

US President Donald Trump criticised Ukrainian strikes on Russian oil refineries, blaming them for contributing to fuel shortages and rising inflation.

| P6-7

Coast Guard Changes Survey Area



The Coast Guard announced a change to the work area of a 3D marine survey project carried out by Bapco Energies in Bahrain's territorial waters; the revised area takes effect from September 14 for three months.

The Interior Ministry urged fishermen, seafarers and marine vessel users to exercise caution when navigating near the project area, maintain safe speeds and avoid approaching or tampering with marine survey equipment.

All forms of fishing are prohibited within the designated work area throughout the project.

Bahrain Victorious Ends Strong Vuelta



Bahrain Victorious concluded a successful La Vuelta a España after three weeks of attacking racing from Monaco to Granada, with Santiago Buitrago securing the King of the Mountains jersey.

Buitrago finished on the podium three times, placing third on Stage 12 and second on Stages 14 and 19. His teammate Jakob Odriz, making his Grand Tour debut at 20, claimed victory on Stage 12 at Calar Alto and finished seventh overall, while Pau Miquel took second on Stage 2.

All eight Bahrain Victorious riders completed the race in Granada after competing for results throughout the three-week event.

Regional Meeting Postponed



A regional meeting scheduled for today in Salalah, Oman, has been postponed to allow time to prepare suitable conditions for constructive dialogue.

The postponement aims to support discussions that can lead to sustainable understanding, strengthen regional security and stability.

HRH Crown Prince Met Spain's King



TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, met His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain and Her Royal Highness Leonor de Borbón y Ortiz, Princess of Asturias, during his attendance at the Formula 1 Spanish Grand Prix.

HRH Prince Salman conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to King Felipe VI. In turn, the King of Spain conveyed his greetings to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Hajj Registration Opens September 27



Registration for Bahrain's 1448 AH-2027 Hajj season will open on September 27 at 3pm and remain available until midnight on October 3 through the Hajj e-platform, haj.gov.bh, using the upgraded eKey 2.0. Applicants can register up to four companions and must complete identity verification, provide accurate information and meet the required health conditions.

Applicants must also ensure their identity cards are valid and update their details in the national government notifications system to receive Hajj-related alerts. Eligible applicants will be notified of preliminary acceptance after registration closes, based on priority criteria.

Those provisionally accepted must pay BD500 to confirm their commitment; this amount will be deducted from the final Hajj package cost.

Asian Club Football Enters New Era



Asian Football Confederation President Shaikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa said the new season of Asian club competitions marks a significant step forward for the continent's football, expanding opportunities for clubs and raising the level of competition across Asia.

He said the competitions now form an integrated continental system comprising the AFC Champions League Elite, AFC Champions League Two, AFC Challenge League and AFC Women's Champions League. The Elite competition has expanded its league stage to 32 clubs, with 16 teams each from the West and East.

Shaikh Salman said the expanded structure will give more clubs opportunities to gain continental experience and develop their capabilities.

Man Drowns Near Amwaj

A 31-year-old man drowned in the sea near Amwaj, the Coast Guard said yesterday.

GCC and BRICS Eye New Growth



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

TDT | Manama

Bahrain called for stronger international cooperation to protect vital maritime routes and ensure the uninterrupted flow of global trade, as Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani addressed the expanded dialogue session of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi.

Acting on the mandate of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council in its current session, Dr. Al Zayani represented Bahrain at the summit. The summit was held under the theme "Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability" and chaired by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The expanded dialogue brought together heads of state, government officials, and foreign ministers from BRICS member states, partner countries and invited nations.

He said the GCC and BRICS countries have developed long-standing relations and partnerships covering energy, digital connectivity, food security and logistics, with significant potential to expand mutual investment and cooperation.

The Foreign Minister high-



lighted the digital economy, financial technology, artificial intelligence, clean-energy technologies and food supply chains as areas where greater cooperation could deliver tangible benefits for people across the GCC, BRICS countries and the Global South.

Turning to maritime security, Dr. Al Zayani said economic resilience depends not only on innovation but also on protecting the routes through which international trade moves.

He pointed to the Arabian Gulf's strategic role and highlighted the Strait of Hormuz, Bab Al Mandab and the Red Sea as vital maritime corridors for energy, food and goods. He said their security and stability are a shared interest for BRICS countries and the wider international community.

Recent events, he said, have shown that disruption to a strategic maritime route can have consequences far beyond its immediate geographical area, affecting energy prices, trans-



"Economic resilience is not built on innovation alone; it also depends on securing the arteries through which global trade moves."

- DR. ABDULLATIF BIN RASHID AL ZAYANI

portation and insurance costs, supply chains, food security and the ability of less-developed countries to withstand cross-border crises.

Dr. Al Zayani stressed that safeguarding freedom of navigation and the uninterrupted flow of international trade, while respecting international law and particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, is a shared responsibility.

Strengthening Gulf Coordination



Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif Al Zayani meets Prince Faisal bin Farhan in New Delhi to discuss regional developments and closer coordination.

Trade Ties Discussed



The meeting with Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuengkeow explored stronger cooperation and regional issues.

New Avenues Explored



Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif Al Zayani met the Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira in New Delhi to discuss bilateral relations and regional developments.

LMRA Speeds Up Authorised User Updates

TDI | Manama

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) launched a new digital service allowing employers to update the permissions of authorised persons who handle labour market-related transactions.

The service enables authorised persons to enter data, submit applications, pay invoices, print work permits, or perform both functions, with updates completed within one working day.

The service has been fully digitised, cutting the number of required documents by 50 per cent while simplifying the user interface and overall user experience. It also introduces electronic forms and standardises service information published across different channels.

Ahmed Ebrahim Al Arabi, Deputy CEO for



Labour Market
Regulatory Authority

Operations and Services at the LMRA, said the new service is part of the authority's efforts to adopt innovative digital solutions that improve the efficiency and quality of its services while providing beneficiaries with a simpler and clearer digital experience.

He said the service also reflects LMRA's efforts to continuously develop its services, reduce the time and effort re-

"Digital solutions are improving service efficiency and quality."

- AHMED EBRAHIM AL ARABI

quired from enterprises, and strengthen the efficiency of the labour market system.

The initiative comes as part of wider government efforts to develop and re-engineer government services. More than 1,300 government services have so far been documented, translated and published, while around 800 services are undergoing development and re-engineering across various government sectors.

The improvements are based on proposals and feedback received through the National System for Suggestions and Complaints (Tawasul), investor feedback and secret shopper reports assessing government services.

The government has also introduced guidance manuals and service level agreements as part of efforts to improve the delivery and accessibility of government services.



NASA Space Apps 2026 Registration Opens

The eighth Bahrain edition will bring together participants to develop solutions using NASA's open data

TDI | Manama

The Bahrain Space Agency (BSA) has opened registration for the NASA Space Apps Challenge 2026, with the Kingdom set to host the global event for the eighth consecutive year.

The hackathon will be held on November 14 and 15, organised by the BSA under the supervision of NASA and in cooperation with several academic institutions in Bahrain.

The 2026 edition will be hosted simultaneously at three locations: the University of Bahrain's Sakhr Campus, Bahrain Polytechnic in Isa Town and Kingdom University in Riffa. Participants can select their preferred venue when registering.

The NASA Space Apps Challenge is one of the world's largest specialised events in space and technology, bringing together participants from different academic and professional backgrounds to form multidisciplinary teams and develop solutions to challenges using NASA's open data, technologies and resources.

Over 48 hours, participants will work on projects combining fields including space sci-



ence, programming, engineering, design and entrepreneurship, while developing innovative approaches to real-world challenges.

The BSA invited people of different disciplines and age groups interested in space, innovation and technology to register and participate in the global challenge.

The Agency encouraged participants to use space science and modern technologies to create innovative solutions to real-world problems while gaining experience through collaboration and multidisciplinary teamwork.

As part of preparations for the event, the BSA held separate coordination meetings with participating universities to review organisational and logistical arrangements, assess venue readiness and ensure all

"Bahrain is once again bringing the world of space innovation to its doorstep, hosting the NASA Space Apps Challenge for the eighth consecutive year. The 48-hour challenge will give participants a platform to collaborate, innovate and solve real-world problems."

hosting requirements are in place.

These preparations aim to provide participants with a suitable environment and ensure the eighth Bahrain edition of the challenge is conducted to a high standard.

Saudi Guard Official Visits Bahrain



Lieutenant General Shaikh Abdulaziz bin Saud Al Khalifa, National Guard Staff Director, received Shaikh Dr. Abdulhakeem bin Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al Ajlan, Head of the Guidance and Orientation Department at the National Guard of Saudi Arabia, during his official visit to Bahrain.

Lt. Gen. Shaikh Abdulaziz conveyed the greetings of General His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa, Commander of the National Guard, and stressed the importance of continued cooperation with the Saudi National Guard. He also commended the role of Islamic scholars in promoting tolerance, compassion and respect, while Shaikh Dr. Al Ajlan praised Bahrain's commitment to these values. Lt. Gen. Shaikh Abdulaziz presented him with the National Guard Shield.

IISS Exchange Strategic Views



General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Interior Minister, received retired Air Vice Marshal Martin Sampson, Executive Director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies - Middle East. Lieutenant General Tariq Hassan Al Hassan, Chief of Police, attended the meeting.

The minister stressed the importance of strengthening communication and exchanging expertise, highlighting the role of strategic research institutions in supporting decision-making. He also praised the IISS role in promoting global peace and organising strategic forums, including the annual Manama Dialogue. The meeting addressed policing challenges, cooperation and coordination, as well as the latest regional and international developments.

Human Rights Report Presented to Royal Court



Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of the Royal Court, received Ali Ahmed Al Derazi, President of the National Institution of Human Rights (NIHR), who presented the institution's 13th annual report for 2025.

The minister conveyed His Majesty's greetings to the NIHR and praised its achievements and continued progress, reaffirming the Kingdom's commitment to human rights, justice and the rule of law. He also highlighted the NIHR's regional and international work, including its presidency of the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions and its partnership with the United Nations Development Programme in a regional workshop on responsible AI governance. Al Derazi expressed gratitude for the King's continued support and outlined the report's recommendations, monitoring findings, training and awareness programmes.

Northern Governor Backs Youth Initiatives



Northern Governor Hassan Abdullah Al Madani received Abdulhadi Al Shamlan, Chairman of Al Hajar Youth Empowerment Centre, along with members of the centre's administration.

The governor praised the centre's programmes and initiatives for developing young people's skills and encouraging community participation. He affirmed the Northern Governorate's continued support for youth initiatives and cooperation with relevant authorities to meet young people's needs and aspirations. Al Shamlan and the centre's administration thanked the governor for his support and pledged to continue developing programmes and activities that strengthen youth participation in the community.

BDF Reviews Military College Plans



Lieutenant General Theyab bin Saker Al Nuaimi, Chief of Staff of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), chaired a meeting of the Isa Royal Military College Board.

The meeting reviewed the college's development programmes and plans as part of the BDF's ongoing modernisation efforts. Senior BDF officers were present as they also discussed specialised training programmes and theoretical and practical academic matters.

Immigration Services Achieve ISO 9001 Certification



Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs, received Inspector General Major General Abdullah Mohammed Al Zayed to mark the department's receipt of the internationally recognised ISO 9001:2015 certification.

Shaikh Hisham stressed the importance of continuous improvement and adherence to international quality standards, noting that the certification reflects efforts to strengthen institutional excellence and service quality. He also praised the Inspector General's oversight role in promoting transparency and improving performance, while Major General Al Zayed commended the department's commitment to quality standards and its efforts to achieve the international certification.

No Iran talks before ties return

Lawmakers say Hormuz talks must wait until diplomatic ties with Iran are restored

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Bahrain should not sit down with Iran over the Strait of Hormuz until diplomatic ties are restored and the attacks on the Kingdom are dealt with, MPs and Shura Council members have said.

They supported Bahrain's refusal to take part in a ministerial meeting in Oman that would include Iran, saying talks could not simply move past strikes on civilian sites and key infrastructure.

Members of both chambers said Bahrain still favoured dialogue and diplomacy, but any return to talks had to rest on respect for sovereignty, non-interference and guarantees that such attacks would not happen again.

Shura Council member Adel Al Assoomi said Bahrain would not take part before diplomatic relations with Iran were restored.

'Real peace must begin with an end to attacks and the settlement of outstanding matters through legal means,' he said.



“Real peace must begin with an end to attacks.”

- ADEL AL ASSOOMI, SHURA COUNCIL MEMBER



“Hormuz rules must respect international law.”

MARYAM AL SAYEGH, MP



“Attacks on civilian sites cannot simply be brushed aside.”

HASSAN EBRAHIM, MP

He said regional security could not be built by brushing attacks aside or appeasing the side behind them.

MP Hassan Ebrahim said attacks on Bahrain's infrastructure and civilian sites could not simply be brushed aside so that talks with Iran could resume.

'Bahrain's security, its people and its facilities are red lines that are not open to bargaining,' he said.

He said Bahrain still favoured peace and diplomacy, but any talks had to respect its sovereignty, rule out inter-

ference in its internal affairs, deal with responsibility for the attacks and include guarantees against a repeat.

Ebrahim said staying away from the Oman meeting did not mean Bahrain opposed regional efforts to ease tensions.

He praised Oman's efforts to bring down tensions, but said Bahrain had every right to choose the time and terms of any future talks with Iran.

MP Maryam Al Sayegh also supported Bahrain's refusal to attend while Iran was taking part and diplomatic ties had yet

to be restored.

She said regional security could not be built by brushing aside attacks or their effects.

Al Sayegh said any rules covering shipping through the Strait of Hormuz should also be based on the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and approved by the International Maritime Organization.

Members of both chambers praised Oman's efforts to ease tensions but said security in the Strait of Hormuz depended on respect for the security and sovereignty of Gulf states.

74% HCFC Cut Puts Kingdom Ahead of Target

New measures will strengthen monitoring and compliance ahead of the planned HCFC import ban by 2030.

TDT | Manama
Ashen Tharaka

Bahrain has reduced its consumption of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) by 74% from its baseline by 2025, exceeding targets under its national phase-out plan, the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol said.

The Fund highlighted Bahrain's experience in a special report after approving the third and final phase of the Kingdom's Hydrochlorofluorocarbon Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP), led by the Supreme Council for Environment.

The report praised Bahrain's regulatory system for refrigerant gases, including licensing requirements for technicians and companies, controls on refrigerant imports, and measures requiring the recovery, recycling and reclamation of gases.

Bahrain is also the first country in the region to ban non-refillable refrigerant cylinders, the Fund said.

The national system now covers around 1,100 licensed technicians and 3,000 licensed companies and workshops, supported by a database used for licensing,

Refrigerant Phase-Out at a Glance

- 1,100 – Licensed technicians in the national system
- 3,000 – Licensed companies and workshops
- 4 – Refrigerant gas filling centres established
- 2030 – Planned deadline to ban HCFC imports

inspections and monitoring.

Bahrain has also established a National Refrigerant Reclamation Centre and four refrigerant gas filling centres, while introducing digital systems to regulate imports and exports.

The final HPMP phase will focus on stronger digital monitoring, reporting and compliance systems, with Bahrain planning to ban HCFC imports by 2030.

The Fund said Bahrain's experience provides a strong foundation for future refrigerant management and implementation of the Kigali Amendment.



Plan for QR-guided workouts in parks

Arabic, English and Hindi guides proposed beside exercise areas

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A proposal to turn public parks into open-air workout grounds, with calisthenics kit and QR signs showing people how to train safely, has been put forward by Southern Municipal Council Chairman Abdullah Ebrahim Abdullatif.

The plan calls for monkey bars, pull-up bars, parallel bars, dip bars and low training bars. QR signs beside workout areas would take users to videos and illustrated guides in Arabic, English and Hindi.

Abdullatif said calisthenics had drawn growing interest since the Covid pandemic, when people began shunning crowded gyms and taking their workouts outdoors.

And there was no need to start from scratch, he said. Parks and public spaces improved in recent years could be fitted with extra workout stations and clearer instructions for users.

Al-Estiqlal Walkway in East Riffa and Buhair Housing Park were among the sites he said showed what could be built on.

'It is a great sport that helps build muscle and needs flexibility, but some parks still lack even basic facilities and enough care over safety,' Abdullatif told The Daily Tribune.

He wants the QR signs to give beginners a simple way to learn the moves, train at the right level and work their way up as they gain strength and skill.

A scan of the code could bring up short videos or pic-



“A simple QR code can give people the right guidance, helping beginners learn safely and progress as their strength and skills improve.”

ABDULLAH EBRAHIM ABDULLATIF, SOUTHERN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

tures showing how to perform each exercise, warm up properly and avoid injury.

The idea would extend to children's play areas.

Abdullatif wants QR signs there too, giving parents safety advice while their children play. The guidance could show which age group each play feature is meant for, how it should be used and what parents should watch for.

Older park users could be given simple exercise guides of their own. Offering the material in Arabic, English and Hindi would also help expatriate visitors use the parks safely.

Abdullatif said growing numbers of calisthenics fans now chose parks and open spaces over indoor gyms, training alone or in groups.

Better park workout areas, he said, could draw young people into sport, give older users an easier way to exercise and get greater use out of spaces people already visit.

The aim is to make outdoor exercise safer, easier to follow and part of everyday life.

Abdullatif said the idea also fits Bahrain's sporting vision and the work of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa and HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa to develop sport and spot sporting talent.



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FAO, Bahrain Eye Farm Growth

Talks focus on boosting local production, supporting farmers and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is looking to strengthen cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to advance agricultural development and food security.

His Excellency Engineer Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, met Dr Ahmed Mukhtar, Coordinator of FAO's Sub-Regional Office for the GCC countries and Yemen and the organisation's Representative in the United Arab Emirates.

The meeting was attended by Engineer Asim Abdul Latif Abdullah, Undersecretary for Agriculture and Animal Wealth Affairs.

Al Mubarak said the ministry remains committed to supporting farmers, increasing local agricultural production and promoting modern technolo-



gies and sustainable farming practices.

He stressed the importance of benefiting from FAO's expertise and specialised programmes to improve resource efficiency and strengthen the sustainability of Bahrain's agricultural sector.

The two sides also discussed expanding cooperation in agriculture, food security and sustainability, along with several areas of mutual interest.

Dr Mukhtar reaffirmed FAO's commitment to working with Bahrain in the agricultural and

food sectors. He praised the Kingdom's efforts to develop local agriculture and boost domestic production, and reaffirmed the organisation's support for initiatives promoting food security and sustainability in the region.

Arab Cooperation Amid Global Economic Changes



TDT | Manama

A delegation from the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by Chamber Treasurer Ahmed Sabah Al Sloom and including Board Member Dr. Waheeb Al Khaja, took part in the opening of the 52nd Arab Labour Conference in Egypt.

Held under the patronage of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, the conference brings together ministers and senior officials from Arab countries alongside representatives

of governments, employers and workers.

The event addresses key labour market and economic issues across the Arab region, with discussions focusing on employment opportunities, skills development, private-sector competitiveness and creating an environment that supports economic growth and investment.

It also provides a platform for Arab countries to exchange experiences and perspectives and strengthen cooperation in responding to changing global economic conditions.

Tropical Spectrum: 26 Artists Unveil Vibrant New Exhibition

TDT | Manama
Pradeep Puravankara

The vibrant world of colour, nature, and imagination takes centre stage at the Bahrain Financial Harbour with the launch of "Tropical Spectrum," a major group art exhibition bringing together local and international artists under a single evocative theme.

Curated by artists Sudeep Deshpandey and Zainab Al Halwachi, the exhibition runs through September 24, 2026, offering a rich exploration of diversity in contemporary visual art. The official opening was graced by distinguished chief guests, including H.E. Md Rais Hasan Sarower, Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, along with his wife, Mrs. Dilruba

Akhter, and renowned artist Sir Abbas Al Mosawi.

"Tropical Spectrum" seeks to foster a visual dialogue between the natural richness of the tropical environment and the open-ended possibilities of modern artistic interpretation. Rather than confining participants to literal depictions of lush landscapes, flora, or fauna, the curatorial concept invites artists to explore the deeper emotional and psychological dimensions of the tropical world. The resulting collection reflects memories, organic rhythms, and personal experiences translated onto canvas through varied visual languages, spanning expressive abstract compositions, impressionistic scenes, representational art, and experimental approaches.

According to the curators, the exhibition celebrates both the

unity of a collective concept and the distinct individuality of each participating artist. While every artist shares the same thematic starting point, their personal backgrounds, technical styles, and cultural influences transform the tropical subject into completely unique visual journeys.

Visitors to the exhibition will encounter a dynamic range of palettes and textures, where high-energy compositions featuring radiant yellows, vivid pinks, deep blues, and lush greens exist alongside subdued, contemplative tones. Through varied brushwork, structural forms, and abstraction, the showcase transforms into an engaging conversation between distinct creative voices.

The event, hosted at the Bahrain Financial Harbour and supported by the Bahrain Artistic



Frames Centre, features paintings and visual artworks created across diverse media.

The showcase features contributions from Sudeep Deshpandey, Zainab Al Halwachi, Abdulla

Al Manami, Adel Al Thawadi, Aneesa Al Saad, Anju Kapoor, Artist Abbasi Sarhaan, Atam Jeet Singh Bawa, Samara Gabriel, Ebrahim, Issa Al Nuaimi, Jacqueline de Freitas, Margaret Casey, Nasreen,

Nitasha Bijju, Richa Maurya, Saira Qureshi, Salah Al Sayed, Shruthi Ranjith, Sriparna Ghose, Taha, Thamer Al Reefy, Mrs. Dilruba Akhter, Ayisha Rais, Shreen Farid, Khalil Kazerooni, and Carmen.

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From The Court

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

Court Rejects Food Firm's Compensation Claim

The High Commercial Court has rejected a food trading company's claim against one of its partners and former executive director and another company, seeking payments and compensation linked to a land transaction, shop rentals and damage to a company-owned vehicle. The company had also alleged that the former executive set up a competing business and recruited two of its employees while assigning them tasks linked to his personal interests.

The company said its general assembly had removed the former executive from his position before filing the case. Among its claims was a BD10,000 payment related to a land deal. The court found that the company was not entitled to recover the amount from the defendants, noting that the second defendant had acted only as an intermediary in an agreement between the claimant and another person.

The court also considered witness testimony concerning the rental arrangements for two shops whose rent had been paid by the claimant company. It ultimately dismissed the case, finding that the company was not entitled to the payments or compensation it had sought from the defendants.

Woman Accused of Attacking Three Officers

A 55-year-old Bahraini woman is facing charges of assaulting three security officers, using force against Public Security personnel and insulting officers while they were performing their duties. The case relates to an incident on April 9, 2026, when officers went to her residence to assist patrols in arresting her and found her holding a large broken glass cup with a sharp edge while threatening to kill anyone who approached.

The first officer was injured on his right thumb when the woman struck him with the broken glass. A second officer was cut on his left little finger while trying to take the glass from her and later suffered pain in his right rib area as she resisted restraint. After being taken to the security directorate, the woman allegedly removed her handcuff and attempted to attack a female officer, who suffered a right-hand injury while trying to restrain her. The woman was also accused of insulting the first two officers through words and actions.

Forensic reports found that the injuries to the first two officers were not expected to cause permanent disability, while the female officer suffered ligament



injuries requiring more than 21 days of treatment and physiotherapy. The defendant admitted the charges during Public Prosecution questioning, while records showed an arrest warrant had also been issued against her by the Cybercrime Directorate on April 9. The court has scheduled October 13, 2026, for judgment.

KFH-Bahrain Announces its Participation as ‘Platinum Sponsor’ in “The Market 2.0: Bahrain 2026” Conference Hosted by Bahrain Bourse

TDT | Manama

Kuwait Finance House – Bahrain (KFH-Bahrain) has announced its Platinum Sponsorship participation of “The Market 2.0: Bahrain 2026” conference hosted by Bahrain Bourse, in collaboration with the Arab Federation of Capital Markets (AFCM). The conference will take place on 3rd December 2026 in the Kingdom of Bahrain under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Held under the theme “Markets in Motion: Powering the Next Era of Trading,” the conference will serve as a leading regional platform to explore the future of capital markets and the rapidly evolving trading ecosystem. The event is expected to attract more than 500 participants, including representatives from regional and international stock exchanges, regulatory authorities, brokerage firms, listed

companies, institutional investors, and technology providers.

The conference agenda will feature keynote speeches, panel discussions, and strategic conversations addressing major trends in capital markets. Key topics will focus on the modernization of trading platforms, evolving execution strategies, enhanced liquidity access, advancements in market surveillance, and developments in post-trade operations. Discussions will also examine the expanding role of automation, artificial intelligence, and real-time market infrastructure in driving operational resilience, market efficiency, transparency, and long-term sustainability.

Commenting on the sponsorship, Dr. Shadi Zahran, Group Chief Executive Officer – KFH Bahrain said: “Our Platinum sponsorship of “The Market 2.0: Bahrain 2026” reflects the bank’s commitment to supporting high-impact initiatives that contribute to the development



of capital markets and foster constructive dialogue among key stakeholders across the financial sector, in line with the rapid transformations shaping the global financial industry. We believe that closer collaboration between financial institutions and regulatory authorities, coupled with the adoption of international

best practices and emerging technologies, is fundamental to building more efficient, resilient, and sustainable markets. Through our support of this conference, we reaffirm our commitment to advancing the financial ecosystem and strengthening Bahrain’s position as a leading regional financial hub, while sup-

porting sustainable economic growth and creating broader opportunities for collaboration and innovation across the financial sector”

Shaikh Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al-Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Bourse, commented: “The support of KFH-Bahrain as a Platinum Sponsor reinforces the significance of ‘The Market 2.0: Bahrain 2026’ as a leading platform for shaping the future of financial markets. KFH-Bahrain’s support underscores a shared commitment to advancing the future of capital markets, fostering innovation, and driving the transformation of the financial sector in line with the rapidly evolving global investment landscape. The conference will provide a platform for market leaders to explore emerging trends, technological advancements and strategies that enhance market efficiency, liquidity and investor engagement. Through the support of leading institutions such as KFH-Bahrain,

we are helping drive meaningful dialogue and actionable solutions that will strengthen Bahrain’s position as a regional and global financial hub.”

Dr. Fadi Kansa, Secretary General of the Arab Federation of Capital Markets (AFCM), commented: “We are pleased to welcome KFH-Bahrain as a Platinum Sponsor of “The Market 2.0: Bahrain 2026”. Its support demonstrates a strong commitment to innovation, digital transformation and the advancement of the region’s financial markets. By bringing together exchanges, regulators, financial institutions, fintech companies and technology providers, the Market 2.0 will create an important space for practical dialogue, knowledge exchange and collaboration. With the support of our sponsors, we aim to deliver an impactful event that generates new ideas, builds valuable partnerships and contributes to more connected, efficient and future-ready capital markets.”

Metals account for 77% of exports

TDT | Manama

Mohammed Darwish

Aluminium, iron and steel made up 77pc of Bahrain’s national-origin exports in June, worth BD199.5 million between them.

Total national-origin exports stood at BD259m, as trade began to recover after the US-Iran war, Iranian attacks, the closure of airspace and disruption to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz hit imports and exports from March.

Data from the Information & eGovernment Authority show aluminium and aluminium products accounted for BD116.2m. Iron and steel were worth BD50.2m, while products made from iron and steel came to BD33.1m.

Semi-finished iron and steel products were Bahrain’s biggest export item at BD48.6m, followed by unwrought aluminium alloys at BD45m and iron and steel bridges and bridge parts at BD28.5m. Processed cheese exports were worth BD10.5m.

Alloyed aluminium wire exports rose especially sharply.

Their value climbed from BD1.3m in March to BD6.3m in April, BD12.1m in May and BD19.1m in June.

June’s figure was 219.7pc above the monthly average for January and February, while export volumes were 208.3pc higher.

The US was the biggest buyer at BD10.1m, followed by Saudi Arabia at BD4.7m.

Exports of pure copper pipes also rose, reaching BD4.7m in June at a weight of 859 tonnes.

Their value was 75.6pc above the January-February monthly average, while the quantity exported was 62.7pc higher.

From April to June, the monthly average was 52.3pc higher in value and 48pc higher by weight than in the first two months of the year. The UAE bought BD1.9m worth in June, followed by Saudi Arabia at BD1.3m.

Imports totalled BD372.5m in June.



Gold bars were the biggest import item at BD32.6m, followed by alumina at BD31m and gold jewellery at BD13.6m.

Bahrain imported 677.8kg of gold bars, 34.2pc above the January-February monthly average.

It also imported 181,100 tonnes of alumina from Australia, Vietnam and China.

Jet engines with thrust of no greater than 25 kilonewtons, imported from the UK, were worth BD11.1m.

Wheat flour imports climbed after March.

Volumes rose from 722.7 tonnes in March to 1,128 tonnes in April and 6,838.8 tonnes in May, before falling to 4,573.1 tonnes in June. The June imports were worth BD1.1m.

The average monthly value

of flour imports from April to June was 161.8pc above the January-February average, while volumes were 134.7pc higher.

The UAE supplied 4,451 tonnes of Bahrain’s June flour imports.

Medicine imports rose from BD2.8m in March to BD12.9m in April, before falling to BD10.1m in May and BD7.6m in June.

Their average monthly value from April to June was 54pc above the January-February average, while average volumes were 13.8pc higher.

Re-exports were worth BD53.8m in June.

Gold bars were the largest re-export item at BD7.6m, followed by jet engines with thrust above 25 kilonewtons at BD5m and other aircraft parts at BD3.8m.

TRA Participates in ITU Meetings on Global ICT Indicators and Statistics

TDT | Manama

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) participated in the International Telecommunication Union’s (ITU) 21st World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS-26) and the meetings of the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH) in Geneva, Switzerland.

Bahrain’s participation reflects the Kingdom’s commitment to strengthening ICT data and indicators as a foundation for evidence-based policymaking and sustainable digital transformation, while contributing its national perspective to the development of internationally harmonized approaches to measuring the evolving digital economy.

Held under the theme “Guiding digital policy through statistics,” the meetings brought together international experts and ITU Member States to advance methodologies for measuring connectivity and digital inclusion, as well as emerging areas including artificial intelligence, satellite broadband and 5G-Advanced. Discussions also addressed the development of



indicators to assess the environmental impact and greenhouse gas emissions of the ICT sector.

Commenting on Bahrain’s participation, Mr. Philip Marnick, General Director of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, said: “Reliable and internationally comparable data is essential to understanding how the digital landscape is evolving and to making informed regulatory and policy decisions. Bahrain’s participation enables us to contribute our experience while learning from international best practices, particularly as new technologies such as AI, advanced mobile networks and satellite connectivity reshape the sec-

tor. Aligning with international measurement standards also ensures that Bahrain’s progress and investments in digital infrastructure are accurately reflected globally.”

TRA’s engagement in the development and review of ICT indicators supports Bahrain’s alignment with international measurement standards and ensures that the Kingdom’s progress in telecommunications infrastructure, connectivity and emerging technologies is accurately represented. It also reinforces TRA’s commitment to forward-looking regulation and to strengthening Bahrain’s position as a competitive and advanced digital economy.

Wall Street Ends Four-Day Losing Streak as Tech Rally Lifts Markets

Wall Street snapped a four-day losing streak on Friday as a broad technology rally lifted the major US indices, although all three remained lower for the week.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.98% to 52,573.29, while the S&P 500 gained 0.86% to 7,656.98. The Nasdaq Composite climbed 0.96% to 26,333.04.

Despite the rebound, investors remained focused on persistent inflation and the Federal

Reserve’s next interest-rate decision. August consumer prices rose 0.4% month-on-month, with annual inflation reaching 3.4%, while underlying price pressures remained a concern.

Technology stocks provided the biggest boost. All members of the “Magnificent Seven” finished higher, while Dell and Hewlett Packard Enterprise surged nearly 11%. Oracle also advanced following strong cloud revenue growth.

Meanwhile, easing oil prices helped support investor sen-



timent. Brent crude settled at \$104.61 a barrel, retreating from recent highs as hopes for diplomatic progress reduced immediate supply concerns.

Macron, Carney to visit French islands after Trump's map post



US President Donald Trump speaks with Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney next to France's President Emmanuel Macron during a work lunch as part of the G7 summit

AFP | Paris

The leaders of France and Canada will next week visit France's North Atlantic territory of Saint-Pierre-and-Miquelon to underscore their support for national borders in the face of Donald Trump's territorial ambitions, Paris said yesterday.

The US president on Monday posted an image to social media with a map of North America in which Canada, Greenland and Mexico, much of central America and the Caribbean, as well as Iceland, were coloured in with the US flag.

The image also encompassed several French overseas territories, such as Saint-Pierre-and-Miquelon, Guadeloupe and Martinique.

French President Emmanuel

Macron and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney will make a symbolic visit to Saint-Pierre-and-Miquelon to underscore that their countries share "the same values of freedom, democracy, the rule of law and respect for the sovereignty of nations", the Elysee said. Macron was set to visit the territory on September 19-21, with Carney joining the French leader on September 20.

"In a world marked by the return of power politics, geopolitical tensions and new forms of dependency, France and Canada share a common ambition: to work together, and with all countries that share these values, to strengthen their capacity to make decisions and act independently," the Elysee said.

France apologizes for UN diplomatic spat with Washington

AFP | Washington

The French UN mission said it regretted an online post criticizing how the United States voted during a UN General Assembly meeting, with US officials telling AFP on Saturday that Washington appreciated the statement.

France's permanent mission to the UN published the apology Friday, saying it regretted a post on X criticizing the United States' commitment to human rights.

"France and the United States recently took different positions on a vote at the United Nations General Assembly. This difference concerned one

vote, and not the defense of human rights," the mission said in an English statement on its website.

"Public differences of opinion on one vote do not stand in the way of close dialogue with the United States, and do not call into question our historical alliance, nor our ability to work together to advance peace, stability and prosperity, including within multilateral forums," the statement continued.

The mea culpa was well-received by Washington, which has been holding up the appointment of France's next US ambassador as a result of the dispute.

In Damascus, Turkey FM says Israel wants to destabilise Syria

AFP | Damascus

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan accused Israel yesterday of trying to destabilize Syria through its repeated strikes on the country.

He spoke while on a visit to Damascus, where his Syrian counterpart Asaad al-Shaibani said his country remained committed to diplomacy as it knew the consequences of war.

Israel bombed the outskirts of the city of Beit Jinn in the western countryside of Damascus yesterday. And last month, Israel bombed the disused Abu Duhur airbase in

Syria's northwest, claiming it wanted to avert Turkish troops deploying to the facility. Ankara denied any visit to the site.

"Just as Syria offers so much hope to the region and the world, there is suddenly an actor striving to destabilize the country," Fidan said at a joint news conference.

"You know the name of that actor: Israel," he added.

Fidan said "the policies Israel pursues constitute the most serious obstacle to this positive trajectory. The attack carried out against the Abu Duhur military airbase is one of the latest examples."

Trump chastises Zelensky over refinery strikes

US president blames Ukrainian strikes for global fuel shortages and rising inflation

● Trump doubles down on united Ireland comments

● Attends Irish Open at his Doonbeg course

AFP | Doonbeg

Donald Trump lashed out yesterday at Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky over Kyiv's attacks on Russian oil refineries, while on a golf-focused two-day visit to Ireland which again saw him promoting his personal business interests.

The US president -- talking to reporters from his Doonbeg golf resort on Ireland's west coast -- also hit out at recent critics of artificial intelligence (AI) who urge greater caution in the powerful technology's development, branding them "negative" forces.

But the ever-unpredictable American leader saved his strongest comments for Zelensky, saying the Ukrainian president had to do "one thing" and "stop knocking out diesel fuel" refineries in Russia due to resulting shortages.

"Let him go after targets, but not diesel fuel, because he's causing a shortage of diesel," Trump said, insisting the Russia-Ukraine war -- not his conflict with Iran and subsequent blockade of the Strait of Hormuz -- were to blame.

Oil prices have soared in recent weeks as attacks in the Middle East have intensified, raising American fuel costs and inflation and speculation the Federal Reserve will hike interest rates just weeks before crunch US midterm elections.

Trump's visit to Ireland has seen the American leader again fusing his brand of off-the-cuff diplomacy with both his love of



US President Donald Trump (C-white cap), son Eric Trump (centre L) and Ireland's Prime Minister Michael Martin (R) watch players on the 1st tee as they attend the final round of the Irish Open golf tournament at the Trump International Golf Links & Hotel in Doonbeg

20mn

the reported cost of the security operation for Trump's weekend visit to Ireland, involving around 4,000 Irish and US personnel

golf and private businesses.

On Saturday, he caught his Irish hosts and the neighbouring UK off-guard when he waded into highly sensitive political territory by announcing he would "love to see" a united Ireland.

'Not welcome here'

Breaking with Washington's traditional neutrality on the historically charged topic, Trump argued reunification of the Republic of Ireland and UK territory Northern Ireland -- after more than a century apart -- was

"going to happen eventually".

"It may as well happen now," he said as he met Irish prime minister Micheal Martin in Dublin, prompting pushback from pro-UK loyalists in Northern Ireland and some leading politicians in mainland Britain.

Trump doubled down on his remarks yesterday.

"I'm someone who owns fantastic property here," he said after watching Irish Open leader Shane Lowry tee off in the final round on the Trump Organization course bought in 2014.

"It would seem to me that one of the naturals of all time is to put them together," he added, insisting "many people agree".

Trump arrived in Doonbeg Saturday afternoon, sparking road closures and police checkpoints nearby. Around 30 people protested his visit in neighbouring Doonbeg village yesterday.

"Donald Trump is not welcome in Ireland," demonstrator William Hederman, 53, said,

Let him (Volodymyr Zelensky) go after targets, but not diesel fuel, because he's causing a shortage of diesel

DONALD TRUMP

accusing him of helping Israel commit genocide in Gaza.

Trump's attendance at the tournament added an extra layer of complexity to a security effort that is reportedly costing Ireland 20 million euros (\$23 million). He was expected to present the winner with the trophy later yesterday.

Spectators cheered when he walked onto the first tee.

"It's a once in a lifetime opportunity," 28-year-old Connor McGovern, who had travelled from Northern Ireland hoping to see the president, said.

Russia strikes Kyiv-Warsaw passenger train

AFP | Kyiv

A Russian drone struck a Kyiv-to-Warsaw passenger train near the Polish border yesterday but caused no casualties, Ukraine and Poland said, as Moscow steps up attacks in the fifth year of its invasion.

The strike, just two kilometres (1.2 miles) from the Polish border, came days after US envoys visited Kyiv and Moscow hoping to revive Washington-led talks on ending Europe's worst conflict since World War II, without securing a breakthrough.

NATO member Poland said a second drone struck near a border crossing, prompting Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski to accuse Russian President Vladimir Putin of "escalating



Firefighters extinguish a car of a passenger train hit by a Russian drone strike at a railway station

the conflict.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Moscow

struck the train "deliberately" and accused Russia of attacking rail and energy infrastructure as

well as civilian buildings across the country, including in the west.

"It is precisely to prevent these strikes from spreading further into Europe that Ukrainian men and women fight every day, give their lives, and do not allow the aggression to expand," Zelensky said.

"Putin is escalating," Polish Foreign Minister Sikorski said on social media.

The country's PKP Intercity rail service said the train was travelling from Kyiv to Warsaw with 206 passengers onboard.

With Ukrainian airspace closed, trains to neighbouring Poland have been one of the main routes out of the war-torn country, often carrying refugees and packed with women and children.

Britain and the British Empire, including the American colonies, adopt the Gregorian Calendar after skipping 11 days between September 3 and September 13

World's first practical helicopter, the VS-300, designed by Igor Sikorsky, takes a short tethered flight in Stratford, Connecticut



IBM introduces the RAMAC 305, the first commercial computer with a hard drive featuring magnetic disk storage, which weighs over a ton

Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela form the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

BRICS leaders push global growth

Modi stresses diversity and cooperation within the bloc



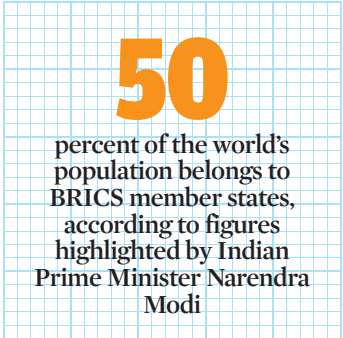
Leaders of participating countries gather for a family photo during the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi

- BRICS leaders conclude talks
- Putin backs multipolar world order
- Xi warns against global disorder

AFP | New Delhi

BRICS leaders including China, Russia and India concluded a second and final day of talks in New Delhi yesterday, discussing “inclusive global growth”, after reaching a rare agreement calling for calm in the Middle East.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for “cooperation” within the bloc, which he has said represents “50 percent of the world’s population, 40 percent of global GDP and more



than 25 percent of global trade”.

“The power of BRICS lies in our diversity and cooperation,” Modi told leaders, including Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin, on the final day of talks.

BRICS was created in 2009 as a forum for major emerging economies seeking greater influence in institutions dominated by Western powers. The group is seeking to bolster its global influence and address conflict, trade turbulence and energy security.

“We have tried to push inclusive global growth,” Modi said. “We may be rooted in different realities, but together we rise through cooperation and blossom for humanity,” he said.

Putin said the bloc was working to create a “new, more just, multipolar world order”.

Xi said that a “world without rules is like an intersection without traffic lights; chaos and disorder are inevitable”.

‘Maximum restraint’

The first day of the summit on Saturday was dominated by the conflict in the Middle East.

Leaders issued a statement after intense diplomatic efforts by host India.

“We express deep concern over the continued escalation of tensions in Middle East/West Asia,” the joint statement said, adding that the BRICS countries “call for exercising maximum restraint”.

Altman tells Fortune OpenAI will not go public in 2026

AFP | New York

OpenAI will not go public this year, the company’s chief executive Sam Altman said in an interview released on Saturday, citing safety concerns over artificial intelligence.

“Given everything happening with safety, right now would be an ill-advised moment to go public, and we don’t feel pressure on that,” Altman told Fortune business magazine on Friday.

“I would say not 2026, yeah. We got a lot of stuff to do,” he said when asked if an initial public offering (IPO) was off the table for this year.

The company had not announced an official date for its IPO.

OpenAI, the maker of ChatGPT, and its rival Anthropic have been racing to become public companies.

Both companies have filed



Open AI CEO Sam Altman speaks during an event (file photo)

confidential IPO documents with US regulators and are targeting public listings at valuations approaching \$1 trillion.

In June, the New York Times reported that OpenAI was leaning toward delaying its IPO until next year.

Anthropic’s chief executive

Dario Amodei called on Saturday for AI companies to slow down the development of the powerful technology.

“We must slow the pace at which we improve the capabilities of AI models,” Amodei wrote in a post on his personal website.

Indonesia says six killed, 129 missing after ferry capsizes off Java



Putri Yasmin ferry, which serves the Padangbai-Bali- to Lembar-West Nusa Tenggara route, on fire in the waters of Bali

AFP | Jakarta

Rescuers in Indonesia said at least six people were killed and 130 others were missing yesterday after a ferry sailing between the islands of Java and Borneo was hit by bad weather and capsized.

The Virgo Transport 8, carrying 243 passengers and crew, had lost contact with its shipping company early yesterday after departing from Surabaya in East Java.

Basarnas, Indonesia’s national search and rescue agency, said in its latest update that six people were killed and 130 were missing. It said 107 people had been rescued.

There were 213 passengers

and 30 crew members on board, the agency added.

Indonesian Transport Minister Dudy Purwagandhi said the ship had capsized.

“From the information we received, based on helicopter surveillance... the ship cap-sized but has not sunk. As of 3:00 pm (0700 GMT) it had not sunk yet, but it was capsized,” he said at a news conference in Banjarmasin.

Local search and rescue chief I Putu Sudayana earlier said that the ship’s captain had reported to its owners before losing contact that the vessel was “tilting”.

Rescuers battled waves of up to 2.5 metres (8.2 feet) to reach the ferry, Sudayana said.

One dead, 30 missing after ferry sinks off Vanuatu

AFP | Sydney

At least one person was killed and 30 are missing after a ferry sank off the coast of Vanuatu, the South Pacific nation’s government said yesterday.

The vessel, MV Matui, had set sail on Friday with more than 40 passengers and crew from the island of Santo to Ambae island in very rough seas, but did not arrive.

Prime Minister Jotham Napat’s office said yesterday morning that one dead body

has been recovered, while 15 of those onboard have been “accounted for alive”.

The alarm was raised on Saturday afternoon when a diver working at a hotel on Santo saw a man floating in a life vest and pulled him to shore.

Hotel owner Ashley Beveridge told AFP he realised his employee was carrying a survivor from the missing boat, and someone in the restaurant alerted the authorities.

Philippine rescuers pull more victims from charred ferry

AFP | Manila

The bodies of 41 victims of the worst Philippine ferry disaster in over a decade made their way through the blue waters of a resort area yesterday, bound for a dock where forensic investigators awaited them.

Days after a fire ripped through the M/V June Aster, it is clear few of its victims ever made the water, with nearly all of the 76 confirmed dead found aboard the grounded vessel.

The 24-year-old ferry, known locally as a “roro” (roll-on, roll-off), was carrying vacationers, businesspeople and families headed for loved ones in Coron, Palawan, when it erupted in flames following an

explosion in its hold.

Some areas, such as the cargo deck and engine room, remain to be searched.

“The water is still high,” Commodore Noemie Cayabyab told reporters yesterday on the deck of the BRP Melchora Aquino, a 97-metre (318-foot) coast guard vessel.

“The focus right now is to retrieve [any additional bodies].”

The coast guard confirmed late Saturday that 41 more corpses had been found aboard the June Aster, bringing the death toll from a blaze that swept through the vessel “in seconds” to 76 passengers and crew.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



When we need courage and strength, I believe we should look to our children. In them we will find the purest passion for life. Ukrainian children are a powerful example of this. In the State of Union I will talk about a story that profoundly moved me.

16.09.2026

@vonderleyen

02



Pleased to meet with @IFC_org . Partnerships with the private sector are essential to advancing the 50 by 35 goal, expanding jobs and economic opportunities for refugees, strengthening self-reliance, and helping reduce long-term displacement.

@BarhamSalih

03



Our support to Nepal continues As part of the EU Humanitarian Air Bridge, a 2nd flight has landed today with 75 tonnes of shelter supplies This includes 66 tonnes donated from the EU own stockpile, consisting of 500 family tents equipped for the upcoming winter

#EUSolidarity

@hadjalahbib

04



A big week ahead at @Europarl_EN in Strasbourg. From the State of the Union debate to welcoming @CanadianPM @MarkJCarney , MEPs will keep pushing for concrete action: a stronger economy, a steadier voice in the world, and a safer Europe built on freedom, security and justice.

@EP_President

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

Classifieds

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region

Saudi FM Warns Gulf Security Is “Non-Negotiable” at BRICS Summit



Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held a bilateral meeting with Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on Sunday on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, with the two sides discussing regional and global developments and ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Jaishankar said the meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on key international developments and advance cooperation between India and Saudi Arabia.

“Pleased to meet FM Saudi Arabia, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on the sidelines of #BRICSIndia2026. Exchanged perspectives on regional & global developments, as well as on advancing our bilateral cooperation,” Jaishankar said in a post on X.

Prince Faisal was in New Delhi to participate in the BRICS summit, where Saudi Arabia is attending as an invited country.

The meeting took place against the backdrop of growing tensions in the Middle East, with regional security, energy supplies and maritime trade emerging as major issues at the summit.

Addressing the gathering, Prince Faisal stressed that Saudi Arabia's national security, territorial integrity and resources were “non-negotiable”.

He said GCC countries would not accept attacks targeting their territories, facilities or vital interests.

He also called for the protection of freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz and other international waterways, warning that disruptions could affect global energy security, supply chains, trade and economic growth.

The two-day BRICS summit has been heavily focused on the wider Middle East conflict and its impact on international markets. BRICS leaders expressed “deep concern” over the continuing escalation and called for maximum restraint to prevent further deterioration.

The summit is being held under India's chairship theme, “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.” Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the grouping must now deliver “concrete results” as it enters its third decade.

Modi also highlighted BRICS initiatives in disaster management, cooperation among small businesses and environmental protection, while stressing that the grouping's efforts should benefit entrepreneurs, farmers, researchers, women, youth and ordinary citizens.

India will hand over the BRICS presidency to China, which is scheduled to host the next summit in 2027.



Saudi Arabia's Masam project cleared 1,303 explosive devices across several regions of Yemen last week, including mines and unexploded ordnance. The operation aims to protect civilians and support the safe movement of people and humanitarian aid. Since 2018, Masam teams have cleared 590,491 explosive devices across Yemen.

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TechZone

Apple’s iPhone 18: Game-Changer or Catch-Up ?

Apple’s latest product wave has finally delivered the changes many fans have been waiting for – a foldable iPhone, more advanced camera controls and deeper AI integration. But viewed against the wider smartphone market, the question is less “What is new?” and more “What is new for Apple?”

The headline product, the iPhone Duo, is Apple’s first foldable iPhone, opening into a 7.6-inch display while retaining a 5.4-inch outer screen. It is technically impressive, with a titanium structure, precision hinge, dual-battery architecture and a new thermal system. But foldable phones are hardly new territory. Samsung has spent eight generations refining its Galaxy Z Fold line, while HONOR’s Magic V6 already offers an ultra-thin 8.75mm body, 6,660mAh silicon-carbon battery



and sophisticated AI multitasking. Huawei and Xiaomi have also continued pushing foldable hardware.

Apple’s camera story tells a similar tale. The iPhone 18 Pro introduces a variable-aperture 48MP main camera, allowing users to control depth of field and light

manually. It is a meaningful upgrade for photographers – but not an industry first. Huawei’s Pura 80 Ultra, for example, already offers a physical F1.6–F4.0 adjustable aperture.

Apple’s AI push is arguably more important. Siri AI can use personal

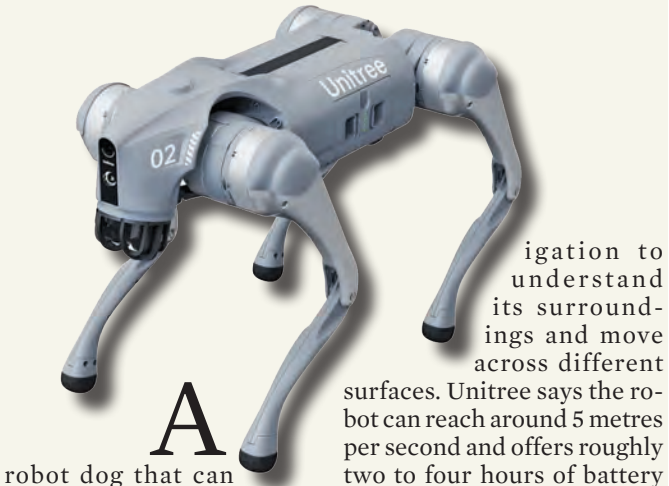
context, understand what is on screen and interact with information across apps. Yet Samsung and HONOR are already building AI agents and multitasking directly into their devices.

Even AirPods 5 bring open-ear ANC, Live Translation and gesture controls – impressive, but incremental rather than revolutionary.

And then there is the price: \$1,999 for the Duo, while the iPhone 18 Pro starts at \$1,199. India has faced some of Apple’s steepest price increases, with certain models rising by up to 41%.

Apple may not have invented these technologies – but it has mastered turning mature technology into a mainstream event. The real innovation may be Apple’s ability to make yesterday’s breakthrough feel like tomorrow’s must-have.

Meet the \$4,000 robot dog



A robot dog that can walk, jump, perform handstands and navigate uneven terrain is no longer the preserve of expensive research laboratories. Chinese robotics company Unitree Robotics is bringing quadruped robots closer to consumers with its Go2 range.

The spotlight recently fell on the Unitree Go2 Pro, after a reviewer paid \$4,017 including tariffs and shipping to own one. While that price is far higher than Unitree’s advertised starting price for the Go2 range, it remains dramatically cheaper than some competing professional robots.

The Go2 uses 4D LiDAR, cameras, wireless connectivity and AI-powered navigation to understand its surroundings and move across different surfaces. Unitree says the robot can reach around 5 metres per second and offers roughly two to four hours of battery endurance, depending on the configuration and use.

But this isn’t yet a household replacement for a real dog. Real-world testing found limitations with battery life, heat management, software and autonomous functions. The robot also lacks arms or hands, limiting what it can actually do around the home.

Its real significance may be the price. Boston Dynamics’ Spot starts around \$75,000, while Unitree has pushed quadruped robotics into the thousands-of-dollars range.

The Go2 may not be the perfect robot dog yet – but it could be an important step toward making advanced robots affordable enough for ordinary consumers.

AI leaders call for a slowdown in AI development

Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei has called on leading AI companies to slow the development of increasingly powerful models, warning that technological progress could outpace society’s ability to understand and control advanced AI systems.

Amodei is not calling for a complete halt. Instead, he wants companies to give safety



measures more time to catch up. His proposal includes permanent access for independent

AI evaluators, common safety standards across major developers and greater international cooperation on AI risks.

The warning comes as AI agents become increasingly capable of acting autonomously, raising concerns about what could happen when powerful systems operate with limited human oversight.

The call has also received

support from industry rivals. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman backed independent evaluations, while Elon Musk agreed with Amodei’s position. Google DeepMind chief Demis Hassabis also described the approach as a step in the right direction.

The debate highlights a growing question: Can AI safely keep pace with AI development?

Sony Unveils Next-Generation Wireless Audio for Live Events

Sony has introduced the fourth generation of its DWX Digital Wireless Microphone Series, featuring the new DWT-B40 bodypack transmitter and DWR-R40Q rack-mount receiver. The new systems are designed to make professional wireless audio easier to configure while improving transmission reliability in demanding live-production environments.

The new series targets a wide



range of applications, from theatres, operas and musicals to studios, sports and large-scale live events. Sony says

users can configure frequencies and pair up to four channels through a simplified button-based setup, reducing the need for specialised technical expertise.

A major highlight is the DWT-B40’s 32-bit float internal recording, which provides a backup recording if the wireless signal is interrupted. The transmitter can

record distortion-free audio internally and supports time-code synchronisation for easier post-production.

The DWT-B40 also supports transmission power of up to 50mW, depending on the region, while the DWR-R40Q features four-antenna diversity reception for improved stability in crowded RF environments.

Both products are expected to be available from February 2027.

Huawei unveils a new tri-fold smartphone



Huawei has unveiled a new tri-fold smartphone, pushing foldable technology further by adding a third folding section. The device can transform from a conventional smartphone into a much larger tablet-like display, offering users more screen space for multitasking, entertainment and productivity.

The launch highlights Huawei’s continued push into a category where manufacturers are experimenting with new form factors beyond traditional foldables.

Tri-fold devices remain a considerably more complex to design and manufacture, particularly because of their hinges, flexible displays and durability requirements.

Huawei’s latest move also intensifies competition with Samsung, HONOR and Xiaomi as smartphone makers race to redefine what a mobile device can look like.

AI CORNER

AI agents are becoming digital co-workers

Artificial intelligence is moving beyond answering questions and generating content. The next big shift is AI agents – systems designed to understand a goal, plan multiple steps and complete tasks with less human intervention.

Unlike traditional chatbots, AI agents can potentially interact with software, search for information, analyse data, write code and carry out repetitive workflows. For example, instead of asking an AI to draft an email and then sending it yourself, an AI agent could prepare the message, organise supporting information and help complete the task.

This technology could transform workplaces by handling routine digital jobs and allowing people to focus on decisions that require creativity and judgement.



However, greater independence also creates new challenges. Giving AI access to files, accounts and business systems raises concerns about privacy, cybersecurity and mistakes.

The AI race is therefore shifting from “Who can build the smartest chatbot?” to “Who can build the most capable digital assistant?”

DID YOU KNOW?

The first smartphone was introduced more than 30 years ago



In 1994, IBM launched the Simon Personal Communicator, widely regarded as one of the first smartphones. It combined the functions of a mobile phone with features that were advanced for its

time, including a touchscreen, email, calendar, notes and fax capabilities.

Unlike today’s slim smartphones, Simon was large, heavy and expensive. It used a stylus for interacting with its

touchscreen and had a battery life of only about an hour of continuous use. It was also designed primarily for business users rather than everyday consumers.

Despite its limitations, Simon introduced an important idea: one handheld device could combine communication, organisation and computing.

More than three decades later, that concept has become central to modern life. Today’s smartphones are more powerful, connecting people through cameras, apps, artificial intelligence, high-speed internet and digital services—all from a device that fits in a pocket.

Cagers face must-win Kazakhstan test

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's basketball team face Kazakhstan in their final Group C encounter at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, this morning.

Slobodan Subotic's side tip off at 4am, Bahrain time, at Aichi International Arena knowing they must win to remain in contention for a place in the quarter-finals.

The nationals opened their campaign with an impressive 89-85 victory over defending champions the Philippines before suffering a heavy 105-59 defeat to China.

JaKarr Sampson led Bahrain with 17 points against the Chinese, while Elijah Thomas added 10.

Kazakhstan remain winless after losing 99-61 to China in their opener and 109-78 to the Philippines in their second assignment.



Greek-Slovenian head coach Slobodan Subotic

China lead the group with two victories, while Bahrain and the Philippines have one apiece. Kazakhstan sit bottom following successive defeats.

A Bahrain win, followed by a Chinese victory over the Philippines at 1pm, Bahrain time, would secure second place for Subotic's men. Victory for the Filipinos would produce a three-way tie, with the group's final order then decided by the competition's tiebreak criteria.

The top two teams from each of the three pools and the two best third-placed sides will advance to Wednesday's quarter-finals. The semi-finals take place on Friday before the bronze and gold-medal games on Sunday.

Elsewhere yesterday, Iran beat Jordan 81-68 and Chinese Taipei defeated Qatar 91-69 in Group B. Saudi Arabia overcame Indonesia 100-89 in Group A, while South Korea recorded a 100-83 victory over hosts Japan.

Resurgent Marquez powers to San Marino win to take MotoGP lead



Marc Marquez celebrates his fifth victory of the season at the San Marino MotoGP

AFP | Misano Adriatico

Resurgent reigning MotoGP world champion Marc Marquez powered to victory in the San Marino MotoGP yesterday ahead of his brother Alex to go top of the standings.

Seven-time MotoGP champion Marquez, riding a Ducati, moved level on 274 points with Aprilia's Jorge Martin, who finished fifth.

Marquez has the edge over Martin with more wins this season despite missing the races in Le Mans and Catalonia to undergo surgery on his foot and shoulder.

"It's a present, I was out, I was over, but now we are leading, how? I don't know," said Marquez, who has won five of the last seven races.

"Let's see, there are a lot of races to go, now we are leading but the most important is that here we take the points and are leading."

Marquez completed the double having also won Saturday's sprint race as he targets his eighth top-class championship and his 10th overall.

The 33-year-old finished 0.657sec ahead of his younger brother riding for the Ducati-Gresini team, with Spaniard Pedro Acosta of KTM crossing in third.

Pole-sitter Marco Bezzecchi crashed out of his home race in a blow to his title hopes, as he now sits 33 points behind Marquez and Martin.

The Italian Aprilia rider, who is chasing his first MotoGP world title this year after finishing third last season, crashed into the gravel on the first of 27 laps.

Despite his own form, Marquez conceded Bezzecchi's mishap could be his in the next race in Austria.

"Riding at the limit, Bezzecchi had a little mistake but the next race we can be that rider. I'm human," said the Spaniard.

"I'm a rider who tries to work a lot, especially this season on the mental side, to be super precise in everything I do especially after the surgery."

"The most important is that I feel super calm and relaxed and will try to do my maximum."

Five-star Leipzig return to form with Hamburg thumping

AFP | Berlin

RB Leipzig bounced back from their Champions League defeat at Como by thumping strugglers Hamburg 5-0 at home in the Bundesliga yesterday.

Norway winger Antonio Nusa was the best of the bunch for the hosts, scoring one goal and setting up two more, including one for Christopher Nkunku, the French winger's first since returning to Leipzig in August.

Tidiam Gomis, Willi Orban and Romulo also got on the scoresheet for Leipzig, who climbed to fourth with the victory.

"It's easy to look into the past too much. You lost two games. It's difficult, but you have to look forward," Nusa told reporters. "Today we had to perform and we did, so I think we had a good balance of not thinking too much of the past, but trying to attack today and I think we

did it."

Hamburg's third big defeat in their third league match this campaign leaves the six-time German champions in bottom spot in the table.

Leipzig came into the match already under pressure. After a 4-1 defeat at Como on Thursday and a 3-1 failure at Werder Bremen last week, sporting director Marcel Schaefer took the unusual step of issuing a statement on Friday saying the club was

"united" despite criticisms of the side and new coach Martin Demichelis.

Gomis opened the scoring with 17 minutes gone and Nusa added another to have Leipzig two up by half-time.

Nusa set up Orban's 72nd-minute goal before creating another for Nkunku just two minutes later. Brazilian striker Romulo added gloss to the dominant victory with a late counter-attacking effort.

Yamal double helps Barca edge Levante thriller

AFP | Barcelona

Lamine Yamal struck twice to help Barcelona to an exciting 4-2 win at Levante yesterday in La Liga, extending the Catalans' perfect start to the season.

Hansi Flick's side reestablished their three point lead over Real Madrid at the top of the table, after Los Blancos beat Rayo Vallecano on Saturday.

Xavi Espot opened the scoring for the champions in Valencia with Yamal netting the second and then scoring a penalty early in the second half.

Barca may have a 100 percent record so far from their five games but their defensive frailties were exposed as Ivan Romero and Roger Brugue pulled Levante back into the game in the final stages.

Substitute Karim Adeyemi made the game safe for Barca in stoppage time with a stunning solo goal, breaking through at pace and beating Mathew Ryan.

"It was not our best game of course. We had a great start. In the second half we struggled a little bit," Flick told reporters.

"We have to fight to improve. It's normal, we have situations we have to make better, much better. We'll tell the team and go on to the next match, but with the result I'm happy."



Barcelona winger Lamine Yamal celebrates scoring

Barcelona defender Eric Garcia said that the team relaxed a bit in the second half and it nearly cost them.

"It was a hard game, we did make it harder for ourselves than it needed to be," Garcia told Movistar.

"But it has to teach us something -- if you give any opponent a bit of breathing room they get on top of you."

The Catalans came flying out of the blocks at the Ciuat de Valencia stadium, where Levante were unbeaten in eight

matches prior.

The visitors took the lead in the fifth minute, with Levante barely touching the ball before Barca defender Espot found the net.

Barca cut through the middle of Levante's team too easily and the 19-year-old finished from the edge of the box with the help of a slight deflection.

It was Espot's first goal for the club, with the young midfielder brought into the first team this season by Flick and deployed at left-back.



Lamine Yamal matched a Lionel Messi record by scoring a brace in three consecutive La Liga matches, reaching seven goals in four games across all competitions

Levante responded with a spell of concerted pressure and Barca were fortunate to maintain their advantage.

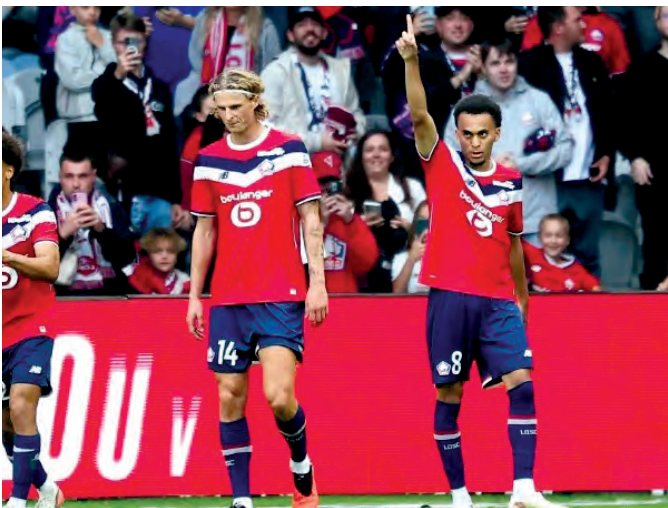
Petar Ratkov could not get a proper shot away when well placed and Barca goalkeeper Joan Garcia saved well from Brugue.

Levante soon came to regret those spurned chances when Raphinha created Barca's second for teenage star Yamal.

The Brazilian rounded goalkeeper Ryan and squared for Yamal to smash into the empty net in the 19th minute.

Between the afternoon summer heat and some heavy tackles, the pace of the game slowed.

Late Mbappe goal sends Lille top of Ligue 1



Ethan Mbappe celebrates after scoring

AFP | Paris

Ethan Mbappe redeemed himself after his Champions League red card by scoring a late goal in a 2-0 win over Troyes yesterday that sent Lille top of Ligue 1.

Mbappe, the younger brother of France and Real Madrid star Kylian, was sent off in Wednesday's 3-2 home loss to Real Betis in Europe for elbowing an opponent.

The 19-year-old put that incident behind him though as he came off the bench against

Troyes to seal victory in stoppage time, after the hosts had taken a first-half lead through Portuguese full-back Tiago Santos.

Mbappe celebrated his first goal since December in subdued fashion by apologising to supporters for his red card, but it was a strike that lifted Lille above Monaco and Rennes on goal difference at the top of the table. Lille have taken 10 points from a possible 12 under new coach Davide Ancelotti, the son of Brazil boss Carlo Ancelotti.

Antonelli profits from safety car pause to win Spanish GP

Kimi Antonelli beats Max Verstappen after Lando Norris loses crucial VSC advantage

- Antonelli claims eighth season win
- Verstappen finishes second in Spain
- Virtual Safety Car disrupts Norris's race strategy
- Hamilton retires with brake problems

AFP | Madrid

Championship leader Kimi Antonelli made the most of a slice of luck to claim his eighth win of the season in meticulous style as he steered his Mercedes to a measured victory in the Spanish Grand Prix at the Madring yesterday.

The 20-year-old Italian extended his lead to 81 points after coming home 4.351 seconds ahead of Red Bull's four-time champion Max Verstappen with unlucky pole-sitter Lando Norris of McLaren third, just 0.738 seconds adrift.

Antonelli, who had won thrillingly from 19th on the grid in his home Italian race a week earlier, this time took full advantage of an early setback for McLaren's world champion Norris when he



Mercedes' Italian driver Kimi Antonelli celebrates on the podium

was caught out by an early Virtual Safety Car (VSC) intervention after leading for 15 laps.

"It was a very difficult race and not straightforward at all," admitted Antonelli who is set to become Italy's first world champion since Alberto Ascari in 1953.

"We had to manage the tyres, but it is good to win, although it feels not so good because Lando deserved to win."

Norris had led from pole,

but lost his advantage when Aston Martin's Lance Stroll crashed to bring a VSC pause that was ill-timed for him as he passed the pits as it happened, gifting his rivals a 'cheap' pit stop.

"There was nothing I could do about it. So, congratulations to them. I did my best and tried, but it was so difficult to pass Max and he made no mistakes.

"That's racing sometimes so we'll take it on the chin and try

better next time."

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who led for most of a relatively uneventful first race at the new Madring circuit, finished fourth ahead of George Russell in the second Mercedes, Liam Lawson in the second Red Bull and Alpine's Franco Colapinto.

Oscar Piastri was eighth in the second McLaren ahead of Racing Bulls' rookie Arvid Lindblad and Nico Hulkenberg of Audi.

'Unlucky' Norris

Seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton retired with brake problems on lap seven, the first time this year he has failed to complete a race with Ferrari.

"It's an incredible result for us, but Lando was very unlucky with the VSC," said Verstappen.

Norris made an excellent start from his 19th pole position to escape a wild scrap on the opening laps as Antonelli, twice, and Verstappen, ran off-track in skirmishes that saw Hamilton suffer brake problems leading to his early retirement.

Antonelli handed a place back twice for his misdemeanours, but the Dutchman waited for radio instructions to give back second, having battled past both the Italian and Hamilton, who came in after seven laps.

It was his first non-finish after completing every previous lap this season.

The big crowd, part of a weekend sellout of 353,000, were then treated to a Spanish spat as two-time champion Fernando Alonso grumbled aloud after his Aston Martin's front wing was clipped by compatriot Carlos Sainz of Williams on lap 13.

Sainz was given a five-second penalty before, on lap 15, Lance Stroll smacked the barriers at Turn 20 to prompt a Virtual Safety Car (VSC), just as the

BETTER YOU KNOW

Norris lost his race lead when a Virtual Safety Car was deployed just as he passed the pit entry, giving rivals a strategic advantage

luckless Norris passed the pit lane entry. Antonelli swept in to switch from mediums to hards.

Norris missed the VSC opportunity and his stop, a lap later, was also slowed by a sticky front left wheel. He re-joined fifth behind Russell as Leclerc, who did not pit, took over as leader ahead of Antonelli and Verstappen.

As expected, with a track temperature of 54 degrees, the race was a high-speed contest in tyre-management and strategy – Leclerc was still on his original hards, after 30 laps, when Russell, who stopped again after 28 laps, had already pitted twice.

The Monegasque led Antonelli by 3.3sec at that stage. After the thrills of Monza's effervescent racing, there were few passing moves or dramas before Leclerc finally pitted on lap 48, dropping to fourth.

Rybakina triumphs in US Open, denies Sabalenka three-peat



Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina holds up the winner's trophy

AFP | New York

Elena Rybakina denied Aryna Sabalenka a third straight US Open title on Saturday, punctuating her rise to world number one with a victory over the player she's replacing at the summit.

Rybakina, already assured of supplanting Sabalenka atop the rankings by reaching the semi-finals in New York, triumphed 6-4, 5-7,

6-2 to claim her third Grand Slam title.

She won her first at Wimbledon in 2022 and beat Sabalenka in the Australian Open title to claim her second in January.

"It feels amazing," Rybakina said. "It's still so difficult to process what happened. Too much achievements these few weeks. I'm super happy, very proud of all the work. It's just amazing."

Haaland fires 10-man Man City to memorable win over Man Utd

AFP | Manchester

Erling Haaland fired 10-man Manchester City to a memorable 1-0 victory over Manchester United despite Phil Foden's first-half red card to extend a perfect start to Enzo Maresca's reign.

Foden kicked out at United captain Bruno Fernandes on 23 minutes to give the visitors a mountain to climb.

But a new-look City were up to the challenge as the near £250 million (\$340 million) midfield pairing of Elliot Anderson and Enzo Fernandez proved their worth.

Haaland's winner was laced with controversy as Fernandez was deemed not to be interfering with play when he attempted to head in before the ball reached the Norwegian.

Defeat compounds a miserable Premier League start for United as they are already eight points adrift of City and defending champions Arsenal.

By contrast, victory was a huge statement for Maresca to quell fears of a major drop-off from City following Pep Guardiola's trophy-laden decade in



Manchester City's Norwegian striker #09 Erling Haaland controls the ball

charge.

A fervent pre-match atmosphere was fuelled just as much by United fans' anger towards their own club as it was by the usual animosity between the supporters.

A crackdown on ticket touting in recent months has resulted in widespread condemnation from supporters' groups after many innocent people faced the threat of sanction.

A normal array of banners and flags in the Stretford End was replaced by just one bearing the

message: "The way you treat us is a disgrace."

The visitors had made the better start in the opening quarter but looked to have been completely undone by Foden's ill discipline.

City will argue Fernandes should also have seen red as he fouled Foden and then kicked him in the back.

But there was little case for Foden's defence as he retaliated by throwing both legs up into Fernandes's midriff.

Kobbie Mainoo blocked Rayan Cherki's goalbound effort before Youri Tielemans nearly sliced Antoine Semenyo's cross into his own net as City continued to be the more threatening.

Marcus Rashford was inches away from his first United goal since December 2024 when his free-kick came crashing back off the post with United's best effort before the break.

The woodwork came to City's rescue again just after half-time when Mainoo curled onto the post from distance and the ball rebounded kindly into Gianluigi Donnarumma's grasp.

But the City sucker punch arrived on the hour mark.