

Hero's welcome for Bahrain boxing squad

The Bahrain national boxing team returned to the Kingdom yesterday | P11



Bahrain's Price dominates youth boxing scene 11 SPORTS

BUSINESS 5 Stocks tumble as US-Iran impasse fuels inflation fears

Bahrain welcomes UAE-mediated Russia-Ukraine captive exchange

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has welcomed the successful mediation efforts led by the United Arab Emirates between Russia and Ukraine that resulted in the exchange of 410 captives.

In a statement, Bahrain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the exchange as an important step toward supporting de-escalation efforts and strengthening prospects for a peaceful resolution to the Ukraine crisis.

The ministry praised the UAE's diplomatic and humanitarian role in facilitating prisoner exchanges since the start of the conflict, noting that Emirati mediation efforts have helped secure the release of 7,101 captives through 23 operations.

Bahrain also reaffirmed its support for regional and international initiatives aimed at ending the war through dialogue and peaceful means, reducing its humanitarian consequences and promoting regional and global stability.

Dubai's annual art fair opens despite regional war

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The Middle East's largest annual contemporary art fair opened in Dubai on Friday against the backdrop of the Iran war, drawing fewer galleries and a more local crowd than usual.

This year, in its 20th edition, Art Dubai opened a month late and in a scaled-down format after the regional conflict forced the organisers to revise their plans.

"When the conflict broke out, we were only a few weeks out from the fair, and so we had to make a decision as to whether to go ahead" with the three-day event, its executive director Benedetta Ghione, told AFP.

"For us, the message is about resilience," she added.



220 fils (includes VAT)



Strong show of unity, resolve

GCC pushes mega integration projects

● The renewed push dominated high-level Gulf economic meetings chaired by Sheikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa

● Gulf leaders had directed member states to accelerate shared infrastructure projects, including transport and logistics networks, the GCC railway project, expanded electricity interconnection systems, oil and gas pipeline networks and a unified Gulf water interconnection project.

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In a strong show of Gulf unity and economic resolve, Gulf states are pushing ahead with major cross-border projects — including the long-delayed GCC railway, energy interconnection systems and strategic oil and gas pipelines — while warning against attacks threatening regional and global stability.

The renewed push dominated high-level Gulf economic meetings chaired by Sheikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Bahrain's Minister of Finance and National Economy, who stressed that stronger Gulf cooperation had become increasingly vital amid mounting regional and global challenges.

Speaking during the 125th



The unprecedented missile and drone attacks targeting residential areas and vital civilian infrastructure pose a serious threat to both regional and global stability.

SHEIKH SALMAN BIN KHALIFA AL KHALIFA, BAHRAIN'S MINISTER OF FINANCE AND NATIONAL ECONOMY



meeting of the GCC Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee and the ninth ministerial preparatory meeting for the GCC Economic and Development Affairs Authority, Sheikh Salman underscored the need to build on existing development gains and expand joint Gulf action under Bahrain's current presidency of the bloc.

"Strategic necessity"

Echoing those remarks, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary-General Jassim Mohammed Albudaiwi said recent regional developments had demonstrated that Gulf integration was no longer merely an institutional objective but a "strategic necessity" to protect supply chains, markets

and vital sectors from external shocks.

He said Gulf leaders had directed member states to accelerate shared infrastructure projects, including transport and logistics networks, the GCC railway project, expanded electricity interconnection systems, oil and gas pipeline networks and a unified Gulf water interconnection project.

The discussions also focused on strengthening strategic storage capabilities and ensuring adequate liquidity reserves at Gulf central banks to enhance economic resilience during periods of instability.

Sheikh Salman said Bahrain, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the directives of

HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, remained committed to advancing joint Gulf economic action and deeper regional integration.

Violations

Referring to recent regional security developments, he warned that Gulf countries had faced unprecedented missile and drone attacks targeting residential areas and key civilian infrastructure, including energy facilities, desalination plants, ports, airports and universities.

He described the attacks as violations of international and humanitarian law that threaten both regional and global stability.

Fatal crash on Amwaj Road claims one life



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A motorist was killed after his vehicle crashed into a tree on Amwaj Road, authorities said yesterday.

Emergency teams rushed to the scene following the accident, while officials carried out the necessary legal and administrative procedures.

No additional details regarding the victim or the cause of the crash were immediately released.

Kingdom welcomes Yemen detainee exchange

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Bahrain welcomed the signing of a detainee exchange agreement in Amman, Jordan, between Yemeni parties, facilitated by the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with support from Jordan.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the agreement represents an important step towards alleviating humanitarian suffering and advancing efforts to reach a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

'World's oldest dog' contender dies in France aged 30

Villy-Le-Pelloux, France

A French toy spaniel named Lazare thought to have been "the world's oldest dog" has died aged 30, his carer said yesterday.

Contacted by AFP, Guinness World Records said it "did not receive an application or associated evidence" before Lazare passed away on Thursday, so could not confirm whether he held the record.

Lazare, a Papillon dwarf spaniel with stand-up "butterfly" ears, was born on December 4, 1995, according to animal charity worker Anne-Sophie Moyon.

He spent most of his life with the same companion until she died and he ended up at the charity's shelter.



Securing energy

UAE moves to shield oil exports from Hormuz chaos

TDT | agencies

In a major effort to bypass the Strait of Hormuz and safeguard oil exports amid the escalating Middle East conflict, the United Arab Emirates is fast-tracking construction of a new strategic oil pipeline linking its crude facilities to Fujairah port.

Official media said the West-East Pipeline will double the export capacity of state oil giant ADNOC through Fujairah and is expected to become operational next year, reducing the UAE's dependence on the increasingly volatile Hormuz shipping route.

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al

Nahyan directed ADNOC to accelerate delivery of the project as attacks linked to the regional war continue to threaten Gulf energy infrastructure and disrupt global oil flows.

The UAE already operates a 360-kilometre pipeline connecting the Habshan oil fields to Fu-

jairah with a capacity of 1.8 million barrels per day, according to the Port of Fujairah.

The move comes as the UAE seeks to increase oil production capacity to five million barrels a day by next year.





Future leaders get inside look at housing vision

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Future Bahraini leaders got a first-hand look at the Kingdom's evolving housing vision during a field visit to Salman City, where Housing and Urban Planning Minister Amna bint Ahmed Al Rumaihi met members of the 11th intake of the Prime Minister's Fellowship Programme.

The visit offered participants an inside view of Bahrain's modern housing projects, urban planning strategies and public-private partnership initiatives aimed at accelerating housing delivery across the Kingdom.

During the meeting, Al Rumaihi described the Prime Minister's Fellowship Programme as a key national



platform for preparing future government leaders and strengthening innovation and efficiency across the public sector.

She highlighted the importance of investing in Bahraini talent and equipping national cadres with specialised expertise to support the Kingdom's long-term development goals under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the directives

of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The minister also showcased several successful public-private partnership models in the housing sector, including the Al Naseem district project, describing such collaborations as vital to speeding up housing services and supporting urban development plans.

She revealed that agreements

are in place to build 137 new housing units in Salman City under the same partnership framework, reinforcing Bahrain's push to expand modern housing solutions and meet growing demand.

The fellowship members were also briefed on the ministry's responsibilities, project implementation methods and the key facilities and services being developed within Salman City.

Pakistan honours Bahrain envoy with 'Star of Pakistan'



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Asif Ali Zardari has awarded Bahrain's ambassador to Islamabad, Mohammed Ibrahim Mohammed Abdul Qader, the prestigious "Star of Pakistan" civil honour in recognition of his efforts to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

The award was presented during a ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr presidential palace in Islamabad on Thursday, attended by ministers, members of parliament, senior military officials and civilian dignitaries.

Pakistan's president honoured the Bahraini envoy for his role in enhancing diplomatic ties and expanding cooperation between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan across various sectors. Several prominent Pakistani military and civilian figures were also recognised during the ceremony.

The "Star of Pakistan" is regarded as one of the country's highest civilian honours and reflects the strong and long-standing ties between Bahrain and Pakistan, built on close cooperation and shared interests.

Peaceful coexistence central to Bahrain's vision: minister

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Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications and chairman of the Board of Trustees of the King Hamad Global Centre for Coexistence and Tolerance, said



Bahrain remains committed to promoting peaceful coexistence and human harmony.

He said these efforts continue under the leadership of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown

Prince and Prime Minister.

Speaking on the International Day of Living Together in Peace, he stressed that protecting national sovereignty is essential to achieving sustainable peace.

Dr. Shaikh Abdulla also praised the efforts of the Bahrain Defence Force, National

Guard, Ministry of Interior and civil authorities in confronting recent Iranian attacks targeting the Kingdom, describing their response as a reflection of determination and commitment to safeguarding Bahrain's security and stability.

The minister highlighted ini-

tiatives led by His Majesty the King, including the "Bahrain Declaration" and the establishment of the King Hamad Global Centre for Coexistence and Tolerance, saying they reinforce the values of peaceful coexistence and protection of religious freedoms.

Exchange heist cracked in nail-biting 10-hour chase

Forensic trail leads police to BD600,000 heist suspects

● Investigators recover stolen cash in multiple currencies

● Forensic teams and surveillance footage help trace suspects

● Police arrest trio with money still in their possession

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In a nail-biting 10-hour operation, Bahraini police tracked down three suspects and recovered around BD600,000 in cash following a major money exchange heist yesterday.

Authorities said the suspects allegedly broke into the exchange company's premises, causing extensive damage before escaping with large sums of cash in multiple currencies in what investigators believe was a carefully executed burglary.

The General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science said specialised



The suspects were arrested with the stolen cash still in their possession, according to authorities, who described the swift breakthrough as the result of rapid coordination between investigation and forensic teams.

teams were immediately deployed to the scene after the burglary was reported. Officers sealed off the area and began combing through forensic evidence, surveillance footage and other leads in an effort to identify those involved.

Police said investigators

worked around the clock as search and tracking operations intensified across several locations, eventually leading authorities to the suspects within hours of the crime being reported.

The suspects were arrested with the stolen cash still in their

possession, according to authorities, who described the swift breakthrough as the result of rapid coordination between investigation and forensic teams.

Legal procedures have since been completed and the case has been referred to the Public Prosecution.



Jordan Senate chief concludes Bahrain visit

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Faisal Akef Al Fayeز concluded yesterday following talks focused on parliamentary cooperation, regional security and bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Jordanian Senate president visited the Kingdom at the invitation of Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, chairman of the Shura Council.

During the visit, Al Fayeز held talks with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, on strengthening ties and enhancing cooperation

between Bahrain and Jordan. Official discussions between Al Saleh and Al Fayeز focused on expanding parliamentary coordination, consultation and the exchange of legislative expertise between the Shura Council and the Jordanian Senate.

The talks also addressed regional and international developments, including joint efforts to confront regional challenges and the Iranian attacks targeting Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Jordan. As part of the visit, Al Fayeز and the accompanying delegation toured the Bahrain Defence Force Military Museum and the National Charter Monument.

EXCLUSIVE

Call for 'beehive' national strategy

Proposal to unite government, business and academia on recovery

TDI | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Bahrain must urgently mobilise a broad national response involving government, private sector leaders, academics and financiers to confront an escalating economic shock driven by regional tensions and disrupted trade routes, a senior lawmaker said.

Jamal Fakhro, First Deputy Chairman of the Shura Council, said that Bahrain needed to accelerate a coordinated national response to the impact of the armed conflict between Iran and the continued disruption in the Strait of Hormuz. He stated that these issues have severely affected trade, tourism and wider business activity.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Fakhro called for creating a national economic forum operating "like a beehive", bringing together bankers, traders, entrepreneurs and academics

to design practical solutions beyond short-term government support.

"What Bahrain has gone through this year is not normal, so the answer cannot be normal either," he said, stressing that the scale of the disruption required a collective national effort rather than reliance on state aid alone.

He said the closure of the Strait of Hormuz had exposed Bahrain's economic vulnerability as a small, trade-dependent country, noting sharp increases in freight costs and near-collapse conditions in sectors such as hospitality and logistics.

Fakhro pointed to hotel occupancy rates falling to as low as 2 percent in some cases, alongside steep increases in shipping costs and pressure on small and medium-sized enterprises.

He called for greater involvement from universities and experts in public debate, saying academics should play a strong-



"What Bahrain has gone through this year is not normal, so the answer cannot be normal either"

JAMAL FAKHRO, FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE SHURA COUNCIL, BUSINESSMEN, AND MANAGING PARTNER OF KPIMG

er role in shaping economic recovery strategies.

"Today we need academics,

their influential voice and their ideas," he said.

He warned that small and medium-sized enterprises were under particular strain, noting that many lacked professional risk management structures and were vulnerable to ongoing shocks.

"The solution comes through unity," he said, adding that a coordinated national effort could turn ideas from multiple sectors into workable economic strategies.

Culture Week Opens Across Museums

The programme features exhibitions, workshops and guided tours



The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities has announced a week-long programme of cultural events to mark International Museum Day celebrations under this year's global theme, "Museums Unite a Divided World."

The activities, scheduled from May 16 to May 23, will take place across several museums in the Kingdom, including the Bahrain National Museum, the Bahrain Fort Site Museum and the Postal Museum, alongside the participation of the Kanoo Museum as part of a public-private cultural partnership initiative.

The programme includes guided tours, interactive workshops and specialised lectures designed for visitors of different age groups, highlighting museums as trusted public spaces and an essential part of Bahrain's shared social fabric.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to explore the exhibition, "His Highness Shaikh Mo-

ammed bin Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa: His Legacy and Life," currently on display at the Bahrain National Museum until July 31. The exhibition sheds light on his role in strengthening Bahrain's regional and international standing.

The museum is also hosting guided tours of the 52nd Bahrain Annual Fine Arts Exhibition, which traces the development of Bahraini art and culture since 1972 and runs until the end of May.

As part of the celebrations, Bahraini artists Fatima Hassan and Rasha Al Nasser will lead two art workshops focusing on visual civilisation through drawing and the expression of human emotions.

The programme also features educational tours and interactive workshops for children at the Bahrain National Museum, alongside the use of the "Search for Ankiro" application aimed at enhancing the experience for families and young visitors.

National Family Protection Plan Proposed

A proposal has been put before Parliament for a national strategy to strengthen Bahraini families and protect them from trends seen as clashing with the country's religious, moral and cultural values.

It calls for a national approach linking ministries, state bodies and civil society groups working on family affairs, with one framework for policies, schemes and public messages.

The proposal says Bahraini families face fast social and cultural change, along with individual trends and outside ideas that might weaken family bonds and the role of parents in raising children. It argues that a national strategy would help build awareness, strengthen prevention work and bring together efforts across housing, education, labour, media and social care.

The proposal is tied to the National Action Charter and

Article 5(a) of the Constitution. Both state that the family is the basis of society and that the law protects its lawful structure, strengthens its bonds and protects motherhood, childhood and young people from neglect and exploitation.

The Ministry of Social Development said the matter involved several government bodies and needed a government-wide review. It said it would complete its study with the bodies concerned and submit the government's final reply should Parliament refer the proposal to it.

The Ministry of Information supported the proposal, saying protection of the family from harmful intellectual and behavioural influences would help social development, national identity, belonging and social responsibility.

It said it was ready to take part in the media and awareness side



Ahmed Al Musallam, Speaker of Parliament

of the proposed strategy through public campaigns, positive content, programmes on family issues and the use of digital platforms and social media to reach different groups in society.

The ministry also called for work with other government bodies to place family-related media messages under one national approach.

The proposal says the strategy would help keep families together, strengthen social ties and protect the wider community.

Bahrain Eyes Stronger EU Cooperation

Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications highlighted Bahrain's economic development plans and strategic partnerships during a meeting hosted by the European Union's local presidency in the kingdom.

The meeting, organised by the Embassy of Cyprus as part of its presidency of the Council of the European Union, was held at the Inter-Continental Regency Bahrain in Manama.

In a keynote address, the minister said Bahrain, under the leadership of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and with the guidance of Hrh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, continues to advance development programmes while strengthening economic and



strategic partnerships.

He said the kingdom remains committed to implementing ambitious plans to modernise infrastructure, enhance competitiveness and attract high-quality investments, reinforcing international confidence in Bahrain's economic environment.

The minister added that Bahrain is moving forward with comprehensive development strategies

aimed at strengthening its position as a regional hub for transportation, telecommunications, logistics and the digital economy.

He pointed to the kingdom's success in attracting global companies to establish regional operations at Bahrain International Airport, alongside ongoing efforts to expand port capacities and logistics services to support regional trade and transport activity.

BD69 million road works completed in Muharraq

Muharraq has seen 27 road projects completed since 2023 at a cost of around BD69 million, with five more schemes worth over BD45 million currently underway, Works Minister Ebrahim Al Hawaj told Parliament.

In a written response to MPs, the minister said the projects aim to ease traffic congestion, increase road capacity, and improve sewerage and rainwater drainage systems as the governorate continues to develop.

He said major upgrades to Shaikh Abdulla Avenue and Shaikh Isa Avenue are more than 90 per cent complete and are expected to finish by the end of the year.

Al Hawaj also highlighted upcoming strategic projects, including the planned Fourth Bridge linking Muharraq and Manama, as well as upgrades to airport access roads, highways,



Ebrahim Al Hawaj, Minister of Works



Khalid Buanaq, MP

Muharraq Infrastructure Development

- 27 road projects completed since 2023
- Total value: around BD69 million
- 5 ongoing projects worth over BD45 million

MP proposes fertility preservation law

Proposal targets cancer patients undergoing fertility-impacting therapy

A Member of Parliament has submitted a proposal allowing cancer patients and others undergoing fertility-affecting treatment to store reproductive cells for future use.

The draft amendment, put forward by MP Dr Maryam Al Dhaen, seeks to expand Bahrain's Law No. 26 of 2017 on assisted reproductive technologies to include fertility preservation.

The proposal would permit licensed medical centres to freeze and store eggs, sperm and reproductive tissue for patients diagnosed with cancer or those undergoing treatments such as chemotherapy, radiotherapy or



Maryam Al Dhaen, MP

surgery that could impact fertility.

Under the draft, patients would require medical certification confirming the risk of infertility and written consent. For minors, guardian approval would be mandatory, along with authorisation from the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs.

Stored material could be pre-

served for up to 10 years, with the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) tasked with setting technical guidelines and regulating any extensions. The bill also stipulates that all stored material must be destroyed upon the patient's death.

The amendment introduces penalties for violations, including up to three months in jail and fines ranging from BD3,000 to BD10,000.

The explanatory memorandum says the aim is to provide patients with a legal framework to preserve fertility before medical treatment causes irreversible damage, while ensuring compliance with medical, legal and religious standards.



When rainwater turns risky

“Hayaakom” session focuses health threats linked to stagnant water

● Smart tracking system detects illegal dumping violations

● Officials warn stagnant water can spread disease and breed mosquitoes

● Residents urged to report environmental hazards and flooding issues

Ghadeer Alkumaish
TDT | Manama

From flooded streets to mosquito breeding hotspots, Bahraini authorities are calling on residents to help combat environmental hazards linked to stagnant rainwater and illegal waste disposal.

The concerns were discussed during a dialogue session organised by the Northern Municipal Council under the “Hayaakom” programme, bringing together representatives from the Supreme Council for the Environment, the Ministry of Works and the Ministry of Health to strengthen coordination on environmental protection and public health measures.

Officials warned that accumulated rainwater is more than just an infrastructure issue, noting that stagnant water can contribute to pollution and create conditions for the spread of diseases and insects.



“**Drainage networks are continuing to expand in an effort to reduce flooding and improve rainwater management in residential areas**”

ABDULNABI AL-KAWARI FROM THE MINISTRY OF WORKS



“**Pollution includes any harmful elements that may affect health directly or indirectly, including through rainwater that can spread diseases**”

MOHAMMED AMAN, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The session was chaired by Sayed Shubbar Al-Wedai and brought together representatives from several government bodies, including Abdulnabi Al-Kawari from the Ministry of Works, Ghada Abdulatif Al-Zayani and Mustafa Majid Salemain from the Ministry of Health, as well as Mohammed Aman from the Supreme Council for the Environment.

Mohammed Aman from the Supreme Council for the Environment said: “Pollution includes any harmful elements that may affect health directly or indirectly, including through rainwater that can spread diseases.”

He added that the council’s

role begins after rainwater is collected, stressing the importance of preventing pollution from simply being transferred elsewhere. “We ensure that solutions do not create new environmental problems,” he said.

A major focus of the session was Bahrain’s expanding crackdown on illegal dumping through a smart monitoring system developed in cooperation with the Ministry of Works. The system uses sensors to track waste transport vehicles and monitor loading, unloading and disposal activities.

Officials revealed that 1,270 waste transport vehicles have so far been licensed under the

system, while 19 approved disposal sites have been identified. Authorities also recorded 62 environmental violations within a year, with fines ranging between BD7,000 and BD10,000.

Highlighting the importance of community involvement, Aman said: “Citizens are the eyes of environmental protection.”

Abdulnabi Al-Kawari from the Ministry of Works said drainage networks are continuing to expand in an effort to reduce flooding and improve rainwater management in residential areas.

Meanwhile, health officials stressed that even small pockets of stagnant water can become mosquito breeding grounds if left untreated, particularly during the rainy season.

Ghada Al-Zayani said effective solutions depend on addressing the root causes of water accumulation and improving environmental sanitation through cooperation between authorities and the public.



Just a small amount of stagnant water – even a bottle cap full – can become a breeding site for mosquitoes within days.



Sitra Corniche edges closer to recreational status

Ghadeer Alkumaish
TDT | Manama

Imagine taking a sunset stroll along the Sitra waterfront, where families and visitors can immerse themselves in the scenic splendour of the corniche.

The vision is edging closer to reality as the Capital Municipality Council pushes ahead with plans to classify the area under the Recreational Areas (REC) zoning category.

The proposed designation covers the waterfront site in Block 381 in Nabih Saleh, spanning more than 42,655 square metres, and is aimed at preserving the area as a public leisure and community destination while regulating future land use.

The move follows a technical review by the relevant municipal committee after the proposal was submitted through the Planning Platform and assessed in line with the

approved master plan for the area.

If formally implemented, the zoning status would help safeguard the corniche as an open recreational space for residents and visitors, ensuring long-term public access to the waterfront while preventing incompatible development.

Municipal officials said the initiative forms part of broader efforts to enhance coastal and waterfront development across the Capital Governorate and expand recreational amenities for the public.

Following a review of the technical and planning details, the committee approved the REC classification, highlighting the site’s growing importance as a community and leisure destination.

Mubarak Al Noaimi, head of the Technical Committee, said the decision aligns with wider plans to develop waterfront areas and increase recreational spaces across the capital.

Qalali health centre nears halfway mark



Qalali Health Centre Project

● Health hub, backed by Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait, hits 46% completion

Neethu V
TDT | Manama

Residents in Qalali are set to benefit from expanded healthcare access as construction of the Bahrain-Kuwait Health Centre reaches 46% completion, bringing the Kingdom closer to opening a major new primary care facility.

The development forms part of wider efforts to strengthen Bahrain’s healthcare network and improve service capacity for citizens and residents.

The two-storey facility, being built on a 6,828-square-metre site, will house 14 consultation clinics, 14 examination rooms, eight dental clinics and a 12-bed emergency department, alongside maternity-

ty and child healthcare services.

Supporting medical and administrative units are also planned to help improve accessibility and reduce pressure on existing health centres across the area.

Officials said the centre is being developed to high medical and engineering standards, with sustainability playing a key role in its design. Energy-efficient systems and green building features have been incorporated in line with Bahrain’s environmental goals.

Engineer Mariam Abdullah Amin said the project reflects Bahrain’s continued focus on upgrading primary healthcare infrastructure and enhancing the quality of medical services across the Kingdom. She also highlighted the role of the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait in supporting the development through public-private partnership initiatives that helped move the project forward.

Engineer Mariam Abdullah Amin, Assistant Undersecretary for Construction and Maintenance Projects at the Ministry of Works

Interior Minister holds security talks with US envoy



Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa during talks with United States Ambassador to Bahrain, Stephanie Hallett, on Thursday. Chief of Police Lieutenant General Tariq bin Hassan Al Hassan was also present. The Interior Minister highlighted the strong and longstanding strategic relations between Bahrain and the United States, particularly in security and law enforcement cooperation. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to expanding coordination, exchanging expertise, and enhancing joint security programmes in support of mutual interests and regional stability.

Stocks tumble as US-Iran impasse fuels inflation fears

Investors were left disappointed as talks failed to deliver major breakthroughs

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Global stocks slumped and oil prices rose yesterday as talks between the United States and China failed to deliver progress on reopening the Strait of Hormuz, rekindling worries of persistent inflation pressures that could derail economic growth.

Oil prices rose more than 2%, with the international benchmark Brent crude contract at around \$108 a barrel.

Rising crude futures also pushed up government bond yields, including in Britain, where Prime Minister Keir Starmer faced fresh threats to his leadership.

The yield on 30-year UK government bonds reached 5.861%, surpassing Tuesday's mark to hit its highest level since 1998, as investors demanded higher returns to reflect growing inflation risks.

In Japan, the 30-year bond rate hit 4% for the first time since 1999.

"Bond yields have continued to march higher, and this has introduced more volatility to the wider financial markets as investors worry about the impact of increased government borrowings across the developed economies and what they mean for their economies," said FOREX.com analyst Fawad Razaqzada.

On Wall Street, both the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite slumped as trading got underway in New York, coming off fresh all-time highs set the day before as an AI tech rally rolled on.

The dollar firmed against the British pound, the euro and the yen.

The London, Paris and Frankfurt stock markets were all

Key figures at around 1330 GMT

Brent North Sea Crude: ▲ 2.2% at \$108.01 a barrel

West Texas Intermediate: ▲ 2.6% at \$103.81 a barrel

New York - DOW: ▼ 0.6% at 49,740.95 points

New York - S&P 500: ▼ 0.9% at 7,431.64

Nasdaq Composite: ▼ 1.4% at 26,267.95

London - FTSE 100: ▼ 1.6% at 10,210.72

Paris - CAC 40: ▼ 1.3% at 7,975.39

Frankfurt - DAX 30: ▼ 1.8% at 24,012.25

Tokyo - Nikkei 225: ▼ 2.0% at 61,409.29 (close)

Hang Seng Index: ▼ 1.6% at 25,962.73 (close)

Shanghai - Composite: ▼ 1.0% at 4,135.39 (close)

Pound/dollar: ▼ at 1.3356 from 1.3400

Euro/dollar: ▼ at 1.1629 from \$1.1673 on Thursday

Dollar/yen: ▲ at 158.59 yen from 158.33 yen

Euro/pound: ▼ at 87.08 pence from 87.09 pence



US President Donald Trump (2nd R) speaks to China's President Xi Jinping (L) in front of US First Lady Melania Trump (2nd L) and Xi's wife Peng Liyuan (R) in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

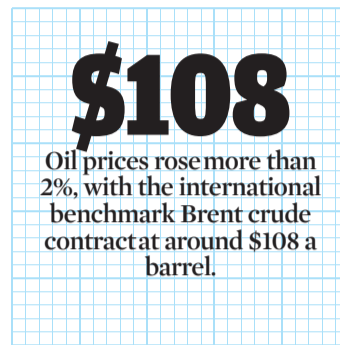
down more than 1% in afternoon trading.

Investors were left disappointed as highly anticipated talks between US President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping failed to deliver major breakthroughs on the Middle East war or trade relations.

Trump did not spell out the trade agreements he said had been sealed with China, but told Fox News that Beijing had voiced interest in buying US oil and soybeans.

Trump also said he didn't bring up the issue of tariffs during the summit.

"The meeting... was big on



warm words and symbolism but not outcomes," said Susannah Streeter, chief investment strategist at Wealth Club.

"With diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving the Middle East conflict in limbo, fresh uncertainty has flooded in," she added.

The White House said the leaders had "agreed that the Strait of Hormuz must remain open to support the free flow of energy".

But investors had hoped for more progress toward reopening the crucial strait, where oil tanker traffic has ground to a near standstill since the outbreak of the war, sending energy prices soaring.

Trump also told Fox News on Thursday that he was "not going to be much more patient" with Iran.

"Stalled US-Iran diplomacy keeps supply fears firmly in focus," said Matt Britzman, senior equity analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown.

"Even if resolved next month, the oil market could remain undersupplied through October, keeping inflationary pressures high and adding another headache for consumers, central banks, and, eventually, investors," he added.

In Asia, Tokyo stocks closed 2% lower, while Hong Kong and Shanghai fell more than 1%.

India hikes fuel prices



A staff worker fills petrol in a scooter at a fuel station in Ahmedabad

AFP | New Delhi, India

India's state-run oil companies raised petrol and diesel prices by more than three percent yesterday as disruption to energy supplies due to the Iran war mounts pressure on the economy.

The increase marks the first hike in automobile fuel prices in India since the war broke out in February, prompting Iran's near-total blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

In Delhi, petrol prices rose to 97.77 rupees (\$1.02) per litre from 94.77 rupees, while diesel climbed to 90.67 rupees from 87.67, according to data from the Indian Oil Corporation.

Rates vary across the country depending on local taxes.

Oil companies say they have been incurring losses due to higher global crude oil prices.

The government had earlier raised prices of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), a primary cooking fuel for millions of households.

The latest move comes as authorities ramp up austerity measures to curb fuel consumption and conserve foreign exchange.

Delhi's chief minister on Thursday said government of-

ices will have two work-from-home days a week for those able to and urged residents to cut back on private vehicle use.

The steps came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi said restrictions on fuel use were necessary to save foreign currency spent on fuel imports.

India has ramped up imports of Russian crude to plug gaps in supplies from the Middle East, ship-tracking and import data show, following a temporary US waiver on sanctions.

But with the waiver set to end on Saturday, Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar criticised "unilateral coercive measures", without naming any country.



India, the world's third-largest oil buyer, normally sources about half of its crude through the vital waterway.

Russian economy posts first quarterly decline in three years

AFP | Moscow, Russia

The Russian economy shrank by 0.2% in the first quarter of 2026, its first quarterly contraction in three years amid mounting strain from the Ukraine war and sanctions, official data showed Friday.

This compares to an expansion of 1.4% between January-March last year, data from Russia's Rosstat statistics service showed. The Kremlin has

spent heavily on its offensive in Ukraine -- outlays that initially boosted economic growth but have driven up inflation and caused labour shortages in non-military sectors of the economy. Earlier this week, Russia slashed its growth forecast for 2026 to 0.4% from 1.3%. Russian President Vladimir Putin said earlier Friday that economic growth had returned in March after two months of contraction.

Adani agrees multi-million-dollar penalty in US court case

● Adani was accused of having participated in an estimated \$250 million scheme to bribe Indian officials for lucrative solar energy supply contracts.

AFP | New Delhi, India

Indian billionaire industrialist Gautam Adani has agreed to pay a multi-million-dollar settlement in a US civil court case linked to corruption without admitting guilt, his company said yesterday.

The November 2024 indictment in New York accused the industrialist and multiple subordinates of deliberately misleading international investors as part of a vast bribery scheme.

Adani was accused of having participated in an estimated \$250 million scheme to bribe



Gautam Adani

Indian officials for lucrative solar energy supply contracts.

Adani, along with his nephew Sagar Adani, agreed to the "payment of a civil penalty" totalling \$18 million, while noting that it came "without admitting or denying the allegations made in the civil complaint", a letter from Adani Green Energy to the Mumbai stock exchange read.

The penalty payment comes as US prosecutors are reported

to be set to drop charges against Adani, The New York Times reported on Thursday.

The Adani letter, which noted that the final judgement of the US court is still awaited, stressed that the "company is not a party to this proceeding, and no charges have been brought against it".

The New York Times said the move to abandon the charges, brought under US president Joe

Biden's administration, came after Adani hired a new legal team led by Robert Giuffra, one of President Donald Trump's personal lawyers.

With a business empire spanning coal, airports, cement and media, the chairman of Adani Group has been rocked in recent years by corporate fraud allegations and a stock crash.

Adani was born in Ahmedabad in Gujarat state to a middle-class family but dropped out of school at 16.

He moved to India's financial capital, Mumbai, to find work in the city's lucrative gem trade.

After a short stint in his brother's plastics business, he launched the flagship family conglomerate that bears his name in 1988 by branching out into the export trade.

His big break came seven years later with a contract to build and operate a commercial shipping port in Gujarat.

British Gas to pay millions to settle meter scandal

AFP | London, United Kingdom

British Gas will pay millions of pounds to settle an investigation into the forced installation of prepayment meters, energy regulator Ofgem said Friday.

The company has agreed to pay £20 million (\$27 million) into Ofgem's voluntary redress fund and write off up to £70 million of debt owed by "vulnerable" customers such as low-income households, the disabled or elderly, or those in rural areas.

Ofgem tightened the rules around the controversial practice after reports emerged in 2023 that British Gas contrac-

tors sent debt collectors to break into homes and force-fit prepayment meters (PPMs).

They charge more than standard devices and let contractors cut off supplies to customers in arrears, raising concerns that vulnerable customers were being targeted.

"British Gas fell short in its treatment of an unacceptable number of vulnerable customers who had a PPM installed without consent," Ofgem chief executive Tim Jarvis said in a statement.

The regulator said British Gas had not carried out any forcible meter installations since February 2023.

Deadly Ebola outbreak declared in eastern DR Congo

AFP | Addis Ababa

A deadly outbreak of the Ebola virus has been confirmed in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, African health authorities said yesterday.

Some 246 suspected cases and 65 deaths have been reported and “four deaths have been reported among laboratory-confirmed cases,” the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC Africa) said in a statement on social media.

“Ebola Virus Disease outbreak confirmed in Ituri Province,” the pan-African health agency said.

“Africa CDC is closely monitoring the situation and convening an urgent high-level coordination meeting today with the DRC, Uganda, South Sudan and global partners to reinforce cross-border surveillance, preparedness and outbreak response efforts,” it said.

Senator wanted by ICC warned against fleeing the Philippines

AFP | Manila

The Philippines vowed yesterday to stop the chief enforcer of ex-president Rodrigo Duterte’s drug war from fleeing the country to evade an International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant.

Fugitive Senator Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa barely escaped arrest on Monday when he sought refuge in the Senate building, but left unannounced for an unknown location on Thursday.

Justice Secretary Frederick Vida confirmed Manila has received the arrest warrant for Dela Rosa from the ICC, but was waiting for the Philippine Supreme Court to resolve the senator’s petition challenging its legality.

“The Department of Justice will treat any attempt of Senator Bato Dela Rosa to leave the country as a mockery of justice,” Vida told a news conference.

Law enforcers and border officials were instructed “that if Senator Bato Dela Rosa would try to leave the country, that the appropriate arrest should be made”.

The ICC on Monday unsealed an arrest warrant against Dela Rosa, 64, accusing him along with Duterte and other “co-perpetrators” of the “crime against humanity of murder”.

Israel strikes Lebanon as talks in US enter second day

Israel hits Hezbollah sites near Tyre hours before the second day of Washington ceasefire talks

● **Ceasefire expires Sunday without extension**

● **Washington talks described as positive**

AFP | Washington

Israel carried out new strikes in southern Lebanon that it said targeted Hezbollah yesterday, wounding 37 people as the two countries’ envoys started a second day of peace talks in Washington.

United Nations humanitarian coordinator for Lebanon Imran Riza condemned the “unacceptable” toll from continued attacks, saying that “diplomatic efforts now offer a critical opportunity to stop the violence”.

A truce in the war between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah has been in place since April 17, but it has not stopped the fighting, with hundreds killed in strikes since then and both sides accusing the other of violations.

“The IDF has begun striking Hezbollah infrastructure sites in the area of Tyre in southern Lebanon,” the Israeli military said in a statement.

An AFP correspondent reported a series of strikes, two of them near Tyre city, while state media said another targeted a centre run by a local NGO near a hospital.

Lebanon’s health ministry said the strikes on the Tyre district wounded at least 37 people, including six hospital personnel, nine women and four children.



Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted a neighbourhood in the southern Lebanese city of Tyre

Hafez Ramadan, a resident near the building targeted by the airstrike, said the building housed displaced people who had fled their towns due to the war, and was adjacent to a hotel where the displaced were also staying.

“There are only women, children and the elderly here. Because of this strike, people have been displaced again.”

The Israeli army had earlier issued evacuation warnings for five towns and villages in and around the southern city.

It later issued a new evacuation

warning for five other towns across the south.

‘Unacceptable’ toll

In a separate statement, the military said an Israeli soldier was killed in southern Lebanon, bringing the number of Israeli soldiers killed in clashes with Hezbollah since early March to 19. A civilian contractor was also killed.

Lebanon’s official National News Agency (NNA) reported other strikes on locations in the south not included in the Israeli evacuation warnings.

2800
 people have been killed in Lebanon by Israeli attacks since Hezbollah entered the war on March 2, including more than 400 since the truce took effect on April 17

Hezbollah meanwhile claimed several attacks on Israeli troops in at least six southern Lebanese towns.

Riza said “the reality on the ground in Lebanon has been deeply alarming”, adding that “airstrikes and demolitions continue daily, with an unacceptable toll on civilians and civilian infrastructure”.

But he expressed his hope that the Lebanon-Israel talks “will pave the way toward a political solution”.

Representatives from Lebanon and Israel, officially at war for decades, resumed talks at the State Department in Washington shortly after 9:00 am (1300 GMT), one diplomat said.

Kyiv in mourning after 24 killed as Ukraine, Russia swap POWs

AFP | Kyiv

Ukraine’s capital Kyiv was in mourning yesterday after a Russian attack killed 24 people a day earlier, with President Volodymyr Zelensky denouncing Moscow’s “brutal terror” and the two sides going ahead with an exchange of hundreds of captured soldiers.

Retaliatory overnight strikes by Kyiv’s army, launched as bodies were still being pulled from the rubble in Kyiv, killed four, including a child, in the Russian city of Ryazan, Russian officials said.

Zelensky visited the site of the building ripped apart by a Russian missile, where all the victims were killed.

“Here, Russia took the lives of 24 people, including three children,” Zelensky said, after walking through a courtyard

littered with rubble.

The three children killed were all girls -- aged 12, 15 and 17.

The youngest -- named as Liubava Yakovleva -- had already seen her father killed fighting the Russian invasion, Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko said.

“Rescue operations lasted more than 28 hours, 30 people were thankfully saved due to the tireless efforts of our emergency workers,” she said on social media.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said 24 people were still in hospital.

The scenes in Kyiv contrasted with elation to the north, where 205 Ukrainian soldiers were freed in the latest POW exchange with Moscow.

Kyiv freed the same number of Russian soldiers.



Members of diplomatic missions to Ukraine are standing near a residential building that was partially destroyed following Russian drones and missiles strikes in Kyiv

1862

Belgian-French engineer Étienne Lenoir builds the first automobile with an internal-combustion engine

1920

French heroine Joan of Arc is canonized as a saint by Pope Benedict XV

1944

First of over 180,000 Hungarian Jews reaches Auschwitz



1989

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping meet in Beijing and formally end a 30-year rift

CIA director visits Cuba as communist island runs out of oil

AFP | Washington

The head of the CIA visited Cuba on Thursday, an extraordinary step-up in contact between Washington and Havana as the communist-run island reels from US pressure, declaring that it is out of oil.

The Central Intelligence Agency, at the heart of the decades-long struggle between the United States and Cuba, confirmed a Cuban government statement about Director John Ratcliffe's visit.

Photos posted by the agency on X showed Ratcliffe alongside several people with blurred-



Cuban police officers walk on a street in Havana

out faces meeting with Ramon intelligence of the Cuban Interior ministry, and other Cuban

officials.

The visit comes during a deepening crisis in US-Cuba relations, with the island enduring constant power outages prompted by President Donald Trump's fuel blockade.

Only one tanker from Russia -- a historic ally of the Cuban authorities -- has got through.

And that oil has now "run out," Energy Minister Vicente de la O Levy told state television. "The impact of the blockade is indeed causing us significant harm...because we are still not receiving fuel."

Trump has repeatedly signalled that he wants to topple

the communist government in Cuba.

According to a report on CBS News, citing unidentified US officials, the Trump administration is also seeking to indict Raul Castro, the 94-year-old brother of the late Cuban communist leader Fidel Castro.

But Cuba framed the Ratcliffe visit as a chance to calm tensions.

The meeting with Ratcliffe took place "in a context marked by the complexity of bilateral relations, with the aim of contributing to the political dialogue between both nations," a government statement read.

Trump says made 'fantastic trade deals' with Xi, but details scarce

Trump and Xi trade warm words in Beijing but core disputes over Taiwan and tariffs remain unresolved

● Summit focused heavily on symbolism

● Xi and Trump exchanged praise

● Boeing deal claims remain unclear

● Nvidia chip restrictions still sensitive

AFP | Beijing

US President Donald Trump said he had made "fantastic trade deals" and settled "a lot of different problems" in his meetings with China's Xi Jinping this week, but hours after the summit ended yesterday details on exact agreements remained scarce.

Trump had arrived in Beijing seeking to seal accords in sectors including agriculture, aviation and artificial intelligence, as well as to contain differences between the two sides in a number of tense geostrategic areas.

After the first day wrapped, Trump said Xi had agreed to help open the Strait of Hormuz, as well as buy Boeing jets and American oil and soybeans.

But there have been no formal announcements, and the Chinese foreign ministry would not confirm or deny Trump's statements



China's President Xi Jinping (R) and US President Donald Trump arrive to attend a state banquet at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

when asked yesterday afternoon.

The reserve on the Chinese side echoes the tone of the summit as a whole, where Trump's overtures to Xi -- whom he described as a "great leader" and "friend" -- were met with more muted tones by Beijing.

However, the US leader said yesterday "a lot of good" had come out of the trip.

"We've made some fantastic trade deals, great for both countries," he said after a walk with Xi among the rosebushes in the gardens of Zhongnanhai, a cen-

tral leadership compound next to Beijing's Forbidden City.

"We've settled a lot of different problems that other people wouldn't have been able to solve," Trump added, without providing specifics.

Xi, who promised to send Trump seeds for the White House Rose Garden, said it was a "milestone visit".

He said the two sides had to date established "a new bilateral relationship, which is a relationship of constructive strategic stability".

Trump has invited Xi to visit the United States in September. On the streets of the capital, reaction to the talks was tepid.

"This meeting could be considered a success -- though, to be honest, none of us really had very high expectations to begin with," Zhang Yong, a 46-year-old IT worker, said.

Jets deal

In an interview with Fox News after the first day of the summit wrapped, Trump said one business deal struck involved Xi agreeing to purchase "200 big" Boeing jets.

En route home on Air Force

One, he added the deal included "a promise of 750 planes... if they do a good job with the 200".

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Analysts described the summit as a "symbolic reset" rather than a major policy breakthrough

The president also said Beijing had "agreed it wanted to buy" US oil, and that it would be "buying billions of dollars of soybeans".

China's foreign ministry again did not confirm or deny the details mentioned by Trump.

No announcements were made regarding the advanced Nvidia chips used in artificial intelligence, even though CEO Jensen Huang was among business leaders in Trump's business delegation.

US President says 'made no commitment' to Xi on Taiwan

US President Donald Trump said he discussed the flashpoint issue of Taiwan with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, but made no commitments.

"President Xi and I talked a lot about Taiwan," Trump told reporters onboard Air Force One, on his way back to Wash-

ington following a high-stakes summit in Beijing.

"He does not want to see a fight for independence," he added. "I didn't make a commitment on it, I heard him out."

Trump added: "On Taiwan he feels very strongly, I made no commitment either way."

No tariff discussions during Xi meeting, says US

US President Donald Trump said yesterday he did not bring up the issue of tariffs during a landmark summit with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping.

Returning to Washington after making what he called "fantastic trade deals" with

Beijing, Trump said on tariffs: "We didn't discuss those... It wasn't brought up."

The pair had been widely expected to discuss extending the one-year tariff truce reached during their last meeting in October in South Korea.

China urges lasting Mideast truce, reopening of shipping lanes

China called for a lasting truce in the Middle East and for shipping lanes to be reopened "as soon as possible", as the strategic Strait of Hormuz has been effectively closed during the war with Iran.

US President Donald Trump has discussed Iran during a summit in Beijing with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

In an interview with Fox

News after the first day of the summit wrapped, Trump said Xi had effectively assured him that China was not preparing to militarily aid Tehran.

"He said he's not going to give military equipment... he said that strongly," Trump told Fox. "He'd like to see the Hormuz Strait open, and said 'if I can be of any help whatsoever, I would like to help,'" Trump added.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Children in Sudan are trapped in a crisis of violence, hunger & disease. Children suffering from severe acute malnutrition arrive at overstretched facilities too weak to cry. Unicef is on the ground responding. But more action is needed to save lives.

@unicefchief

02



Horrible news from Kherson, where a clearly marked @UN-OCHA mission, including the Head of OCHA in #Ukraine, came under drone attack while visiting Ostriv. Humanitarian workers are protected under International Humanitarian Law and must never be targeted.

@hadjalahbib

03



There's a reason President Trump is respected by world leaders, and it's because he's consistently shown a level of strength that we haven't seen from our Commander in Chief in modern history.

@JDVance

04



Thank you Jay Powell for fighting for Fed independence that benefits us all not just now but into the future. Congratulations Kevin Warsh for taking over as Chair. Wish you the very best for what will be a tough role. (Pic from Gridiron Club dinner)

@GitaGopinath

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

UAE, India Warn of Iran War Fallout

Talks focus on economy, AI, investment and energy co-operation amid Strait of Hormuz tensions

● Modi visits Abu Dhabi on tour

● UAE-India partnership deepens

UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday discussed the widening impact of the Iran war on global energy supplies and the world economy during high-level talks in Abu Dhabi.

During the meeting, Modi condemned Iran's attacks on the UAE as both leaders stressed the urgent need to preserve regional stability and safeguard international trade routes, particularly amid tensions surrounding the Strait of Hormuz.

The talks were held during Modi's working visit to the UAE capital as part of a wider five-nation diplomatic tour that will also take him to several European countries.

The two leaders reviewed ways to strengthen bilateral co-operation across a range of sectors, including trade, investment, energy, technology, artificial intelligence, food security and space.

Senior UAE officials attending the meeting included Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan,



an, Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum and other senior advisers and ministers. Modi was accompanied by a delegation of Indian ministers and officials.

Earlier on Friday, Sheikh Mohamed welcomed Modi at an official reception ceremony in Abu Dhabi, where the Indian leader was greeted with a guard of honour and military escort as his aircraft entered UAE airspace.

India had previously said the visit would focus on boosting trade and investment ties, while energy security discussions gained added urgency due to the ongoing regional conflict and

concerns over shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

The UAE is home to around four million Indian expatriates, making them the country's largest foreign community and a key contributor to the Emirates' economic growth.

The visit also highlights the growing strategic partnership between the UAE and India, which was strengthened further by the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement in 2022.

UAE Minister of State for International Co-operation Reem Al Hashimy said ahead of the

talks that the conflict's impact on global energy supplies and basic household needs would feature prominently in discussions.

Relations between the two countries have expanded significantly in recent years through co-operation in areas ranging from advanced technology and artificial intelligence to infrastructure and food security.

Modi last visited the UAE in 2024, when he addressed thousands of Indian expatriates in Abu Dhabi and inaugurated the first Hindu temple in the UAE capital.

GCC welcomes Yemen detainee swap deal

Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary-General Jassem Mohammed Al Budaiwi welcomed an agreement on the exchange of detainees in Yemen, describing it as a positive humanitarian step towards building trust between the country's rival parties.

In a statement issued from Riyadh, Al Budaiwi praised the efforts of Jordan for hosting the negotiations, as well as the mediation efforts led by the United Nations Special Envoy's office and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

He said the agreement would help alleviate the humanitarian suffering of the Yemeni people and improve prospects for confidence-building measures between the warring sides.

The GCC chief reaffirmed the bloc's support for all regional and international efforts aimed at reaching a comprehensive and sustainable political solution to the Yemen crisis.

He added that any settlement should be based on the three internationally recognised references: the Gulf Initiative and its implementation mecha-



Who facilitated the negotiations?
United Nations Special Envoy's Office to Yemen
International Committee of the Red Cross

Why is the agreement important?
It is seen as a humanitarian step to reduce suffering and build trust between Yemeni parties

nism, the outcomes of Yemen's National Dialogue Conference, and United Nations Security Council Resolution 2216.

Al Budaiwi said the GCC remained committed to supporting efforts that would help restore security and stability in Yemen and ensure a better future for its people.

Qatar Condemns Israeli Minister's Al-Aqsa Visit

Qatar on Friday condemned a visit by Israel's far-right national security minister to the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem, describing the move as a "dangerous provocation" and a violation of international law.

In a statement issued by the Qatari foreign ministry, Doha denounced what it called the "storming" of the Al-Aqsa Mosque by the Israeli minister, as well as restrictions imposed on worshippers and actions carried out by Israeli settlers under the protection of occupation forces.

Qatar said the measures represented a "flagrant violation of international law and international humanitarian law" and accused Israel of attempting to impose a new reality in occupied Jerusalem and its Islamic and Christian holy sites.

"The continued violations and repeated provocations will fuel cycles of violence and escalation in the region," the ministry said, warning that such actions undermine efforts aimed at achiev-

ing de-escalation and stability.

The ministry stressed that the Al-Aqsa Mosque is "a place of pure worship for Muslims" and said all unilateral measures aimed at changing the historical and legal status quo in Jerusalem were "null and void under international law."

Doha also urged the international community to take "urgent action" to compel Israel to halt violations against Palestinians and their holy sites and to comply with international resolutions.

Qatar reiterated its longstanding support for the Palestinian cause, calling for an end to the occupation and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.



UN welcomes Yemen detainee release deal

More than 1,600 conflict-related detainees set to be released following UN-backed talks in Jordan

The United Nations Secretary-General has welcomed an agreement between Yemen's warring parties to release more than 1,600 conflict-related detainees, describing it as the largest such deal since the conflict began.

The breakthrough followed weeks of direct negotiations held in Amman under UN auspices, according to a statement issued by Deputy Spokesperson for the Secretary-General Farhan Haq.

"The Secretary-General welcomes the deal reached between the parties to the conflict in Yemen to release more than 1,600 conflict-related detainees," the statement said.

UN chief António Guterres urged all sides to move swiftly to implement the agreement in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to ensure families are reunited as soon as possible.

He also called on the Yemeni government and the Houthis to continue efforts toward further detainee releases in line with the 2018 Stockholm Agreement, which called for the release of all conflict-related detainees.

The Secretary-General thanked the ICRC for its partnership with the United Nations as co-chair of the supervisory committee overseeing the detainee release mechanism established under the Stockholm accord.

Guterres also expressed gratitude to Jordan for host-



ing the latest round of negotiations, while acknowledging Oman and Switzerland for facilitating previous talks related to the detainee issue.

The UN chief urged both sides to build on the momentum generated by Thursday's agreement and engage constructively with the UN Special Envoy for Yemen to advance an inclusive political process aimed at securing a lasting peace.

At the same time, Guterres renewed calls for the Houthis to immediately and unconditionally release all arbitrarily detained personnel from the United Nations, non-governmental organisations, civil society groups and diplomatic missions.

He stressed that UN personnel, including Yemeni nationals working for the organisation, enjoy immunity under international law and must be allowed to carry out their duties independently and without obstruction.

"The United Nations system is determined to work through all possible channels to secure their safe release," the statement added.

UAE unveils smart HQ landmark

World's tallest net-zero government building inaugurated in Al Jaddaf



The United Arab Emirates has inaugurated the "Sail" building, the new headquarters of the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, in the Al Jaddaf area of Dubai, describing it as the world's tallest, largest and smartest net-zero energy government building.

The landmark structure, designed to operate as a fully integrated smart facility, relying on advanced digital systems and renewable energy to minimise environmental impact.

Officials said the building is equipped with around 110,000 smart sensors, more than 1,500 wireless access points and 3,200 network devices. Together, these systems generate over 1.9 million automated control commands each day, enabling real-time monitoring and management

of operations.

The headquarters also features solar power systems with a total generation capacity of five megawatts, produced across two main photovoltaic installations.

Authorities said the project reflects the UAE's broader strategy to position itself at the forefront of sustainability, clean energy and smart infrastructure development.

They added that the "Sail" building is intended as a global architectural and technological benchmark, combining energy efficiency with advanced digital systems in what they described as a model for future government facilities.

The UAE continues to invest heavily in renewable energy and smart city initiatives as part of its long-term economic diversification and climate commitments.

Kuwait sends President Macron a message via envoy

Kuwait's Crown Prince Shaikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a written message to French President Emmanuel Macron highlighting the "strong historical ties" between Kuwait and France and ways to further develop bilateral relations, the Kuwaiti foreign ministry said.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah delivered the message during a meeting on Friday in Paris with France's Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Noël Barrot.



across various sectors, in addition to discussing recent regional and international developments.

During their talks, the two ministers also reviewed bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on key regional and global issues, the statement added.

Kuwait and France have traditionally maintained close political, economic and defence ties, with both sides regularly holding high-level consultations on regional stability and strategic cooperation.

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Carrick says Man Utd future to be decided 'pretty soon'

Contract talks over two-year deal are underway after Carrick steered United back to Champions League

● **United eye permanent appointment**

● **Champions League return secured**

● **United sit third in Premier League**

AFP | London

Manchester United interim manager Michael Carrick said yesterday he expects his Old Trafford future to be resolved "pretty soon" following reports he will be offered the job on a permanent basis.

Carrick has earned praise for steering United to Champions League qualification after taking over from the sacked Ruben Amorim in January.

United had been linked with a host of potential managers in recent months, but chief executive Omar Berrada and director of football Jason Wilcox are expected to recommend Carrick's appointment to co-owner Jim Ratcliffe.

The former United and England midfielder has exceeded expectations, leading his team into third place in the Premier League ahead of Sunday's clash with Nottingham Forest.

Contract talks over a two-



Manchester United's interim head coach Michael Carrick congratulates Portuguese midfielder #08 Bruno Fernandes

year deal for Carrick, with the option of a further season, are believed to be underway and could be concluded by the end of the week.

Asked about his future, Carrick told reporters: "Can't blame you for asking, two games to go, there's not much else I can say."

"Listen, the future for me is going to be decided pretty soon. We knew that was going to be towards the end of the season, if not the end of the season, so

nothing has changed.

"There's no big swing on that, that is what it is, and obviously whatever is beyond that is pretty close round the corner anyway."

After failing to lead Middlesbrough into the Premier League, Carrick left the second-tier club in 2025.

He has fared much better with United, proving a unifying and stabilising figure after Amorim's turbulent reign.

Carrick also won the Premier

League, Champions League, Europa League, FA Cup and League Cup during a successful 12-year spell as a United midfielder.

"It's a unique football club, a special football club. I'm immensely proud to have come back and been a part of it, to help," he said.

"As a supporter and ex-player, as a pure supporter and caring about the club so much, to come back and help and move the club forward was important.



Carrick left Championship side Middlesbrough in 2025 after failing to lead them into the Premier League, but has since exceeded all expectations by steering United into third place

"To make a big step and get back in the Champions League is good. We're happy with the work we've done so far."

United haven't won the Premier League since Alex Ferguson's final season in charge in 2013.

A host of top managers including Jose Mourinho and Louis van Gaal have failed to restore United to the summit of English football.

"You've always got to aim upwards. That's the beauty of football and competition, to achieve something and back it up, improve on things, that's always the challenge," Carrick said of United's gradual improvement this season.

Beckham becomes first British billionaire sportsman



David Beckham, Co-owner of Inter Miami CF, reacts prior to an MLS match

AFP | London

Former Manchester United and England star David Beckham has become Britain's first billionaire sportsman, according to the 2026 Sunday Times Rich List.

Beckham and his wife Victoria's collective wealth reached an estimated £1.185 billion (\$1.583 billion) this year, the Rich List compilers said.

That moved them into second place in the list of the UK's wealthiest sportspeople, behind the family of ex-Formula One chief executive Bernie Ecclestone, whose wealth was valued at £2 billion.

Beckham, who retired from playing in 2013, is a co-owner of Inter Miami, estimated to be Major League Soccer's most valuable club at £1.07 billion.

The 51-year-old also has lucrative brand ambassador

1.185 bn

pounds is the estimated collective wealth of David and Victoria Beckham according to the latest rankings

roles for companies including Adidas and Hugo Boss.

Beckham captained England and won the Premier League and Champions League during a glittering career with United, before spells at Real Madrid, LA Galaxy, AC Milan and Paris Saint-Germain.

Victoria Beckham's wealth has largely been generated from her fashion label after she originally found fame as a member of pop band The Spice Girls.

Man City campaign a success regardless of trophies: Guardiola

AFP | London

Pep Guardiola insisted Manchester City have had a successful season whether or not they win the Premier League title or Saturday's FA Cup final against Chelsea.

Guardiola's side will put their attempt to catch Premier League leaders Arsenal on hold as they head to Wembley for a fourth successive FA Cup final appearance.

City start every season with the Premier League and Champions League as their main targets, but they are on the verge of falling short in both.

Knocked out of the Champions League last-16 by Real Madrid in March, City will be five points behind Arsenal if the Gunners beat relegated Burnley at home on Monday.

Guardiola's men can close the gap back to two points with a victory at Bournemouth in their penultimate match of the season on Tuesday.

But Arsenal would then still be able to guarantee their first English title since 2004 by winning at Crystal Palace on May 24.

Having already won the League Cup by beating Arsenal, City have a chance for a domestic double this weekend.

However, Guardiola is adamant the campaign has been positive, no matter what happens at Wembley or in the title race.

"It depends on the trophies



Pep Guardiola reacts during a match (file photo)

It depends on the trophies you lift. Sometimes you lift trophies and the season has been successful. Sometimes, you lift and the truth is the season has been really, really bad

PEP GUARDIOLA

you lift. Sometimes you lift trophies and the season has been successful," said Guardiola, who would only offer "we'll see" when asked if Rodri would be fit to start in midfield.

"Sometimes, you lift and the truth is the season has been really, really bad.

"I said a few weeks ago this season has been good. Really,

really good."

'Do better'

After starting with Erling Haaland, Rayan Cherki and Jeremy Doku on the bench for Wednesday's win against Crystal Palace, Guardiola is likely to field a full-strength team against Chelsea instead of prioritising the title fight.

"It is the final of the FA Cup. The message is there are two prestigious clubs at Wembley in the FA Cup final. Our fans make an incredible effort to come down to London. It is not cheap," he said.

"We try to perform as much as possible to win. It is always the game-plan."

City have lost the last two FA Cup finals against Crystal Palace and Manchester United, who they had beaten in the 2023 showpiece.

Hero's welcome for Bahrain boxing squad

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

The Bahrain national boxing team returned to the Kingdom yesterday after a successful campaign at the GCC Games in Doha, where they collected a gold and silver medal along with a semifinal finish across multiple divisions.

The result marks one of Bahrain's most productive regional outings in recent years, with the squad showing clear progress against strong Gulf opposition.

Speaking exclusively to TDT on arrival, Bahrain head coach John Conlan said the tournament provided a valuable measure of the team's development.

"This tournament was important on many levels," Conlan said. "It's about building the programme, gaining experience, and testing ourselves against strong opposition in the region. Competitions like this help raise standards across the board."

"Of course, winning matters. Aly Abdalla's gold medal is a reward for the hard work he's put in during preparation, and performances like that give confidence to the whole squad. But equally important is the long-term development we're seeing. I've been very pleased with the attitude and progression of all the athletes."

The delegation was welcomed back by Dr. Moayyed Al Alawi, Head of the National Center for Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC), alongside



Dr. Moayyed Al Alawi with Abdalla (R) and Budhahei (L) celebrating Bahrain's boxing success

teammates, officials, and supporters who gathered to celebrate the team's achievements.

The standout performance came from Aly Abdalla, who claimed gold in the men's 75kg division after a 4-1 split-deci-

sion victory over Qatar's Mohammed Dbichi in the final.

Omar Budhahei secured silver in the men's 60kg category, narrowly losing 4-1 on points to Saudi Arabia's Ziad Majrashi in a closely contested bout that

went to the judges' scorecards.

In the men's 80kg division, Rasheed Mehrinfar reached the semifinals but was edged out by Saudi Arabia's Abdelrahman Sadek, falling just short of a place in the final.

Bahrain's Price dominates youth boxing scene

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Jayden Price secured his second Asian U17 Boxing Championships gold medal yesterday, edging Uzbekistan's Oybek Alimdjonov in the light bantamweight (52kg) final in Tashkent via a 3:2 split decision.

The bout was evenly matched throughout, with both boxers trading clean, well-timed shots across all three rounds. Midway through the contest, Price was placed under pressure after being caught on the ropes and receiving a referee count, though he later suggested he had been pushed in the exchange. He recovered quickly and began to edge the scoring with sustained, accurate punching in the middle stages.



Jayden Price, 15

As the fight progressed, Price appeared to gain momentum, forcing two standing eight counts against Alimdjonov to swing the bout in his favour on the judges' scorecards. He managed the closing round with composure under pressure to secure victory on away soil.

The win capped an impressive tournament for the teenager,

who finished as the Kingdom's sole medallist at the competition. He received a first-round bye before defeating Mongolia's Agarzadan Batkhuyag via unanimous decision. He then recorded successive split decision victories over Tajikistan's Nazarov Damir in the quarter-finals and Kazakhstan's Bekhan Urazbay in the semi-finals.

Competing for Bahrain after previously representing England at youth level, Price continues to build a strong junior résumé, including gold at the 2025 Asian U17 Championships in Jordan, as well as wins at the USA Boxing National Open in Tulsa and the Braga Open in Portugal.

Speaking after the final, Price said: "Good to get the win. I boxed well and gave him two standing counts, but I felt the referee was against me at times. Still, I got the win, that's the main thing."

Bahraini boxing officials, including HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and Bahrain Boxing Federation president Rashid Feylefel, have supported his development within the national programme.

Bayern veteran Neuer signs one-year contract extension

AFP | Munich

Bayern Munich veteran Manuel Neuer announced yesterday that he has extended his contract at the German champions by one year until 2027.

The 40-year-old goalkeeper's deal was set to expire in the summer but he will stay



Manuel Neuer

on in Munich for what will be a 16th year at the Bavarian giants.

"It was a clear decision after taking some time to reflect," said Neuer.

"All the conditions are met here: with this team we can beat any opponent," he said.

Considered among the best in his position in history, Neuer

finished third in Ballon d'Or voting in 2014 behind Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi, the most recent time a goalkeeper made the top three.

German tabloid Bild reported Neuer will play fewer games in the 2026-27 season as he helps facilitate a smooth transition to back-up goalie Jonas Urbig.

Bahrain open GCC Games against Oman



Bahrain national volleyball team with team officials

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's men's volleyball team open their 2026 GCC Games campaign today in Doha with a testing clash against Oman, a fixture that could set the tone for their push through a demanding group.

The match, scheduled for 4 PM at the Women's Hall in Aspire Zone, also marks the

first major international assignment for Bahrain's new head coach Ivan Joksimovic. Fresh off guiding Dar Kulaib to an unbeaten domestic league title, he now steps into the international spotlight with expectations already building.

Bahrain arrive with strong GCC pedigree, having claimed

gold in 2011 and 2015 and most recently taking silver in 2022. But sustaining that level will be far from straightforward in a group packed with regional heavyweights.

After today's opener, Bahrain face the UAE tomorrow, followed by Kuwait on Sunday, Qatar on Wednesday, and Saudi Arabia on Friday — five matches in six days, leaving little margin for recovery or error.

Oman, meanwhile, are coached by Nizar Al Sheekli, a former Bahrain head coach, adding an extra layer of familiarity and tactical intrigue. Both sides know each other's systems well, which could turn this into a tight, tactical battle decided by small margins.

Vingegaard powers to maiden Giro stage victory

AFP | Rome

Jonas Vingegaard ignited his Giro d'Italia title bid yesterday with a brilliant stage seven victory on the formidable Blockhaus climb in the Apennines.

The two-time Tour de France champion, who is bidding to complete a career sweep of the three Grand Tours after winning last year's Vuelta a Espana, finished 13 seconds clear of Felix Gall to complete his set of stage wins on all three of the 21-day races.

Former Giro winner Jai Hindley of Australia was a further 49 seconds back in third place.

"Today we just wanted to go for the win and I'm extremely happy that I was able to finish it off," said Vismar's Vingegaard. "My teammates did an amazing job today."

Vingegaard's first Giro stage win laid down a serious marker to the field in his race debut. He was over six minutes

behind overall leader Afonso Eulalio heading into the day, but took almost three minutes out of that advantage.

The Dane is now second in the general classification, 3min and 17sec behind Eulalio and 17sec clear of third-placed Gall.

"I'm definitely happy that I could take back some time," added Vingegaard.

"It was a good day for me, a good day for us... To take back some time on my opponents, it's a good day for us."

Portuguese rider Eulalio took the pink jersey by winning a rain-lashed fifth stage earlier this week.

Yesterday's race developed on the brutal final Blockhaus climb with winds buffeting the riders, a 13.6km ascent with an average 8.4-percent gradient.

Former Tour de France winner Egan Bernal and Movistar's Enric Mas were both dropped by an ever-shrinking peloton.

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Bahrain Continue Gold Rush in Doha

TDT | Manama

Bahrain continued their strong momentum at the GCC Games in Doha yesterday, delivering a standout all-round performance across multiple disciplines and further cementing their status as one of the competition's leading nations.

At the Qatar Sports Club, Bahrain enjoyed a dominant athletics session, highlighted by a commanding women's 400m final. Oluwakemi Adekoya secured gold in 51.87 seconds, completing a Bahrain 1-2 finish ahead of Aisha Abdullah, who claimed silver. The men's 10,000m followed a similarly controlled pattern, with Abdikani Hamid taking gold and Dawit Admasu securing silver, ahead of the UAE's Obaid Al Nuaimi. Bahrain rounded off the track events in style, winning gold in the women's 4x100m relay with a sharp 45.09 finish.

Success continued at the Lusail Shooting Range, where Bahrain produced one of its most decorated sessions of the Games. The women's 10m air rifle team claimed gold with a



Bahrain's Abdikani Hamid and Dawit Admasu celebrate their 1-2 finish in the men's 10,000m race

combined score of 1863.1, powered by strong performances from Noof Khalil Al Doseri, Marwa Hamid Alamairi, and Fawzia Mohamed. Al Doseri added further distinction by winning gold in the individual final with a commanding 247.4. Bahrain also secured silver in the men's 10m air rifle team and women's skeet

team events, while Maryam Alasam added another silver in the individual skeet. In the pool at the Hamad Aquatics Centre, Mikhail Arkhangelskiy led Bahrain's charge with a double gold, winning the men's 50m backstroke in 25.47 seconds and the 100m butterfly in 53.29. In the men's 200m breaststroke Heat

1, Saud Ghali finished first in 2:20.61, narrowly edging Qatar's Mohamed Mahmoud (2:20.63), with Hamza Shalan also of Qatar third in 2:21.24. Robert Bonsall added a silver in the 1500m freestyle, clocking 15:45.05 behind Qatar's Saadeddin Saadeddin.

Meanwhile at Duhail Handball Hall, Bahrain opened their qualification campaign confidently with a 30-21 win over Kuwait, leading 14-10 at half-time and maintaining control throughout. Ahmed Fadhel delivered key interventions at crucial moments, while captain Salman Al Showaikh stressed the importance of maintaining focus ahead of tougher upcoming fixtures.

In fencing, Ali Al Omari, Abdulkarim Saad, and Hamad Al Atawi produced solid performances in the men's foil competition, helping Bahrain secure silver and continue their impressive medal haul.

At the Qatar Billiards & Snooker Federation Hall, the Yaqoob brothers impressed in group play, with Husain and Haider topping their respective pools against strong Gulf opposition. Both advanced to the semi-finals, where they narrowly missed out on the final but secured bronze medals to round off Bahrain's campaign on a positive note.



Women's 4x100m relay team celebrate golden finish

Medal Standings

R	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Qatar	30	26	26	82
2	Saudi Arabia	20	15	16	51
3	Bahrain	16	17	8	41
4	Oman	7	3	10	20
5	United Arab Emirates	6	9	17	32
6	Kuwait	4	11	17	32



Action from Bahrain's handball match against Kuwait



Bahrain's men's fencing team celebrate silver in the foil competition.

Riffa End Season On High Note

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

The final matchweek of the Nasser bin Hamad Premier League began yesterday with Riffa and Al Hidd claiming wins, while Budaiya and Al Ahli shared the points after a dramatic late equaliser.

At Khalifa Sports City, Riffa produced a stirring second-half comeback to beat already-relegated Bahrain Club 3-2 in a game packed with momentum swings. Bahrain Club struck first in the 31st minute, when Sultan AlSalatneh rose to meet Mohamed Abdulrahman's free-kick and steered his header into the bottom corner.

They doubled their advantage just before the break. Jassim



Georgijevic celebrates his brace against Bahrain Club during Matchweek 22 action

Jawad slipped the ball across goal and Fahad Busharar finished emphatically from close range, sending Bahrain Club into half-time with a shock 2-0 lead.

Riffa, however, responded immediately after the restart. Rodrigo Yuri converted from the penalty spot to halve the deficit, before Dejan Georgijevic levelled in the 70th minute with a close-range header after sustained pressure. The comeback was completed in the 87th minute when Georgijevic reacted quickest inside a crowded box, turning in a loose ball to complete a dramatic turnaround.

At Bahrain National Stadium, Al Hidd edged Al Shabab 1-0 in a closely contested encounter. Al Hidd were first handed a penalty midway through the first

half after Mohamed Msabeh was brought down, but Al Shabab goalkeeper Aqeel Ali produced a superb save to keep the scores level.

The breakthrough arrived just three minutes after the restart. A loose clearance fell kindly to captain Ahmed Yousif, who struck cleanly from close range to secure all three points for Al Hidd.

At Al Ahli Stadium, Budaiya and Al Ahli shared a thrilling 2-2 draw filled with early goals and late drama. Al Ahli struck inside three minutes, when captain Abdulla Al Hashash met a cross from Al Sayed Jawad Haider with a diving header for his 12th goal of the season, moving him level at the top of the scoring charts.

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