

India and China pledged to pursue a fair and mutually acceptable border settlement, as bilateral trade reached \$151 billion.

| P6-7

CENTCOM Says 100 Ships Redirected



US Central Command (CENTCOM) said its forces redirected 100 commercial vessels over the past 60 days as part of what it described as a renewed US blockade operation against Iran.

In a statement, CENTCOM said none of the vessels passed through the blockade without authorisation from US forces.

The command described the operation as ongoing, stating that American service members remain focused on enforcing the measures and managing commercial maritime traffic in the area.

Houthi Projectile Injures Two in Jazan

A projectile launched by Yemen's Houthi struck Al-Tuwal governorate in Saudi Arabia's southern Jazan region on Saturday, injuring two people, Saudi Civil Defense said. The attack also damaged a mosque, several buildings and vehicles.

The incident comes amid heightened tensions and a series of Houthi missile and drone attacks targeting southern Saudi Arabia. Attacks on civilian and economic facilities in Abha, Khamis Mushait, Jazan and Najran on Tuesday reportedly injured 73 people, including women and children.

Just Peace in Gulf



Bahrain called for genuine peace in the region based on justice, accountability and respect for national sovereignty, Dr Ali bin Mohammed Al Romaihi, Chairman of the Shura Council's Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee, said.

Dr Al Romaihi said Bahrain remains committed to dialogue and peaceful dispute resolution but stressed that genuine dialogue cannot ignore the Iranian attacks against the Kingdom or the damage caused to infrastructure and civilian sites. He said those responsible must be held accountable and the damage repaired.

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Iran Talks Must Wait for Accountability

Foreign Ministry says regional peace must address attacks and respect state sovereignty.

TDT | Manama

Bahrain will not participate in a proposed ministerial meeting on the Strait of Hormuz and will not join any collective meeting involving Iran until diplomatic relations between the two countries are restored, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

The ministry conveyed this position to Oman through official channels, stressing that it appreciates Oman's sincere efforts and remains committed to dialogue as a means of resolving disputes.

It stated that dialogue must be based on facts, pointing to attacks on Bahrain's infrastructure and civilian facilities. One attack targeting an ammonia tank nearly resulted in a major catastrophe,



A shipping vessel transits the Strait of Hormuz off the coast of Iran's southern port city of Bandar Abbas

the ministry said.

Friday's attack on the East-West oil pipeline in Saudi Arabia also showed that threats against civilian and economic facilities remain a current danger, rather than an issue of the past, it added.

The ministry stressed that regional security and stability cannot

be achieved by overlooking attacks, remaining silent over their consequences or pursuing a policy of appeasement.

Bahrain considers good neighbourliness a legal obligation rather than a political courtesy and believes lasting peace must be based on four principles:

ending attacks, establishing international responsibility and providing redress for resulting damage, respecting state sovereignty and preventing the use of any country's territory to launch attacks against its neighbours, and resolving outstanding issues through legal means.

BRICS Calls for Middle East Calm

Leaders urge restraint, condemn attacks on civilian and nuclear sites, and call for secure energy and trade flows.

TDT | Manama

BRICS leaders called for restraint and an end to further escalation in the Middle East as the 11-member group met in New Delhi on Saturday.

In a joint statement, members including China, Russia, Iran and India expressed deep concern over rising tensions across the Middle East and West Asia. They urged all sides to exercise maximum restraint and avoid actions that could further worsen the situation.

The statement followed intense diplomatic efforts by host India after BRICS foreign ministers failed to reach an agreement on a joint statement during their meeting in New Delhi on May.

The grouping has been divided over the conflict that began with US-Israeli strikes on February 28, with Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates holding



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (L), India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and China's President Xi Jinping planting trees during the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi.

differing positions.

BRICS leaders also condemned attacks on civilian infrastructure and peaceful nuclear facilities operating under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards.

They stressed that nuclear safety, security and safeguards must be maintained even during armed conflicts to protect people

and the environment.

Chinese President Xi Jinping said the Middle East war does not serve the common interests of the international community, according to China's state news agency Xinhua.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian were

among the leaders attending the two-day summit.

The joint statement also warned about growing global polarisation and distrust, calling for stronger international efforts to promote peace and security.

BRICS further stressed the need to protect global trade, supply chains and energy flows in line with international law.

FM Met Indian Prime Minister Modi



Foreign Minister Dr Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani met Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, during a reception held to mark the BRICS Summit hosted by India.

The meeting took place as leaders and senior officials gathered in the Indian capital for the summit. Bahrain and India maintain close bilateral relations across several areas of cooperation.

Five Arrested Over BD14,000 Thefts



Five Asian nationals aged between 21 and 40 have been arrested for stealing electrical cables and an air-conditioning unit from two separate company sites. The stolen items were valued at around BD14,000, according to the Ministry of Interior.

Irish Racing Success



His Highness Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Vice President of the Supreme Council for Environment, Deputy Chairman of the High Committee of the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC), and Member of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, attended the Royal Bahrain Irish Champion Stakes in Ireland. This event has been held for the fifth consecutive year at Leopardstown Racecourse in Ireland.

Royal Foundation Honours a New Generation of Achievers

His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation's Board of Trustees, honoured 773 outstanding students who achieved academic averages of 95% or higher during the 2025/2026 academic year. The ceremony, held at the University of Bahrain, marked the foundation's 22nd annual celebration and

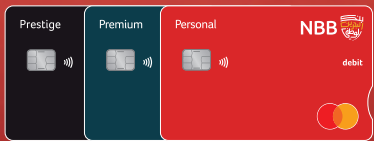
its Silver Jubilee, commemorating 25 years of humanitarian work.

Acting RHF Secretary-General Engineer Ibrahim Delhan Al Doseri said the foundation supports education through scholarships, grants, training and skills-development programmes, while the event also highlighted the important role of mothers and families in helping students achieve academic excellence.





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Call for tighter off-road bike rules

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Off-road motorcycles should be kept off public roads and confined to approved riding areas under new age, training and safety rules, lawyer Jassim Al Essa has said after recent deaths and injuries involving bikes.

He called for Bahrain's motorcycle rules to be reviewed, with compulsory helmets and protective gear, training requirements and clear duties for those running tracks and other riding sites.

Al Essa said Bahrain's traffic law already covers motorcycles, licences and road safety, but recreational and off-road riding has grown in ways that the current rules do not spell out in enough detail.

'It is not enough to decide who can ride a motorcycle and the minimum age,' he said. 'We must also decide where it can be ridden.'

He said riding on a purpose-built motorsport track was far removed from taking the same bike through a housing area, along an unsuitable road or into open ground used by children and families.

The issue has gained weight after deaths and injuries linked to motorcycle crashes.

Al Essa said each case should be investigated on its own facts and warned against blaming



“Rules should draw a clear line between bikes built for road use and those meant for off-road riding”

JASSIM AL ESSA, LAWYER

any person or body before inquiries are complete. But he said serious crashes should also force lawmakers to ask how the next death can be stopped.

'The question we must ask is: can we prevent the next accident?' he said.

Motorcycles, he said, are now widely used for sport and leisure as well as transport, with off-road bikes often ridden in desert, coastal and other open areas.

The danger rises when a powerful bike is treated as a toy, he said.

'A motorcycle, whatever its size or type, can become dan-

What the law says?

- **Motorcycles are covered:** Traffic Law No. 23 of 2014 defines motorcycles as motor vehicles with two or more wheels.
- **Public road safety:** Road users must not endanger lives or property or obstruct others.
- **Licensing required:** The law covers vehicle registration and driving licences, with penalties for violations.
- **Off-road riding:** Article 5 gives the Interior Minister powers to regulate motorcycle registration and set conditions and procedures.
- **Restricted areas:** Authorities can designate places and times where certain vehicles may be prohibited.
- **No legal vacuum:** Motorcycles were also regulated under Bahrain's previous 1979 Traffic Law.
- **Key focus:** Any updated rules should clearly define who can ride, what they can ride, where and under what conditions.



gerous within seconds if it is ridden in the wrong place, by someone who is not qualified, or without the right safety equipment.'

Al Essa said the answer was not a ban on motorcycles or curbs aimed at people who enjoy the sport.

Instead, Bahrain could provide safe, equipped and licensed places where riders can practise away from homes and public roads.

Rules should draw a clear line between bikes built for road use

and those meant for off-road riding, he said. They should also state where each kind can be used, the minimum age for riders, what training is needed and what safety kit must be worn.

Track and site owners should also have clear duties, while riders who put other people's lives at risk should face tougher punishment, he said.

Al Essa also called for a clear way to police unregistered bikes and motorcycles that were never built for public roads.

Rule of Law Key to Justice

Attorney General stresses reform, technology and specialised judicial capabilities

The rule of law remains a cornerstone of justice, equality and the protection of rights in Bahrain, Attorney General Dr. Ali bin Fadhel Al Buainain said.

Marking World Law Day, observed today, Dr. Al Buainain said Bahrain has developed an advanced legal and judicial system grounded in the rule of law, justice and equality, while safeguarding rights and freedoms.

He said the Kingdom's continued legislative and judicial reforms reflect its efforts to keep pace with changing needs, strengthen state institutions, protect society and build public confidence in the justice system.

The Attorney General highlighted the central role of the Public Prosecution in criminal justice, including investigating cases, initiating criminal proceedings and representing cases before the courts.

These responsibilities, he said, help ensure enforcement of the law, protection of society and rights, and legal safeguards for all parties involved in judicial proceedings.

Dr. Al Buainain stressed the need to further improve working mechanisms, strengthen judicial specialisation and adopt modern technologies to raise efficiency, speed up procedures and respond to emerging challenges.



Dr. Ali bin Fadhel Al Buainain, Attorney General

He noted that an effective justice system depends on continuous development and the ability to adapt to rapidly changing crime patterns and legal transactions.

He also called for stronger specialised capabilities within the Public Prosecution, improved judicial tools and greater cooperation and exchange of expertise with counterpart judicial authorities.

Dr. Al Buainain said Bahrain's progress in developing its legal and judicial system reflects the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the continued support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for strengthening the justice system and improving institutional efficiency.

Three New Declarations Set Space Rules

The Kingdom reaffirms its commitment to international cooperation and responsible space governance.



Bahrain has backed three international declarations aimed at strengthening cooperation, safety and sustainability in outer space, reaffirming the Kingdom's role in global space governance.

The Bahrain Space Agency (BSA) participated in a ceremony in Paris marking the declarations, which were issued during the first International Space Summit attended by representatives from more than 90 countries and international organisations.

BSA Chief Executive Officer Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Aseeri said Bahrain's endorsement reflects the Kingdom's commitment to international principles governing space activities and its support for greater cooperation in the sector.

The first declaration promotes wider access to scientific space data, focusing on openness, data integrity and

international cooperation.

The second addresses the peaceful, safe, stable and sustainable use of outer space. It also highlights growing challenges facing the sector, including orbital congestion and space debris.

The third declaration supports the International Telecommunication Union's regulatory framework for the effective and sustainable use of radio frequency spectrum and associated satellite orbits.

Dr. Al Aseeri said Bahrain's support for the three declarations demonstrates its commitment to advancing a safe and sustainable future for space activities while strengthening international cooperation.

The endorsement places Bahrain alongside countries working to develop common principles for managing the increasingly complex and rapidly expanding space sector.

Proposal to put civil nuclear power in Bahrain plans

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A proposal to bring peaceful nuclear power into Bahrain's future energy plans has been put forward by MP Dr Maryam Al Dhaen, with small modular reactors already being studied by the Electricity and Water Authority.

Dr Al Dhaen said nuclear technology should be considered as electricity demand grows and Bahrain seeks to reduce its reliance on conventional fuels.

The authority has said it is assessing small modular reactors among several new power technologies for possible use in Bahrain.

The Electricity and Water Authority said the technology was still being developed and tested worldwide and had yet to reach wide commercial use. Any move to adopt it in Bahrain would require licensing and safety assessments under international standards.

She has raised small modular reactors and the use of artificial intelligence in the energy sector as part of that work, arguing that Bahrain should reduce its reliance on conventional energy and preserve resources for future generations.

She said Bahrain needed to balance the use of natural resources with a move towards cleaner, low-carbon energy, while taking account of energy security and climate change.

Renewable power is being pursued alongside the study of nuclear technology.

'The energy sector has come a long way, especially with net



“We need to look at cleaner, low-carbon energy while protecting our natural resources for future generations.”

- DR MARYAM AL DHAEN, MP

metering now in place,' Dr Al Dhaen told The Daily Tribune. 'But we need to make solar energy more practical for first-time homeowners and families with smaller properties, as it remains out of reach for many.'

She also wants factories, companies and public bodies to play a greater role in renewable power.

'It's time for factories, companies, and public institutions to share this responsibility,' she said. 'Strong guidelines would go a long way.'

Bahrain aims to raise renewable energy to 20pc of its power mix by 2035 as it works towards carbon neutrality by 2060.

Dr Al Dhaen said future sources of power should be studied with the aim of protecting natural resources for coming generations and reducing dependence on conventional energy.

Tenant's Death Doesn't End Tenancy

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

The High Civil Court rejected a property owner's bid to evict a foreign woman, ruling that the original tenant's death alone was not enough to make her occupation unlawful.

The owner argued that the woman was occupying the property without legal grounds and noted she had filed a criminal complaint over the matter, which remains under investigation by the Public Prosecution.

However, the court found that the woman's occupation began lawfully while she was living with her late husband, who had rented the property from the owner under a lease signed on October 1, 2002.

Although the one-year lease

later expired, the husband remained in the property with the owner's knowledge and without objection, while she continued to collect rent. The court therefore considered the tenancy extended under the same terms in accordance with the law.

The court found no evidence that the owner had asked the woman to leave or notified her that the legal basis for her occupation had ended.

It ruled that the owner failed to prove the woman's possession had changed from lawful occupation to unlawful possession and dismissed the eviction claim.

The court clarified that the ruling does not prevent the owner from taking the legally prescribed steps to terminate the tenancy and seek eviction if the required legal conditions are met.

Bahrain Joins Fire Congress



Brigadier Ali Mohamed Al Kubaisi, Director-General of Civil Defence, led Bahrain's delegation at the World Fire Congress in the United Kingdom. The conference explored ways to strengthen cooperation in fire prevention and firefighting, exchange expertise and adopt

advanced practices.

Participants also discussed challenges and developments in civil protection, prevention and safety. Several initiatives were launched to develop firefighters' skills and capabilities and enhance their readiness to respond effectively to emergencies.

Malaysia Celebrates National Unity

TDT | Manama

The Embassy of Malaysia in Bahrain hosted a flag-raising ceremony at the Ambassador's Residence, Rumah Malaysia, in Manama on September 12, marking Malaysia's 69th National Day and Malaysia Day 2026 under the theme "Malaysia MADANI: Kesejahteraan Dinikmati" (Shared Prosperity).

The ceremony brought together members of the Malaysian community in Bahrain and alumni of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), highlighting the longstanding friendship and cooperation between Malaysia and Bahrain. The event featured the raising of the Jalur Gemilang to the national anthem Negaraku, followed by a recitation of the Rukun Negara pledge.

Ambassador Highlights Unity

Malaysia's Ambassador to Bahrain, Shazryll Zahiran, highlighted unity, shared



prosperity and international partnerships as key pillars of Malaysia MADANI. He urged Malaysians in Bahrain to reflect these values in their personal and professional lives while strengthening the cultural and diplomatic ties between the two countries.

The ambassador also expressed appreciation to Bahrain's leadership and government for ensuring the safety and security of Malaysians residing in the Kingdom.

New Connectivity

The embassy highlight-

ed AirAsia X's planned Kuala Lumpur-Bahrain-London Gatwick route, announced in February 2026. Although its launch has been rescheduled to the first quarter of 2027 due to geopolitical conditions, the airline remains committed to establishing operations in Bahrain.

F1 Returns Malaysia

Malaysia will also host the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix at Sepang International Circuit from October 2 to 4, 2026. The landmark arrangement will see the Bahrain Grand Prix held outside Bahrain for the first time and marks Formula 1's return to Malaysia after the country last hosted a Grand Prix in 2017.

Lamea, Bapco Strengthen Youth Partnership

TDT | Manama

The Lamea Association and Bapco Energies have renewed their strategic partnership to support the sixth edition of the national Lamea project, focusing on developing Bahraini youth and preparing future leaders.

The signing ceremony was attended by Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfeeqi, Minister of Youth Affairs. The agreement was signed by Shaikha Dwa bint Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Chairperson of the Lamea Association, and Mark Thomas, Group Chief Executive Officer of Bapco Energies.

Tawfeeqi said Lamea has established itself as a national platform for developing young Bahraini talent, with the support of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs.

She said the partnership with Bapco Energies would create



wider opportunities for young Bahrainis to gain knowledge, practical experience and professional skills, strengthening their readiness to contribute to Bahrain's development.

Shaikha Dwa bint Khalid said the partnership, which has continued for four consecutive years, demonstrates the value of cooperation between different sectors in empowering Bahraini youth.

She added that the sixth edition would build on previous efforts to increase the project's developmental impact and invest in young people as future leaders.

Thomas said Bapco Energies' continued support reflects the group's commitment to developing promising Bahraini talent and strengthening leadership and innovation skills.

He noted that previous edi-

tions of Lamea had demonstrated the project's ability to identify promising Bahraini talent and help prepare participants for future leadership roles.

The agreement marks Bapco Energies' fourth consecutive year as a strategic partner of Lamea, reinforcing its support for youth development and the preparation of future Bahraini leaders.

Call to bring back subsidised UoB buses

TDT | Manama

Mohammed Darwish

University buses cut during Covid should be brought back, as the service could ease family travel bills and create jobs for Bahrainis, a Northern Municipal Council member has said.

Mohammed Saad Al Dosari told The Daily Tribune that the subsidised transport service to the University of Bahrain was stopped during the pandemic for health reasons.

With those concerns no longer standing in the way, he said there is a strong case for bringing it back.

"The service stopped during Covid because of the health situation. That reason is no longer there, so why not bring it back?" he said.

Al Dosari said a revived service could also open up work for job-seekers through driving, supervision and other transport roles.

He wants university buses



restored at cheap or subsidised fares, with first call given to students from low-income homes.

The old service had given many students a low-cost ride to university and saved parents from having to drive them each day, he said.

With families paying for fuel and the cost of running a car, Al Dosari said buses could take some of that strain off household budgets.

They could also mean fewer cars on the road.

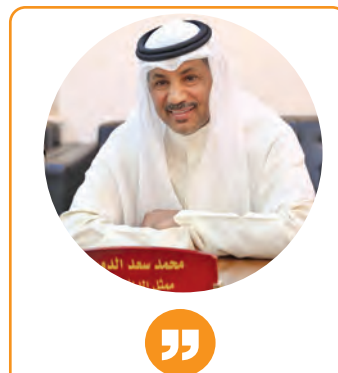
He said traffic builds up

around universities in the morning and again as lectures end, adding pressure on nearby roads.

Buses running between residential areas and campuses would cut the number of students relying on private cars for the trip, he said.

"Providing the service at reasonable or subsidised prices, with priority for students from low-income families, would ease part of the cost of studying and travelling," Al Dosari said.

He called for routes to be based on where students live and which



"Providing the service at reasonable or subsidised prices, with priority for students from low-income families, would ease part of the cost of studying and travelling."

MOHAMMED SAAD AL DOSARI, NORTHERN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBER

universities they attend.

Al Dosari said bringing the buses back would give students a cheaper way to get to class, help families with transport costs, cut traffic and provide work for job-seekers.

LMRA Conducts 21,000 Inspections



TDT | Manama

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) carried out more than 21,000 inspection visits across establishments and commercial markets during the first half of 2026, as part of efforts to strengthen labour market regulation and maintain its stability and competitiveness.

The figures were presented during the LMRA Board of Directors' regular meeting, which His Excellency Yousef bin Abdulhussain Khalaf, Minister of Labour and Minister of Legal Affairs, chaired via video conference.

Members of the Board of Directors and LMRA Chief Executive Officer Nibras Mohammed Taleb attended the meeting.

The Board reviewed updates on national and strategic plans aimed at developing the work environment and strengthening regulatory and supervisory measures. Discussions

included the Government Programme and the National Labour Market Plan, along with efforts to update policies and procedures in response to economic developments and sector needs.

The authority also conducted 625 joint inspection campaigns in cooperation with relevant government entities during the first six months of the year.

On digital transformation, Taleb highlighted ongoing efforts to re-engineer procedures and integrate LMRA's digital systems with government databases. He said digital awareness among users has continued to grow, with electronic services accounting for 85% of the total services provided by the authority during the first half of 2026.

The Board also reviewed efforts aimed at enhancing Bahrain's economic competitiveness and investment appeal while ensuring the continued stability and development of the labour market.

Ebrahim K. Kanoo Social Development Distributes Back-to-School Gift Cards



TDT | Manama

Ebrahim K. Kanoo Social Development recently visited the Bahrain Parents Care Society and Ebrahim K. Kanoo Social Club to distribute Back-to-School Essentials gift cards to members' families ahead of the upcoming academic year.

The initiative aims to assist families by covering essential academic supplies, stationery, and educational tools required for the new school term. During the visit, representatives

from Ebrahim K. Kanoo Social Development met with Mr. Ahmed Albanna, Director of the Bahrain Parents Care Society and Ebrahim K. Kanoo Social Club, to present the gift cards and engage with members' families.

This initiative reflects Ebrahim K. Kanoo Social Development's ongoing commitment to community welfare and social responsibility, ensuring students are well-prepared for academic success in the new school year.

Bahrain Red Crescent Accredited to Deliver AHA Training

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) has received accreditation from the American Heart Association (AHA) to operate as an authorized Training Center, enabling it to deliver AHA-certified training programmes in Bahrain.

The programmes will include cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), first aid and emergency care courses, with advanced pro-

grammes to be introduced later in accordance with AHA guidelines.

Through the accreditation, the BRCS Training Center will provide programmes based on international standards, with a strong emphasis on practical training. Participants will learn skills to respond effectively to emergencies at home, in workplaces and public settings, and take appropriate action until professional medical assistance arrives.



Bahrain Builds Momentum for GCC-EU Summit

Brussels meetings address strategic cooperation and stronger coordination on economic and regional security priorities.

TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s Ambassador to Belgium and Head of the Kingdom’s Mission to the European Union, Dr. Mohammed Ali Behzad, held separate meetings with senior European officials to discuss strengthening Gulf-European relations and coordination on regional issues.

The meetings were held in his capacity as representative of the country holding the presidency of the 46th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Ambassador Behzad met Anna Maria Bura, Chief Foreign Policy Adviser in the Office of the President of the European Council, with the



Ambassador Dr. Mohammed Ali Behzad holds talks with senior EU officials in Brussels



GCC and EU officials discussed preparations for the second GCC-EU Summit in Saudi Arabia.

participation of Saudi Arabia’s Ambassador to the EU, Haifa Abdulrahman Al-Jedea, and GCC Secretariat Mission Head to the EU, Ambassador Fahad Saqr Al-Jemaz.

Talks focused on prospects for developing the GCC-EU partnership and preparations for the second GCC-EU Summit in Saudi Arabia. The discussions also covered opportunities to expand cooperation in economic and investment fields, energy security and connectivity, while strengthening coordination on shared priorities.

In a separate meeting, Behzad met Helene Le Gal, Managing Director for the Middle East and North Africa at the European External Action Service, alongside Al-Jemaz.

The meeting reviewed GCC-EU relations and preparations for the upcoming summit, with both sides discussing ways to elevate cooperation to a strategic level.

They also exchanged views on developments in the Middle East and shared challenges to regional security, stressing the importance of closer Gulf-European coordination on priority issues and stronger consultation mechanisms to support regional and international security and stability.

India Becomes 4th-Largest Forex Holder

Record inflows lifted reserves to \$785.7 billion, pushing India past Russia and strengthening the RBI’s ability to support the rupee.

AFP

India has moved up to fourth place globally in foreign exchange reserves after a record surge in dollar inflows lifted its reserves to \$785.7 billion, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

India’s forex reserves increased by \$44.9 billion in the week ended September 4, allowing the country to overtake Russia. India now ranks behind China, Japan and Switzerland among the world’s largest holders of foreign exchange reserves.

The sharp rise was driven by strong foreign currency inflows linked to the Reserve Bank of India’s foreign currency non-resident bank (FCNR(B)) deposit scheme, which has helped bring additional dollars into the banking system.

The increase came despite a \$2.59 billion decline in India’s



gold reserves, which stood at \$113.81 billion during the week as global gold prices fell.

A larger foreign exchange cushion gives the Reserve Bank of India greater flexibility to manage periods of volatility in the rupee. The central bank can use its reserves to intervene in spot and forward currency markets by supplying dollars when necessary to prevent sharp falls in the currency.

The surge in foreign currency inflows has also contributed

to excess liquidity in India’s banking system. In response, the RBI has announced plans to sell government securities worth Rs 1 lakh crore through open market operations.

The bond sales will take place in three tranches: Rs 50,000 crore on September 17, followed by Rs 25,000 crore each on September 21 and September 28.

The auctions will use a multiple-price method through a multi-security auction.

Ukraine’s economy hobbled by Russian strikes

AFP

Ukraine’s economy is being crippled by intensifying Russian strikes hitting key sectors and its GDP could slump by 1.5 points in 2026, Kyiv officials said Saturday, warning of a “very difficult” winter ahead.

Russia, which devastated Ukraine’s energy sector during the course of 4.5 years of war, has since this summer stepped up a campaign of missiles and drones that Kyiv is struggling to intercept.

These have severely restricted grain exports in the Black Sea -- a crucial source of Kyiv’s revenue.

The strikes have also targeted steel companies, another key sector, as well as supply chains -- notably in the rail sector -- and major warehouses.

“The economy is in the most difficult situation,” Ukraine’s Prime Minister Sergiy Korynetsky said during the annual Yalta European Strategy forum in Kyiv.

He said the intensity of the strikes and the level of destruction have increased.



Multi-storey residential building with an ongoing fire at damaged high levels following a strike in the Ukrainian city of Odesa, amid the Russian invasion in Ukraine.

“We anticipate a very difficult winter in terms of both critical infrastructure, which is being destroyed every day by Russian attacks, but also in terms of overall economic conditions in the country,” said Ukraine’s economy minister, Oleksandr Kravchenko. Kyiv estimates that “the total

destruction of infrastructure and assets are likely to be close to \$10 billion” this year.

This destruction and the blockage of seaports are likely to reduce national GDP by 1.5 points, he added, with some Western experts calling the situation “catastrophic.”

Roblox to Launch Wallet, Expand Off-Platform Gaming

AFP

The American company behind the wildly popular gaming platform Roblox announced on Friday that it is launching a new digital wallet to make it easier for creators to get paid quickly.

Roblox is a highly customizable gaming platform where users can create their own games and related content, and then share them for others to play and even purchase.

The platform, which has millions of users, is particularly popular among kids, which has prompted regulators to scrutinize its safety.

Roblox announced the new wallet during its annual developer conference in San Jose, California.

It’s part of an effort to attract new players and retain creators, particularly adults who make up “an enormous part of the market,” co-founder and CEO David Baszucki said.

The company said it tested more than 200 advertising campaigns in the United States this summer amid that push for

growth.

Around 123 million people played on Roblox every day in the second quarter of 2026, up 10 percent from a year earlier, but down steadily from a peak of 151 million in the summer of 2025.

Until now, creators who get paid had to manually request conversion of their Robux -- the game platform’s virtual currency -- into dollars once they reached a certain threshold, then wait through a long payment delay.

The “Roblox Wallet” will now allow them to automatically receive, on every business day, the real-world revenue generated by their games and transfer it to a bank account.

It will be made available starting in December to adult creators in the United States, then rolled out internationally in 2027, alongside the launch of an



Roblox co-founder and CEO David Baszucki delivers the keynote speech at the company's developers conference in San Jose, California

associated payment card.

“Roblox will not become a bank. The wallet is a financial account, not a bank account,” Enrico D’Angelo, the company’s chief commercial officer, said at a press briefing. The wallet will be managed by payment company Airwallex.

Since 2013, Roblox says it has paid out more than \$5 billion to

creators, including \$1.7 billion over the past twelve months. According to the company, the median earnings of the roughly 42,000 paid creators are about \$1,500 a year.

Roblox told AFP that the wallet will be extended in 2027 to teenagers with parental consent, and the payment card will be available to any wallet holder.

Global Oil Markets Near \$105 Amid Middle East Supply Disruptions

Global oil prices remained near multi-month highs as escalating tensions in the Middle East raised concerns over further disruptions to crude supplies. Brent crude settled at \$104.61 a barrel, while West Texas Intermediate (WTI) closed at \$100.05, despite modest declines at the end of the week.

Both benchmarks recorded strong weekly gains of around 8% to 10%, reflecting growing fears over the security of global energy supplies.

The latest surge has been driven by disruptions affecting key oil infrastructure and shipping routes. The Bab al-Mandeb Strait, a critical corridor for global energy shipments, has come under heightened threat amid regional tensions.

Meanwhile, drone and missile attacks targeting Saudi infrastructure have disrupted operations at the kingdom’s East-West crude pipeline, raising concerns about reduced supply at a time when global



inventories are already under pressure.

Oil stockpiles have reportedly fallen significantly since the outbreak of hostilities, intensifying pressure on refiners and fuel markets. In the United States, diesel prices have also surged to record levels.

The rising cost of energy is adding to inflationary pressures worldwide, complicating the outlook for central banks as they weigh future interest-rate decisions. Prolonged supply disruptions could keep oil prices elevated and increase risks to global economic growth.

Worst DR Congo Ebola epidemic ever passes 7,000 cases

AFP | Kinsaha

More than 7,000 Ebola cases have been recorded in the Democratic Republic of Congo's worst outbreak of the deadly disease ever, according to figures from the Congolese authorities.

Thought to have been spreading under the radar for weeks, the DRC officially detected the latest outbreak in mid-May, with nearly 3,400 people killed in its 17th epidemic of the highly infectious virus.

It began in the north-eastern Ituri province before spreading to conflict-plagued, remote eastern and northern regions where armed groups have roamed for decades, the presence of the state is weak and health infrastructure is largely lacking.

Earlier this week the disease was confirmed to have spread to a seventh province, South-Ubangi, which borders the Central African Republic and Congo-Brazzaville.

According to the latest figures from the Congolese authorities, 7,022 cases have been recorded since the beginning of the epidemic, of whom 3,398 have died and 1,671 people have recovered.

North Korea fires multiple ballistic missiles: Seoul

AFP | Seoul

North Korea fired multiple ballistic missiles, Seoul said, a day after South Korea concluded five days of joint maritime drills with the United States and Japan that were focused on the North.

Pyongyang last month slammed plans for the so-called Freedom Edge joint exercises in international waters off South Korea as a "threat" to North Korea and other countries of the region.

Seoul's military detected "multiple short-range ballistic missiles launched from the Wonsan area toward the East Sea," also known as Sea of Japan, the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

The missiles were detected at around 5.20am South Korean time (8.20pm Irish time yesterday) and flew around 250km, they added.

South Korean and US intelligence authorities "have tracked and shared relevant developments since the initial stage of the launch and also shared information regarding the ... missile with Japan," the JCS statement said.

Trump says Irish unification would be 'fantastic'

US president calls reunification "a fantastic thing" in Dublin

● Trump meets Prime Minister Martin

● Irish reunification remains politically sensitive

● UK has a role in referendum

AFP | Dublin

Donald Trump said yesterday he would "love to see" a united Ireland, wading into a politically sensitive subject as he embarked on a two-day Irish visit that blurs the lines between his presidency and personal business interests.

After meeting Ireland's Prime Minister Micheal Martin in Dublin, Trump said reunification of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland -- split for over a century -- would be "a fantastic thing".

"The way I look at it, it's going to happen eventually. It may as well happen now," he told reporters, adding though that "the UK will have something to say about it, obviously".

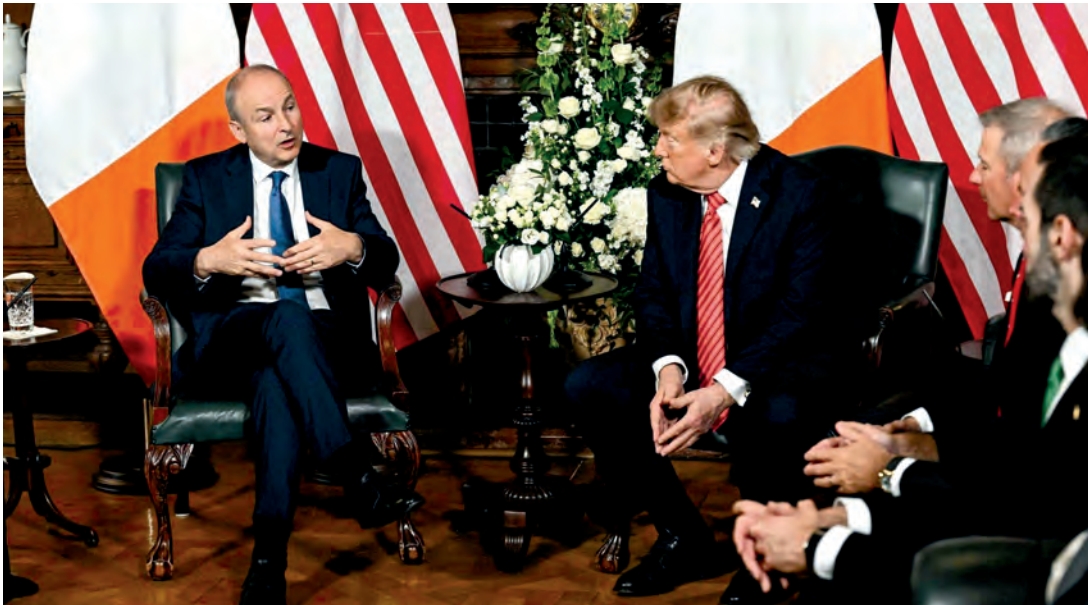
The island of Ireland has been split between the Irish republic in the south and Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom, since 1921.

Under the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, which ended three decades of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland that killed about 3,000 people, a referendum can be held if the UK government determines a majority there is likely to favour joining the Republic of Ireland.

The people of the Republic of Ireland would also have to vote in favour for reunification to occur.

The United States has previously adopted a position of neutrality on the issue.

UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham insisted last month that a



US President Donald Trump (R) meets with Ireland's Prime Minister Micheal Martin (L) at Farmleigh House in Phoenix Park in the Irish capital Dublin

unity referendum was "off the table", drawing a sharp response from the pro-unity party Sinn Fein.

Asked about Trump's comments, a spokesperson for his Downing Street office referred reporters to comments Burnham made in parliament Wednesday when he vowed to "stick to the Good Friday Agreement 100 percent".

Divergences

However Gavin Robinson, leader of the pro-British Democratic Unionist Party, said on X that "as unionists we are not interested in the destruction of our country by joining with the Irish Republic".

The US president had touched down at Dublin airport shortly before 8:25 am (0725 GMT) under a security operation dubbed one of the largest ever mounted in Ireland.

At least 4,000 police and other personnel, including snipers, are mobilised for the visit, which will see Trump fly to his luxury resort in Doonbeg on Ireland's west coast to watch the Irish Open golf tournament.

He inspected a military guard

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KNOW WHAT

Under the Good Friday Agreement, a referendum on reunification can be held if the UK government determines a majority in Northern Ireland is likely to favour joining the Republic

of honour after being received by left-wing President Catherine Connolly, an outspoken critic of the US leader.

"I conveyed the strong view of the Irish people that the normalisation of war and genocide can never be accepted," Connolly said in a post-meeting statement.

He then met Martin, when the Iran war and US tariffs on EU pharmaceuticals and immigra-

tion were on the agenda.

Ireland and the United States have long been close allies, partly because of their common ancestral ties.

But the Irish government's politics diverge sharply from those of the Trump administration on many issues, with Ireland being one of Europe's most pro-Palestinian countries.

Ireland is among several countries, including Spain, the UK and France, that have announced a trade ban targeting Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank.

After a brief visit to the US embassy, Trump then flew to his Doonbeg resort -- a remote, coastal site in County Clare that the Trump Organization purchased in 2014.

In Dublin, at least 2,000 protesters waving Palestinian flags and holding placards rallied against the visit, chanting "Donald Trump's not welcome here", according to AFP reporters.

One sign read "no imperialists in Ireland" while some held explicit inflatable balloons showing Trump in sex acts with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Philippine ferry fire death toll climbs to 76 as identification process begins



Workers carry the coffins that will be used for the victims from a ferry fire in Coron, Palawan

AFP | Manila

The death toll from a Philippine ferry fire jumped to 76 yesterday after the coast guard confirmed the discovery of 41 more bodies aboard the burnt-out vessel.

The remains will be transported to a port in Coron, Palawan, coast guard spokeswoman Commodore Noemie Cayabyab said in a statement.

AFP watched hours earlier as disaster agency workers carried coffins to a cemetery in the resort town, intended for the temporary burial of victims of the fire that tore through the M/V June Aster on Wednesday.

The first 30 bodies arrived by sea earlier yesterday as forensic specialists began the painstaking process of identifying the remains.

The confirmed death toll now stands at 76, including five bodies recovered in the immediate wake of the incident. The ship sits grounded about 7.5 kilometres (4.5 miles) off the coast.

One-metre (three-feet) deep graves have been dug to hold the victims' remains until DNA testing is completed, Kristine Ablana, a tourism official serving as an official spokesperson, told reporters yesterday.

Modi and Xi 'expressed commitment' to resolving border issue: India

● Both sides stress mutual respect and interest

● Bilateral trade reaches \$151 billion

AFP | New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to work together towards resolving their countries' contested border, New Delhi's foreign ministry said yesterday after the leaders met.

Xi's visit to New Delhi, to attend the 11-nation member BRICS summit, is also being closely watched because it is



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) shakes hands with China's President Xi Jinping

his first to neighbouring India yet in a cautious thaw between the nuclear-armed rivals.

"The two leaders expressed commitment to a fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable resolution of the boundary question", India's foreign ministry said in a statement after the meeting.

Modi "underlined the need for both sides to observe existing agreements and understandings on border related issues," it added.

The Chinese leader is visiting six years after a deadly military clash along the disputed border. Ties have since gradually improved through restored flights, visas and high-level contacts.

"Differences should not become disputes," New Delhi's foreign ministry said, in a statement.

It said that Modi had "high-

lighted that both sides must be guided by three mutuals -- mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interest".

China is now India's largest trading partner, with bilateral goods trade reaching \$151 billion in the 2025-26 financial year, according to Indian government data.

"On economic and trade relations, they underlined the need to address each other's concerns, including structural trade imbalance and supply chain issues, and facilitation of meaningful and predictable market access," the foreign ministry statement said.

Xi, according to Chinese state broadcaster Xinhua, said the two nations can "learn from each other's strengths" and "achieve shared development".



Zelensky open to meeting Putin at G20 in Miami

Kremlin repeats demand for talks in Moscow

● Summit scheduled
for December in Miami

● Kremlin undecided
on Putin attendance

● US seeks to restart
stalled negotiations

AFP | Berlin

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he would be willing to meet Russian leader Vladimir Putin at the G20 summit in Miami for talks on ending the war, in a media interview released yesterday.

The Kremlin said it has not yet made a decision on whether Putin would attend the gathering of world leaders in December, and repeated the Russian leader's demand that Zelensky come to Russia for talks.

Washington is seeking to kick-start long-stalled negotiations to find a solution to the conflict, Europe's deadliest since World War II, with US negotiators recently visiting Kyiv and Moscow and President Donald Trump and Putin this week holding talks on the conflict over the phone.

The United States holds this year's presidency of the Group of 20 major economies, which comprises 19 countries plus the European Union and the African Union, and culminates in the December 14-15 leaders' summit.

Russia's finance minister has already attended a G20 meeting, causing discomfort among some of Ukraine's European allies, and a Russian delegation is set to take part in an energy ministers' gathering next week.

Asked whether he would be



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky during a press briefing (file photo)



**Ukraine now is much
more stronger than last
year on the battlefield.
That's why we think
that we have now
(a) good position for
negotiations**

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY

willing to meet Putin at the December summit if both leaders were invited, Zelensky told German broadcaster Deutsche Welle: "Yes, of course.

"We have to come. We have to meet, to speak, and make decisions. It's not about words. What I will tell him or what he wants to tell me, it doesn't matter."

All that mattered were "results", he added.

But Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was cited by Russia's TASS news agency as saying that "we do not know yet whether we will be going to Miami".

Peskov repeated Putin's demand that Zelensky come to Russia -- which launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, triggering the war -- for any talks: "If he really wants to meet Putin, then Putin has said before that he can fly to Moscow."

Last weekend, US negotiators Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner visited Moscow and Putin and Trump also discussed the war during the week in what the Kremlin termed an "extremely frank" and constructive hour-long phone call.

In the Deutsche Welle interview, which took place Friday in Canada, Zelensky said that Witkoff and Kushner's visit was a "good signal", and it was important the pair had visited Kyiv as well as Moscow.

"It's respect to our people," he said.

Zelensky has also announced he plans to meet Trump in late September, as Washington pushes for fresh face-to-face talks between Moscow and Kyiv.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

New thinking for our urban spaces



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

When you think of the Gulf Cooperation Council, high-stakes diplomacy, energy, or trade likely come to mind. But look closer at daily life across the Gulf, and you realise the real transformation happens locally—in how our streets are designed, how green our public spaces are, and how smartly our cities run.

This was precisely the focus as Bahrain hosted the 29th meeting of GCC ministers responsible for municipal affairs. Chaired by Engineer Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, alongside GCC Secretary-General Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi, the gathering put a sharp spotlight on the future of our urban spaces.

Under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the direction of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Bahrain has consistently championed sustainable urban growth. Bringing together senior officials from all six member states was a timely reminder that while our borders define us, our urban challenges—and solutions—are deeply shared.

From refining municipal legislation to expanding smart city initiatives, the agenda tackled the core framework of modern city living. Crucially, joint efforts like the GCC Green Requirements Guide and the Joint Gulf Municipal Action Plan (2024–2030) highlight a clear shift toward greener, climate-resilient environments.

It can be easy to dismiss regional meetings as mere protocol, but concrete legislative frameworks and shared guidelines directly improve how our local councils operate. Recognising genuine innovation—such as celebrating the winners of the sixth GCC Municipalities Award for 2025–2026—proves that fresh thinking is actively being fostered across member states.

As Gulf cities expand, seamless collaboration is no longer just beneficial; it is essential. By exchanging expertise, aligning building regulations, and placing sustainability at the heart of strategic planning, this summit ensured our region remains liveable, vibrant, and prepared for tomorrow.

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

Trump asks Smithsonian to install George Washington statues, exhibition

AFP | Washington

US President Donald Trump asked the Smithsonian Institution on Friday to install statues of George Washington, in his latest bid to reshape the treasured museum and research complex.

Trump, who has sought to root out what he called "woke" culture, has accused the Smithsonian -- which operates 21 museums and galleries --- of trying to rewrite American history on issues of race and gender.

A 162-page White House report said that Smithsonian leadership has "consistently denigrated and displaced whites, males, Christians, and Americans in educational materials and programming".

Trump called for the installation of a 30-foot (nine-meter) "Colossus statue" of George Washington, a founding father and the first US president, and an exhibition honoring his legacy at The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington.

Trump also said he wanted



Smithsonian National Museum of American History (L) and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (R) are seen from the Washington Monument

the 11-foot (three-meter) statue of Washington that featured in August's Freedom 250 Indy-Car motor race to go on display in the museum's Flag Hall.

The president asked for a five-year exhibition continuing through February 22, 2032 -- the 300th anniversary of Washington's birth -- to honor his "Life and Legacy."

"He is easily America's Greatest Hero. Without him, our Country and our Freedoms wouldn't exist," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.



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4
TWEETS

01



In times of division & conflict, South-South collaboration can be a catalyst for reviving global solidarity & a powerful reminder that we are always stronger together. On this @UN Day for South-South Cooperation, let's come together across borders for equality, prosperity & peace.

@antonioguterres

02



18,000 families forced from their homes in Taiz and Yemen's west coast. Children killed. Emergency supplies running out. Aid delayed. People in Yemen have suffered enough. Stop the fighting. Respect the rules of war. Fund the response. Let us get people what they need.

@UNReliefChief

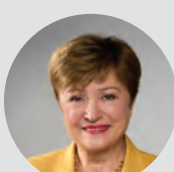
03



The next frontier of security and defence is right above us. And we need sharp eyes in the sky to protect us and our allies. In the State of the Union, I will tell the story of innovators that make our Union a safer place.

@vonderleyen

04



Emma Bonino was my role model - among her many achievements was leadership for EU humanitarian aid, a role I was honored to inherit. She taught us to cherish life and to make it count by fighting for what is right. Grazie, Emma, RIP

@KGeorgieva

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

Lebanon's president pledges Israeli withdrawal on visit to south

AFP | Beirut

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun pledged to achieve an Israeli withdrawal and rebuild the area during a surprise visit to the country's south yesterday, after Israel captured and blew up a nearby Hezbollah position.

Official Lebanese media said he arrived in the city of Nabatieh unannounced and accompanied by security officials including army chief Rodolphe Haykal.

His visit comes a day after a senior US diplomatic official said a new round of US-brokered talks between Israel and Lebanon, initially scheduled for next week, had been pushed back to October.

Aoun expressed solidarity with locals in Nabatieh who greeted him yesterday, according to footage broadcast by Lebanese media.



Lebanese President Joseph Aoun (C-L) stands amid security officials during a visit to Nabatieh

He praised staff at Nabatieh Governmental Hospital, saying they were risking their lives to provide medical services in the area, which most people have fled.

Many government buildings

and major sites have been destroyed in the city since fighting broke out between Israel and Lebanese militant group Hezbollah in March.

The visit was Aoun's first to the south since the war began.

Philippine Embassy Joins 13th Annual ‘Kids are Gold’ Walkathon in Bahrain



Ambassador Gines D. Gallaga, alongside Philippine Embassy staff and Filipino community leaders, participated in the 13th Annual ‘Kids are Gold’ Walkathon to support childhood cancer awareness in Bahrain. The embassy’s participation highlights the community’s solidarity with pediatric cancer patients and global health causes. Ambassador Gallaga praised the organizers and volunteers for promoting early detection and bringing together diplomatic missions, local groups, and volunteers to support young patients and their families.

Sri Lanka Embassy Hosts Free Medical Camp



The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Bahrain, in collaboration with the Sri Lankan Engineering Society – Bahrain (SLES) and the American Mission Hospital (AMH), conducted a free medical camp for the community at the embassy premises. The health outreach event was inaugurated by the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Bahrain, H.E. Shanika Dissanayake. Alongside medical check-ups and health screenings, the embassy hosted a Consular and Labour Open Day at the venue, providing consular support. Over 100 Sri Lankans attended.

Embassy of Nepal Holds Candlelight Vigil for Flood Victims



The Embassy of Nepal in Bahrain held a candlelight vigil and a community gathering to honor victims of the catastrophic Bhote Koshi flash floods in Nepal’s Rasuwa district. Ambassador Tirtha Raj Wagle extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and expressed gratitude to Bahraini authorities, diplomats, and the Nepali community for their support and solidarity.

Cultural Extravaganza Marks Official Launch of BKS ‘Sravanam 2026’



Kerala Cultural Affairs Minister P. C. Vishnunath officially inaugurated the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS) ‘Sravanam 2026’ Onam celebrations. The event featured the ‘Arudra’ Mega Thiruvathira, where over 100 dancers performed under the choreography of Preman Chalakudy. The cultural lineup also included the dance drama ‘Parvathi Parinayam’—conceptualized by Srinesh Srinivasan and directed by Ajith Nair—alongside a musical segment by the BKS Music Club



Bahrain Malayali Business Forum Concludes ‘Help & Drink 2026’



The Bahrain Malayali Business Forum (BMBF) successfully wrapped up its 12th annual summer welfare campaign, ‘Help & Drink 2026’, at the Aluminium Care site in Tubli. Capital Governorate official Yousif Yaqoob Lori attended as chief guest, with BCCI board member Bob Thacker inaugurating the final distribution drive. Led by General Secretary Basheer Ambalayi, the initiative provided drinking water, meals, and heat-stress health checks in partnership with Dar Al Shifa Medical Centre. Over its 12-year run, the campaign has reached over one million expatriate workers across Bahrain.

Pratibha Grandmasters Cup Concludes in Bahrain



The inaugural Bahrain Pratibha International Chess Tournament, ‘Grandmasters Cup Season 1’, concluded at Galali Hall. Organized by Bahrain Pratibha Manama Region alongside the Bahrain Chess Federation and Arjun’s Chess Academy, the 7-round rapid event featured nearly 140 players across nine countries. The tournament was opened by Bahrain Chess Federation Board Member Mustafa Salah and closed by Bahrain Olympic Committee Director Lounes Madene. In the Main Category, Prithvi Raj Prajeesh claimed top honors and the \$600 cash prize, followed by Mero Aghiad in second (\$400) and Ayyad Husain in third (\$200). Joud Mansoor Alfaraj won both Best Bahraini Junior and Best Women Player.

ILA and ICAI Host Joint Onam Celebration



The Indian Ladies Association (ILA) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) Bahrain Chapter jointly celebrated Onam 2026 at Crowne Plaza, Bahrain. Dr. Raju Narayana Swamy IAS, Principal Secretary to the Government of Kerala, graced the occasion as the Special Guest. ILA President Smitha Jensen, ICAI Chairman Vinod Rath, and Tessa Cherian delivered the welcome addresses. The event showcased Thiruvathira, cinematic dances, live music, a flute recital, a traditional boat song, fashion shows, and a tug-of-war competition, concluding with an Onam Sadhya and open DJ floor

Muharraq face Asian test as rulings loom

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Muharraq have turned their attention to the AFC Champions League Two after arriving in Turkmenistan yesterday for their Group B opener against FK Arkadag.

The Bahraini champions face the Turkmen side at Arkadag Stadium on Tuesday at 4.45pm, Bahrain time, as they begin their latest continental campaign.

The tournament was rebranded from the AFC Cup to the AFC Champions League Two ahead of the 2024-25 season.

A 24-player travelling squad has been selected for the match, comprising Vladan Dekic, Sayed Mohammed Jaafar, Ashraf Waheed, Husain Jameel, Amine Benaddi, Bruno Santos, Ahmed Bughammar, Ahmed Rabeea,



The delegation after arriving in Ashgabat yesterday

Mohamed Al Banna, Abdulla Al Khalasi, Hasan Al Karrani, Mohamed Al Hardan, Abdulwahab Al Malood, Soufiane Mahrouk, Ahmed Al Sherooqi, Hanan Abdulwahab, Anderson Leite, Arthur Rezende, Rijad Kobiljar, Abdoul Karim Diarra, Facundo Tobares, Husain Abdulkarim, Edimar da Ribeiro da Costa Junior and Abdulla Jamal.

Venezuelan midfielder Bryant Ortega, who recently joined on loan from Saudi Arabian side Al Ittihad until the end of the season, was not included on the published squad list.

The Red Wolves enter their continental opener after securing their first Nasser bin Hamad Premier League (NPL) victory of the season, a 3-1 win over Mana-

ma on Thursday.

Off-Field Uncertainty

However, the three points could come under review after Al Banna entered as a substitute in the 21st minute despite reportedly not being named on the approved team sheet before kick-off.

With the third round conclud-

BETTER
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The club lifted the trophy in 2008 and again in 2021 under Isa Al Saadoon, whose recent departure has left the head coach position vacant

ing yesterday, the Bahrain Football Association's (BFA) Competitions Committee is expected to examine the incident and determine whether any action is required.

Muharraq have also filed a for-

mal protest alleging that Manama breached competition regulations by fielding eight foreign players in the same match.

Separately, the two-time Asian champions have asked the BFA to clarify the position of Hamad Al Khaldi, chairman of its Legal Affairs and Governance Committee, following his appointment to Al Khaldiya's board.

Having previously nominated Al Khaldi for the committee position, they believe that holding both roles raises concerns over neutrality and a potential conflict of interest. The General Sports Authority has also been notified of the enquiry.

Meanwhile, Bahrain's other continental representatives, Al Khaldiya, begin their Group A campaign against Uzbekistan's Nasaf at Bahrain National Stadium on Wednesday at 7pm.

Naser Eighth in Budapest Final



Salwa Eid Naser, centre, following her race at the National Athletics Centre

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Salwa Eid Naser finished eighth in the women's 400 metres final at the World Athletics Ultimate Championship in Budapest, Hungary, yesterday.

The former world champion and Paris 2024 Olympic silver-medallist clocked 50.22 seconds at Gyula Zsivotzky National Athletics Centre, having qualified with the third-fastest time of 49.67s in Friday's semi-finals.

Running from lane six, one lane inside reigning Olympic champion Marileidy Paulino, Naser made the fastest start and erased the stagger by the back straight.

She was level with the Netherlands' Lieke Klaver at halfway, while Paulino sat last.

The Dominican then accelerated around the final bend, moving to the front with around 70m remaining before pulling clear down the home straight. Naser was unchar-

acteristically unable to stay in contention and eventually crossed the line last in the eight-woman field.

Paulino won in 49.07s, extending her winning streak over 400m to 12 races and maintaining her unbeaten record across all events this year.

Norway's European champion Henriette Jaeger finished strongly to take silver in 49.28s, while Jamaica's Nickisha Pryce secured bronze in 49.56s. Klaver held on for fourth in 49.91s.

"This is what I came here for and I achieved my goal of winning the Ultimate Championship," Paulino said.

The result brought Naser's campaign at the new three-day championship to an end, with her attention now turning to the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

Athletics will be held at Paloma Mizuho Stadium from September 23 to 29, with Naser set to represent Bahrain as part of the kingdom's 34-member squad.

Women's 400m Final Results			
Pos	Athlete	Nation	Time
1	Marileidy Paulino	DOM	49.07
2	Henriette Jaeger	NOR	49.28
3	Nickisha Pryce	JAM	49.56
4	Lieke Klaver	NED	49.91
5	Martina Weil	CHI	50.00
6	Aaliyah Butler	SA	50.12
7	Roxana Gomez	CUB	50.21
8	Salwa Eid Naser	BRN	50.22

'Joker' Mohammed leads Sharjah to Super Cup

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahraini coach Abdulrahman Mohammed claimed his first trophy with Sharjah yesterday after guiding the Emirati side to the 2026-27 UAE Super Cup title.

Mohammed, nicknamed "The Joker", saw his team defeat Shabab Al Ahli 30-25 at Kalba Club Hall to lift the trophy for an eighth time.

The result took Sharjah's overall haul of domestic and continental titles to 54, more than any other Emirati club.

They had reached the final by beating Al Dhaid 30-24, while Shabab Al Ahli advanced with a



Abdulrahman Mohammed, centre, with the UAE Super Cup and Sharjah staff

39-36 victory over Al Nasr.

Mohammed took charge of Sharjah in July after previously coaching Bahrain's Al Najma, where he led the first team at the 28th Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship.

He also guided Bahrain's under-19 team to six successive victories and the 2026 Asian Men's Youth Championship final, securing the kingdom's qualification for the 2027 World Championship.

The Super Cup success provides an early boost as Mohammed looks to challenge for further honours at home and abroad during his first season with Sharjah.

Al Ettifaq Climb Third as Sitra Held

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Promoted Al Ettifaq climbed to third in the Nasser bin Hamad Premier League after defeating Al Ahli 2-0 as the third round concluded yesterday.

Former Bahrain international Fawzi Ayesh's side struck twice after the break to record their second successive victory, while Brazilian-Portuguese coach Jorvan Vieira suffered his first defeat with Al Ahli.

Following a goalless opening half at Bahrain National Stadium, Hassan Mohammed broke the deadlock in the 53rd minute. He drove into the penalty area, remained composed under pressure, beat substitute Sayed Mohammed Amin and fired past goalkeeper Ebrahim Lutfalla.

The goalscorer was then at the centre of a confusing incident in the 66th minute. Mohammed appeared to be shown a red card after blocking Lutfalla and then dissenting, but remained on the pitch after the referee reconsidered the situation.

The Eagles were instead reduced to 10 men six minutes later when Ivorian midfielder Inters

Gui was dismissed for catching Mustafa Kiba in the face with his hand.

Mohammed was subsequently withdrawn before Mohammed Abdulqayoom sealed the result in stoppage time, keeping his composure on the break and beating Lutfalla with a low left-footed finish.

The victory moved Al Ettifaq onto six points and made it back-to-back wins following their opening 2-0 defeat by Riffa. They had stunned defending champions Muharraq 1-0 in the previous round.

Ahli remain on four points, having opened with a 1-0 win over Al Hidd before drawing 1-1 with Muharraq.

Honours Even

At Khalifa Sports City Stadium, Al Hidd and Sitra finished with 10 men apiece as they shared the points in a goalless encounter.

Under Tunisian coach Shukri Al Bajawi, Al Hidd made the brighter start. However, midfielder Ibrahim Al Khattal was sent off



Sitra's Bekaye Wade shields the ball from Al Hidd's Ayman Al Aouny

around the half-hour mark for stamping on the ankle of Sitra captain Ali Haram.

In first-half stoppage time, Bahraini coach Alsayed Hassan Redha saw his side come close to breaking the deadlock. Mauritanian winger Bekaye Wade chipped the ball into the area for Haram to head into the bottom corner, but the effort was ruled out for offside.

Sitra carried that momentum after the restart, but goalkeeper Abdulla Al Thawadi produced a crucial close-range save to deny Wade in the 55th minute following an excellent pass from Saleh

Al Zubaidi.

They were also reduced to 10 men in the 70th minute when Vincent Emmanuel received a straight red card for a dangerous aerial challenge that caught Ayman Al Aouny in the back.

The draw preserved Sitra's unbeaten start and left them fourth with five points. They opened their campaign with a 3-0 victory over Malkiya before their goalless stalemate with East Riffa.

Hidd sit sixth on four points, having begun with a 2-0 win over East Riffa before losing 1-0 to Al Ahli.



Hassan Mohammed

Bahrain name 37 for Gulf Cup defence

Coach Talajic gets Khaleeji 27 preparations underway



Bahrain's first-ever Adidas sponsored kit

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national football team begin their preparations today for the 27th Arabian Gulf Cup, which will take place in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from September 23 to October 6.

Head coach Dragan Talajic has named a preliminary 37-man squad, which will train at the Bahrain Football Association's

outdoor pitches as the Croatian assesses his options ahead of Thursday's final selection.

Sayed Mahdi Baqer returns to the senior set-up, while several youngsters who impressed during the recent AFC U20 Asian Cup qualifiers have been handed opportunities to earn places.

The Reds will not be at full strength immediately; players from Muharraq and Al Khaldiya, along with Kuwait SC midfielder Mohammed Marhoon, will



Dragan Talajic

join after completing their AFC Champions League Two commitments.

Following three days of training, the nationals will play a private practice match on Wednesday. The final 26-player squad will be revealed the following day, with the selected players entering a local camp at the Dip-

lomat Radisson Blu Hotel on Friday.

They will complete their preparations in the kingdom with a final session on Saturday before departing for the tournament on September 20.

Bahrain begin their Group B campaign against Qatar on September 24 at 9pm before facing

PRELIMINARY SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Mohammed Al Gharabli, Omar Salem, Chia Goodwill and Ebrahim Lutfalla.

Defenders: Hamad Shamsan, Bader Al Asam, Ahmed Bughammar, Waleed Al Hayam, Abdulla Al Khalasi, Sayed Mahdi Baqer, Emmanuel Vincent, Abdulla Osama, Adam Fareed, Mohammed Abdulqayoom, Ahmed Dhiya, Hassan Al Karani and Ali Hussain

Midfielders: Abbas Al Asfoor, Komail Al Aswad, Khalid Al Khalaf, Ahmed Rabia, Abdulrahman Bassam, Sayed Dhiya Saeed, Sayed Ahmed Al Wadaei, Ali Al Doseri, Omar Saber and Saleh Al Zubaidi

Forwards and wingers: Jassim Al Shaikh, Ali Madan, Mahdi Abduljabbar, Hussain Abdulkarim, Hussain Zuhair, Mahdi Humaidan, Mohammed Marhoon, Mohammed Al Rumaihi, Hashim Sayed Isa and Ebrahim Al Khattal

the UAE three days later at the same time. They conclude the preliminary round against Yemen on September 30 at 8.30pm.

All three fixtures will be played at Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Sports City Stadium, while the hosts, Iraq, Oman and Kuwait make up Group A. The semi-finals are scheduled for October 3, with the final taking place three days later.

The kingdom's representatives are seeking a third Gulf crown, having come from behind to defeat Oman 2-1 in the previous final. They will launch that bid in a new Adidas kit after

the German company replaced Puma as their official supplier.

Talajic made his ambition clear during an interview with TDT.

"We need to protect our trophy and bring it back home again," he said. "It will be very difficult."

His Qatar counterpart Julen Lopetegui has also warned of the threat posed by Bahrain. The Spaniard, a former Real Madrid coach, highlighted Bahrain's two titles in the past three editions and noted that Al Annabi have won only one of the last 19 meetings between the sides.

China hand Bahrain heavy Asiad loss

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's national basketball team suffered their first defeat of the 20th Asian Games yesterday, going down 105-59 to China in their second men's five-on-five Group C encounter in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

A day after stunning defending champions the Philippines 89-85, the nationals endured a difficult afternoon at Aichi International Arena, leaving them with one victory from two matches.

China took control from the start and raced to a 13-4 advantage midway through the opening quarter. The Bahrainis struggled to slow their opponents, who stretched the gap to 32-11 by the end of the period.



Guard Mustafa Hussain shoots over China's Liao Sanning

The kingdom's representatives, coached by Greek-Slovenian Slobodan Subotic, responded well in the second quarter, with JaKarr Sampson, Elijah Thomas and captain Ahmed Alderazi helping them reduce the deficit.

Alderazi struck from long range before Ahmed Haji added another three-pointer late in the half, allowing Bahrain to win the quarter 18-14 and enter the break trailing 46-29.

However, China extended their advantage after the restart. The gap grew to 59-36 midway through the third before the Group C leaders carried a 71-42 lead into the final period.

The Chinese continued to pull away in the fourth, scoring 34 points and passing the century mark during a dominant finish.

Sampson again led Bahrain with 17 points and five rebounds, while Thomas contributed 10 and Alderazi added nine. Mustafa Hussain and Mohammed Buallay finished with seven points apiece.

Liao Sanning paced China with 23 points, while Li Yuezhou scored 18. Wang Junjie and Pang Zhenglin each added 11 as their side completed a second successive victory, having opened with a 99-61 win over Kazakhstan.

China also held a commanding 46-22 advantage in rebounds, helping them maintain control throughout the contest in front of 8,181 spectators.

In yesterday's other Group C encounter, the Filipinos bounced back from their opening defeat by overcoming Kazakhstan 109-78. Elsewhere, Iran edged Chinese Taipei 72-69 in Group B, while Jordan defeated Qatar 76-65.

Bahrain will now turn their attention to their final preliminary-round assignment against Kazakhstan at 4am, Bahrain time, tomorrow.

The nationals remain in contention for a place in the knockout stage, with the top two teams from each of the three groups and the two best third-placed sides advancing to Wednesday's quarter-finals.

Knibb Claims Fourth World Crown

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain Victorious 13 star Taylor Knibb claimed her fourth Ironman 70.3 world title with a dominant victory in Nice, France, yesterday.

The American completed the 1.9-kilometre swim, 90km cycling leg and 21.1km run in four hours, 19 minutes and 24 seconds, finishing more than four minutes clear of Switzerland's Julie Derron.

Knibb emerged from the water fifth, only nine seconds off the lead, before taking control within the opening 10km of the bike leg. She broke the course's cycling record and carried an advantage of almost four-and-a-half minutes into the run.



Taylor Knibb breaks the tape at the finish in Nice

Despite struggling with the heat during the closing stages, the 28-year-old maintained her advantage to complete another commanding performance.

"This one is very special and I am just very grateful," Knibb said.

Derron climbed from 11th after the cycling leg to finish second in 4:23:30, recording the day's fastest run split of 1:13:04. Fellow Swiss athlete Alanis Siffert placed third on her championship debut in 4:25:10.

Norris snatches thrilling Spanish GP pole from Antonelli

AFP | Madrid

Lando Norris claimed a spectacular pole position for McLaren with a stunning lap to beat championship leader Kimi Antonelli of Mercedes in the final seconds of yesterday's tense qualifying for the Spanish Grand Prix.

World champion Norris, who had missed most of second practice on Friday due to an enforced gearbox change, topped the times in one minute and 31.824 seconds to beat the 20-year-old Italian by just 0.011 seconds.

Max Verstappen of Red Bull was third, 0.140 seconds adrift, ahead of Fer-

rari's Lewis Hamilton and Charles Leclerc with George Russell sixth in the second Mercedes.

Oscar Piastri was seventh in the second McLaren ahead of Liam Lawson in the second Red Bull, Alpine's Franco Colapinto and Racing Bulls rookie Arvid Lindblad.

Norris, who had described the high-risk hybrid new Mading circuit as "like Monaco on steroids", was delighted and surprised at his success.

"What a lap. Gorgeous. Well done, guys. That might be my best one... That made me happy," he said on team radio.

Bahrain Amateur Open Set for October

TDT | Manama

The eighth Bahrain Amateur Open will take place at the Royal Golf Club from October 21 to 24.

Organised by the Bahrain Golf Association, the tournament will count towards the World Amateur Golf Ranking and serve as a qualifier for the 2026 King Hamad Trophy.

The winner will also receive an invitation to compete in the 2027 Bahrain Championship.

Malaysia's Zubair Firdaus won the previous edition with a seven-under-par total of 209, while Qatar's Daniil Sokolov finished runner-up.