

Diplomacy Under Pressure

UN chief condemns Israeli strikes at a "crucial moment" in peace efforts, urging restraint as diplomacy faces renewed strain and tensions escalate across the region. | **P8-9**

US Navy Helicopter Rescues 14 Indian Mariners in Arabian Sea

THE DAILY **tribune**



"First Ferrari win marks turning point," says Hamilton after Barcelona victory

Seef Mall redevelopment moves ahead with new construction deal

Midday Outdoor Work Ban Takes Effect Today



Annual mid-day outdoor work ban comes into effect today, prohibiting work under direct sunlight from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM daily until August 31, as part of measures to protect workers from extreme heat.

Authorities have warned that violations will result in strict penalties. Offending employers may face imprisonment of up to three months, fines ranging between BD 500 and BD 1,000 per affected worker, and harsher consequences for repeat offences, including doubled fines and possible temporary suspension of operations.

220 fils (includes VAT)



Major Reform Laws Ratified

- **Bahrain–Saudi double taxation agreement officially ratified**
- **New legal profession framework introduced in the Kingdom**
- **Stronger consumer protection and market oversight measures approved**
- **Amendments to healthcare, industrial zones, and public procurement laws**



atives, covering taxation, legal regulation, consumer protection, healthcare, infrastructure, and environmental commitments.

Among the most significant measures, His Majesty issued Law (32) of 2026, approving the agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to avoid double taxation on income and prevent tax evasion.

In the legal sector, Law (24) of 2026 establishes a comprehensive new regulatory framework for the legal profession, replacing existing legislation governing legal practice in the Kingdom.

Law (29) of 2026 Strengthens agricultural drainage regulations, enforcement, and penalties to protect farmland and infrastructure.

Law (31) of 2026 Updates civil and commercial execution procedures; effective six months after publication.

Law (33) of 2026 Approves Bahrain's accession to MARPOL Annex VI to curb ship emissions and marine pollution.

to enhance public procurement governance.

On social and professional regulation, Law (26) of 2026 amends provisions of the law governing the practice of human medicine and dentistry, while Law (27) of 2026 strengthens penalties related to allied health professions practiced by non-physicians and non-pharmacists.

Consumer protection reforms were introduced under Law (28) of 2026, which significantly strengthens enforcement mechanisms, expands administrative penalties for violations, regulates promotional campaigns and discounts, and enhances consumer rights and supplier obligations, including contracts, warranties, and service delivery standards.

All laws will be implemented by the Prime Minister and ministers, each within their respective authority, and will come into force according to the timelines specified in each law upon publication in the Official Gazette.

ISSE Opens in Bahrain



The International Sports and Security Exhibition (ISSE) opens today at Exhibition World Bahrain, held under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The three-day event, running until June 17, is organised by the General Sports Authority in cooperation with the Bahrain Shooting Federation and supervised by Diplomatic Protocol Communications. It marks the second edition of the exhibition.

This year's edition will showcase the latest AI-powered defence and security solutions, including autonomous systems, robotics, drone technology, and counter-drone systems designed to enhance facility protection and airspace management.



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HRH Crown Prince Reaffirms Support for Legal Profession



Bahrain Bar Society thanks leadership for continued support

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, met with Salah Ahmed Al Midfa, Chairman of the Bahrain Bar Society, and members of its Board of Directors, at Gudaibiya Palace.

During the meeting, the Crown Prince underscored the continued and unwavering support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for Bahrain's national workforce. He noted that the expertise, professionalism, and dedication of Bahraini talent remain key drivers of the Kingdom's ongoing development across all sectors of the economy.

He also highlighted the important role of the Bahrain Bar Society in strengthening and advancing the legal profession in the Kingdom, congratulating the

newly elected Board of Directors and wishing them success in supporting Bahrain's national aspirations.

On the occasion of Bahraini Lawyers' Day, observed annually on June 15, the Crown Prince expressed appreciation to all Bahraini lawyers. He commended their vital contribution to upholding justice, reinforcing the rule of law, protecting rights and interests, and strengthening public confidence in Bahrain's judiciary. He also praised their professionalism and role in supporting the Kingdom's comprehensive development.

For his part, the Chairman of the Bahrain Bar Society expressed gratitude for the leadership's continued commitment to supporting the legal profession and strengthening national legal competencies.

The meeting was attended by senior officials, including Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Yousif bin Abdulhussain Khalaf, and Nawaf bin Mohammed Al Maawda.

New Advocacy Law Strengthens Justice System

Legislation aligns with Bahrain's legal modernisation drive and Economic Vision 2030

● Boosts professional development

● Raises quality of legal services

● Promotes integrity and professionalism

● Balances independence and regulation.

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

The Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee of the Shura Council has welcomed the ratification of Law No. (24) of 2026 on the legal profession by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, describing it as a significant milestone in Bahrain's ongoing legal modernisation efforts.

The committee, chaired by lawyer Dalal Jassim Al Zayed, said the new law reflects the Kingdom's commitment to continuously updating legislation governing vital professions and sectors to ensure they remain

effective and responsive to both national and international developments.

According to the committee, the new Advocacy Law is one of the key legislative measures supporting the administration of justice, safeguarding the right to legal defence and enhancing the quality of legal services in Bahrain. The legislation is also aligned with the Kingdom's broader legislative development agenda and the goals of Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.

The committee noted that the law's issuance coincides with Bahraini Lawyer's Day, observed annually on June 15, carrying important national and professional significance. It said the timing reflects the high regard accorded to the legal profession as a cornerstone of the judiciary and a key pillar in protecting rights, freedoms and the rule of law.

The committee explained that the new law addresses a long-standing legislative need, coming more than four decades after the enactment of the previous law. During that period, the legal profession witnessed substantial developments across legal, judicial and economic sectors, creating a need for a modern



Law Enhances Legal Quality

- Builds skilled national legal talent
- Strengthens judicial efficiency
- Modernises Bahrain's legal framework
- Advances the legal profession
- Reinforces the rule of law
- Supports Bahrain Vision 2030 goals
- Positions Bahrain as a regional legal leader

legislative framework that aligns with contemporary best practices and strengthens the profession's national role.

It added that the legislation represents a successful model of cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities and relevant professional bodies. The bill underwent extensive review by the Shura Council's Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee, including a comprehensive examination of its provisions, comparative legislative studies and consultations with concerned stakeholders.

SCIA Reaffirms Commitment to Strengthening Islamic Affairs

Council emphasizes social cohesion, legal compliance, and religious values

The Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (SCIA) convened its first regular meeting of its sixth term, chaired by Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Council.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Chairman and members expressed their gratitude to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for issuing Order (21) of 2026, which restructured the Council. They reaffirmed their commitment to continuing the development of the Council's mission and strengthening its role in serving Islamic affairs in the Kingdom.

The Council extended its congratulations to His Majesty the King, to His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the Royal Family, the Government, the people of Bahrain, and the wider Islamic world on the occasion of the approaching Hijri New Year 1448 AH.

Members praised Bahrain's ongoing support for religious observances, particularly the Ashoora season, highlighting



the coordinated national efforts led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa to ensure its successful organisation. The Council also

urged scholars and officials of ma'atems and hussainiyas to preserve the religious spirit of the occasion, maintain social harmony, and comply with relevant laws and regulations.

The Council further congratulated Bahraini pilgrims on the safe completion of Hajj and their return home, while commending the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its efforts in facilitating and successfully managing this year's pilgrimage season.

Housing Finance Partnership Explored

Jordan Housing Bank praises Bahrain's innovative housing financing solutions



Housing and Urban Planning Minister Amna bint Ahmed Al Romaihi met with Ammar Al Safadi, Chief Executive Officer of the Housing Bank for Trade and Finance of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, to discuss enhancing bilateral cooperation and exchanging expertise in housing finance.

During the meeting, Al Romaihi highlighted Bahrain's experience implementing housing finance programmes, which have significantly accelerated citizens' access to housing services. She also outlined the Kingdom's efforts to develop innovative financing solutions that support the housing sector and meet the aspirations of Bahraini families.

The two sides reviewed best practices adopted in Bahrain and Jordan to support the housing sector through strategic partnerships, stressing the importance of collaboration in achieving sustainable development goals and expanding access to housing opportunities.

For his part, Al Safadi praised Bahrain's housing model and

“Bahrain remains committed to developing innovative housing finance solutions and strengthening regional partnerships. Exchanging expertise with Jordan will help expand housing opportunities and enhance services for citizens in both countries.”

AMNA BINT AHMED AL ROMAHI

the innovative financing solutions offered by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning. He expressed the bank's interest in strengthening cooperation and exchanging expertise and knowledge in housing and financial services.

He noted that closer collaboration between the two sides would contribute to enhancing services provided to citizens and supporting ongoing development efforts in both countries.

Bahrain official joins China Media Group Forum on AI

Forum examines digital transformation and content production in the AI era

Islam Ahmed Abduljabbar, Director General of the Global Communication Office at the National Communication Centre (NCC), participated in the 5th China Media Group Forum held in China.

The forum, jointly organised by China Media Group and the municipal authorities of Chongqing, brought together more than 300 government officials, media professionals, and representatives of international organisations. Discussions focused on the future of media and communications in the age of artificial intelligence, as well as strengthening cooperation among Global South countries.

Abduljabbar took part in the forum's second and closing panel session titled “Reshaping



Inclusion, Equity and Justice: Envisioning the AI Wave from a Global South Cooperation Perspective.” She highlighted the commitment of Bahrain to leveraging artificial intelligence to

support development across key sectors and enhance national competitiveness.

She also outlined the ongoing transformation within Bahrain's government communica-

tions sector, noting efforts to convert the challenges of AI adoption into opportunities for innovation and continuous improvement. She stressed the importance of maximising the impact of emerging technologies on media and communications strategies.

The forum featured a series of panel discussions and side events that provided participants with a platform to exchange expertise and explore international best practices in media. Key themes included digital transformation and the use of AI in content production, with a broader aim of improving media performance standards and shaping the future direction of the industry.

King's Gratitude Letter Displayed at National Museum

Document reflects strong bond between leadership and citizens



The Bahrain National Museum is hosting a "Document of Thanks and Gratitude," issued by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, along with his sons, addressed to the citizens of the Kingdom in recognition of their national loyalty and unity.

The document expresses appreciation for the honorable patriotic stances of Bahraini citizens and their deep sense of belonging, loyalty, and devotion to the nation.

On this occasion, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, stated that the initiative reflects His Majesty the King's wise approach to valuing the patriotic stances of the Bahraini people, particularly during recent hostile developments. He said these de-

velopments highlighted society's authenticity and strong national affiliation.

He added that the document embodies mutual loyalty between leadership and citizens and records a significant chapter of national cohesion that has consistently formed a cornerstone of Bahrain's progress. He further noted that displaying the document at the Bahrain National Museum aligns with its mission to preserve national memory and safeguard historical milestones for present and future generations.

Visitors to the museum can view the document and read its message of appreciation, which highlights the King's gratitude toward citizens and his commitment to strengthening national unity.

How Did Bahrainis Once Escape the Summer Heat?

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Before air conditioning changed daily life, many Bahrainis had a seasonal way of escaping the summer heat.

Bahraini heritage enthusiast Hasan Al Majed recalled the story of Al Madha'en Al Saifiya, or summer settlements, describing them as temporary Bahraini towns that once came to life during the hottest months of the year.

According to Al Majed, families moved to these seasonal settlements to escape the coast's heat and humidity.

They were usually located in cooler areas near springs and fresh water, where palm trees, shade and open spaces created a more comfortable environment.

He said the settlements were not merely places to sleep, but complete seasonal communities where families lived, worked, cooked, socialised and adapted to nature.

Temporary homes and kitchens were set up, while small markets, gathering spaces, livestock areas, palm farming and date production formed part of daily life.



Hasan Al Majed, Bahraini heritage enthusiast

Children played outdoors, families held evening gatherings, and traditional activities such as storytelling, poetry and folk games continued late into the night.

Al Majed pointed to several reasons behind the disappearance of these summer settlements, including air conditioning, electricity, modern water networks, urban expansion and improved transport.

With air conditioning, homes became more bearable during summer, reducing the need to move away from the coast.

Electricity changed the rhythm of daily life, and modern water networks reduced reliance on springs and natural water



Summer settlements in Arad in the 1960s

sources.

Urban growth also reduced the agricultural spaces that once suited such seasonal settlements, while easier transport made daily movement between inland and coastal areas more practical.

Al Majed said the summer settlements were more than temporary shelters.

They reflected a way of life shaped by Bahrainis' understanding of the seasons, the en-

vironment and community ties.

He described them as a smart response to harsh weather before modern technology, showing how earlier generations adapted to summer through planning, co-operation and a close connection to nature.

Their story remains a reminder of a Bahrain where entire seasonal communities appeared with the summer, then slowly faded as modern life took hold.

Man admits posting animal abuse for views

Investigation launched following a complaint by an animal welfare group

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A man in his twenties has been remanded in custody for seven days after admitting he filmed and posted acts of animal abuse online in a bid to gain views and fame, the Public Prosecution said.

The prosecution said it received a report from the Northern Governorate Police Directorate after Mahmood Faraj, chairman of the Bahrain Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, complained about videos posted on an account on a social media app.

Police inquiries led to the account holder being identified and arrested. The Public Prosecution opened an inquiry,



Mahmood Faraj, chairman of the Bahrain Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

questioned the suspect and presented the evidence.

He admitted the allegations, saying he carried out the acts to draw more views and win fame through his online account, the prosecution said.

He has been held for seven days pending further inquiries



A snapshot from the video is circulating on social media

before being sent to criminal court.

The videos reportedly show the same man mistreating animals. One clip showed him holding a cat by the neck before hurling it at a parked car in a public place while laughing. Another video shared online showed him chasing a dog with

his car at speed.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Mr Faraj said he filed the complaint at Hidd police station and that the authorities took the necessary legal steps before the suspect was brought before the Public Prosecution.

He condemned the acts, saying they went against the teachings of Islam and human values.

The clips drew anger from animal welfare supporters, with complaints sent to the society over what was described as repeated cruel treatment of animals.

Mr Faraj said Bahrain's laws ban harming and mistreating animals, and said the society would keep following the case with the authorities to ensure the law is applied.

BD2.700 Egg Prices Spark Inspection Call

Authorities urged to prevent exploitation through stronger oversight

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Sharp variations in egg prices across local shops have triggered calls for stricter inspections of food stores in residential areas, amid growing complaints from residents over rising costs of essential goods.



"Strengthening inspection campaigns across residential markets is essential to stabilise prices, protect consumers and ensure swift action against any violations."

- MOHAMMED SAAD AL DOSERI, NORTHERN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBER



Northern Municipal Council member Mohammed Saad Al Doseri, representing the Third Constituency, has urged the concerned authorities to step up monitoring, particularly in grocery outlets located within residential compounds.

He stressed that these shops are a primary source for families purchasing daily necessities, making regular inspections essential to ensure compliance with regulations and to protect consumers from unfair pricing practices.

Al Doseri pointed to significant discrepancies in egg prices, noting that some shops are selling them at BD2.700 or BD2.200, while others offer the same product for between BD1.500 and BD1.700.

He said this wide gap has raised concerns among consumers and highlighted the need for closer field oversight by regulatory authorities.

He further called for broader checks on similar price differences in eggs and other essential food items to ensure proper pricing standards and to prevent potential exploitation of consumers.

Al Doseri also emphasized the importance of price transparency, urging shops to clearly display prices on all goods available for sale.

In addition, he proposed establishing a 24-hour hotline to receive consumer complaints related to pricing, product quality, and commercial violations, arguing that such a system would enable faster responses and more effective action against offenders.

Waste Recycling Share Falls to 18pc

● Recycling dropped by nearly 100,000 tonnes, reducing the overall share to 18pc

● Landfilled waste rose 8.6pc to more than 1.13 million tonnes

● Household waste remains largest contributor at over 42pc

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

More than four-fifths of Bahrain's collected municipal waste was buried last year, after recycling fell by almost a third despite a small drop in the total amount of rubbish collected, new government figures show.

Municipal waste collected in 2024 stood at 1.405 million tonnes, down from 1.419m tonnes in 2023, a fall of about 1pc.

The drop is sharper against



Abdulqader Al Sayed, Muharraq Municipal Council member

Nature Protection Efforts

- Tree planting, coastal protection, and mangrove planting in Dohat Arad aim to protect natural resources
- Climate change, air and water pollution, plastic waste, and ecosystem damage are major global risks.
- Wider use of circular economy models should focus on reducing waste, reusing materials, and increasing recycling.
- Extreme weather show the need to speed up environmental action and adopt long-term solutions.

2017, when waste topped 2.14m tonnes. Since then, the total has



fallen by about 737,000 tonnes, or nearly 34pc.

Household rubbish remained the largest source. It reached 595,200 tonnes last year, making up above 42pc of all collected waste.

Waste from economic activity rose to 364,200 tonnes, up by above 30pc on the year before. It overtook building waste as the second-largest source of municipal waste.

Building waste fell from about 371,000 tonnes in 2023 to 267,900 tonnes in 2024, a drop of nearly 28pc.

The steepest fall was in recycling.

Recycled waste dropped

from 353,600 tonnes in 2023 to 254,400 tonnes last year, a loss of about 99,000 tonnes in one year. Its share of all collected waste fell from about 25pc to around 18pc.

Landfilled waste moved the other way. It rose to above 1.137m tonnes in 2024, up from about 1.047m tonnes the year before, an increase of 8.6pc.

Muharraq municipal councillor Abdulqader Al Sayed said environmental work could not rest on government schemes alone.

He said it needed public habits built on protecting the environment, cutting waste and using resources with care.

Mr Al Sayed said stronger awareness could help reduce rubbish, support reuse and recycling, and protect public places.

MOI Trains Staff on Smart Border Security

Programme prepares personnel for Bahrain International Airport operations centre



● **Training conducted in partnership with SITA for 39 ministry employees.**

● **Initiative forms part of wider digital transformation efforts at border checkpoints.**

● **New system aims to enhance security while improving traveller experience.**

Bahrain is stepping up preparations for the next phase of smart border management, with 39 Ministry of Interior personnel completing specialised training in advanced passenger data analysis and risk assessment systems powered by artificial intelligence.

The participants, drawn from various departments across the ministry, were honoured by Interior Ministry Undersecretary for Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs, Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, following their successful completion of the fourth edition of the Passenger Data Tracking and Analysis System – Risk

Analysis System programme.

Organised by the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) in partnership with SITA, the training was held from June 8 to 11 and focused on enhancing capabilities in border security, passenger data analysis and the early identification of potential risks. The ceremony was attended by Assistant Undersecretary for Ports, Search and Follow-up Brigadier Abdulaziz Abdulrahman Al Doseri.

Shaikh Hisham said the programme forms part of ongoing efforts to equip ministry personnel with the skills required to operate advanced security technologies and support the

Kingdom's wider digital transformation agenda.

He explained that the initiative aligns with plans to modernise operations at Bahrain's entry points and prepare for the launch of the new operations centre at Bahrain International Airport.

According to the undersecretary, the system will leverage artificial intelligence to analyse passenger information, proactively detect risk indicators, and improve the efficiency and accuracy of border procedures. The technology is also expected to facilitate smoother passenger movement through checkpoints while strengthening security measures.

REHC Sends Bahraini Jockeys for UK Training Programme



The Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC), through its Jockey Support Fund, continues to support the development of Bahraini jockeys by sponsoring an annual training scholarship programme in cooperation with the British Racing School in the United Kingdom.

Mohamed Ahmed Al Na'ma, Director of the Jockey Support Fund, said the programme's third consecutive year in the UK reflects the club's strategy to encourage Bahraini youth participation in horse racing and expand the sport's talent base. He noted that the initiative supports jockeys across different levels, including trainees and emerging riders, through structured development pathways.

The programme is delivered through the "International Future Jockeys Programme" and the newly introduced "International Professionals Pro-

gramme," aimed at enhancing professional standards and competitive performance.

This year's intake includes trainee jockey Hussein Mohammed Saeed and students Ali Mohammed Al-Mutawa, Karar Khalil Ali, and Louay Mohammed under the Future Jockeys Programme, while the Professionals Programme includes Ibrahim Nader, Hussein Asghar, Hassan Asghar, Qassim Jameel, Ahmed Al-Fahd, and Dhia Al-Saadoun.

Participants were selected based on their performance at the Bahrain Jockey Academy between October 2025 and February 2026.

The programme will run in the United Kingdom from 15 June to 25 July 2026, featuring intensive theoretical and practical training at the British Racing School, where participants will train alongside professional jockeys and gain advanced hands-on experience.

Ashoora Campaign to Focus on Cleanliness Around Ma'atams



TDI | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Plans to manage cleanliness, waste removal and public organisation around ma'atams during Ashoora were reviewed at the first coordination meeting held in the Northern Governorate ahead of the "Ashoora Nartaqi 17" campaign.

The meeting brought together Northern Municipality Director-General Mohammed Saad Al Sahli, Northern Municipal Council Chairman Dr Sayed Shubber Ibrahim Al Wadaei and heads of ma'atams in the area.

Discussions focused on keeping areas surrounding ma'atams clean and organised during the

season, while ensuring efficient waste removal and maintaining the general appearance of neighbourhoods.

The meeting also stressed the importance of complying with municipal requirements and maintaining direct coordination among the municipality, the council and ma'atam administrations throughout the occasion.

Mr Al Sahli said the municipality was ready to provide the necessary support and use its resources to serve residents and participants during the campaign.

He said cooperation with the municipal council and heads of ma'atams was essential to improving services and achieving the campaign's objectives.

Interlock and Sindikato Clinch Titles at Indian Club Volleyball Tournament



The Indian Club Indian Ex-pat Men's and All-Women's Volleyball Tournament 2026 concluded thrillingly on Friday, June 12, at The Indian Club, showcasing strong competition and community spirit.

In the Men's category, Team Interlock claimed the champi-

onship title after a hard-fought final against Team KCA. Interlock secured the winner's trophy and a \$300 cash prize, while KCA finished as runners-up, earning a trophy and \$200.

In the All-Women's category, defending champions Team Sindikato retained their title with

Safe disposal of expired food streamlined

Processing time reduced from 10 days to just 3 under the new system



The Ministry of Health has introduced an upgraded digital service for issuing Safe Disposal Certificates for damaged, expired, or rejected food products, as part of efforts to enhance service quality and streamline government procedures.

The service ensures that unfit food items are disposed of safely under the supervision of the Ministry of Health, helping to protect public health and prevent the circulation of unsafe products in the market. It also strengthens documentation of disposal processes in line with approved health regulations in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

As part of the improvements, the service's processing time has been reduced from 10 working days to just three days. The updated system removes the need for physical document submissions, reduces the number of required approvals, and replaces paper forms with fully electronic ap-

plications. The ministry has also upgraded its digital platforms by improving system performance, enhancing the user interface and user experience, and unifying service information across channels to make access easier and more efficient for beneficiaries.

Dr. Lulwa Rashid Showaiter, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health, said the development reflects the ministry's commitment to innovative digital solutions that enhance government service efficiency, simplify procedures, and support the business environment.

She added that the initiative is part of broader efforts to advance digital transformation while improving transparency, reliability, and overall service quality for institutions.

Anti-Corruption Directorate Earns ISO 9001



Deputy Interior Minister Lt-Gen Adel bin Khalifa Al Fadhel commended the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption, Economic and Electronic Security for achieving ISO 9001 certification, highlighting its commitment to quality, excellence and institutional development.

MOI Tennis Team Wins 9 Arab Titles



The Bahrain Ministry of Interior tennis team achieved a strong regional success, securing nine titles and top finishes at the Sixth Arab Veterans Tennis Championship. The event was held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, from June 7 to 12, 2026, with more than 56 players representing 11 Arab countries participating.



10 Digital Billboards to Transform Muharraq Ring Road

● **Public-private partnership aims to boost digital transformation and investment efficiency**

● **Electronic screens to enhance flexibility and revenue from advertising sites**

● **Project supports Bahrain's smart city and digital economy goals**

TDI | Manama

Muharraq is set to enhance its urban advertising landscape following a new agreement between the Muharraq Municipality and Batelco, part of Beyon, to operate and invest in 10 electronic advertising screen sites along the Muharraq Ring Road.



New Muharraq Ring Road Enhances

The five-year agreement focuses on transforming traditional advertising locations into modern digital platforms, supporting greater efficiency, flexibility, and investment opportunities within the municipal advertising sector.

The initiative was announced during a signing ceremony attended by the Minister of Municipalities and Agriculture at the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, along with senior officials, including representatives from the Mu-

harraq Municipal Council and executives from Batelco.

Officials said the project reflects a broader strategy to modernize municipal assets and integrate advanced technologies into public infrastructure. It also aligns with Bahrain's ongoing push toward digital transformation and smart city development.

The Minister of Municipalities and Agriculture said the agreement represents a significant step in upgrading advertising services managed by municipalities. He noted that



“This agreement represents a qualitative leap in the management of municipal advertising assets, enabling more efficient and flexible digital solutions that enhance operational performance and service quality.”

expanding the use of electronic screens will help keep pace with rapid developments in the

advertising industry while improving service quality.

He also highlighted the importance of collaborating with the private sector, stating that such partnerships enable the government to benefit from technical expertise, improve operational efficiency, and enhance the sustainability of municipal revenue sources.

Muharraq Municipality Director General, Engineer Khalid Ali Al Qallaf, said the project supports the municipality's vision to expand smart advertising solutions and gradually transition

from conventional billboards to digital formats. He added that this will provide advertisers with more dynamic and flexible platforms.

Batelco Chief Executive Officer Muneer Abdullah said the company is proud to support the initiative, emphasizing its commitment to advancing Bahrain's digital transformation. He said Batelco will leverage its technological capabilities to ensure high-quality operation of the advertising network and contribute to smart city initiatives across the Kingdom.

New hub opens to boost learning and cognitive skills

The Minister of Industry and Commerce, Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, inaugurated the Brain Wave Bahrain Centre for Cognitive Development, a new facility specialising in cognitive training and educational consultancy aimed at enhancing academic performance and learning skills.

During the opening ceremony, Minister Fakhro praised the centre's innovative model, which integrates modern technology



with scientific approaches to education and training. He also underlined the importance of private sector participation in advancing

Bahrain's education ecosystem, developing skills, and attracting investment in knowledge-based initiatives.



Fawzia Kiwan, Founder of Brain Wave Bahrain, said the centre was established in response to the increasing demand for specialised

cognitive development services in the Kingdom. She highlighted its mission to support children, youth, and adults in reaching their full potential through evidence-based programmes, while also assisting families, schools, and the wider community.

The centre provides a range of services, including cognitive

training, academic support, educational consultancy, and private tutoring. It also offers specialised programmes for individuals with learning differences such as ADHD and dyslexia, along with Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) therapy, parent support programmes, teacher training workshops, communication skills development, and cognitive wellness programmes for adults and seniors.

From The Court

TDI | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

Appeal Postponed in Fatal Zallaq Road Crash Case

Two Cyclists Killed in Early Morning Collision

The First High Criminal Court of Appeal has postponed a hearing in the appeal of a Bahraini man sentenced to seven years in prison over a fatal road accident that killed two Asian cyclists and injured two others.

According to case records, the incident occurred at dawn on Zallaq Road when the driver became distracted while searching for a cigarette, leading to loss of control of the vehicle.

The car struck four cyclists in a series of collisions. Two died at the scene, while two others sustained injuries and were taken to the hospital. The driver fled the scene following the accident.

The Public Prosecution charged him with multiple offences, including drug

possession for personal use, causing death and injury by negligence, fleeing the scene, and driving without due care.



Mr Delostrico (left) pictured with Mr Valdez, who later died in the accident.

Court Upholds 3-Year Term in Forged Vehicle Sale Case

The First High Criminal Court of Appeal has scheduled a hearing in the case of a 39-year-old Asian man convicted of forgery and unlawfully selling a vehicle belonging to his friend. He was sentenced to three years in prison, ordered deported, and the forged documents were confiscated.

According to case details, the defendant was given temporary use of the vehicle in 2024-2025 but later sold it without the owner's knowl-

edge or consent.

He is accused of collaborating with another individual to forge an official ownership transfer document, including a fake signature of the victim. The document was then used to complete the illegal sale.

The victim confirmed he still possessed the original ownership papers, while forensic analysis verified the signature was forged. Records also indicated prior similar cases involving the defendant.

Court Sets June 21 in Human Trafficking Appeal Case

The First High Criminal Court of Appeal has scheduled June 21 to notify the ruling in the case of an Asian woman convicted of human trafficking and unlawful de-

ception. Her prison sentence was reduced from 15 years to 5 years, followed by deportation upon completion. The 32-year-old defendant was accused of recruiting a victim between August and November 2019 through a fake job offer as a food server in Bahrain. She reportedly arranged the victim's visa and travel.



Public Prosecution

Upon arrival, the victim was allegedly transferred between locations and later detained, where she was forced into prostitution through coercion and deception. The exploitation lasted for more than a month, during which the defendant allegedly gained financial benefit.

The victim later managed to escape and report the incident to authorities. The Public Prosecution investigated the case, supported by witness statements and police findings, before referring it to court.

Seef Office Tenant Evicted Over BD 7,988 Rent Arrears

The High Civil Court ordered the termination of a lease agreement for a commercial office in a Seef area tower, the eviction of the tenant, and the payment of BD 7,988 in outstanding rent.

The ruling also requires the tenant to bear court fees and legal and attorney expenses.

According to court documents, lawyer Mohammed Al-Mahdi filed the case under urgent procedures on behalf of the tower owner. The lawsuit was brought against a sole proprietorship and its owner who had rented the office for a monthly rent of BD 332, plus service charges of BD 148.850.

The tenant reportedly defaulted on rent payments from March to September 2025, prompting the landlord to seek recovery of the arrears, lease termination, and eviction from

the premises.

The plaintiff's legal representative cited provisions of the Civil Code and Real Estate Leasing Law, arguing that tenants must pay rent within a specified period and that lease contracts bind both parties.

The court noted that the landlord requested eviction due to non-payment of rent for more than two consecutive months, and that the tenant had received formal notification of the claim, including demands for payment and eviction, which constituted valid legal notice.

In its ruling, the court concluded that the legal conditions for eviction were satisfied. It therefore ordered the termination of the lease agreement, eviction of the tenant, and payment of BD 7,988 in arrears, along with court fees and legal costs.

“Hayaakom” Program Promotes Sustainable Waste Management

● **Emphasis on waste management as a strategic priority in municipal planning**

● **Discussion on recycling, waste reduction, and responsible consumption habits**

● **Exploration of public-private partnerships in waste management sector**

TDI | Manama
Ghadeer Alkumaish

The Northern Municipal Council hosted an awareness lecture titled “Sustainability of Waste Management for Sustainable Cities”, as part of its “Hayaakom” program aimed at promoting environmental awareness and sustainable community practices.

The session focused on strengthening understanding of sustainable waste management and its importance in supporting Bahrain's broader environmental and development goals. It highlighted how effective waste practices contribute to environmental protection, social wellbeing, and economic efficiency.

The lecture was delivered by Dr. Mahmoud Habib Al-Afiah, Head of Administrative Services and Coordination at the council, and moderated by Dr. Sayed Shubbar Al-Wedai, Chairman of the Northern Municipal Council.

In his remarks, Dr. Al-Wedai emphasized that waste man-



Dr. Sayed Shubbar Al-Wedai



Dr. Mahmoud Habib Al-Afiah

agement is a strategic priority within municipal work and an essential part of sustainable development planning. He underlined the importance of integrating environmental management with institutional coordination to reduce environmental impact and enhance resource efficiency.

The session brought together participants from various environmental and municipal fields, reflecting growing public interest and engagement in sustainability topics across the Kingdom.

Discussions covered five main themes, beginning with an overview of sustainable development principles and their economic, social, and environmental benefits at both individual and national levels.

The lecture also presented a proposed model for sustainable waste management based on modern environmental practices. It further highlighted the role of individuals and communities in supporting recycling initiatives, reducing waste generation, and adopting responsible consumption habits.

Ithmaar Bank Organises Loyalty and Allegiance Signing Ceremony for His Majesty the King

Ithmaar Bank B.S.C. (Closed), a Bahrain-based Islamic retail bank, organised a signing ceremony for the loyalty and allegiance document to renew the pledge of loyalty to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The event, which was held at Ithmaar Bank's headquarters in Seef Tower, was attended by Ithmaar Bank Chief Executive Officer, Maysan Al Maskati and Assistant General Manager, Business Group, Mohammed Ali Safar, along with members of Ithmaar Bank's senior management team and employees. As a unique initiative, the Bank invited its corporate and business owners clients, who participated in this initiative, to express their loyalty to the Kingdom and its



leadership.

The organization of this national event reflects the strong sense of belonging among all Ithmaar Bank employees and stakeholders towards the King-

dom's leadership and government, while reaffirming support for all national measures and initiatives undertaken by the Kingdom of Bahrain to preserve national security, stability and

the rule of law. This initiative also reflects the Bank's firm belief in the importance of national unity in safeguarding national achievements and continuing the Kingdom's comprehensive

development, ensuring achieving further economic development and prosperity.

"At Ithmaar Bank, we take pride in organizing this national initiative, which aims to reinforce

the values of responsible citizenship and strengthen the spirit of loyalty and national belonging among Ithmaar Bank's employees and clients," said Al Maskati. "This initiative reaffirms that we stand united behind our leadership and government and express our unwavering loyalty to His Majesty the King," he said.

"Preserving security and stability is a shared national responsibility between the leadership and the people and requires a unified stance from all institutions," said Almaskati. "Today, we gather to renew our full support for the directives of His Majesty the King and the efforts of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, which aim at safeguarding Bahrain's security, protect its sovereignty and the interests of its people," he said.

SME rules updated by turnover and staff

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

New rules will change the way Bahrain classes micro, small and medium-sized firms, with staff headcount and yearly turnover used as the main tests.

Industry and Commerce Minister Abdulla Fakhro issued Decision No 23 of 2026, placing firms in three bands.

Micro firms are those with five workers or fewer, or yearly turnover of BD300,000 or less.

Small firms are those with six to 50 workers, or turnover above BD300,000 and up to BD4 million.

Medium-sized firms are those with 51 to 250 workers, or turnover above BD4m and up to BD20m.



H.E. Abdulla Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce

The ministry can use one test or both when deciding a firm's band, under a guide to be drawn up by the small and medium enterprises department.

The guide will cover how

firms are classified, the ministry's SME data bank and the online SME registration system.

The online system will place firms in the correct band and issue classification certificates.

BCDR adds mediation step for construction disputes

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Building, mechanical and electrical works disputes before the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution will face new filing, reply and mediation rules under a 2026 order issued by the Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf Ministry.

Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf Minister Nawaf bin Mohammed Al Maawda issued Decision No. 45 of 2026, amending the chamber's dispute rules for cases heard under Decree-Law No. 30 of 2009 on economic, financial and investment disputes.

The order requires claimants in building contract cases, as well as mechanical and electrical works cases, to file a detailed schedule of claims when lodging a case.

That schedule must list the claimant's demands and include a technical opinion from a specialist in building, mechanical, electrical or accounting matters, as the case requires.

Defendants must answer the schedule of claims within two weeks of being served.

The order also introduces a new case path for such disputes.

Once the case manager receives the schedule of claims and the defendant's answer, the file must go to a delegated judge. The judge will look at any formal defence raised by the defendant, including claims over the chamber's power to hear the case, legal standing, or an argument that the dispute has already been ruled on.

If the judge finds, from the papers, that the defence appears serious, the case will proceed under the chamber's ordinary rules. The same will apply if the parties had already tried mediation before filing the case and failed to reach a deal.

In other cases, the judge will send the dispute to mediation. The judge's order will be final.

The parties will then have five working days from being notified of the mediation or-



Nawaf Al Maawda, Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf

der to agree on a mediator. If they do not agree within that time, the case manager must ask the registrar to name a me-

same hearing, or name a mediator from the approved lists. The judge's decision will be final. Mediation will last 30 work-

Mediation Settlement Fee Rules

- If mediation leads to full or partial settlement, a settlement agreement is signed and becomes enforceable after judge approval.
- Claimants are exempt from court fees on settled parts if the agreement is filed during mediation.
- Mediator fees: 10% of paid fee for full settlement, 5% for partial settlement.
- If no settlement is reached, the mediator must report the reasons and unresolved issues to the registrar.
- The case then proceeds under tribunal rules; mediation time does not count toward case management deadlines.
- In non-settlement cases, the mediator receives 5% of the fee, payable after the tribunal ruling.
- Mediators must follow the 2019 Mediation Law and cannot sit on the same case tribunal.
- If a claimant fails to submit claims or attend mediation, the case may be struck out and later treated as never filed if inactive for 60 days.
- If a defendant fails to respond or attend, the case proceeds to tribunal with a report; it cannot be returned to the case manager.

diator from the approved lists.

The parties may object to a mediator named by the registrar, but must give reasons and do so within three days of being told the mediator's name.

The delegated judge may reject the objection, ask the parties to agree on one of three names put before them at the

ing days from the date the mediator is agreed, named by the registrar, or appointed by the judge. The period may be renewed for like periods on a reasoned request by the parties or mediator, with the judge's approval, but the whole mediation period must not exceed 90 working days.

Al Tawfeek Maintenance Services Co. WLL. Achieves Triple ISO Certification Milestone



TDT | Manama

Al Tawfeek Maintenance Services Co. WLL., a leader in the waste disposal industry in the Kingdom of Bahrain, is proud to announce that it has officially been awarded three prestigious ISO certifications: ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Manage-

ment), ISO 14001:2015 (Environmental Management), and ISO 45001:2018 (Occupational Health and Safety).

The certificates were formally presented on Thursday, June 11, 2026, during a ceremony held at the company's headquarters. Mr. Mohamed Hanif, Business Development Specialist at RICI, presented the certifications to

Mr. K.N. Padmanabhan (Papapan), Managing Director of Al Tawfeek Maintenance Services Co. WLL.

The event was attended by Mr. Pregith Padmanabhan, Director of Al Tawfeek Maintenance Services Co. WLL., alongside members of the company's top management and the dedicated Al Tawfeek team.

Seef Properties Appoints Mohammed Jalal Contracting to Execute Main Construction Works

TDT | Manama

Seef Properties has announced the signing of an agreement with Mohammed Jalal Contracting to execute the main construction works within the Seef Mall - Seef District redevelopment project. This step reflects the ongoing progress of this strategic project, which aims to revitalise the mall with a modern and refreshed design, elevating the shopping, entertainment, and hospitality experience in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

This agreement aligns with Seef Properties' long-term vision of developing its assets and commercial centres to keep pace with visitor expectations and rapid changes in the retail and entertainment sectors. This will strengthen Seef Mall's position as one of the leading integrated destinations in Bahrain and the region, while maintaining operational continuity and seamless services throughout the various phases of redevelopment.

Under this contract, Mohammed Jalal Contracting will undertake the main construction and development works, adhering to the highest engineering and technical standards. This includes creating



Ahmed M. Jalal, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors of Mohamed Jalal Contracting

new spaces dedicated to upscale restaurants and cafes featuring diverse modern concepts, as well as implementing planned expansions to foster a vibrant environment and provide visitors with a comprehensive experience combining shopping, hospitality, and entertainment in one destination.

The scope of work also encompasses the development of supporting services for the new expansions aligned with the overall vision for the project, enhancing the mall's appeal as a modern family-friendly destination that caters to various age groups.

On this occasion, Mr. Essa Mohamed Najibi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Seef Properties, stated, "The Seef Mall - Seef District redevel-



Mr. Ahmed Yusuf, CEO of Seef Properties



Mr. Essa Mohamed Najibi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Seef Properties

opment project is a cornerstone of the company's strategy to enhance the competitiveness of its real estate assets and solidify its position in the retail and entertainment sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The signing of this agreement reflects ongoing progress in implementing the Board's vision to develop modern destinations that keep pace with future changes while meeting the needs of new generations of visitors and shoppers."

He added, "We believe that continuous investment in the development of high-quality assets is a key factor in enhancing sustainable value for our shareholders and supporting the Kingdom's economic growth. Therefore, we continue to implement strategic projects

that enhance the quality of our offered experiences, cementing Seef Mall's position as one of the leading commercial and social destinations in Bahrain and the region."

For his part, Mr. Ahmed M. Jalal, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors of Mohamed Jalal Contracting, "We take pride in our partnership with Seef Properties in executing this significant development project, which is among the key initiatives in Bahrain's retail and hospitality sector. We will leverage our engineering and execution capabilities to ensure the completion of works according to the highest standards of quality and efficiency, supporting Seef Properties' vision of developing a modern, integrated destination that exceeds

and retail. We are confident that this project will enrich Bahrain's commercial and urban landscape, offering visitors a more diverse and integrated experience in the coming years."

The Seef Mall - Seef District development project is one of the company's prominent strategic projects. It involves modernising and expanding a wide range of indoor and outdoor facilities, alongside the introduction of innovative concepts in hospitality, entertainment, and shopping, further solidifying the mall's status as a prominent commercial and social landmark in Bahrain.

Seef Properties is a leading real estate development company with a proven track record of delivering high-quality projects that have contributed significantly to Bahrain's real estate, commercial, and entertainment infrastructure. The company remains committed to developing sustainable projects that support economic growth and improve quality of life for Bahraini society.

visitors' expectations and meets future demands."

In turn, Mr. Ahmed Yusuf, CEO of Seef Properties, stated, "The signing of this agreement with our main contractor marks a significant milestone in the Seef Mall - Seef District redevelopment project, signifying its transition to an advanced implementation phase according to our approved timelines. Through this phase, we aim to realise our vision by upgrading facilities and spaces and introducing new concepts that reinforce Seef Mall's position as a premier shopping, entertainment, and hospitality destination in Bahrain."

He added, "At Seef Properties, we continue to invest in our strategic assets and projects which support vital economic sectors, particularly tourism

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain celebrates Global Alumni Impact through Alumni Awards 2026

TDT | Manama

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) - Medical University of Bahrain has announced nine recipients of its Alumni Awards 2026, recognising graduates whose achievements are making a significant impact across healthcare, education, research and community engagement in Bahrain and internationally.

The awards ceremony was attended by members of the University's Board of Governors from Dublin and Bahrain, including Her Excellency Shaikha Mariam bint Hamad Al



commitment to recognising the achievements and contributions of its alumni community.

The Inspiring Excellence Award recognises alumni who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in clinical care or healthcare leadership. The 2026 recipients are:

- Dr Majid AlTeneiji (Class of 2011), Consultant Paediatric Pulmonologist & Sleep Physician, Head of Paediatric Pulmonary and Paediatric Sleep Units, Al Jalila Children's Specialty Hospital, Dubai Health, Dubai, UAE Clinical Assistant Professor, Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences (MBRU), Dubai, UAE
- Dr Aysha Almoosa (Class of 2012), Consultant Dermatologist and Head of Dermatology Department at Government Hospitals, Bahrain
- Mr Aiman Alsaho (Class of 2017 BSc Nursing; Class of 2024 MSc Nursing), Nursing Shift Supervisor at Royal Medical Services - King Hamad University Hospital, Bahrain

Khalifa, as well as members of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's senior management team, including Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, reflecting the University's strong

Launched in its new format this year, the Alumni Awards recognise nine graduates across four categories: Inspiring Excellence, Educator of the Year, Researcher of the Year, and Community Impact and Philan-

The Educator of the Year Award recognises alumni who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to teaching and healthcare education. The 2026 recipients are:

- Dr Tareq AlTaei (Class of 2012), Consultant Radiologist at Salmaniya Medical Complex, Bahrain
- Ms Ria Falamarzi (Class of 2014), Training Coordinator and Simulation Educator at Crown Prince Centre for Training and Medical Research - Bahrain Defence Force Royal Medical Services, Bahrain

The Researcher of the Year Award recognises graduates whose academic and scientific contributions are advancing medical knowledge and healthcare innovation. The 2026 recipients are:

- Dr Yusuf Alalwan (Class of 2015), Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiologist and Heart Failure Director at Indiana University Ball Memorial Hospital, USA
- Dr Mohammed Alazzawi (Class of 2013), Specialist Registrar in General Surgery at RCSI, Ireland

thropy, celebrating alumni who continue to embody the University's values through leadership, innovation and service while advancing healthcare systems, medical education, scientific

research and community well-being.

Professor Otoom commented: "We are proud to celebrate Alumni who choose to impact their communities and health-

care systems positively and sustainably. Their achievements reflect the growing global impact of our alumni network, who contribute to the enhancement of healthcare services in Bahrain and beyond, and serve

based on a comprehensive Multi-Source Feedback evaluation involving consultants, residents and colleagues, and assessments reviewed by the University's Quality Enhancement Office.

care systems positively and sustainably. Their achievements reflect the growing global impact of our alumni network, who contribute to the enhancement of healthcare services in Bahrain and beyond, and serve

The Community Impact and Philanthropy Award recognises alumni who have demonstrated a strong commitment to volunteerism, public health awareness and social responsibility. The 2026 recipients are:

- Dr Maryam Almustapha (Class of 2018), Physician and Public Health Advocate at Federal Medical Centre, Abuja, Nigeria
- Ms Maha Albalooshi (Class of 2019), Palliative and Pain Nurse at Bahrain Oncology Center, Bahrain

as an inspiration to our students as future healthcare professionals, our staff and alumni community."

This year's recipients reflect the global footprint of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain alumni, with graduates contributing to healthcare and education across Bahrain, the UAE, Ireland, the United States and Nigeria. Recipients were selected through a rigorous nom-

Today, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's global alumni network includes more than 3,890 graduates in 38 countries. Through its Careers and Alumni Office, the University continues to support alumni in addressing current health challenges, empowering local communities through impactful engagement, and having a positive impact on healthcare and patient care.

Bangladesh's ex-police boss wanted by Interpol arrested in Dubai

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh's former police chief Benazir Ahmed was arrested in Dubai, the interior minister said yesterday, years after he fled his home country where he is facing multiple charges including corruption.

Benazir, once a close ally of former autocratic leader Sheikh Hasina, left the country in May 2024 amid public outrage over allegations that he had stashed an illegal multi-million dollar fortune.

The United States imposed sanctions against the official in 2021 for his alleged role in hundreds of disappearances and extrajudicial killings when he led the feared Rapid Action Battalion paramilitary force.

"Benazir Ahmed was arrested on June 12 and he will be extradited soon," Bangladesh's Interior Minister Salahuddin Ahmed told parliament.

"An Interpol Red Notice was issued against Benazir,"



he added.

"This is a historic achievement. Through these efforts, we will be able to break the culture of impunity," Salahuddin Ahmed said.

"We want to assure the nation that no perpetrator, however powerful, is above the law."

A student-led revolt toppled prime minister Sheikh Hasina in August 2024, forcing her into exile.

Iran says US unable or unwilling to uphold 'commitments', after Israel strikes Lebanon

No more 'attacks'

Israel struck Beirut's southern suburbs



People gather at the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted a building in Beirut's southern suburbs

Trump calls for 'no more attacks,' says 'very close' to Mideast deal

● The latest hurdle came hours after Israel said its military had carried out strikes in Beirut's southern suburbs.

TDI | agencies

US President Donald Trump yesterday said Israeli strikes on Beirut "should not have happened" as he vowed a regional peace deal was at hand, though he did not confirm his earlier claim it would be signed during the day.

"We are very close to a Deal that will bring peace to the region, including to Lebanon, and all sides should stand down," Trump said on social media.

"This could be the beginning of a long and beautiful peace -- Let's not blow it!"

Israel struck Beirut's southern suburbs yesterday, killing three people, in response to what it said was Hezbollah fire at northern Israel, an exchange that Trump said "should not disrupt" progress towards a pact.

"This morning's attack on Beirut should not have happened, particularly on a special day," Trump wrote, possibly a reference to his hopes of a signing on Sunday, his 80th birthday.

"There should be no more attacks by Israel anywhere in Lebanon, but there should also be no more attacks by any other party, including Hezbollah, against Israel."

Trump -- who has repeatedly declared a deal with Iran was all but concluded -- had said on Saturday that the framework accord was scheduled to be signed on Sunday.

No point

Meanwhile, Iran said yesterday there was "no point" in peace talks with the United States, accusing it of failing to uphold its commitments and casting doubt on a deal that Donald Trump had insisted would be signed imminently.

The latest hurdle came hours after Israel -- which launched the war alongside the US in February -- said its military had carried out strikes targeting

Iran-backed Hezbollah in Beirut's southern suburbs.

Trump -- who over weeks of negotiations repeatedly declared a deal with Iran was all but concluded -- had said on Saturday that the accord was "scheduled to get signed tomorrow, and immediately after it is signed, the Hormuz Strait is OPEN TO ALL".

A US official said Friday that the deal on the table included Lebanon, which was drawn into the wider war when Hezbollah fired rockets at Israel on March 2.

A statement from the foreign ministry of Pakistan had also said that the deal's signing was planned for Sunday.



Southern Lebanon occupied by the Israeli army

Israel urged Lebanese people not to go south of a "forward defence line" (in yellow) where its army says it is conducting operations to dismantle Hezbollah infrastructure



Trump to meet Sisi at G7 summit in France: Egyptian presidency

AFP | Cairo, Egypt

US President Donald Trump is set to hold talks with Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi on the sidelines of the G7 summit in France this month, the Egyptian presidency said on Sunday.

In a statement, the presidency said Sisi is expected to hold a series of meetings with world leaders during the summit, "including a bilateral meeting with US President Donald Trump".

It added that Sisi's meetings would focus on "discussing ways to resolve international geopolitical crises and address their repercussions on trade, energy and supply chains".

Lebanon civil defence says 3 killed in Israeli strike on south Beirut

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanon's civil defence agency said an Israeli strike on Sunday on Beirut's southern suburbs killed at least three people, as Israel's military said it targeted Hezbollah.

The civil defence statement said that "the bodies of three martyrs were recovered from under the rubble and six wounded" were taken to hospital after the strike, which hit the Ghobeiry area of the Hezbollah stronghold.

Somaliland president makes 'historic' visit to Israel

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Somaliland's President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi met his Israeli counterpart on Sunday in Jerusalem in his first-ever state visit, which comes months after Israel officially recognised the breakaway African state.

In December, Israel became the first country to recognise the independence of Somaliland since it declared its autonomy from Somalia in 1991 following a civil war.

"The visit carries special significance," said Abdullahi, according to a statement issued by the office of Israeli President Isaac Herzog.

"It is the first state visit by a president of the Republic of Somaliland to another country, and we are deeply appreciative that the State of Israel has chosen to receive us with such an honour on this historic occasion," Abdullahi said.

"Somaliland has been talking, has been reaching out to the world leaders for the last 35 years. They were asking only one question: to see us. Only one country desired to see us and recognise Somaliland, and that's the government of Israel and its people."

Zelensky says will discuss Ukraine war with Trump at G7 summit

Kyiv, Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Sunday he will discuss the Russian invasion and peace efforts to end it during a meeting with US President Donald Trump at the G7 summit in France.

Zelensky, who earlier spoke by phone with the US

leader, said they "discussed things that could help bring about peace now, and I informed the president about the latest developments on the battlefield and how our position has strengthened. We agreed that we will discuss more during our meeting at the G7 summit."



Israel says top Hezbollah operative accused of killing US soldiers slain

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

The Israeli military said yesterday that its forces had killed a senior Hezbollah operative accused of involvement in the kidnapping and killing of five American soldiers in Iraq in 2007.

Ali Mussa Daqduq was killed on Friday in a "precise strike" south of the Litani River in Lebanon, the military said.

"Over the past several years, Daqduq led much of Hezbollah's operational planning against IDF soldiers along the Lebanon border," the military said.

"In 2007, he was imprisoned by US forces after orchestrating the kidnapping and murder of five American sol-

diers" in Iraq, the military added.

He was held by American troops until he was handed over to Iraqi officials in December 2011.

In 2012, Daqduq was released by Iraq due to lack of evidence after being accused of plotting to kill three US soldiers in the Iraqi city of Karbala.

Following his release, the US Treasury Department imposed sanctions on him.

"His elimination constitutes another significant blow to Hezbollah's senior chain of command by eliminating one of the most prominent oper-

atives responsible for activity against Israeli civilians, IDF soldiers, and American service members."



763 BC

1219

Assyrians record a solar eclipse that will be used to fix the chronology of Mesopotamian history

According to legend, Dannebrog, the flag of Denmark and the oldest national flag in the world falls from the sky during the Battle of Lyndanisse (now Tallinn) in Estonia and turns the Danes' luck



1896

1940

A tsunami strikes a Shinto festival on the beach at Sanriku, Japan; 27,000 people are killed, 9,000 are injured, and 13,000 houses are destroyed

German troops occupy Paris as French resistance to the German invasion crumbles



An aerial view shows the site of a helicopter crash in the Recreio dos Bandeirantes neighbourhood, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. At least six people died in Brazil after two helicopters crashed in western Rio de Janeiro, after a suspected mid-air collision, firefighters said.

Washington cannot “just bully our way or bomb our way to solutions”

Obama says Trump Iran deal will not improve on his pact

AFP | Washington, United States

Barack Obama said it was unrealistic to expect that any deal between US President Donald Trump and Tehran would mark a “significant improvement” over his own nuclear pact 11 years ago.

In interview excerpts released Sunday on ABC News talk show “This Week,” the former president also suggested it was better to negotiate a deal that falls short of all of Washington’s requirements in order to avoid an outright war.

“It is doubtful that any agreement that arises is going to be significantly different or a significant improvement from the deal that we had in the first place,” Obama said, referring to 2015’s landmark pact that Trump abandoned.

Obama said his own deal “had worked for a long stretch of time before... the United States pulled out of it.”

Obama said the troubled progress of a new US-Iran deal is a

reminder that Washington can not “just bully our way or bomb our way to solutions” instead of engaging in comprehensive diplomacy.



“You’d think we would have learned that lesson by now,” he said.

Obama said the troubled progress of a new US-Iran deal is a reminder that Washington can not “just bully our way or bomb our way to solutions” instead of engaging in comprehensive diplomacy.

Lebanon complains to Security Council over alleged Israeli use of herbicide

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanon’s foreign ministry said it had lodged a complaint with the United Nations over Israel’s alleged spraying of herbicide glyphosate in Lebanese territory near the border earlier this year.

In a statement circulated on Sunday, the ministry said it had sent a letter to the UN Security Council and the UN secretary-general this week to complain about the incident,

which occurred in February, a month before the latest Israel-Hezbollah war erupted on March 2.

The ministry said “laboratory tests and chemical analyses carried out on soil samples” in the south Lebanon border villages of Aita al-Shaab, Ras Naqura and Dhayra “confirmed the use of glyphosate at high levels of concentration”.

It said the levels “greatly exceed” those usually found in agricultural ar-

reas after regular use by farmers.

The statement said the complaint was based on a report from Lebanon’s government-linked National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS).

At the time, the UN peace-keeping mission in Lebanon said Israel had notified it of its plans to spray a “non-toxic chemical substance” near the border and had warned peacekeepers to take shelter.

Six killed as helicopters collide in Rio de Janeiro: fire brigade

AFP | Rio De Janeiro, Brazil

At least six people died Sunday after two helicopters collided mid-air in western Rio de Janeiro, Brazilian firefighters said.

“Reports indicate that the helicopters collided in mid-air and crashed into the parking lot of an electric car dealership, igniting a fire that engulfed at least 20 vehicles,”

said the statement.

“At least six fatalities have been confirmed, all were crew members of the aircraft involved in the accident.”

The accident took place in the western suburb of Recreio dos Bandeirantes.

Images of the scene in local media showed a thick plume of black smoke rising from the car dealership, where several cars were on fire.

Putin discussed Iran, Ukraine war in call with Trump: Kremlin

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russian President Vladimir Putin called US counterpart Donald Trump on Sunday, Trump’s 80th birthday, and discussed the wars in Ukraine and Iran and an upcoming visit of Washington’s envoys to Russia, the Kremlin said.

“The conversation focused on the situation surrounding the memorandum of under-

standing being drafted between the United States and Iran. Donald Trump said an agreement is close,” Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov told reporters.

Ushakov also said that “it has been agreed that US presidential special representatives Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, who are currently closely involved in Iranian affairs, will return to Russia soon”.

Putin, Trump agreed US envoys Witkoff, Kushner will visit Russia ‘soon’: Kremlin aide

From sea to shore



An angler carries a fish caught from a jetty at East Coast Park in Singapore

Three Czechs die in catamaran, sailboat collision off Croatia

AFP | Zagreb, Croatia

Three Czechs were killed and one was missing after a large passenger catamaran carrying more than 100 people and a sailboat collided in Croatia’s central Adriatic on Sunday, officials said.

“We were struck by the incredibly sad news of the death of at least three Czech citizens after a collision between a yacht and a catamaran in Croatia,” a Czech foreign ministry spokesman told AFP.

The Czech consul is on site, spokesman Adam Corgo said, offering con-

dolences to the victims’ families.

The accident occurred in the waters between the central islands of Solta and Brac when a “passenger vessel operated by a private domestic company collided with a French-flagged sailboat, which then sank”, the Croatian sea and transport ministry said earlier.

There were 118 passengers and seven crew members on the passenger vessel, and eight people on the sailboat, three of whom were killed, the statement added.



TOP
3
TWEETS

01



India and France will continue to work together to strengthen their economic ties. The India-EU free trade agreement offers, in this regard, an unprecedented boost. We are also launching a Dialogue on Economic Security to bolster supply chains in critical minerals and technologies. Health and education are other areas in which we will work in close collaboration.

@narendramodi

02



Excellent news from the Council on the next MFF.

A provisional agreement has been found for the Council position on key building blocks for the EU budget.

I just congratulated President @Christodoulides for his leadership and the hard work of @CY2026EU

There is still work to do but the direction is clear.

Member States support the Commission’s ambition for a simpler and modern EU budget.

One that invests in Europe’s priorities such as competitiveness, security, agriculture, cohesion and its global role.

@vonderleyen

03



I strongly condemn today’s Israeli strikes on Beirut. The strikes took place despite the ceasefire & at a time when the US & Iran are expected to reach an agreement that will pave the way to a peaceful resolution of this conflict.

@antonioguterres

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

Deadly Philippine quake raised seabed by up to two metres

● The Cotabato Trench, which lies as close as 50 kilometres (31 miles) off the coast of southern Mindanao, is the site of frequent seismic activity

● Images released by the department's regional office showed a large swathe of exposed coral with dead fish and other aquatic life lying on top.

AFP | Manila, Philippines

A powerful earthquake that killed at least 61 people in the Philippines this week raised the seabed by as much as two metres (6.6 feet), exposing coral and harming marine life, the environment department said yesterday.

The 7.8-magnitude tremor in southern Mindanao island on Monday has also left at least 40 people missing, according to updated tolls from the disaster agency.

Local residents first reported the geological phenomenon known as "coastal uplift" two days after the quake, which extended the shoreline by as much



as 200 metres in some places, the environment department said.

A shifting of the Cotabato

Trench "pushed upward part of the coastlines of Sarangani and Davao Occidental (provinces)... exposing the bottom of the sea

that was originally submerged", the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said in a statement.

"Approximately 2m (metres) was the mapped uplift."

The Cotabato Trench, which lies as close as 50 kilometres (31 miles) off the coast of southern Mindanao, is the site of frequent seismic activity, including a "swarm" of thousands of mostly small earthquakes recorded in January.

A team dispatched to the area "found that long stretches of shoreline, coral reef and seagrass beds have been exposed", the environment department said.

An official who spoke to AFP on Sunday said they could not yet say precisely how wide an area had been affected given the size of the area they needed to survey.

Images released by the department's regional office showed a large swathe of exposed coral with dead fish and other aquatic life lying on top.

Residents initially reported the changes to the seabed out of concern that they might be poisoned by the fumes from decaying sea life.

"These exposed corals and seagrass beds had begun dying off alongside their resident organisms such as reef fishes, eels, clams, and shells," the environment department said.

Woman dies after safety cord left off in Brazil rope jump

Rio De Janeiro, Brazil

A young woman died in Brazil after being launched off a bridge for a rope jump without a safety cord, police said Sunday.

In videos of the Saturday accident circulating online, two men hoist the 21-year-old above their heads and launch her off Skeleton Bridge, in the interior of Sao Paulo state, while onlookers realize there is no safety mechanism attached and shout "Guys, the cord!"

"The safety equipment was not properly secured at the time of the jump. The victim did not survive the fall," police said in a statement to AFP.

Three men were arrested for "homicide with dolus eventualis" -- meaning they were aware of the risk of death but went ahead anyway.

"Investigations are ongoing to determine the circumstances and establish liability," said

the police.

Local media identified the victim as Maria Eduarda Rodrigues de Freitas, and said she fell around 40 meters (131 feet) to her death.

Shortly before the accident, de Freitas posted an image of the site on Instagram captioned: "Who was the crazy person who let me come jump off a bridge???"

Previous videos of the extreme sport at the bridge, carried out by the Entre Cordas company, show participants with a thick safety cord around their waists as they are launched off.

Rope jumping differs from bungee jumping in that it uses a less elastic cord, meaning participants swing back and forth rather than bouncing at the end of the jump.

American Dan Osman, considered the inventor of the sport, died rope jumping in 1998 at the age of 35.

London, Tokyo agree \$24-bn investment deal



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer (L) and Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi attend a business roundtable meeting at Downing Street in central London

● The meeting also included a roundtable discussion

● Total trade between the United Kingdom and Japan is currently worth around £140 billion

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Britain and Japan yesterday sealed a sweeping economic and technological partnership, expected to generate over £18 billion (\$24 billion) in investment, during a visit to London by Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Takaichi held talks at his Downing Street office, ahead of them attending a G7 summit in France which begins on Monday.

In total, more than 10 trade agreements were signed, including a £9-billion offshore wind farm project, as Starmer hailed as "a new era of cooperation between our two countries". The meeting also included a roundtable discussion with industry representatives from both nations.

The partnership includes a strengthening of collaboration between Rolls-Royce and Japan's Atomic Energy Agency.

The two countries also announced their intention to

10

In total, more than 10 trade agreements were signed, including a £9-billion offshore wind farm project

2,745 foreigners sent home in a week, South Africa says

● Mobs of South Africans carrying sticks, whips and shields have marched through parts of the country ordering foreigners with no residency papers to leave by June 30.

AFP | Johannesburg, South Africa

South Africa has repatriated 2,745 foreigners in the week after President Cyril Ramaphosa vowed tougher action against illegal immigration, the country's home affairs minister said yesterday.

One of Africa's largest economies, South Africa has long attracted migrant workers from across the continent, both legally and illegally.

But saddled with an unemployment rate above 30%, it has experienced recurring spurts of anti-immigrant unrest, including fresh violence in recent weeks.

Mobs of South Africans carrying sticks, whips and shields have marched through parts of the country ordering foreigners with no residency papers to



Migrants stand in a queue to board the first of seven buses at the Sherwood Park in Durban to travel back to Malawi.

leave by June 30.

Growing security fears after businesses were looted and foreigners targeted have prompted citizens of Nigeria, Malawi, Ghana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique to accept voluntary repatriation organised by their governments.

"As of last night, the number we can report is 2,745 repatriations that have come in this period since the president spoke," Home Affairs Minister Leon Schreiber told reporters.

"It is a moving target," he said.

The government said most of those repatriated were in the country illegally.

They include Malawian nationals, about 7,000 of whom have been sheltering in an open field in the eastern port city of Durban, according to an inter-ministerial migration committee set up after the president's address.

Eight buses commissioned by the Malawian government began moving its citizens on Sunday, with South Africa providing 10 additional buses to

speed up deportations, the committee said.

Among those boarding the first buses, some carried babies on their backs and small bags of belongings.

"I'm relieved we are finally leaving. It's better than living in fear here," said Fortune Chilenje from Blantyre, Malawi's commercial capital.

The 25-year-old had lived in South Africa for three years, she told AFP, adding that threats to leave had followed her even at the camp, one of the largest to emerge since the unrest began.



South Africa hosts the largest migrant population in Africa, with millions of foreign-born residents living and working in the country.

* Most migrants in South Africa come from neighbouring countries, including Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Lesotho.

Clashes erupt between G7 protesters and police in Geneva

● Police put the number of protesters at up to 7,000 at the start of the procession, but by 4:30 pm, AFP journalists estimated the number was closer to 15,000

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

Clashes broke out Sunday between protesters and police in Geneva, including near the United Nations headquarters, a day before the G7 summit opens in nearby Evian in France, AFP journalists saw.

Small groups of protesters, many dressed in black and wearing masks, threw bottles, stones, pieces of cement and firecrackers at the police, who responded with tear gas and water cannons.

Several buildings were targeted, including the offices of the UN's International Telecommunications Union and a nearby premises of multinational accounting and consulting firm Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

Protesters were not able to get close to the UN's European headquarters, located across the square, which had been heavily secured with large water cannon trucks parked in front.

AFP journalists inside the building heard explosions, numerous police sirens and the continuous drone of helicopters circling overhead.

The protesters later marched back to the demonstration's starting point, in a park on the



Demonstrators take part in a rally of a "No-G7" coalition of over 60 associations, unions and left-wing groups "against fascism and imperialism", a day ahead of the summit's start, in Geneva

shores of Lake Geneva, where clashes with police continued.

The protest against the Group of Seven leaders, who kick off their three-day annual gathering on Monday, had started out peacefully at around 3:30 pm (1330 GMT), with demonstrators waving banners bearing messages such as: "No to the G7 and all imperialist alliances!" and "Abort the G7".

Geneva authorities had deployed a significant police presence, wary of a repeat of the violence seen in the city when a similar summit was held in Evian in 2003.

Chanting slogans with a range of messages, supporting Palestinians, climate action, feminism and anti-capitalist activ-

ism, the protesters made their way through a barricaded city, as helicopters hovered above.

But shortly after the march began, groups of black-clad protesters in masks began breaking through barriers protecting some of the up-scale apartment buildings along the route, and set AFP journalists also saw a Tesla car set alight, tagged with the words: "Eat the Rich".

Clashes with police followed, amid chants of "Down with the police state" and other anti-police slogans.

At around 7:00 pm (1700 GMT), police estimated the number of demonstrators at 20,000, including around 600 so-called "Black Bloc" radical protesters.



The G7 brings together seven of the world's largest advanced economies: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. * The European Union also participates in G7 summits, although it is not counted as a member.



India, France elevate ties to Special Global Strategic Partnership



TDI | agencies

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron have agreed to elevate bilateral relations to a Special Global Strategic Partnership, signalling a significant expansion of cooperation between the two countries.

In a post on X following talks with Macron, Modi described the discussions as "exceptionally productive" and said the decision reflected the longstanding friendship between India and France.

The leaders discussed ways to deepen cooperation in key sectors including defence, technology, space, security, counter-terrorism and innovation. They also reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening collaboration in emerging and strategic technologies.

Modi said India and France would continue working together to boost economic ties, noting that the proposed India-European Union free trade agreement would provide "unparalleled momentum" to bilateral economic cooperation.

The two countries are also launching an Economic Security Dialogue aimed at building more resilient supply chains for critical minerals and advanced technologies. Healthcare and education were identified as additional areas for closer collaboration.

The announcement underscores the growing convergence between India and France on economic, technological, security and global issues, further cementing one of New Delhi's most important strategic partnerships in Europe.

UN chief condemns Israeli strikes at 'crucial moment' in peace efforts



United Nations, United States

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres yesterday criticized Israel's strikes on Beirut that threatened US plans for Washington and Tehran to sign a framework peace deal later in the day.

"The strikes took place despite the ceasefire and at a time when the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran are expected to reach an agreement that will pave the way to a peaceful resolution of this conflict," he said in a statement.

"I urge all parties to show maximum restraint at this crucial moment."

China direct strike threat to Australia 'growing': report

AFP | Sydney, Australia

China is capable of a direct missile strike on Australia and the threat is growing as Beijing amasses long-range and hypersonic weapons and builds islands in the South China Sea, an Australian think tank said yesterday.

A Lowy Institute report found the main threat to Australia was from Chinese missiles fired from ships, submarines and a new intermediate-range ballistic missile that could reach the island continent from China.

China's capacity to strike Australia would grow over the next decade as "the DF-27 intermediate-range ballistic missile, and potentially a conventionally armed intercontinental ballistic missile, grow in service numbers", it said.

The DF-27 missile has a range of 5,000 to 8,000 kilometres (3,000 to 5,000 miles), the US military said in December.

The direct military threat posed to Australia was not well understood by the public, the report said, adding that it was

assessing Beijing's capability and not its intentions.

Sam Roggeveen, the director of the Lowy Institute's International Security Program, told AFP the report was "neither hawkish nor dovish, neither alarmist nor complacent".

"I think the growth of the People's Liberation Army is the most important thing to happen to Australian security since the collapse of the Soviet Union, and there is a pressing need for a more informed Australian discussion about it," he said.

Australia reshaped its military strategy three years ago in response to China's rapid navy build-up and rising friction between Beijing and Washington, focusing on deterring an adversary from its northern approaches.

However, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's government has been reluctant to talk about the potential

for a direct attack on the Australian mainland.

Although China's ability to sever undersea communications cables, cyber attacks and interdicting maritime trade are the primary risk for Australia, "the direct strike threat is real and growing", the report said.

The Dong Feng-26 intermediate-range ballistic missile could reach northern Australia if deployed from one of Beijing's artificially built islands in the South China Sea, it said.

The threat to Australia would "dramatically escalate" if China fielded a crewed or drone long-range bomber, or deployed bombers or missiles on Pacific islands close to Australia.

Australia has been locked in competition with China to cement security ties with South Pacific nations, seeking to prevent Beijing from gaining a base.



US singer Oliver Tree was on deadly Brazil helicopter flight: police source

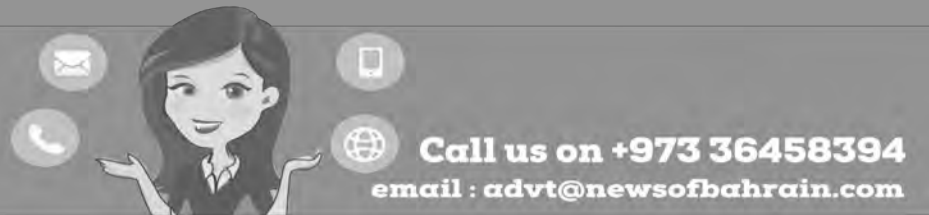
Rio De Janeiro, Brazil

told AFP.

American singer-songwriter Oliver Tree, who was in Brazil on a world tour, was aboard one of the helicopters that crashed Sunday in Rio de Janeiro, leaving all occupants dead, a police source

The alternative singer and internet personality is listed as one of six people on the manifest shared by the source, who said the victims could not be formally identified yet as they were badly burned in the crash.

Classifieds



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region

US Navy Helicopter Rescues 14 Indian Mariners in Arabian Sea

Senior officials from Jordan and Syria held expanded bilateral talks in Damascus, focusing on cooperation across key sectors including water, energy, transport, trade, and civil aviation.

The Jordanian delegation was led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Ayman Al-Safadi. He was joined by Minister of Water and Irrigation Eng. Raed Abu Al-Saud, Minister of Transport Dr. Nidal Al-Katamin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Eng. Yarub Al-Qudah, and Chairman of the Civil Aviation Regulatory Commission



Daifallah Al-Faraj.

On the Syrian side, talks were headed by Foreign Minister Asaad Al-Shaibani, alongside Minister of Energy Eng. Mohammad Bashir, Minister of Economy and Industry Dr. Mohammad Nidal Al-Shaar, Minister of Transport Dr. Yarub Badr, Chairman of the General Authority for Ports and Customs Qutaiba Bad-

awi, and Chairman of the General Authority of Civil Aviation and Air Transport Omar Al-Husari. The discussions form part of ongoing efforts to enhance bilateral cooperation and coordination between the two neighboring countries in areas of shared strategic interest, particularly infrastructure, trade facilitation, and regional connectivity.

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World's Most Expensive Gold Dress Goes on Display

Crafted from over 10kg of 21-carat gold, the gown debuts publicly at Expo Centre Sharjah

A gold dress valued at Dh5 million and recognised by Guinness World Records as the world's most expensive gold dress has become a major attraction at the Watch and Jewellery Middle East Show 2026 in Sharjah, drawing large crowds of visitors.

The dress, presented by Al Romaizan Gold & Jewellery, is being displayed publicly for the first time at Expo Centre Sharjah. The piece is crafted from more than 10 kilograms of 21-carat pure gold, combining high-end craftsmanship with record-setting value and highlighting the scale of innovation within the region's luxury jewellery sector.

The exhibition has brought together leading local and international jewellery houses showcasing exclusive collections, rare creations, and new designs aimed at collectors and high-end buyers.

Alongside the record-breaking gold dress, several exhibitors



have unveiled standout pieces and limited-edition collections. Salem Shueibi Jewellery is featuring its "Aura Mousa" collec-

tion, created in collaboration with Emirati designer Shamma Al Hallami, as well as more than 500 new diamond designs and items from its "Sheikha Hind" collection.

Alarbia Jewellery is presenting multiple Guinness World Records-recognised creations, including the "Union Frame", a design that incorporates landmarks from all seven emirates into a single artistic piece. The brand is also showcasing other record-holding decorative works highlighting Emirati craftsmanship.



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Vinicius rescues Brazil against Morocco

Morocco prove formidable opponents as Brazil settle for draw

- Saibari give Morocco early lead
- Vinicius level with superb strike
- Brazil struggle for rhythm

AFP | Los Angeles

Vinicius Junior scored a brilliant equaliser for Brazil in a 1-1 draw with Morocco on Saturday as the five-time World Cup winners made an uncertain start to the tournament in New Jersey.

Ismael Saibari ran through to give Morocco a 21st-minute lead with a clever scoop in the Group C opener, but Vinicius produced a moment of magic to ensure Brazil came away with a point.

Brazil are chasing a record sixth World Cup title, 24 years after last lifting the trophy, but this performance suggests there is a lot of work to be done by Carlo Ancelotti's side.

Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos and Kaka were all members of Brazil's 2002 World Cup-winning squad and were among those in attendance at MetLife Stadium.

Brazil have turned to the hugely successful Ancelotti a



Achraf Hakimi #2 of Morocco competes for the ball against Vinicius Junior #7 of Brazil

bid to end the country's title drought. He is the first foreign coach to lead Brazil at football's biggest tournament.

A fifth-placed finish in South American qualifying underlined the scale of the challenge facing Ancelotti. However, the Italian insists Brazil possess a squad capable of competing with an-

yone in the expanded 48-team tournament.

He was without Neymar for the start of the competition, with Brazil's all-time record goalscorer still recovering from a calf injury, having not played for his country since 2023.

Morocco coach Mohamed Ouahbi urged his players not

to fear Brazil, and his message appeared to resonate as the 2022 semi-finalists started brightly in one of the standout matches of the first round.

After Neil El Aynaoui and Achraf Hakimi threatened the Brazil goal, Saibari made the breakthrough when he latched onto a fine pass from Brahim

Morocco's midfielder #11 Ismael Saibari celebrates scoring

YOU KNOW WHAT

Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos and Kaka – all members of Brazil's 2002 World Cup-winning squad – were in attendance at MetLife Stadium to watch their country's uncertain start

Diaz.

The PSV Eindhoven forward raced beyond Marquinhos and Gabriel Magalhaes, holding his nerve with a clinical chipped finish over the advancing Alisson Becker.

Brazil drew level 11 minutes later through Vinicius, who will have a vital role to play if Brazil are to shine this summer.

Morocco's midfielder #11 Ismael Saibari celebrates scoring

The Real Madrid star received the ball from Bruno Guimaraes on the left side of the area before cutting back onto his right foot and hammering into the far corner past Yassine Bounou.

It belatedly breathed life into a lacklustre Brazil and Lucas Paqueta saw his acrobatic effort pushed away by Bounou before half-time.

Bounou saved well from Igor Thiago as Brazil caught Morocco napping with a quick throw-in after the break, while Raphinha and Danilo shot right at Bounou as the Selecao pressed for a winner.

Morocco nearly snatched it at the death when Alisson parried a long-range effort from El Aynaoui and had to react sharply to block the follow-up from Ayoub Amaimouni.

Brazil remain unbeaten in World Cup openers since 1934.

They next face outsiders Haiti while Morocco take on Scotland in their second match.



Australia stun Turkey after selection gamble pays off

AFP | Vancouver

Australia scored a stunning 2-0 upset over Turkey in their World Cup Group D opener on Saturday as coach Tony Popovic's bold selection gamble paid off.

Nestory Irankunda and Connor Metcalfe scored the goals and rookie goalkeeper Patrick Beach produced a string of crucial saves to help secure a famous Australian victory at Vancouver's BC Place Stadium.

Australia coach Popovic had pulled off a massive shock in his starting line-up, dropping experienced captain and goalkeeper Maty Ryan in favour of Beach, winning only his third cap.

Vice-captain Jackson Irvine was also dropped in favour of 21-year-old midfielder Paul Okon-Engstler in a starting XI that featured 10 World Cup debutants.

Both of those selections proved to be inspired, with Beach pulling off a string of fine saves to deny Turkey, who dominated possession and territory but could not find a way past the Australian goalkeeper.

Okon-Engstler meanwhile was instrumental in setting up the opening goal in the first half, unfurling a long ball that split the Turkish defence and sent Irankunda racing in on goal to score.

Turkey -- playing in the World Cup for the first time since finishing third at the 2002 tournament -- arrived in North America dreaming of making a serious run in the knockout rounds.

10

World Cup debutants featured in Australia's starting lineup during the shock victory over Turkey

But their talented team made up largely of players who regularly compete in the European League were unable to get to grips with a well-organised Soccerroos line-up.

One of Turkey's best chances came in the 27th minute when Real Madrid's Arda Guler forced a smart save from Beach with a rasping shot.

Just seconds after that chance though Australia took the lead.

Beach picked out Okon-Engstler deep in the Australia half, and the 21-year-old midfielder pumped the ball upfield for Irankunda.



Nestory Irankunda

The Australia winger still had plenty to do but a clever first touch took him clear of the covering defence before he tucked away a low finish.

Irakunda celebrated by sprinting to the edge of the pitch and pretending to box the corner flag, mimicking former Australia skipper Tim Cahill's signature goal celebration.

Turkey thought they had equalised three minutes later after Abdulkadir Bardakci's piledriver from outside of the area hurtled towards goal.

But Beach got the slightest of fingertips to divert the ball onto the post and Australia survived again.

Beach kept up his commanding form in the second half, turning a Guler free-kick wide for a corner on 57 minutes.

With Beach continuing to make save after save, Australia made the game safe in the 75th minute when Metcalfe picked the ball up in midfield, advanced on goal and shot home from 25 yards.

McGinn gives Scotland win over Haiti on World Cup return

AFP | Foxborough

A scrappy finish by John McGinn allowed Scotland to mark their return to the World Cup after a 28-year absence with a nervy 1-0 win over outsiders Haiti on Saturday.

Aston Villa captain McGinn fired in with the aid of a deflection just before the half-hour mark at the Gillette Stadium just outside Boston, which was filled to its 64,000 capacity with a majority of Scottish fans.

They have travelled to the United States in large numbers to follow Scotland's first World Cup campaign since 1998, and were able to celebrate a rare victory at the tournament as they go top of Group C.

It is Scotland's first win at a World Cup since a 2-1 defeat of Sweden in Italy in 1990, and a first victory at any major tournament in 30 years, since Euro 96.

Steve Clarke's team are bidding to make history by reaching the knockout stages, something Scotland have never done at the World Cup.

They had to hang on grimly at the end, but the victory puts them on course to get to the last 32, especially as the eight best third-placed sides will go through from the group stage.

Haiti are one of the lowest-ranked sides at the tournament, at 84th in the world, and Scotland knew the importance of beating the Caribbean nation with tougher tests to come.

They play Morocco at the same stadium in their next



Scotland midfielder #07 John McGinn celebrates with teammates after scoring

YOU KNOW WHAT

Scotland's win was their first at any major international tournament since Euro 96, ending a 30-year wait for victory on the big stage

prevented the team playing qualifiers at home.

McTominay hits post

Their line-up included midfielder Jean-Ricner Bellegarde and striker Wilson Isidor, both of whom featured regularly in the English Premier League this season.

But there is greater depth in the Scotland side, with the likes of McGinn, skipper Andy Robertson and Scott McTominay.

The Napoli attacking midfielder, scorer of an iconic overhead kick in the decisive win over Denmark which sealed qualification, was fit to start this game after shaking off a stomach bug.

McTominay almost gave a Scotland team playing in salmon pink the lead in the 17th minute, when he arrived at the edge of the area to crash a shot off the post from a Ben Gannon-Doak lay-off.

Hamilton claims **first** Ferrari win at Barcelona Grand Prix

● Antonelli retire with technical issue

AFP | Barcelona

Lewis Hamilton claimed his first victory for Ferrari yesterday at the Barcelona-Catalunya Formula One Grand Prix, ending championship leader Kimi Antonelli's five-race winning streak.

The seven-time world champion finished ahead of George Russell and Lando Norris, while Antonelli was forced to abandon in the final stages because of a technical problem.

Hamilton, 41, cut down Antonelli's title lead to 41 points by triumphing on a Sunday nearly two years after he last won a race.

"It's not over, that's for sure," said Hamilton of the championship race.

Mercedes polesitter Russell came in 19 seconds behind Hamilton, with Norris completing an all-British podium, the first since the 1968 United States Grand Prix.

"You have helped me so much to achieve this dream, I cannot thank you enough," said Hamilton over team radio.

"To the fans, thank you for reminding me who I am. I couldn't have done this without you."

Russell, pre-season favourite for the championship, arrived in Barcelona bemoaning bad luck for his recent struggles but after team-mate Antonelli edged in front of him late on he had some good fortune to cut the gap on the teenager to 53 points after the Italian abandoned.

"Good to be back on the podium and have a clean race, but Ferrari were mighty today so we need to keep pushing," said Russell.

"The last stints were difficult, but it's good to be back here. The pace today was insane from Lewis, they are coming I think."

With track temperatures up



Winner Ferrari's British driver Lewis Hamilton, second placed Mercedes' British driver George Russell (L) and third placed McLaren's British driver Lando Norris (R) celebrate in the podium

at 51 degrees Celsius, Hamilton opted for a three pit-stop strategy and it worked to perfection, with the third of those fortuitously coming while the virtual safety car was deployed.

Ferrari's heavily upgraded car may well have been fast enough for Hamilton to triumph anyway, as he recorded the 106th victory of his career.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen came in fourth, ahead of McLaren's Oscar Piastri and Isack Hadjar in the other Red Bull.

Russell got off to the perfect start from pole, holding off Hamilton on softs, with the Ferrari driver cutting off Antonelli.

Hadjar, who started in position six, was slow off the line and overtaken by eight cars.

Charles Leclerc, in the second Ferrari, admitted he was "ashamed" by his crash in qualifying which left him starting in 10th but expertly weaved his way up to sixth, although he was later forced to retire.

Early stop

Hamilton took an early pit



stop on lap 12 to swap his softs for hards, with Mercedes responding on the following lap with hards for Russell.

Russell was worried his stop "exposed" him to Antonelli but retook the lead from Hamilton with his teenage team-mate back in third after his own stop to bolt on the hards.

With Hamilton 2.3 seconds behind Russell he said "we are on Plan C" over team radio.

The seven-time champion

pitted for the second time in the 28th lap, indicating a three-stop strategy, with Mercedes deciding not to follow suit because of the threat of 2025 champion Lando Norris, who was on a two-stop plan.

Antonelli moved right behind Russell, who was forced to fend off his team-mate.

Russell was called in for fresh hards before Antonelli followed suit, allowing Hamilton into the lead, with Ferrari telling the Briton this was the "critical time" for his race.

Home favourite Alonso, in what he said was probably his final appearance in Barcelona, was forced to retire because of a suspected battery issue. It brought out a yellow flag with the virtual safety car deployed, offering Hamilton an ideal chance for a cheap stop.

That worked brilliantly for Hamilton who emerged from his third stop with fresh rubber 2.6s ahead of Russell with 24 laps remaining.

With clean air Hamilton was able to stretch his lead comfortably to triumph in style.

Brunson leads Knicks to first NBA title in 53 years



Jalen Brunson #11 of the New York Knicks drives to the basket

AFP | Los Angeles

The New York Knicks, fueled by a sensational 45 points from Jalen Brunson, rallied again to beat the San Antonio Spurs 94-90 and win their first NBA title in 53 years on Saturday.

The Knicks won the best-of-seven championship series 4-1, denying Victor Wembanyama and his young Spurs teammates on their home floor to lift the trophy for the first time since 1973.

The Knicks, who recovered from 29 points down in game four in the biggest comeback win in Finals history, erased a double-digit deficit to win for the fourth time in the series.

Brunson scored eight of the Knicks' meagre 13 first-quarter points.

They trailed by 16 in the second quarter and were down by 10 early in the fourth, but Brunson wouldn't let them lose.

"I've got no words," Brunson said after setting a Knicks record for points in a Finals game, surpassing Willis Reed's 38 in game three of the team's

1970 triumph over the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Knicks needed every bit of his contribution on a night when they connected on just 35.6 percent of their shots from the field.

"I don't know what I'm feeling," added Brunson, who was named Finals Most Valuable Player.

"I'm in awe. Whenever someone counts us out, we find a way to come back and do something about it."

French star Wembanyama scored 19 points, pulled down 14 rebounds and blocked five shots and rookie Dylan Harper scored 25 points off the bench for San Antonio.

But once again the Spurs team that vanquished the defending champion Oklahoma City Thunder in the Western Conference finals were unable to hold off the crafty and determined Knicks.

"The margin of error is very thin," Wembanyama said. "Our domination stints are absolute. We absolutely dominated for most of the series."

"But our errors, our mistakes, are punished so hard that we can't have ups and downs like this."

Doku at the heart of Belgium's next generation ahead of Egypt test

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Belgium open their FIFA World Cup 2026 campaign tonight against Egypt in a Group G clash at Seattle Stadium, kicking off at 10pm Bahrain time. It is an early test between a European side rediscovering momentum and an Egyptian team quietly confident of causing problems on the global stage.

Belgium in red-hot form

The Red Devils arrive unbeaten in 13 matches and fresh off a commanding 5-0 win over Tunisia in Brussels, where five different players got on the scoresheet. Since Rudi Garcia took charge in January 2025, the squad has steadied after a turbulent spell, narrowly avoiding Nations League relegation and completing an unbeaten qualifying campaign.

They finished top of their



Jeremy Doku in training ahead of Belgium's World Cup opener

group with 29 goals scored — second only to Norway in Europe — signalling a return to the attacking fluency that defined their peak years. But caution remains: their 2022 World Cup ended in a shock group-stage exit, with just one win and one goal scored, exposing how



quickly elite status can unravel on the biggest stage.

Doku driving the new era

Much of Belgium's renewed momentum has flowed through Jérémy Doku, whose direct running and end product have made him central to their attacking evolution, with five goals and two assists in qualifying, plus two more assists in the win over Tunisia.

Romelu Lukaku remains the focal point up front, though Gar-



Egypt attacking duo Mohamed Salah and Omar Marmoush

cia has suggested the striker is still not at full sharpness following an injury-hit season. Even so, Belgium's all-time top scorer retains the ability to decide matches with limited chances.

Egypt arrive with belief

The Pharaohs travel with con-

fidence, buoyed by their 2-1 win over Belgium in November 2022 in Kuwait City, when Mostafa Mohamed and Trezeguet delivered a statement result that still resonates within the squad.

Mohamed Salah remains the central figure, even after a relatively subdued final season

at Liverpool by his standards, registering 14 league goal involvements — his lowest return since 2014-15. He turns 34 on matchday and will look to mark the occasion by leading Egypt to a landmark World Cup victory. In qualifying, he contributed to 60% of Egypt's goals, underlining his continued importance.

Tactical outlook

Belgium are expected to dominate possession and territory, using pace and width to stretch Egypt's defensive block. Egypt, meanwhile, are likely to stay compact, absorb pressure, and look to exploit space in transition behind Belgium's advanced full-backs.

While Belgium enter as favourites on paper, Egypt's recent head-to-head success and defensive resilience suggest this opener in Seattle could be more finely balanced than expected.



Germany survive early scare before overpowering Curaçao 7-1

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Germany opened their FIFA World Cup 2026 campaign with a 7-1 victory over debutants Curaçao yesterday, a scoreline that masked a briefly chaotic first half before the four-time champions asserted their authority in Group E.

Julian Nagelsmann's side were 3-1 ahead at the break after a match that featured a historic equaliser for Curaçao and a late penalty that shifted momentum firmly back towards Germany before half-time.

Felix Nmecha opened the scoring in the sixth minute, curling a precise finish into the top corner after Florian Wirtz's incisive pass split the Curaçao defence. Germany dominated the early exchanges, with Leroy Sané and Wirtz both threatening as the debutants struggled to contain sustained pressure.

But Curaçao, disciplined and increasingly confident after the opening quarter-hour, produced a moment of World Cup history in the 21st minute. Livano Comenencia's strike took a decisive deflection off Joshua Kimmich and beat Manuel Neuer, sparking jubilant celebrations as the Caribbean side scored their first-ever goal at a World Cup finals. The equaliser briefly unsettled Germany, with Curaçao defending bravely and surviving a series of set-piece scares. Nico Schlotterbeck went close before eventually restoring order in the 38th minute, rising highest to



Jamal Musiala scores Germany's fourth goal of the night

head home Nathaniel Brown's corner.

Curaçao's resistance then unravelled in stoppage time when Riechedly Bazoer brought down Nmecha in the box. Kai Havertz converted the resulting penalty, sending Eloy Room the wrong way to make it 3-1 at the interval.

Any sense of contest disappeared after the restart. Jamal Musiala added a fourth in the 47th minute, finishing well after a Joshua Kimmich through ball, and the Germans never looked

back.

The introduction of substitutes further widened the gap. Nathaniel Brown struck the fifth in the 68th minute following a clever Deniz Undav assist, before Undav himself made it 6-1 in the 78th minute after linking with Kimmich inside the box.

Havertz completed the scoring in the 88th minute with a composed second goal, lifting a delicate finish over Room after being released by Undav.

Curaçao, who had briefly

threatened to make the match competitive in the first half, faded as Germany's tempo and depth proved overwhelming in the final half-hour.

For all their dominance, Germany were briefly reminded of their defensive vulnerability, but responded with the kind of attacking ruthlessness expected of tournament contenders. For Curaçao, the night ended in heavy defeat, but also with a landmark moment that will define their World Cup debut.

Najma end tournament on winning note

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Al Najma concluded their 28th Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship campaign on a positive note yesterday, defeating Saudi Arabia's Al Khaleej 29-23 in their final match in Sabah Al Salem, Kuwait.

Despite the win, the two-time champions had already been eliminated from semi-final contention due to earlier results and ultimately finished fifth in the seven-team standings. The result marked a trophyless season for the club, following their earlier failure to capture the domestic Khalid bin Hamad Handball League title.

Under new head coach Abdulrahman Mohamed, who took charge ahead of the competition, Najma ended their campaign with a record of two wins, one draw, and three defeats.

They closed the preliminary round with five points, level with Kuwait SC but behind on goal difference. Al Khaleej topped the group with nine points, while Burgan Sports Club also finished on nine but placed second on goal difference. Qatar's Al Duhail took third place with seven points, and Kuwait SC finished fourth, completing the semi-final lineup.

In the lower half of the standings, Qatar's Al Arabi finished sixth on five points, while UAE's Sharjah ended

bottom of the table with two points.

Against leaders Al Khaleej, Najma produced one of their strongest performances of the tournament. After falling 7-10 behind early, they responded strongly to level at 9-9 before going into half-time ahead 14-12.

In the second half, Najma took control through sharp fastbreaks and disciplined defending, steadily pulling away in the final 20 minutes.

Jasim Khamis led the scoring with seven goals, while Mohamed Habib Mahdi was the standout finisher with eight goals from nine attempts. Saud Aljunaid added five goals, and Mohamed Mahamad contributed three perfect strikes from three attempts to help secure the win. Ali Al Ali also chipped in with one goal.

Al Khaleej, coached by Dimitrios Dimitroulias, were led by Abdullah Sami Al Sadoon with seven goals but struggled to contain Najma's transition play, as turnovers proved costly.

Today's semi-finals will see Kuwait's Burgan SC take on Qatar's Al Duhail at 5 PM, while Saudi Arabia's Al Khaleej face Kuwait SC at 7:30pm. The tournament concludes on Wednesday with the gold and bronze medal matches, with the champions earning qualification for the 19th IHF Men's Handball Club World Championship in Egypt later this year.

Spain seek strong start against World Cup newcomers Cape Verde

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

European champions Spain begin their FIFA World Cup 2026 campaign tonight against tournament debutants Cape Verde in a Group H clash at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta. Kick-off is scheduled for 7pm Bahrain time.

The match brings together one of the tournament favourites and a nation making its World Cup debut, setting up one of the most intriguing opening fixtures of the group stage.

Spain among the favourites

Luis de la Fuente's side arrive in the United States in excellent form. Since their defeat to Scotland in March 2023, La Roja have gone 31 competitive matches unbeaten, winning 25, and lifting the UEFA European Championship in 2024.

Spain topped their World Cup qualifying group with five wins from six matches and are aiming to become only the fourth nation in history to hold both the European and world titles simultaneously, following West Germany, France, and Spain's own golden generation between 2008 and 2012.

Notably, Spain remain the



Lamine Yamal trains with Spain ahead of their World Cup opener



Coach Pedro Leitao Brito puts Cape Verde through drills ahead of debut match

only nation to have won three consecutive major international tournaments — UEFA Euro 2008, the 2010 FIFA World Cup, and UEFA Euro 2012.

Ranked second in the world and making their 17th World Cup appearance, Spain combine established international experience with emerging talent such as Lamine Yamal. They are expected to progress comfortably from a group that also includes Saudi Arabia and Uruguay.

World Cup questions remain

Despite their recent success, the Spaniards have not always translated that form onto the

World Cup Schedule				
Today				
Time	Match	Group	Venue	
7:00 PM	Spain vs Cape Verde	H	Atlanta Stadium	
10:00 PM	Belgium vs Egypt	G	Seattle Stadium	
Tomorrow				
1:00 AM	Saudi Arabia vs Uruguay	H	Miami Stadium	
4:00 AM	Iran vs New Zealand	G	Los Angeles Stadium	
10:00 PM	France vs Senegal	I	New York New Jersey Stadium	

(All games in Bahrain time)

World Cup stage.

They have won just one of their last six matches in normal time at the tournament, with

their most recent campaign ending in a penalty shootout defeat to Morocco in the Round of 16 at Qatar 2022.

national football.

Head coach Bubista has been central to that progress, guiding the side to multiple Africa Cup of Nations knockout-stage appearances before leading them to World Cup qualification.

Underdogs with belief

The island nation arrive in confident form, winning six of their final seven qualifiers and recording friendly victories over Serbia and Bermuda.

While Spain are clear favourites, Cape Verde's recent momentum and fearless approach give them belief they can compete on the world stage.

Match outlook

Spain are expected to dominate possession and control the tempo, while Cape Verde will likely remain compact, aiming to frustrate their opponents and threaten on the counterattack.

Anything other than a Spanish victory would be a major shock, but World Cup debuts often bring unpredictability and emotion that can unsettle even established sides.

For Spain, it is the start of another title pursuit. For Cape Verde, it is a historic first step. Group H begins in Atlanta with ambition meeting opportunity.