Vance said.

"Because that's what the Democrat Party is about in 2026. It's not about you. It's about foreign fraudsters, and it's about who they hate."



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TWEETS

01



The India-Russia economic partnership continues to gather momentum. In Delhi, President Putin and I participated in INNOPROM, bringing together several companies from both countries. It reflects the growing depth of our business engagement.

@narendramodi

02



Twenty-five years on, we remember those whose lives were taken on 9/11 and stand with the survivors and families who continue to carry that loss. In the face of terror and hate, we must continue to choose solidarity, tolerance and peace.

@AminaJMohammed

03



September 11, 25 years on. We remember every life lost and the first responders who ran towards danger to save others. Their courage reminds us that even in the darkest moments, humanity can bring out the best in us. We will never forget.

@alexanderdecroo

04



On this 25th anniversary of the attacks on the United States on 9/11, we honour the memory of all those who lost their lives In that moment of darkness, Allies stood together. For the first and only time in #NATO's history, we invoked Article 5 America's friends and Allies in NATO stood with you then and we stand with you today

@SecGenNATO

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

Indonesia seeks to bring back baby orangutans allegedly trafficked to India

AFP | Jakarta

Indonesian authorities are working to repatriate five baby orangutans allegedly trafficked to India, where they were found motherless in a forest, Jakarta's forestry ministry said yesterday.

The critically endangered animals were found Tuesday by rangers patrolling in the Balasore district of India's eastern Odisha state.

Authorities suspect the primates, known for their shaggy red fur, were trafficked into India, sparking a criminal investigation.

The youngsters, estimated to be about one-and-a-half years old, appeared to be healthy and were being cared for at a zoo after their rescue, the ministry said in a statement.



Orangutans sitting next to bananas upon their rescue by officials at the Ranakatha Protected Reserved Forest in Balasore district, in India's Odisha state

Orangutans in the wild are native only to Indonesia's Sumatra island and Borneo, which it shares with Malaysia and Brunei. The five infants appeared to be of Sumatran origin, the ministry said, and DNA tests will be used to confirm where they

were from.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which lists Sumatran orangutans as critically endangered, the young of the species are weaned only at about seven years of age.

The Buzz

2026 Summer Box Office Sets New Record

Hollywood has recorded its biggest-ever summer at the North American box office, with ticket sales surpassing the previous record set in 2013

Hollywood has delivered its biggest summer at the North American box office in more than a decade, with ticket sales reaching approximately \$4.77 billion, surpassing the previous summer record of \$4.756 billion set in 2013.

The record performance marks a major boost for the theatrical film industry, which has spent years recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, changing audience habits and the rise of streaming platforms. The 2026 summer season showed that audiences are still willing to return to cinemas when offered major films and a diverse selection of experiences.

Blockbusters Drive the Boom

A major force behind the record was “Spider-Man: Brand New Day,” which emerged as the summer’s biggest commercial hit. The film has earned around \$2.4 billion worldwide, making it the third-highest-grossing film of all time, according to reports.

Christopher Nolan’s “The Odyssey” was another major success, generating approximately \$1.6 billion worldwide. Its strong performance, particularly in premium formats such as IMAX and 70mm, helped boost interest in the big-screen experience.

Other major releases, including “Toy Story 5” and “Michael,” also contributed significantly to the strong season, with several films crossing the \$1 billion mark globally.



Audiences Return to Cinemas

The summer’s success was not driven solely by established franchises. Horror films, original stories and films targeting younger audiences also performed strongly.

Industry analysts noted a particularly strong return among Gen Z moviegoers, with younger audiences responding to a wider range of films. Horror titles such as “Backrooms” and “Obsession” demonstrated that smaller productions can also attract significant

theatrical audiences when supported by strong online and social-media buzz.

Monthly results also showed remarkable consistency. May, June, July and August each generated more than \$1 billion in North American ticket sales, while August alone reached about \$1.28 billion, setting a record for the month.

A Turning Point for Hollywood

The achievement comes despite the fact that Hollywood released fewer wide theatrical titles than before the pandemic. There were around 34 wide releases during the summer, compared with 44 in 2019.

The strong results suggest that audiences may be becoming more selective, choosing to

visit cinemas for films that offer a compelling experience rather than simply watching every major release.

With highly anticipated titles including “Avengers: Doomsday” and “Dune: Part Three” still ahead, industry analysts believe the momentum could continue through the remainder of 2026. Some forecasts suggest the North American box office could surpass \$10 billion for the full year, a level not reached since 2019.

The record summer therefore represents more than a strong season for Hollywood. It could signal a broader revival of the theatrical moviegoing experience — proving that, despite the growth of streaming, audiences still value the shared experience of watching major films on the big screen.

Netflix Loads Up September With New Movies & Series



Netflix is bringing a packed lineup of new movies and series to screens this September, offering subscribers a mix of returning favourites, original productions, documentaries and international titles.

Among the highlights is The Gentlemen Season 2, returning with more crime, drama and dark humour. The platform is also expanding its Monster anthology with Monster: The Lizzie Borden Story, exploring one of America’s most infamous historical murder cases.

Reality and competition fans can look forward to Won-

ka’s The Golden Ticket, while Physical 100: Italy expands the popular survival competition franchise into a new country.

Movie offerings include Call My Agent! The Movie and Tyler Perry’s Why Did I Get Married Again?. Documentary fans can also check out Untold: Raygun – Breaking Badly, focusing on the controversy surrounding Australian breakdancer Rachael Gunn.

With returning hits, fresh originals and international productions, Netflix’s September slate gives viewers plenty of new options across drama, comedy, reality, crime and documentary programming.

‘Mirzapur: The Movie’ Makes Strong Box Office Run



The Mirzapur franchise has made a powerful transition from streaming to the big screen, with ‘Mirzapur: The Movie’ delivering a strong performance at the box office since its September 4 release.

Starring Pankaj Tripathi, Ali Fazal and Ravi Kishan, the crime thriller has attracted audiences with its popular characters, intense action and the distinctive world established by the hit series. The film is directed by Gurmeet Singh.

The movie recorded a strong opening and continued to draw audiences through its first week. By Day 7, reports put its

India net collection at around ₹148 crore, while its worldwide gross had crossed ₹211 crore, placing it among the notable Bollywood performers of 2026.

The film’s performance highlights the growing potential for established streaming franchises to generate significant theatrical interest. Its strong reception has also intensified competition at the box office, particularly among major Hindi releases.

With the film approaching the ₹150-crore domestic milestone, its performance in the coming days will determine how high the Mirzapur movie can climb.

Crown Jewel 2026: WWE’s Road to WrestleMania 43 Runs Through Riyadh



WWE’s growing partnership with Saudi Arabia is entering another historic phase, with Crown Jewel 2026 set to become a major milestone on the road to WrestleMania 43.

Riyadh will host WWE Crown Jewel on November 7, 2026, at the Riyadh Season Stadium in King Abdullah Financial District. The event is expected to feature champion-versus-champion clashes across the men’s and women’s divisions, bringing some of WWE’s biggest names to Saudi Arabia.

But this year’s Crown Jewel carries greater significance than ever. The event will take place just months before WrestleMania 43, which is scheduled for Riyadh in April 2027 and will make history as the first WrestleMania staged outside North America.

That puts Crown Jewel in

the spotlight as a crucial preview of what lies ahead. It will give WWE another opportunity to showcase its global stars to Saudi fans while building momentum for its biggest international WrestleMania.

Since the partnership began in 2018, Saudi Arabia has hosted several major WWE events, including Crown Jewel, Royal Rumble, Night of Champions and Elimination Chamber. The 2026 Royal Rumble also made history as the first edition held outside North America.

Now, the focus shifts to Crown Jewel.

With championship battles, superstar appearances and WrestleMania history on the horizon, Riyadh is becoming one of WWE’s most important global stages.

Crown Jewel may be the next spectacle, but the ultimate destination is WrestleMania 43.

TIFF 2026 Takes Over Toronto With Star-Powered Film Line-Up

The Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) is in full swing, turning Canada’s largest city into a global hub for cinema, celebrity and red-carpet glamour.

The festival has brought together filmmakers, actors, industry leaders and movie fans for a packed programme featuring highly anticipated films from around the world. With premieres, special screenings and major industry events tak-

ing place across Toronto, TIFF remains one of the most important stops on the international film calendar.

Beyond the entertainment and star power, the festival is also an important launchpad for films hoping to make an impact during the awards season. Several movies premiering or screening



at TIFF are expected to generate early buzz among critics and audiences, making Toronto a

key destination for studios and filmmakers seeking global attention.

The festival also continues its tradition of highlighting emerging filmmakers and diverse voices alongside major Hollywood productions.

With packed venues and strong audience interest, TIFF is once again proving why Toronto remains one of the world’s major movie capitals.

Star Wars Zero Company Gets First Major Patch

Star Wars Zero Company has received its first major update, addressing several issues that have affected players since launch, including crashes and problems with the game’s challenging Iron Man-style “Beskar” mode.

The 1.1 patch fixes various crash issues, including a specific crash affecting Beskar mode. It also resolves a bug that temporarily de-

leted Beskar saves — a particularly frustrating problem for players risking their entire campaign on a single save.

The update also fixes an issue where attacks could miss despite having a 100% chance to hit. Several Overwatch-related bugs have been addressed as well, including cases where attacks triggered incorrectly against enemies outside targeting cones or behind solid

objects.

However, some players report that Overwatch occasionally still fails to activate when enemies move through targeting areas.

The patch comes as developer Bit Reactor continues working



with a reportedly reduced team, making the update an important step toward improving the game’s stability.

‘Practical Magic 2’ Arrives as Fall’s Big Nostalgia Release

Nearly three decades after the original Practical Magic, Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman return as sisters Sally and Gillian Owens in Practical Magic 2. The sequel arrives in cinemas this September, bringing back the beloved world of magic, romance and sisterhood.

The 1998 original grew into a cult favourite despite mixed initial reviews, building a passionate fan base over the years. Bullock and Kidman are joined by returning stars Dianne Wiest and Stockard Channing,

alongside Joey King, Maisie Williams, Lee Pace and Xolo Maridueña.

Directed by Susanne Bier, the sequel follows the Owens family as they face another chapter in their magical legacy.



Flying start!

National Cagers Stun Filipino Champions In Asiad Opener



BOC vice-president HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa joins Bahrain's basketball team and officials in their dressing-room celebrations

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's national basketball team made a winning start to their 20th Asian Games campaign yesterday, defeating defending champions the Philippines 89-85 in Group C.

The nationals controlled much of the contest at Aichi International Arena in Nagoya, leading by as many as 16 points before holding off a determined Filipino comeback in front of 7,557 spectators.

JaKarr Sampson led the way with 24 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists, narrowly missing a triple-double. Elijah Thomas and Mustafa Hussain contributed 20 points apiece to the victory.

Slobodan Subotic's men made their intentions clear by scoring the opening eight points. They maintained that advantage throughout the first quarter, with a late Hussain three-pointer sending the kingdom into the second period 29-21 ahead.

The champions fought back before half-time and briefly took a 43-41 lead. Thomas quickly drew Bahrain level, Uros Ilic struck from long range and Sampson added another three-pointer at the buzzer to restore a 49-43 advantage.

Carrying that momentum into

the second half, the Bahrainis extended their unanswered run to 13 points and began to pull away. Thomas continued to make his presence felt, while Sampson created openings and Hussain delivered several important baskets.

Captain Ahmed Alderazi then closed an impressive third quarter with a three-pointer, giving the national side a 76-61 cushion heading into the final period.

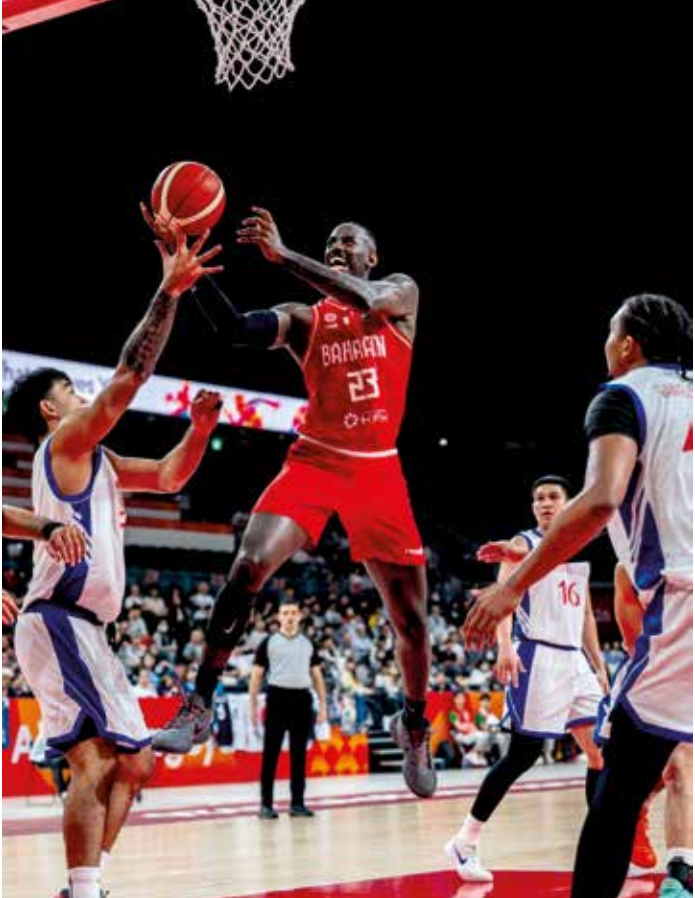
The Filipinos mounted a late charge through Calvin Oftana, but Sampson's final basket kept Bahrain 89-78 ahead with just over three minutes remaining.

Adrian Nocum and Justine Baltazar helped reduce the deficit before Celedonio Trollano struck from long range with 11 seconds left, bringing the Philippines within four points.

Ahmed Haji missed two free throws in the closing seconds, giving the holders one last opportunity. Sedrick Barefield could not convert their final three-point attempt, however, allowing the nationals to celebrate an impressive opening victory.

Oftana finished as the game's leading scorer with 31 points, while Nocum added 14 and Baltazar contributed 10.

In the other Pool C fixture, China opened their campaign with a 99-61 victory over Kazakhstan. Elsewhere, South Ko-



JaKarr Sampson drives for a contested lay-up

rea defeated Indonesia 102-48 in Pool A, while hosts Japan overcame Saudi Arabia 86-80.

Subotic's side return to action today against China at 10am, Bahrain time, before completing their preliminary-round programme against Kazakhstan at 4am on Monday.

The top two teams from each of the three pools will advance to the quarter-finals alongside the two best third-placed sides.

United boss Carrick dismisses Anderson's 'kings of Manchester' jibe

AFF | Manchester

Manchester United boss Michael Carrick has dismissed Elliot Anderson's jibe that City are "kings of Manchester" ahead of Sunday's derby.

Already trailing five points behind their bitter rivals, United will face Manchester City at Old Trafford with Anderson's taunting ringing in their ears.

Anderson joined City from Nottingham Forest for £116 million (\$156 million) in the close-season after United refused to enter a bidding war for the England midfielder.

The 23-year-old can expect a hostile reception from United fans after adding fuel to the Manchester rivalry.

"For as long as I've known Manchester, City have been the



Manchester United's English head coach Michael Carrick (C) takes a team training session (file photo)

kings of Manchester," Anderson said following his arrival at the Etihad Stadium.

City have been top dogs in Manchester since Alex Ferguson retired after winning the

Premier League with United in 2013, finishing above them every season since then.

In that time, City won seven Premier League titles and the Champions League among countless other trophies.

But, despite United's lack of success in comparison to City, Carrick refused to agree with Anderson's assessment of the current balance of power in Manchester.

"I'm definitely not using that phrase at all, no," said Carrick, who led United to a 2-0 win over City in the most recent derby in January.

"We're humble enough and realistic enough to know where we've come from in recent history, and we need to and want to be better, and we want to be challenging more."

Sanad makes WTT feeder history



Rashed Sanad in action during his campaign in the Philippines

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain table tennis player Rashed Khalid Sanad's historic run at the World Table Tennis (WTT) Feeder Puerto Princesa 2026 ended in the last 16 yesterday.

Sanad became the first Bahraini to reach that stage of a senior WTT Feeder event before losing 3-1 to Yang Hao-Jen of Chinese Taipei at the Edward S Hagedorn Coliseum in the Philippines.

The national team player made a promising start by taking the opening game 11-9. Yang responded strongly, however, winning the next three 11-4, 11-6 and 11-6 to advance to the quarter-finals.

Sanad had earlier topped

Group One with three straight victories, defeating Filipino Elijah Yamson and Indonesian pair Affan Pratama and Braydon Susilo.

He then edged a Malaysian opponent 3-2 in a tight last-32 encounter to book his place in the last 16.

His next assignment is the WTT Feeder Bangkok 2026, where he is entered in the men's singles competition from September 14 to 18.

Sanad will then join Mohammed Nader Alaali, Alsayed Murtadha Hussain and Mohammed Abbas Saleh in the kingdom's four-member squad for the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. The table tennis competition runs from September 20 to 28.

Chess Federation signs partnership



Pradeep Puravankara
TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chess Federation has officially designated GET Holding (Gulf Cooperation For Technology), a prominent enterprise in the healthcare sector, as its Official Title Sponsor for the 2026 season following the signing of a strategic partnership agreement.

The collaboration aims to drive youth development, athletic excellence, and community engagement throughout the Kingdom. By joining forces, both organizations plan to empower rising talent by fostering strategic thinking, discipline, and lifelong intellectual growth.

Bahrain Chess Federation President Anmar Ahmadi welcomed the partnership, noting that GET Holding's leadership in the healthcare industry aligns with the federation's mission to invest in human potential through education, innovation, and pursuit of excellence.

Dr. Khaled Alawadhi, Chief



Executive Officer of Gulf Cooperation For Technology, highlighted that supporting intellectual growth and youth welfare reflects the company's core corporate values. He expressed enthusiasm for advancing the sport and contributing to its ongoing growth across Bahrain.

The Bahrain Chess Federation expressed appreciation for the company's backing as both entities prepare to deliver a dynamic 2026 season aimed at inspiring the next generation of players and strengthening the local sporting community.

BIC and SIC begin 20-day race weekend countdown

● Concert ticket upgrades for Martin Garrix and Axwell available now for qualifying ticketholders

● Limited race weekend tickets remain for spectacular programme of racing and entertainment

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) and Sepang International Circuit (SIC) launch on Saturday (Editor's note: 12 September) the 20-day countdown to the highly anticipated race weekend of the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia 2026. The historic event takes place 2 to 4 October at SIC.

Excitement continues to build for the grand prix spectacle, which will mark the 16th round of the 2026 FIA F1 World Championship. There will be plenty in store for all those attending both on and off the track, with back-to-back live performances by a pair of world-class international artists. On Saturday, 3 October, Grammy-nominated DJ and producer Axwell will be



Martin Garrix

taking to the stage at SIC, while on Sunday, 4 October, multi-platinum-selling hit-maker Martin Garrix will headline the post-race celebrations.

Ticket upgrades for each concert are available exclusively to race-weekend ticket holders who purchased their tickets by midnight on 8 September. Tick-



Axwell

et holders are able to upgrade for US\$50 per person for the Axwell concert, and US\$100 per person for the Martin Garrix concert. A separate ticket is re-

quired for each performance and upgrade instructions have been sent directly to ticket holders by email.

Limited race weekend tickets

are still available through the BIC website bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

Axwell is the co-founder of both Swedish House Mafia and Axwell x Ingrosso. He is a sought-after remixer, delivering popular remixes of "Burn" by Usher, "Ma, I Don't Love Her" by Clipse and Faith Evans, "Maybe" by N.E.R.D., "Angel" by Pharrell, "Promiscuous" by Nelly Furtado, and "Jump" by Madonna, to name a few. Axwell has claimed a spot on DJ Mag's "Top 100 DJs" list nine times and won four DJ Awards.

Martin Garrix is one of the youngest and most successful DJs and producers in pop and electronic music, collaborating with some of the biggest names in the industry throughout his career including Dua Lipa, Ed Sheeran, U2, Bebe Rexha, Khalid, Macklemore, Avicii, and Madonna. Aside from F1, Garrix has also performed at some of the world's biggest events and festivals, including the Winter Olympics, Coachella, Lollapalooza, Ultra Music Festival, and Tomorrowland.

For more information on the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia 2026, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline, or follow BIC and SIC on social media.

Naser Reaches Ultimate Championship Final



Salwa Eid Naser (No 8) competes in Budapest, Hungary

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Salwa Eid Naser secured her place in the women's 400 metres final at the inaugural World Athletics Ultimate Championship in Budapest yesterday.

The former world champion clocked 49.67 seconds to finish second in the opening heat behind Olympic champion Marileidy Paulino of the Dominican Republic, who won in 49.58.

Jamaica's Nickisha Pryce and Cuba's Roxana Gomez claimed the remaining two qualifying places from the race.

Norway's Henriette Jaeger led the second heat in 49.64, followed by Lieke Klaver of the Netherlands, American Aaliyah Butler and Chile's Martina Weil.

Naser's performance was the third-fastest across both races, leaving her just nine hundredths of a second behind Paulino ahead of today's medal showdown.

The title will be decided at 7.08pm, Bahrain time, with the kingdom's representative

seeking to add another major honour to her distinguished career.

"On to the final, and I'm so grateful," Naser said after the race. "Of course, I wanted to win, but I'll take second place and keep fighting."

"This season has been amazing. It hasn't been typical, but I'm grateful and happy. I love doing this."

"Last year was a long season. I raced a lot and didn't finish until November, so this year I decided to take my time and enjoy it. Now I'm here."

Her season's best stands at 49.27, while her personal best of 48.14 remains the Asian and Bahraini record.

Kemi Adekoya had also appeared on the original entry list for the women's 400m hurdles but is absent from the official start lists for today's two heats. No reason for the change has been announced.

The three-day meeting has brought many of the world's leading athletes to the Hungarian capital to compete across 28 disciplines for a share of a record \$10million prize fund.

East Riffa Survive Dramatic Najma Fightback

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Promoted East Riffa survived a frantic stoppage-time finish to defeat Al Najma 3-2 and secure their first victory of the 2026-27 Nasser bin Hamad Premier League season last night.

Carlos Alberto missed a late penalty that would have completed a remarkable comeback at Bahrain National Stadium, where Tunisian coach Fathi Labidi's side twice reduced a two-goal deficit. Elsewhere, Robson da Silva helped A'Ali open their account with a 1-0 success over Al Malkiya.

East Riffa struck first after 10 minutes when Labidi's men failed to clear the ball during a scramble inside their penalty area. The loose ball eventually fell to captain Talal Al Sherooqi, who guided a first-time finish into the bottom corner.

Bahraini coach Hesham Al Mahoozi's men doubled their advantage in the 34th minute. Sayed Ahmed Hashim slipped a pass between two defenders from the right, allowing Brazilian Gabriel Silva to find the near corner with a composed low strike.

Alberto pulled one back just two minutes later. Ali Al Doseri supplied an excellent delivery from the right and the Brazilian met it with a diving header that



Al Sherooqi celebrates putting East Riffa ahead session

bounced off the turf and into the net.

Defender Ahmed Muslim restored the two-goal cushion in the 71st minute. A cross into the area was only partially cleared and, after battling through a crowd of players, he volleyed the loose ball into the roof of the net.

The contest took another turn during stoppage time as Hassan Madan beat his marker on the left and crossed for Rickson Barbosa Sa da Conceicao, who headed home to make it 3-2.

Madan was then caught by Abdulhalim Abou during an attempted clearance in the closing moments. The referee initially booked the winger for simulation, but reversed his decision following a VAR review and awarded a penalty.

Alberto stepped forward with the chance to rescue a point, only to send his effort over the crossbar as East Riffa held on.

The victory lifts the newcomers to four points following their opening defeat to Hidd and

goalless draw with Sitra. Najma, who retained their top-flight place through the play-offs last season, remain on three after beginning the campaign with a heavy loss to Al Khaldiya and a narrow win over Malkiya.

At Khalifa Sports City Stadium, Da Silva settled a tighter contest with the only goal in the 22nd minute.

A slick exchange of passes carried A'Ali into the final third before the Brazilian drove just inside the penalty area and struck towards the bottom corner. Goalkeeper Al Sayed Ali Mohammed got his fingertips to the ball but could not keep it out.

Al Malkiya thought they had equalised in the 50th minute when Nigerian forward Ossy Martins produced a stunning strike from distance into the top corner. The effort was ruled out, however, after VAR showed that he had caught his marker in the face while turning to create room for the shot.

The result moves Brazilian coach Vinicius Eutropio's team on to four points, while Malkiya remain without a point or goal after three matches under Portuguese coach Alvaro Rodrigues.

Matchweek three concludes tonight, with Sitra facing Hidd at Khalifa Sports City and Al Ahli meeting Al Ettifaq at Bahrain National Stadium. Both matches kick off at 7pm.