

**Missile Licence Deal**  
G7 nations and the United States have agreed to allow Ukraine-based and European companies to produce long-range missiles and air defence systems under licence. | P6



## CBB Keeps Key Overnight Rate at 4.25%



The Central Bank of Bahrain announced its decision to maintain the overnight deposit interest rate unchanged at 4.25%.

This decision stems from the bank's ongoing monitoring of monetary and financial conditions, aimed at preserving monetary and financial stability in the Kingdom of Bahrain amid developments in international financial markets.

The Central Bank stated that it continues to assess global economic trends and their impact on local market stability as part of its policy framework.

## Capital Police Chief Visits Maatams



Brigadier Isa Hassan Al Qattan, Director General of the Capital Governorate Police Directorate, visited a number of maatams across the governorate as part of efforts to enhance community partnership and direct engagement with residents.

During the visits, he met officials and citizens, listened to their feedback, and reviewed their needs, reaffirming the directorate's commitment to open communication and improved security services in cooperation with all segments of society.

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# Social Media Ban For Under-15s Faces Government Pushback

Concerns raised over enforcement, data privacy and the impact on education

TDI | Manama  
Mohammed Darwish

The government has raised objections to a Shura Council bid to keep children under 15 off social media, warning that a blanket ban would be hard to police and could put children's private data at risk.

In a memo sent to Parliament with draft changes to the Child Law, the government said children needed stronger protection online, but argued that account bans were too blunt and risked blocking useful digital tools as well as harmful ones.

The bill, put forward by Shura members, would add a new chapter to the 2012 Child Law under the title 'Digital Safety of the Child'. It would bar under-15s from creating accounts on social media platforms and place those aged 15 to 18 under a rule book covering privacy, harmful content and age checks.

The government said children face clear risks online, from harmful material and cyberbullying to breaches of privacy, grooming and abuse through games, apps and social media.

But it said the draft went too far by treating all online ac-



Shura Council

counts in the same way. Not every platform carried the same risk, it said, and many online services were now tied to schooling, family contact, play, shopping or access to public services.

A general ban, the memo said, could block useful tools as well as harmful ones. It said the law should instead govern use through clear rules that can be put into force.

Those rules could include the consent of a parent or guardian, strong privacy defaults, workable age checks and clear ways to report harmful material or conduct.

The government also said the proposed ban would not catch many real-life forms of use. A child can use a platform without having a separate account, or through a family account,

a shared device, or a school device.

For that reason, it said, a ban on account creation would need to sit within a wider scheme that covers parental oversight, public awareness, duties on platforms and the work of the bodies in charge.

The memo raised a second warning over age checks. Asking users to prove their age could lead to platforms collecting extra data about children, including identity papers or other sensitive records.

The government said any such system must comply with personal data law and collect only the least amount of data needed. It said the bill must spell out what data can be taken, who may hold it, how long it can be kept and how misuse will be stopped.

### Bahrain's Child Online Safety Bill

- Under 15s: No social media accounts allowed
- Ages 15-18: Access permitted under safety and privacy rules
- Education platforms: Exempt from restrictions
- TRA: To set internet safety standards
- Purpose: Protect children from online risks
- Government concern: Enforcement on global platforms and legal clarity
- Legal basis: Child protection under Article 5(a) of the Constitution
- Global trend: Follows international efforts to improve online child safety

## Ashura Holiday

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, issued a circular announcing the official holiday in observance of Ashura.

According to the circular, all ministries, government entities, and public institutions will close on Thursday and Friday, June 25 and 26. Since Friday coincides with an official holiday, the day off will be compensated on Sunday, June 28.



## Gulf Air Welcomes Latest Airbus A321neo



Gulf Air welcomed a new addition to its fleet with the arrival of its latest Airbus A321neo aircraft at Bahrain International Airport.

With the introduction of this aircraft, Gulf Air's fleet will expand to 46 aircraft, reflecting the national carrier's ongoing commitment to enhancing its operational capabilities and supporting its future growth plans.

# Deal Means Deal, Sign It!

Trump Tells Iran as G7 Awaits Final Signature

The fragile peace ending the Middle East war hung in a holding pattern Wednesday, with President Donald Trump declaring at the G7 summit in Evian, France, that the US-Iran accord would be finalized "shortly," though he stopped short of locking in a date, suggesting Thursday or Friday as likely signing days in Switzerland.

The mixed signals did little to calm jittery oil markets. Brent crude spiked as much as five percent intraday before settling near \$80 a barrel, while US benchmark crude hovered around \$77, as traders weighed how durable the ceasefire framework actually is.

Trump also addressed friction with Israeli Prime Minister



Benjamin Netanyahu, insisting their relationship remains solid even as he renewed criticism of Israel's military operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon, suggesting the campaign could be handled more effectively. He confirmed that Washington had

shared a copy of the draft accord with Israeli officials, pushing back on reports of being blindsided.

Reaction from the region was swift and triumphant on one side. Hezbollah's leader, Naim Qassem, praised the emerging

deal as a major win for Iran and called on Lebanon to capitalize on the moment to press for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from its territory.

India and China Diplomatic pressure was building elsewhere too. China's

foreign minister urged all parties to follow through on their commitments and warned that safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz needed careful handling, reflecting Beijing's economic stake in stable oil shipping routes. Meanwhile, India's prime minister used a sideline meeting with Trump to press for protections for Indian sailors, following the deaths of three Indian crew members in a recent US strike on a commercial vessel near Oman.

With so many regional and global stakeholders weighing in, the message converging from multiple directions was the same one Trump himself seemed to be channeling: the framework exists, the incentives align, and now it's simply time to sign. **Read More On Page 6-7**

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**Commander-in-Chief Meets Minister**

Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), received Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy. The meeting reviewed cooperation and coordination between the BDF and the Ministry of Finance and National Economy.

**Bahrain Chamber Extends Sectoral Committee Registration**

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chamber has announced a two-week extension of the registration period for membership in its Sectoral Committees for the 31st term, with applications now open until Thursday, 2 July 2026.

Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, Nabeel Khalid Kanoo said the extension aims to expand participation and enable more business leaders and experts to contribute to the work of the committees, reinforcing their role in supporting economic development and strengthening engagement between the Chamber and the business community.

He emphasized that joining the Sectoral Committees represents an opportunity for business owners and private-sector professionals to play an active role in shaping economic priorities and contributing to the development

of Bahrain's business environment through the Chamber, the unified voice of the private sector. Kanoo noted that the commit-



Nabeel Khalid Kanoo, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber

tees are a key pillar of the Chamber's work, serving as platforms for examining sector-specific challenges and opportunities and providing recommendations that support business growth and enhance the competitiveness of the national economy.

He added that applicants should possess relevant expertise and professional experience in

the sector they wish to represent. Membership is open to both business owners and qualified specialists, including non-members of the Chamber, enabling greater utilization of national expertise and strengthening the quality of committee outputs and recommendations.

The Chairman reiterated his call for business owners and individuals interested in economic affairs to take advantage of the extension and register, highlighting the important role the committees play in supporting initiatives and policies that foster economic growth and address future opportunities and challenges.

The Sectoral Committees for the 31st term have been structured to ensure balanced representation across economic activities, with particular focus on key contributors to Bahrain's GDP, as well as promising non-oil sectors that continue to drive the Kingdom's economic growth.

**LuLu Financial Holdings' Adeeb Ahamed Appointed to The Wall Street Journal CEO Council**

Adeeb Ahamed, Managing Director of LuLu Financial Holdings, has been appointed to The Wall Street Journal CEO Council, an invitation-only network of business leaders convened by the WSJ Leadership Institute.

The appointment was announced during the CEO Council Summit held in London on June 9-10, which brought together senior executives from across industries to discuss the global economic outlook, leadership, innovation, technology and geopolitics. The summit serves as one of the flagship gatherings of the CEO Council community and attracts leaders from some of the world's most influential companies and institutions.

As a member of the CEO Council, Adeeb will join a global network of chief executives and business leaders who engage in ongoing discussions on the opportunities and challenges shaping the future of business. Through a series of summits, peer forums and leadership exchanges, members contribute perspectives on issues ranging from economic growth and technological transformation to corporate leadership and resilience in an increasingly complex



Adeeb Ahamed, Managing Director of LuLu Financial Holdings

world.

Commenting on the appointment, Adeeb Ahamed said: "I am honoured to join The Wall Street Journal CEO Council and contribute to a community of leaders focused on navigating the profound changes reshaping the global economy. At a time when technology, demographics and geopolitics are redefining how businesses operate, the ability to engage with perspectives and participate in meaningful dialogue has never been more important. I look forward to sharing insights from the markets and communities we serve."

Adeeb is the Managing Director of LuLu Financial Holdings, one of the leading financial ser-

vices groups operating across the GCC, Indian subcontinent and Asia-Pacific region. Under his leadership, the Group has expanded its footprint across multiple markets while investing in digital innovation, cross-border payments, foreign exchange and financial inclusion initiatives.

Beyond his role at LuLu Financial Holdings, he is a prominent voice on issues relating to financial inclusion, migration-linked economies, digital transformation and cross-border commerce. He currently serves as Chair of the FICCI Arab Council and regularly participates in international forums focused on business, technology and economic cooperation.

His appointment to The Wall Street Journal CEO Council reflects the growing relevance of perspectives from emerging markets and the increasing importance of cross-border financial ecosystems in the global economy.

The WSJ Leadership Institute's CEO Council is an invitation-only community designed to facilitate dialogue among senior executives through exclusive events, peer-to-peer exchanges and discussions on the issues shaping business and society.

**Five Gaza Children Receive Cancer Treatment Under RHF Initiative**

● **First phase:**  
5 Gaza children treated for cancer

● **Second phase:**  
5 more children set for treatment

● **Programme ongoing**  
until full budget is used

The Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) has continued its follow-up on the implementation



of its agreement to provide cancer treatment, medical care for the injured, and prosthetic limb services for Palestinians

in the Gaza Strip.

Acting Secretary-General Eng. Ebrahim Dalhan Aldoseri visited the King Hussein Can-

cer Center in Jordan to monitor the program's progress and review the healthcare services delivered to beneficiaries. The

visit is part of RHF's ongoing efforts to ensure effective implementation of the agreement and high-quality medical care.

During the visit, Aldoseri inspected specialised treatment services and met with children currently receiving care, reaffirming the Foundation's commitment to supporting patients according to the highest medical standards.

He confirmed that the first phase of the initiative is complete, providing treatment for five children with cancer from Gaza, while the second phase has begun and will cover an

additional five children. He added that the programme will continue until the allocated treatment budget is fully utilised.

Aldoseri also praised the cooperation of the King Hussein Cancer Center and the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization, highlighting their role in facilitating procedures and ensuring smooth delivery of medical services. He commended the medical and administrative teams for their dedication to providing advanced care.

**100 Cameras Out of Service at Souq Al Shaabi Raise Safety Concerns**TDT | Manama  
Hasan Barakat

A municipal councillor has raised concerns over safety conditions at Souq Al Shaabi, highlighting that around 100 surveillance cameras are currently not functioning, while the market's lighting system has reportedly been out of service since Ramadan.

Southern Municipal Council member Mubarak Faraj said during a council session that the disruptions have affected security at the market, noting that the cameras have been inactive for nearly a year and the lighting has remained off for several months, leaving parts of the area in darkness at night.

He linked the situation to reported theft incidents, warning that the absence of surveillance and proper lighting reduces deterrence and makes monitoring more difficult.

Faraj said he had been informed that an underground cable fault was responsible for



Southern Municipal Council member Mubarak Faraj the lighting failure, but questioned the prolonged delay in repairs and the lack of a clear timeline for restoration.

He also pointed to what he described as limited communication and slow response from the relevant authorities, saying the issue had worsened due to insufficient follow-up.

Calling for urgent action, Faraj urged the restoration of both lighting and surveillance systems, stressing the need to maintain basic infrastructure in public markets. He added that the matter goes beyond maintenance, emphasizing its direct impact on public safety and confidence.

**"Ma'an" Programme Wins Arab Ideas International Award**

The Anti-Violence and Addiction Prevention Programme "Ma'an" won the Arab Ideas International Award in its 18th edition under the Education and Training category, part of the Dubai Quality Group Awards, which recognise innovative initiatives and ideas that have a measurable impact on institutional performance and the promotion of a culture of innovation and quality.

The achievement reflects directives from His Excellency Lieutenant General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior, who has consistently supported innovation in security and community work, as well as the development of preventive programmes based on education, training, and awareness. These efforts aim to protect young people, reinforce positive values, and strengthen community safety.

The award ceremony was held in Dubai as part of the Dubai Quality Group Awards 2026, where Ali Ahmed Amini, Director of the Crime Prevention Directorate and Head of the "Ma'an" Programme, received the honour. The recognition highlights the programme's excellence in preventive education and training through targeted initiatives for students, parents, and the wider school community.

**New Move to Speed UP Housing and Investment Permits**

The Undersecretary for Municipal Affairs at the Ministry of Municipalities and Agriculture, Engineer Shaikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, said that granting licensed engineering offices the authority to conduct final inspections of completed buildings will accelerate procedures and improve the efficiency of municipal services.

He explained that the decision aligns with the Ministry's broader efforts to enhance the licensing system and municipal services, and to improve processes for issuing residential and investment permits. He noted that this supports Bahrain's ongoing urban development needs.

Shaikh Mohammed highlighted that Ministerial Decision No. (25) of 2026, which amends parts of the executive regulations of the Building Regulation Law, aims to streamline inspection procedures by utilizing the expertise of licensed national engineering offices. Under the new framework, these offices will be responsible for conducting final inspections of completed buildings in accordance with approved legal and regulatory standards.

# Don't Let a Swim Turn Tragic

Child drownings and recent incidents across pools, seas, and travel prompt renewed safety warnings

TDT | Manama  
Ghadeer Alkumaish

With rising temperatures in Bahrain, beaches and swimming pools are becoming increasingly crowded, with many facilities fully booked. However, this growing demand has also led to rising safety concerns, as drowning incidents continue to occur among both children and adults.

As part of the Ministry of Interior's Al Aman Program, Colonel Dr. Osama Bahar stressed the importance of awareness and prevention, stating: "Swimming is a wonderful sport and a great way to relax, but it can also be very dangerous, even for experienced swimmers."

He explained that swimmers are generally divided into two categories: those who engage in swimming as a sport or training activity, and those who swim recreationally with family or friends. Addressing open-water swimmers, he advised: "Use a brightly colored swim buoy attached to your body so that boat and jet ski operators can easily see you. It can also help you rest if you become tired." He also recommended swimming parallel to the shoreline, avoiding deep water, and ensuring



These incidents show that drowning can affect all age groups and occur in both local and international settings, reinforcing the need for constant supervision, adherence to safety guidelines, and heightened public awareness.

someone is aware of their swimming location. Additionally, he warned: "Avoid boat routes, harbors, areas beneath bridges, and places where swimming is



Dr. Osama Bahar

prohibited." For families and recreational beachgoers, he emphasized constant supervision of children near water, stating: "Never

## Drowning Incidents

### 2018 - Riffa

- A young man drowned in a reported water-related incident.

### December 2023 - Al Hidd Coast

- A 59-year-old Bahraini man died after drowning near the shoreline.

### August 2024 - Swimming Pool Incident

- A Bahraini child tragically drowned in a private/public pool.

### June 2025 - Mahooz

- A Bahraini man in his twenties died after drowning in a swimming pool.

### September 2025 - Thailand Trip

- A Bahraini man drowned during a tourist trip abroad.

lose sight of a child and never let go of their hand near the water." He highlighted that drowning can occur quickly and silently, even in shallow water, particularly when attention is briefly lost. He further added: "Your role is to protect your loved ones, help them enjoy their time safely, and make every beach outing a happy and safe experience."

# LMRA Cuts Domestic Worker Permit Fix to One Day

TDT | Manama  
Mohammed Darwish

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority has cut the wait to correct the work permit status of a domestic worker whose employer has died from 10 working days to one.

The upgraded online service lets the worker's status be changed in one of two ways:

by issuing a work permit under another employer, or by cancelling the existing permit so the worker can leave Bahrain.

The LMRA said the change also halves the paperwork needed for the service and cuts the number of approvals by 25 pc. Details of the service have also been made the same across all public channels.

Under the revised process, the system sends an electronic notice, after which the new employer applies for a domestic worker permit through the authority's portal. The LMRA then checks the death of the former employer, cancels the existing permit and goes on with the new work permit

steps.

Ahmed Al Arabi, the LMRA's deputy chief executive for services and business, said the move was part of the authority's shift towards online tools that make services faster and easier for users.

He said the upgraded service would save time and effort for those dealing with the authority and improve the way its work system runs.

The change is part of wider state work to review public services and rebuild them around user needs.

More than 1,300 government services have been documented, published, and translated, while 800 services across state bodies have been reviewed and reworked.

The changes were drawn from comments and complaints sent through the national Tawasul system, feedback from investors and mystery shopper reports on public services. User guides and service pledges have also been issued to make steps clearer and improve service standards.



# Appeal Court Upholds Prison Sentences in Newborn Death and Illegal Burial Case

All three defendants face deportation after serving their sentences

TDT | Manama  
Rehab Mohammad

The First High Criminal Court of Appeal has upheld prison sentences against an Asian couple convicted of gross negligence leading to the death of their newborn child, as well as failing to report the infant's birth and death.

The court confirmed a three-year prison term for the 35-year-old mother and the 26-year-old father. It also upheld a one-year prison sentence for the mother's friend, who was found guilty of assisting in the unlawful burial of the infant without informing the relevant authorities.

All three defendants were additionally sentenced to one month in prison for residing illegally in Bahrain and will be deported after completing their prison terms.

According to court records, the mother arrived in Bahrain in January 2024 for work. She had met

the father through social media in 2022, and the pair later entered into a relationship before moving in together in October 2024.

In March 2025, the woman discovered she was pregnant but did not seek medical care after her residency permit had expired. Investigators said she informed the father of the pregnancy and the couple agreed to continue with it despite not obtaining medical supervision.

On August 23, 2025, the woman went into labour at their apartment. After the father and the third defendant briefly visited, they left the residence. The woman later delivered the baby at home without medical assistance and cut the umbilical cord using non-medical means.

Investigations found that the infant was born alive but required urgent specialised medical care due to being premature. No medical assistance was sought, and

the child's condition deteriorated, ultimately resulting in death.

Following the infant's death, the third defendant returned to the apartment, and the three agreed not to notify authorities. The baby's body was wrapped in cloth and transported to the A'ali area, where it was buried near a mosque without following legal procedures.

Prosecutors said the defendants failed to report both the birth and death within the legally required period. The third defendant participated in the burial, while the father assisted in coordinating the burial arrangements and transportation.

The Public Prosecution charged the parents with negligently failing to provide necessary medical care, leading to the infant's death, as well as failing to report the birth and death. Additional charges included unlawful burial without notifying authorities and violations related to expired residency permits.



# Southern Governorate Moves to Tackle Visual Clutter from Shop Signs

TDT | Manama  
Hasan Barakat

Concerns over unregulated shop signage and oversized advertisements have prompted calls for stricter municipal controls in Bahrain's Southern Governorate, aimed at improving the urban landscape and ensuring fairness among businesses.

Southern Municipal Council member Mohammed Hussain Darraj raised the issue during the council's final session of its fourth term under "any other business," urging the introduc-



**"The use of non-official flags and symbols on commercial signage must be addressed through stricter inspection and enforcement to ensure compliance with regulations,"**

COUNCILLOR MOHAMMED HUSSAIN DARRAJ

tion of unified standards for commercial signage sizes.

Darraj warned that the absence of clear regulations allows some businesses to dominate visual space while disadvantaging others, in addition to contributing to visual clutter and encroachment on public

areas.

He also called for clearer rules on the use of languages on shopfronts, stressing the importance of maintaining Arabic alongside English, and cautioned against excessive multilingual displays that he said could dilute national identity.

# GCC Ministers Push Forward Regional Railway Integration Plans

Bahrain stresses the economic and strategic value of a unified railway network

The GCC Railway Project was a key focus of discussions as the Kingdom of Bahrain chaired the 29th extraordinary meeting of the GCC Ministerial Council for Transport, underscoring continued efforts to advance regional connectivity and logistics integration.

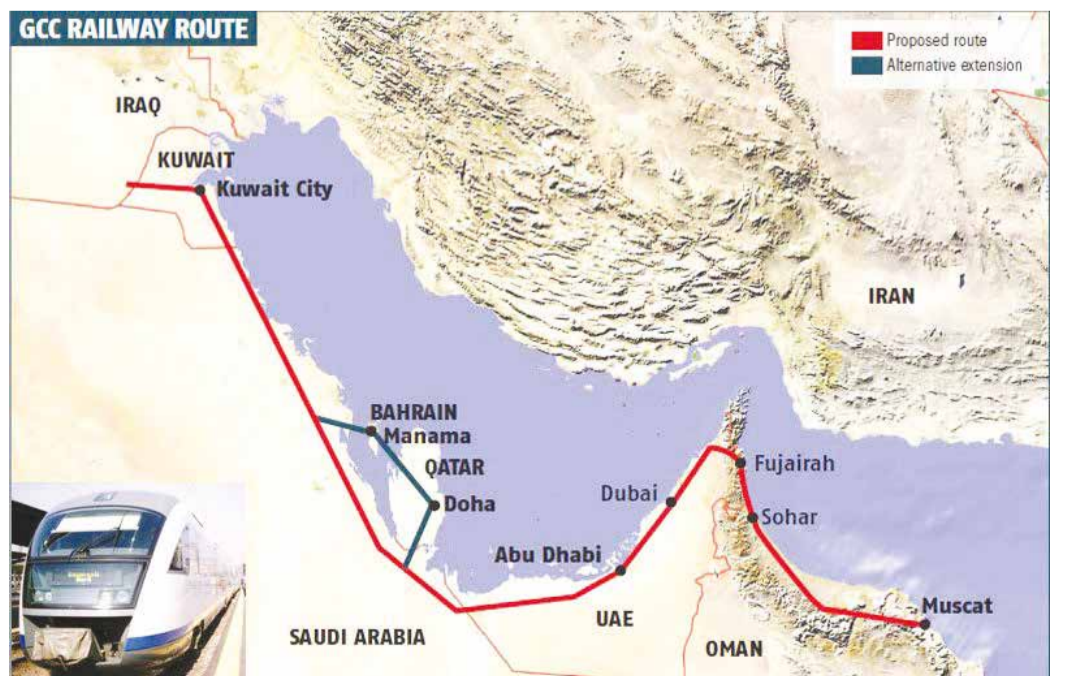
The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, as part of Bahrain's presidency of the 46th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The session was held virtually with the participation of transport,

ports, and logistics ministers and senior officials from GCC member states.

Discussions centred on the latest developments in the implementation of the GCC Railway Project, alongside broader regional logistics integration initiatives. Ministers also reviewed mechanisms to enhance coordination among member states to ensure the effective achievement of the project's strategic objectives.

In his remarks, Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa

said the extraordinary meeting was held in line with directives and resolutions of the GCC Supreme Council issued during the Manama and Jeddah summits, which emphasised the GCC railway project as a cornerstone of deeper Gulf integration.



## NBB Jointly Leads Bahrain's USD 1 Billion Sovereign Bond

TDT | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) acted as Joint Lead Manager and Bookrunner in the Kingdom's successful USD 1 billion 10-year international bond issuance. The Bank's involvement reinforces its role and contribution as a trusted financial partner in the country's most strategically important capital markets transactions over the years.

Despite ongoing volatility in global financial markets, the issuance was successfully priced at a final yield of 7.125%, tightening from initial price guidance of 7.50% on the back of a robust orderbook that peaked over USD 3.2 billion; representing a strong outcome in the

context of prevailing market conditions and marking another landmark transaction by the Kingdom. The offering attracted strong engagement from the investment community, underscoring sustained confidence in Bahrain's economic outlook and resilience.

Commenting on the occasion, Usman Ahmed, Group Chief Executive Officer of NBB, said, "Through this US\$ 1 billion issue, Bahrain has led the re-opening of international debt markets since the start of the regional conflict. The strong oversubscription achieved against an unprecedented market backdrop demonstrates the continued confidence of global and regional investors in Bahrain's medium-long term economic

vision and policies. NBB is proud to have played a leading role in the transaction".

Husain Almohri, Group Chief Executive - Markets & Client Solutions at NBB, added, "NBB's appointment on this transaction underscores our expertise in executing sophisticated capital markets mandates, as well as our strong track record in supporting the Kingdom across complex and strategically significant funding initiatives. The successful pricing of the bond reflects Bahrain's established credibility among global investors, underpinned by the Kingdom's effective leadership, policy direction, financial system, and economic management. It also highlights the strength of the longstanding relationships



Bahrain has built with the international investment community."

The Bank remains committed to leveraging its capabilities across debt capital markets, advisory, and investment banking services to support the Kingdom's strategic priorities and facilitate access to global investment opportunities that contribute to sustainable economic growth.

## Bahrain Among Top 5 MENA Startup Ecosystems in 2026 Report

The Kingdom of Bahrain achieved strong rankings across several key indicators in the Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) 2026 report, with Bahrain's startup ecosystem generating \$1.6 billion in Ecosystem Value during the period from July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025. This represents a 759% increase compared to the reporting period covered by the GSER 2021 report, which spanned July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020. The Kingdom of Bahrain ranked among the Top 5 MENA Ecosystems in Performance, which measures the size and performance of an ecosystem based on the accumulated tech startup value created from exits and funding. Bahrain also secured positions among the Top 10 MENA Ecosystems in AI-Native Cluster, which measures the size and intensity of AI startup activity within the ecosystem, and among the Top 15 MENA Ecosystems in R&D Engine, which measures innovation through research activity.

On this occasion, Alya Al Aali, Deputy CE of Strategy & Insights at the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), commented: "The Kingdom of Bahrain's distinctive advantage

lies in its agile startup ecosystem, which enables entrepreneurs to develop and test their ideas within a supportive environment that facilitates expansion into regional markets." She added that Tamkeen continues its efforts to support entrepreneurs and advance the startup ecosystem through initiatives that stimulate innovation, accelerate business growth, and expand access to financing and emerging technologies, thereby supporting their sustainability and competitiveness both locally and regionally.

In addition, Samantha Evans, Managing Director MENA at Startup Genome, said: "Rather than trying to compete on size, Bahrain has focused on precision, building depth in fintech and adjacent technologies where it can lead. With Tamkeen anchoring this approach, the ecosystem is proving that targeted investment and clear positioning can outperform broader, less focused strategies."



Alya Al Aali, Deputy CE of Strategy & Insights at the Labour Fund (Tamkeen)

The report highlighted Fintech, Blockchain, and AI & Digital Innovation as leading engines of Bahrain's startup growth that remain consistent with last year, supported by progressive regulation and innovation-driven initiatives. The report also outlined several factors contributing to Bahrain's attractiveness as a destination for startups and entrepreneurs. Bahrain offers a highly connected and agile ecosystem, competitive operating costs, and access to regional markets, in addition to a supportive regulatory environment and collaborative public-private sector initiatives that continue to strengthen innovation and entrepreneurial activity in the Kingdom.

Startup Genome, the Global Entrepreneurship Network, and the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) have continued their collaboration to monitor and benchmark Bahrain's startup ecosystem, while identifying opportunities and growth areas that support the Kingdom's innovation-driven economic development plans.

The Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2026 delivers key insights into the world's leading innovation ecosystems, highlighting trends, capital flows, and policy approaches shaping entrepreneurial success. Building on last year's analysis, the report expands its AI-Native factor to include emerging ecosystems, reflecting AI's growing role in competitive advantage. Backed by over a decade of independent research and a global consortium spanning 65+ countries, it provides a data-rich view of startup activity and investment trends, equipping policymakers, ecosystem leaders, and founders with actionable strategies to drive economic growth.

## Bahrain Bourse Opens the Market at London Stock Exchange Group 'LSEG' to Mark 'Bahrain Capital Market Day 2026'

Bahrain Bourse (BHB), a licensed exchange regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain, recently celebrated 'Bahrain Capital Market Day 2026' at the London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG), reaffirming Bahrain's commitment to strengthening international investor engagement and advancing the Kingdom's capital market ecosystem.

The event commenced with a Market Open ceremony at LSEG to officially open the market and mark the launch of Bahrain Capital Market Day 2026. The ceremony was attended by a high-level delegation led by Mr. Yusef Al Yusef, Chairman of Bahrain Bourse, alongside representatives from Bahrain's financial sector and international investment community.

The occasion highlighted Bahrain's growing partnership with global investors and showcased the Kingdom's continued progress in developing a vibrant, resilient, and sustainable capital market. It also provided a platform to promote Bahrain's



investment landscape and discuss opportunities arising from the country's ongoing economic transformation initiatives, particularly in showcasing the Kingdom of Bahrain's capital market development roadmap, and Bahrain Bourse's 'Elevate' strategy 2026-2028.

The ceremony was followed by welcome remarks from Mr. Ivo Dekkers, Group Head of Sales - EMEA, Data & Analytics at LSEG, who highlighted the importance of international collaboration in supporting capital market growth and attracting investment flows. Mr. Yusef Al Yusef then addressed attendees, emphasizing Bahrain's strategic vision for capital market development and the Kingdom's commit-

ment to enhancing market competitiveness and accessibility.

The networking event brought together market participants, and industry stakeholders to explore Bahrain's recent economic transformation plans and discuss the Bahrain Bourse Capital Market Development Plan 2026-2028 - "Elevate". The plan aims to further elevate Bahrain's capital market through a series of strategic initiatives designed to enhance market infrastructure, diversify investment products, increase market participation, and support the objectives of Bahrain Vision 2030. On the sidelines of the event, workshops for the various participating team members were held to explore potential areas of collaboration

within the area of AI execution, asset tokenization, and private markets.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Yusef Al Yusef, Chairman of Bahrain Bourse, said: "Bahrain's Capital Market Day at LSEG showcases our commitment to deepening our capital markets and strengthening connections with global investors. This initiative underscores our strategic focus on enhancing market infrastructure, supporting economic transformation plans, and advancing the objectives of the Capital Market Development Plan 2026-2028 - Elevate."

The event forms part of Bahrain Bourse's broader efforts to strengthen the Kingdom's position as a leading regional financial hub and foster meaningful dialogue with international investors and stakeholders. Through initiatives such as Bahrain Capital Market Day, Bahrain Bourse continues to promote investment opportunities within the Kingdom while supporting the long-term growth and development of Bahrain's capital markets.

## Royal Bahrain Concours and Gulf Air Renew Partnership for 2026

Where the Gulf & the World's Most Exclusive Cars Meet

TDT | Manama

The Royal Bahrain Concours is proud to announce that Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, has renewed its partnership with the event for its 2026 edition.

Following its support of the inaugural Royal Bahrain Concours, Gulf Air will return as a sponsor for 2026 with an enhanced partnership, reflecting its confidence in the event's long-term potential and its commitment to supporting Bahrain's growing reputation as a destination for world-class cultural, luxury and automotive experiences.

Taking place at the Royal Golf Club in Riffa on Friday 6 - Saturday 7 November 2026, the Royal Bahrain Concours will once again bring together a carefully curated collection of exceptional cars, collectors, enthusiasts, luxury partners and international guests.

The renewed support from Gulf Air follows a highly successful first edition, which welcomed 60 collector cars and more than 200 members' cars from leading car clubs across the GCC. With strong

- Gulf Air renews its partnership with the Royal Bahrain Concours for 2026
- Bahrain's national carrier will increase its support for the event following the success of the inaugural edition
- The Royal Bahrain Concours returns to the Royal Golf Club, Riffa, Bahrain, on 6-7 November 2026
- The 2026 edition will build on a successful debut, which brought together 60 exceptional collector cars and more than 200 members' cars from leading regional car clubs

regional engagement and growing international attention, the Royal Bahrain Concours is quickly establishing itself as one of the most important new additions to the global concours calendar.

### Gulf Air

As Bahrain's national carrier,



Gulf Air plays a key role in connecting the Kingdom with the wider world. Its continued partnership with the Royal Bahrain Concours underlines the shared ambition to showcase Bahrain as a destination of distinction, hospitality and premium experiences.

Founded in 1950, Gulf Air is one of the Middle East's longest-established commercial airlines. Operating from its hub at Bahrain International Airport, the airline connects Bahrain with destinations across the Middle East, Europe, Africa, North America, the Indian sub-continent and the Far East.

Through its renewed and ex-

panded support, Gulf Air will help welcome guests, collectors and international visitors to Bahrain for the 2026 Royal Bahrain Concours, reinforcing the event's position as a celebration not only of automotive excellence, but also of the Kingdom's culture, hospitality and global outlook.

James Brooks-Ward, Chairman of the Royal Bahrain Concours, commented: "We are delighted that Gulf Air has renewed its partnership with the Royal Bahrain Concours for 2026, and that it will be supporting the event in an even greater capacity this year.

"Gulf Air was part of the story

from the beginning, supporting the inaugural edition and helping us introduce the Royal Bahrain Concours to collectors, enthusiasts and guests from across the region and beyond. Its decision to strengthen that involvement for 2026 is a huge vote of confidence in what we are building.

"As Bahrain's national carrier, Gulf Air is a natural partner for an event that is designed to bring the world's finest cars, leading collectors and luxury brands to the Kingdom. Together, we share a commitment to presenting Bahrain at its very best: welcoming, ambitious, internationally connected and capable of hosting truly world-class experiences."

Martin Gauss, Chief Executive Officer of Gulf Air, added: "After the success of the inaugural Royal Bahrain Concours, we are very pleased to renew and enhance our partnership with the event for 2026.

"The first edition demonstrated the strength of Bahrain's luxury and automotive community, while also attracting attention from col-

lectors, enthusiasts and visitors from across the region and worldwide. We have full confidence in the continued growth of the Royal Bahrain Concours and are proud to play a greater role in supporting this year's event.

"As the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Gulf Air is committed to supporting initiatives that promote the Kingdom as a distinctive international destination. The Royal Bahrain Concours is a strong example of that ambition, combining automotive excellence, hospitality and culture in a setting that reflects the best of Bahrain."

Organised by Thorough Events in collaboration with the Bahrain Tourism & Exhibitions Authority, the Royal Bahrain Concours has quickly established itself as a major addition to the region's luxury events calendar and an important new fixture within the international concours world.

Further details regarding the 2026 programme, participating vehicles, partners and ticket information will be announced in due course.

# Capital Trustees Oppose Plan for Fixed Business Hours

Proposal would restrict most businesses from operating before 5am and after midnight

TDT | Manama  
Ghadeer Alkumaish

A proposal to introduce fixed operating hours for commercial establishments in Bahrain has sparked debate among municipal authorities, with the Capital Trustees Board voicing strong opposition to the measure and questioning its effectiveness.

The proposal, approved by the Southern Municipal Council, seeks to prevent businesses from opening before 5am and require them to close by midnight unless they obtain a special licence allowing round-the-clock operations. Supporters argue that the measure would help reduce disturbances in residential neighbourhoods, where residents have raised concerns about noise and late-night activity.

However, members of the Capital Trustees Board believe the proposal places unnecessary restrictions on businesses and fails to address the actual causes of those complaints.

Board chairman Saleh Tarradah said commercial operators are best positioned to determine the hours that suit their customers and business needs. He argued that linking residents' concerns to shop operating hours oversimplifies a more complex



Dr. Al Qattan, left, with Mr. Tarradah



MR. ABDULLATIF

issue.

According to Mr Tarradah, complaints such as excessive use of vehicle horns stem from individual behaviour rather than the presence of businesses themselves. Restricting trading hours, he said, would do little to resolve such problems and could instead create new challenges for consumers and business owners alike.

He also highlighted the importance of flexible business hours

in supporting residents with non-traditional work schedules. Essential services, including laundries and dry-cleaning shops, often serve customers who work shifts and rely on access outside standard daytime hours.

The board chairman further stressed that Bahrain's economy benefits from a business environment that allows enterprises to operate according to demand. He noted that cafés, restaurants and other service-oriented businesses often experience peak activity during evening hours, making extended operations an important part of their commercial viability.

While rejecting blanket restrictions, Mr Tarradah acknowledged that certain activities, such as garages and workshops, may require different reg-

ulations due to their operational nature and potential impact on surrounding communities.

Supporting the board's position, vice-chairwoman Dr Khulood Al Qattan said businesses continue to face economic pressures and should not be burdened with additional measures that could slow their recovery. She warned that imposing new restrictions at this stage could create further challenges for commercial establishments already adapting to changing market conditions.

**“The proposal is aimed primarily at businesses operating in residential areas, not all commercial districts across Bahrain.”**

# Proposal Seeks Reform of Scrap Site Storage Practices

Municipal Council Hears Calls for Better Oversight of Scrap Yards

TDT | Manama  
Hasan Barakat

Vehicles left exposed to sun, rain and damage at scrap sites have prompted calls for urgent reforms, as a municipal councillor warned that current practices could put residents' property at risk.

Southern Municipal Council member Mohammed Hussain Darraj raised the proposal during the council's final session of the fourth term under “any other business.”

Darraj said there is a need to better organise scrap site operations and improve how vehicles and confiscated belongings are stored during regulatory campaigns.

He called for installing shaded areas to protect vehicles from harsh weather conditions, noting that prolonged exposure can lead to deterioration and loss of value.

The councillor also urged adopting a clear system for registering vehicles and stored items, including labelling them with identifying details to help owners locate and recover their property more easily.

He stressed that personal belongings should be handled care-



Photos of the scrapyards showing random belongings thrown about

fully and stored in an organised manner, warning against overcrowding or practices that may lead to damage, particularly since some items may carry financial or sentimental value.

Darraj further called for reviewing inspection mechanisms, including the periodic rotation of inspectors, to strengthen transparency and improve operational efficiency.

The proposal was discussed by council members but was not put to a vote, as it was introduced under the “any other business” agenda item.

The discussion highlights growing concern over how enforcement campaigns affect private property, with calls to ensure that regulation does not come at the expense of proper protection.

## From The Court

TDT | Manama  
Rehab Mohammad

### Six Drug Traffickers Jailed for Life, Fined BD10,000 Each

Asian defendants to be deported after serving sentences as court dismantles drug-smuggling network

Asian defendants to be deported after serving sentences as court dismantles drug-smuggling network

The High Criminal Court sentenced six Asian nationals to life imprisonment, fined each BD10,000, and ordered their permanent deportation from Bahrain after completing their prison terms for importing, possessing, and trafficking narcotic drugs.

According to the Deputy Chief of the Drug Crimes Prosecution, the case began after the Anti-Narcotics Directorate received intelligence regarding an international criminal network smuggling narcotic drugs

and psychotropic substances into Bahrain for distribution.

Investigations revealed that some network members concealed drugs inside their bodies by swallowing them before entering the Kingdom. The substances were then handed to accomplices in Bahrain for sale and distribution.

The Public Prosecution launched an immediate investigation, questioned the defendants, and presented them with the evidence and seized drugs. Following the investigation, the suspects were referred to the High Criminal Court, which handed down the life sentences, fines, and deportation orders.

### Beauty Salon Owner Fined Over Cameras in Women-Only Areas

Court rules surveillance system violated privacy regulations

The Lower Criminal Court fined the owner of a women's beauty salon BD100 for installing surveillance cameras in areas reserved exclusively for female clients.

The case was brought after a customer discovered cameras inside sections of the salon designated for nail care and personal beauty services and filed a complaint with Al Hidd Police Station.

An inspection carried out by authorities in coordination with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce confirmed the presence of surveillance cam-

eras in women-only areas, where such installations are prohibited under Bahraini law.

The Public Prosecution referred the salon owner to court for violating Ministerial Resolution No. 51 of 2016 governing the use of security surveillance systems.

The court found the violation proven and imposed a BD100 fine. The regulation specifically bans surveillance cameras in changing rooms, restrooms, treatment rooms, bedrooms, and areas designated exclusively for women to protect personal privacy.

### Five Convicted in BD50,000 Tamkeen Fraud and Forgery Case

Court imposes prison terms of up to 10 years; sixth defendant acquitted

Court imposes prison terms of up to 10 years; sixth defendant acquitted

The High Criminal Court sentenced five defendants to prison terms ranging from one to 10 years and imposed fines totaling nearly BD30,000 after convicting them of forgery, fraud against Tamkeen, and unlawfully obtaining more than BD50,000.

The case arose after Tamkeen reported that company owners had secured wage support funds by submitting forged documents through its electronic system. A separate report from the Social Insurance Organization revealed that false information had been entered into its database, allowing individuals to obtain benefits

without legal entitlement.

Investigations showed that fake employment records had been created to secure pensions, end-of-service benefits, and compensation payments.

The court sentenced three defendants to 10 years in prison, while two others received shorter jail terms. Fines ranging from BD1,000 to BD20,000 were also imposed, and seized items were ordered confiscated.

A sixth defendant was acquitted after the court found insufficient evidence linking him to the forgery or proving knowledge of the offences. The court reaffirmed that criminal liability must be based on clear evidence rather than suspicion.

### Court Orders Blackmailer to Pay Woman BD47,000 Compensation

Defendant exploited personal relationship to obtain money and threaten victim

The High Civil Court ordered a man convicted of fraud and blackmail to pay a woman BD47,000 in compensation after exploiting a personal relationship to extort money and threaten her reputation.

Court records show the defendant gradually obtained money from the woman before threatening to expose personal information to her family unless she continued making payments.

As a result, the victim handed over a total of BD43,000. She later filed a criminal complaint, leading to the defendant's conviction and a three-year prison sentence, along with a BD500 fine.

Following the criminal ruling, the woman filed a civil claim

seeking repayment of the money and compensation for emotional and moral damages.

The defendant argued that he had received a smaller amount and claimed the woman was not entitled to compensation because of their personal relationship. However, the court rejected both arguments, citing his previous admission before prosecutors that he had received BD43,000.

The court ruled that exploiting a personal relationship for fraud and blackmail aggravated the harm suffered by the victim. It ordered the defendant to pay BD47,000 in compensation, in addition to legal costs, attorney fees, and enforcement expenses.

## Bahrain to Host 22nd Manama Dialogue at the End of October

TDT | Manama  
Rehab Mohammad

The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) announced that the 22nd edition of the Manama Dialogue will be held in the Kingdom of Bahrain from October 30 to November 1, 2026. The event will bring together ministers, senior officials, policymakers, and experts from around the world to discuss key security, political, and defense challenges facing the Middle East.

The Manama Dialogue is regarded as one of the region's leading security forums. Held annually in Bahrain since 2004, it provides a platform for dialogue and the exchange of views among government leaders, officials, and policymakers from the Middle East, Europe, North America, Asia, and Africa on-



gional and international issues of mutual concern.

According to the IISS, the conference will address a range of foreign policy, defense, and regional security issues through panel discussions and bilateral meetings involving participating delegations. The institute has not yet announced the detailed agenda or the list of speakers for the event.

The 2026 Manama Dialogue is expected to attract high-level political and security figures from across the globe, continuing its role as a key platform for discussions on strategic and security developments affecting the region.

## Plate Printing Machines Proposed for Service Centres

TDT | Manama  
Mohammed Darwish

Motorists would be able to print number plates within minutes at service centres and vehicle testing sites under a plan put forward by Northern Municipal Council member Mohammed Al Doseri.

Mr Al Doseri, who represents the third constituency, has called for a study into smart machines that would print vehicle plates after users finish the steps through approved state apps and pay the required fees online.

He said the move would cut repeat visits, shorten waits and

make the service easier for citizens and residents.

The machines would be placed in government service centres and technical testing centres, allowing drivers to collect plates on site rather than return later or wait for manual handling.

Mr Al Doseri said similar services had worked in other Gulf states, where they had helped save time and ease strain on staff and users.

He added that the plan would make plate printing available round the clock, reduce pressure on service counters and support Bahrain's shift towards online public services.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

**DON'T WALK IN FRONT OF ME... I MAY NOT FOLLOW  
DON'T WALK BEHIND ME... I MAY NOT LEAD  
WALK BESIDE ME... JUST BE MY FRIEND"**  
ALBERT CAMUS

## Funeral procession for supreme leader to pass through Iraq

AFP | Tehran, Iran

An Iranian official yesterday said the funeral procession for late supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed by US-Israeli strikes in February, will pass through Iraq before his burial in Iran.

In a video carried by state media, Tehran mayor Alireza Zakani said the farewell ceremonies and funeral for Khamenei would be held from July 4 to 9.

"On July 8, 2026, they will take place in Iraq, and on July 9, 2026, God willing, in Mashhad" in Iran, where Khamenei will be buried, he added.

## G7 to produce long-range missiles 'under licence' in Ukraine

AFP | Evian, France

European G7 nations and the United States are to grant licences for Ukraine-based companies to produce long-range missiles and air defence systems, a diplomatic source said Wednesday, with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz confirming the move.

The announcement comes during a three-day G7 meeting in the French town of Evian of the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, who pledged to intensify pressure on Russia to end more than four years of war against Ukraine.

"We are going to produce under licence not only air defence systems, but also deep-strike capabilities," said the diplomatic source.

Merz confirmed the decision, telling reporters: "We are all currently producing too little, and this can be offset by granting licences to companies that have these production capabilities, including European and Ukrainian firms."

US companies will, in particular, be able to grant licences for this purpose to European manufacturers, Merz said, adding he was "grateful" to US President Donald Trump "for this great willingness to cooperate".



## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ RE-OPENS?

After nearly four months of closure during the Middle East war, a US-Iran agreement is set to re-open the vital Strait of Hormuz on Friday.



RE-OPENING EXPECTED **FRIDAY**  
Following a US-Iran agreement to end the Middle East war.

**ROUGHLY 20%** of the world's crude oil supply normally transits the Strait of Hormuz.

**ABOUT 500 SHIPS** and 20,000 seafarers have been stranded in Gulf waters during the closure.

**NEARLY 4 MONTHS** The strait was effectively closed after Iran came under fire from the US and Israel.

**THE STRAIT IS A LIFELINE** Re-opening is a first step. A full return to normal will take months, not days.

**01 ARE SHIPS READY?**

- Once formal approval is given, stranded ships could begin moving almost immediately.
- Crews have maintained ships and equipment through regular drills and upkeep.
- Some ships may need underwater hull cleaning to remove barnacles and marine growth.

**02 WHO CAN PASS?**

- Operators will proceed cautiously and insurers may require naval escorts.
- First likely: shipowners who operate their own fleet and those not listed on a stock exchange.
- High tanker earnings mean higher war risk insurance is unlikely to be an obstacle.
- Tankers linked to Kuwait, Iraq, UAE and Saudi Arabia likely among the first to resume transits.

**03 MUST MINES BE CLEARED FIRST?**

- Iran has designated the central area of the strait as a mine-danger zone.
- Until mines are cleared, ships can use coastal traffic zones which are mine-free but not well-suited for normal traffic.
- France and Britain are assembling a coalition to remove mines and restore shipping.
- The US has requested the deployment of mine-clearing capabilities; French and German vessels have been mobilised for that purpose.

**04 ROAD TO NORMAL: TIME, REPAIR & REBUILD**

- Re-opening is only the first step.
- Crew changes, supply chains restarted and strategic energy reserves replenished.
- Some tankers could take more than one month to reach Europe after the route reopens.
- It could take 4-6 months before crude export volumes return to prewar levels.
- Buyers have found alternative suppliers (US, Nigeria) and new routes and contracts.
- Not everything will go back to normal with the snap of a finger.

**WILL SHIPS HAVE TO PAY?**

US Vice President JD Vance said there is an understanding with Iran that the strait will re-open "in a toll-free way for the long term".

Iran's foreign ministry says the deal allows it to charge maritime service fees rather than imposing "tolls".

Such fees could mean transferring funds indirectly to Iran's Revolutionary Guard, which several countries consider a terrorist organisation.

The Strait of Hormuz is a lifeline for global energy and trade—its safe and stable operation remains vital for the world.

## US says Iran commits to dilute enriched uranium under deal

# Trump threatens 'dropping bombs' if Iran doesn't 'behave'

AFP | Evian, France

US President Donald Trump yesterday warned Iran he was ready to resume military action if Tehran did not abide by its obligations, two days ahead of the signing of an accord to end the war between the foes.

"No it's not final. It's a memorandum of understanding,"

Trump said at the G7, referring to the agreement expected to be signed in Switzerland on Friday.

"If I don't like it we will go back to shooting at them," he added alongside Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

"If they don't behave, we'll go right back to dropping bombs right smack in the middle of their head."

"Because they misbehaved for 47 years," he said, referring to the Islamic republic, founded in the

Islamic revolution after the ousting of the shah, a US ally, in 1979.

The US-Israeli war against Iran began on February 28 with the killing in airstrikes of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other top officials.

The talks on a final US-Iran settlement to end the conflict are set to begin Friday immediately after the signing of the accord in Switzerland and continue over a 60-day window to flesh out its details.

## Opening Hormuz will be 'massive step forward': NATO chief

Brussels, Belgium

NATO chief Mark Rutte yesterday hailed the US-Iran deal to end the Middle East

war, saying the planned reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, would be a "massive step forward". "The restoration of free passage through the Strait of Hormuz will be a massive step

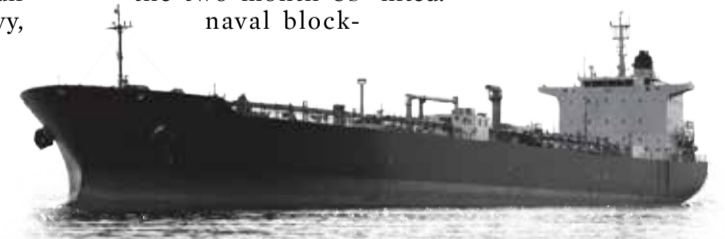
forward, and I know that many allies, through the initiative led by France and the United Kingdom, are ready to support," Rutte told a press conference in Brussels.

## US blockade lifts

Iranian oil tankers have exited the zone in the Gulf blockaded by the US Navy, the TankerTrackers website said yesterday, calling it the country's "first crude oil exports in two months".

It came after an Iranian

deputy foreign minister said the two-month US naval blockade on Iranian ports had been lifted.



## Hunger striking British couple held in Iran at 'grave risk': UN experts

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

UN rights experts warned yesterday that a British couple on a lengthy hunger strike in an Iranian jail were at serious risk, charging their detention could amount to "hostage-taking".

Lindsay Foreman and her husband Craig were detained during a round-the-world motorbike trip at the start of 2025. They were sentenced in February to 10 years in prison on espionage charges that they deny.

The pair "should not be in prison", the United Nations special rapporteurs on torture and on the rights situation in Iran said in a statement.

"They appear to have been wrongfully detained, prosecuted on highly questionable grounds, and sentenced after proceedings that failed to meet basic fair trial guarantees," they said.

The couple has launched a lengthy hunger strike, with Craig reportedly now past 30 days, and Lindsey past 20.



## India's trade agreement with UK to take effect on Jul 15: Modi

AFP | New Delhi, India

India's trade agreement with Britain will come into force on July 15, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said yesterday.

The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) was signed in July last year, after more than three years of negotiations.

"The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement will enter into force on 15th July 2026," Modi, who is attending the G7 summit in Evian, announced on social media.

Under the agreement, India will reduce or eliminate tariffs on many British goods, making products such as whisky, gin and cosmetics cheaper in the Indian market over time.

In return, the UK will cut tariffs on many Indian exports, improving access for products including marine products, gems and jewellery, and toys as well as engineering goods, chemicals, and auto components.

## China tells Iran 'all parties' must adhere to deal to end war

AFP | Beijing, China

China's top diplomat told his Iranian counterpart yesterday it was "key" for all sides to "genuinely implement" their commitments after Tehran and Washington reached a memorandum of understanding to end their war, Beijing's foreign ministry said.

"The dawn of peace has already emerged, the key part of the next step is for all parties to genuinely implement their commitments and eliminate interference from various sides," Wang Yi told Abbas Araghchi in a phone call. "China has consistently supported

Iran's reasonable and legitimate claims and Iran's efforts in safeguarding its own sovereignty and security," Wang added.

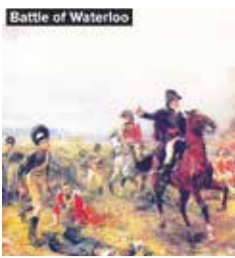
The Chinese foreign minister also called for navigation through the Strait of Hormuz to be "properly handled, responding prudently to the widespread

concerns of the international community".

In a phone call on Tuesday with his counterpart from Pakistan -- a key mediator between the United States and Iran -- Wang warned the following stage of negotiations would be "more difficult".

Coronation of Chinese governor Li Yuan as Emperor Gaozu of Tang, the new Emperor of China, initiating three centuries of Tang Dynasty rule over China

War of 1812 begins when the US declares war against Britain



Battle of Waterloo: Napoleon Bonaparte and France are defeated by British forces under the Duke of Wellington and Prussian troops under Field Marshal von Blücher

American aviator Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean (as a passenger), landing at Burry Port, Wales

## Israel says secretly cooperating with Somaliland for years

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz yesterday said his country had been cooperating "under the radar" with Somaliland for years, as he met with the breakaway African state's president.

In December, Israel became the first country to recognise the independence of Somaliland since it declared its au-

tonomy from Somalia in 1991 following a civil war.

"Israel and Somaliland have a long-standing friendship based on shared interests, democratic values, and a commitment to security and stability. For many years we have cooperated under the radar in a series of activities that will remain secret," Katz said, according to a statement from his office.

"Now we are determined to bring our security cooperation to new heights -- for the benefit of both peoples and for the stability of the region," he added, as he met with Somaliland's President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi.

The meeting focused on ways to "deepen security, economic, and political cooperation between the countries", Katz's office said.

## UK PM says Russian warship's warning shots in Channel 'reckless' but not 'sinister'

AFP | London, United Kingdom

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer yesterday said a Russian warship's warning shots fired near a yacht in the English Channel were "reckless" but



not "sinister".

"I think it's reckless," Starmer told the GB News television channel following the incident in which shots were fired on Tuesday near the vessel 20 nautical miles south of the Isle of Wight.

"We were discussing it here at the G7 yesterday, so we've got to be on our guard, but the incident in the Channel ... (the) MoD (Ministry of Defence) assessment is that it was actually a drifting warship, rather than anything more sinister," he added.

# Grok was used in strikes against Iran: US

AFP | San Francisco, United States

Elon Musk's artificial intelligence tool Grok was used in strikes against Iran, the United States government revealed in a legal briefing seen Tuesday by AFP.

The June 15 brief defends the gas turbines used by a giant data center belonging to the billionaire's company xAI, which are the target of an environmental lawsuit.

In the brief, the US Department of Justice argued that the lawsuit "threatens American national, economic, and energy security by seeking to shut off the power supply for artificial intelligence innovation that supports the Department of War's military operations."

To support the argument, federal prosecutors presented testimony from Pentagon AI chief Cameron Stanley in which he states, under oath, that Grok is already in use within Project Maven, the US military's AI-assisted targeting program that was initially powered by Anthropic's Claude model.

The project's Maven Smart Systems (MSS) "enabled US forces to deploy over 2,000 munitions to 2,000 distinct targets within 96 hours during Operation Epic Fury," Stanley's statement said.

Stanley praised Musk's technology and "the greatly increased operational efficiency made possible by the Grok Gov Model."

The NAACP, a civil rights organization defending Black Americans' rights, is suing xAI and accusing it of operating dozens of turbines without permits in violation of the Clean Air Act.

The rights group says they

## OECD oil stocks fall to lowest level since 1990: IEA

AFP | Paris, France

Oil inventories held by OECD member countries fell in May to their lowest level since 1990 as governments drew down stocks to offset the blockage of Gulf crude shipments during the Middle East war, the International Energy Agency said Wednesday.

The drawdown since the start of the conflict has reached 163 million barrels in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development club of wealthy countries, the IEA said in its monthly report.

"Despite the significant re-

duce majority Black neighborhoods, but xAI says the turbines are temporary and mobile, and therefore not subject to regulation.

At the end of February, the government terminated its contracts with Anthropic after it refused to allow its tools to be used for fully automated strikes or the mass surveillance of Americans.

The Pentagon then turned to Anthropic's competitors, like Google, OpenAI and xAI, to continue its pursuit of AI.

At Google, more than 600 employees demanded the company not provide AI to the military.

The US military's transition to AI is taking



ductions in demand for crude oil and refined products, the buffers in the system continue to erode at a record pace," the agency said.

To ease the burden from soaring oil prices due to Tehran's effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the IEA organised coordinated stock releases of 400 million barrels to the global market, of which 252 million have been released as of June 12.

time, and in March the government had to acknowledge that Claude was still being used for the war in Iran.

A close ally of President Donald Trump, Musk folded xAI into his space exploration company SpaceX in February, which carried out the largest IPO in history on June 12.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



I pay tribute to our colleagues & humanitarian partners in Haiti – the vast majority Haitians themselves – who refuse to give up, despite the dangers. But just over a quarter of our response plan is funded. Haiti is not asking for charity but for the world to keep its word.

@antonioguterres

02



India firmly believes that cyberspace has to be one that furthers the global public good. Access to AI technologies must also be broad and inclusive. All democratic countries should have access to such AI models so that they can protect their critical information infrastructure and respond effectively to growing cyber threats.

@narendramodi

03



Important G7 session on AI. AI is developing exponentially. It is the most important technology of our time. It comes with immense potential, but also risks for free, democratic societies.

@vonderleyen

04



@WHO will continue to support the government-led #Ebola response until it's over. Together!

@DrTedros

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

BY INVITATION

## FIFA 2026: A Goal for Growth

JOEL INDRUPATI



The excitement of young men and women in yellow and green jerseys, as I saw them descend the escalator at the airport, made me feel good.

Emblazoned across their jerseys was just one word: Brazil. When I asked whether they were American fans of the Brazilian football team, or Brazilians who had come to watch the matches, a beaming young man exclaimed in a heavy Portuguese accent, "We Brazil. We come to watch match. Here. Tomorrow."

It was 12 June, and I had arrived at New York's JFK Airport. I did not know then that, on the following day, Brazil would play Morocco in the 2026 FIFA World Cup at a nearby stadium.

I realised these fans would soon go to MetLife Stadium, officially designated as the New York New Jersey Stadium, in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

One could sense that football mania had gripped the region, not just through the giant posters, billboards, full-page newspaper ads, or colourful merchandise, but through the very pulse of the city. The infectious excitement was unmistakably in the air.

FIFA 2026 features 104 matches spread across 16 host cities in 3 countries: the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

The stadium hosting the most matches is Dallas Stadium in Arlington, Texas, with nine games. Close behind it, hosting eight games each, are the New York New Jersey Stadium, Los Angeles Stadium, Atlanta Stadium, Miami Stadium, and BC Place Vancouver.

As we drove past the New York New Jersey Stadium, I could not help but admire the massive signboards and preparations for a month-long football fiesta that will culminate in the World Cup Final at the same venue.

The Brazil-Morocco match -- the only Brazil match held so far -- may have ended in a 1-1 draw, but Brazil will always remain one of football's most celebrated nations. No country has won the FIFA World Cup a record five times, as it has done. Whether they will lift the trophy again is a question only time can answer.

Yet beyond the goals, trophies, and celebrations lies a bigger story. The FIFA World Cup is also a powerful economic engine.

Major tournaments attract millions of visitors and generate billions of dollars in economic activity. Hotels fill up, restaurants welcome new customers, local transportation systems see increased usage, and small businesses benefit from the influx of visitors. From construction workers and hospitality staff to security personnel and event managers, thousands of jobs are created directly and indirectly.

Host nations also use the World Cup as a catalyst for long-term development. Stadiums are upgraded, airports expanded, roads improved, and public transportation strengthened. While football may last only a few weeks, the infrastructure investments often serve communities for decades afterward.

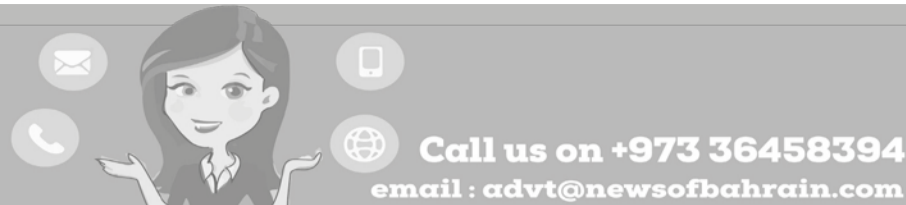
The benefits are not merely financial. The World Cup brings together people from different languages, cultures, religions, and political systems. For a few weeks, billions of people focus on a common passion. Rivalries remain on the pitch, while friendships are built in the stands, airports, restaurants, and city streets.

Consider the United States and Iran, both participants in FIFA 2026. Politics may place nations on opposite sides, and even at war, but sport creates opportunities for respect, dialogue, and shared experiences. Football cannot solve every conflict, but it can remind us of our common humanity.

That may be the World Cup's greatest achievement. It does not simply crown a champion. It stimulates economies, accelerates development, showcases nations, and unites people across borders. In a world too often divided by conflict and uncertainty, FIFA 2026 offers something refreshingly different: a celebration where competition inspires progress, and where everyone, in some way, emerges a winner.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

## Classifieds



## VACANCIES AVAILABLE

QUICK ZEBRA SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

CIRCLE INTEGRATED SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17822228 or hrdept@circle.bh

CAPITAL school will has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17008880 or pro@ALSAFARGROUP.COM

AL KOOHEJI ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS & CONSTRUCTION WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17701711 or lmra@kecc.me

AL KOOHEJI ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS & CONSTRUCTION WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17701711 or lmra@kecc.me

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ALBARASTY CAFE has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36117959 or mhmdbdalbagy030@gmail.com

ZAWAYAT QAWS AL MATAR SHAWARMA BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33058476 or NAVASNK2238@GMAIL.COM

ALBARASTY CAFE has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36117959 or mhmdbdalbagy030@gmail.com

S PLAZA SUITES HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39992285 or SAEEDRADHI52@GMAIL.COM

BATRISA AUTO SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66664563 or Mahmo0d3297@GMAIL.COM

Bright Trip Garage has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER (CAR MECHANICAL WORKSHOP), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17622653 or BUHUSAYYEN9@HOTMAIL.COM

ALBARASTY CAFE has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36117959 or mhmdbdalbagy030@gmail.com

ALSAFWA RECRUITING MANPOWER has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33899353 or SALAH.ALMODAWEB@GMAIL.COM

AZHAN HAIRDRESSING SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36696558 or QASSIM.ZAMIL@HOTMAIL.COM

YOUNG JIN ENTERPRISE COMPANY LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(DOCKER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700711 or JEONG.DONGJIN.0102@GMAIL.COM

YOUNG JIN ENTERPRISE COMPANY LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(DOCKER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700711 or JEONG.DONGJIN.0102@GMAIL.COM

PRONETIC CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17709042 or ADILFAZAL@GMAIL.COM

GULF DIGITAL SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33056512 or MOMINSHK5@GMAIL.COM

ALMOAYYED HEAVY EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICAL SERVICE ADVISER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17211211 or AQEEL@ALMOAYYED.COM

CHAMAN SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34219654 or MALIKIHTISHAM281@GMAIL.COM

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION),

suitably qualified applicants can contact 32376386 or ALTRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

ISA ALAMDAR EBRAHIM ZAINAL ( SAQR ALHEJAZ - 8191 ) has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17675062 or ZAINAL.ESSA@GMAIL.COM

NEW DIMENSION CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17999360 or FISHERMANSENSE@GMAIL.COM

NEW DIMENSION CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17999360 or FISHERMANSENSE@GMAIL.COM

ALMATADOR BIRDS has a vacancy for the occupation of BIRDS KEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39808085 or ALANOOD719@ICLOUD.COM

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 32376386 or ALTRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

BAHRAIN TRADING AGENCIES CO. - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17768181 or JALALM.JALAL@JALAL.COM

Torque Creations and Consultants Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32109514 or TORQUE2C@GMAIL.COM

SKILMISSION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34118609 or PRINCYAJI63@GMAIL.COM

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32376386 or ALTRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

LZAEZ OH AHMAD RESTURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN AIDE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33840408 or LAZAEZ.OMAHMAD@GMAIL.COM

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32376386 or ALTRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

EARTH TO ROOF CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39347355 or AHAQSATI@GMAIL.CO

BRITISH FACILITY CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38380780 or SUZAIR@GMAIL.COM

CHAI KAPPI CAFETERIA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34369200 or TALALBAH.OPERATIONS@GMAIL.COM

COOL MOOD SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of AGENT(COMMERCIAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37111115 or ALMULLA2400@GMAIL.COM

DAHA CLEANING SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35072345 or FARAZSOHAL84@GMAIL.COM

ROBIULLA SALE OF SECOND-HAND W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35167183 or

MYSTIC FLAMES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38242333 or NADUVATHUENTERPRISES@GMAIL.COM

ALNOOR NOBY SPRAYING AND PAINTING has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36003104 or ATHAREYMOHAMED@GMAIL.COM

GOLDEN TOUCH CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345150 or raihan@gtcbah.com

DEVES GATE CAR WASH MANUAL has a vacancy for the occupation of CAR WASHER/CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39464585 or YKHALFAN@GMAIL.COM

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BAHRAIN BAYAN SCHOOL has a vacancy for the occupation of TEACHER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77122255 or ZAINAB.SHABAN@BAYANSCHOOL.EDU.BH

SHAW NASS PIPE FABRICATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725522 or yousif@aanass.net

WHITE FALCON PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICES Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66626168 or TDINEH@GMAIL.COM

Havelock One Interiors WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832022 or HAMIDA.ALHUBAIL@HAVELOCKONE.COM

NEHAL KHAN FACILITIES SUPPORT BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36370735 or MAJEEDBH7@GMAIL.COM

SPEED TIME FOR AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39557577 or ALWASATCO.BH@GMAIL.COM

AFZAAL TECHNOLOGIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33901238 or GIOBH786@GMAIL.COM

Basma Security has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY MAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727676 or aqeel@basma.com.bh

ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM

AL YARMOOK to repair electrical appliances has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICAL ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17879923 or ADRAJI@YAHOO.COM

WHITE FALCON PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICES Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66626168 or TDINEH@GMAIL.COM

PEHCHAN PAKISTANI RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37595660 or DA3992788@GMAIL.COM

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 32376386 or ALTRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

HAYA ABAYAT AND TAILORING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33838710 or K.ALGANIM@HOTMAIL.COM

NIKAPOL EXPRESS CARGO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(HEAVY VEHICLE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 13112414 or ops.team@nikapol-express.com

MEHAFIL CAFETERIA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JUICE & SANDWICHES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35108786 or MRVILLIYAPPALLY@GMAIL.COM

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 32376386 or ALTRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

Energy Cables International Co W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17490505 or hhosny@cables.energy.com

BURGER EXPRESS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17141127 or M.MNAWAZ829@GMAIL.COM

UNITED SPECIALISED MAINTENANCE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17162348 or KCALL34@HOTMAIL.COM

MASTER LINE CARPENTRY has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39777467 or MR.ALASWAD@GMAIL.COM

ALANQAHA ALARABIA CLOKS has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39455506 or ASHOORSTYLE@HOTMAIL.COM

LMC COMPUTER SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COMPUTER OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33479339 or WAQARHASHMI86G@GMAIL.COM

ARROW EXPRESS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38787504 or ARROWEXPRESS.BH@GMAIL.COM

THE LAST VERSION PERFUME W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32110016 or ALI20H200@GMAIL.COM

BURGER EXPRESS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17141127 or M.MNAWAZ829@GMAIL.COM

ABU UMAR ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT REPAIR W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICAL ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39888964 or HAQBAHOOSERVICES@GMAIL.COM

WADI IRFANA COLDSTORE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39874874 or AGNAS2536@GMAIL.COM

FOOD WORLD W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66677333 or FOODWORLD.WLL@GMAIL.COM

BLUE PINES MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37340256 or CHAHMED.BH2024@GMAIL.COM

Aljunaid Fishes Tools has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39606062 or ALJUNAID.FISHING.EQ@HOTMAIL.COM

V M CONTRACTING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33745655 or vmtech.wll@gmail.com

DREAM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or HRD@DREAMGROUP.BH

R J STUDIO AND PHOTOGRAPHIC W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33676709 or RAJUJOSE71@GMAIL.COM

ALUM JAHANGIR MIA MARKETING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34213050 or BNG.BH.786@GMAIL.COM

BLACK DIAMOND CORNER CAFE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36878500 or K\_MIQBAL@YAHOO.COM

Punjabi Tadka Restaurant has a vacancy for the occupation of BREAD BAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39120524 or punjabi.tadka8388@gmail.com

ABDULLA ABDULRAHMAN ALRAYES AND SONS CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELL PULLER (OIL AND GAS WELLS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17252144 or HR@ALRAYESDECOR.COM

WHITE FALCON PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICES Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66626168 or TDINEH@GMAIL.COM

NOOR SPECIALIST HOSPITAL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33000077 or DRAFFAF@HOTMAIL.COM

AL ANOOD CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17777703 or ALMANARSPC20@GMAIL.COM

KHAMAH BEAUTY has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39266204 or SAEEDA306S@ICLOUD.COM

VICTOR AIR TRAVELS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34100500 or NURALAMINDESIGNS@GMAIL.COM

## GMAIL.COM

KENZ FURNISHING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17343976 or sameer@kenzfurnishing.com

BOHRA ISLAMIC SOCIETY has a vacancy for the occupation of MUATHIN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17232821 or AK78652N@gmail.com

LAJOYA NAIL SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIRDRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37777544 or DONYSASALEM90@GMAIL.COM

RED DINGARDEN CARGO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STOREKEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36563904 or KHANBWC@GMAIL.COM

QUEEN LAND COSMETICS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34424485 or QASSAMBATOO@GMAIL.COM

BAWA LINE REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35429659 or TARSHAD113@GMAIL.COM

RIFFA SWEET WATER has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39133187 or MUDDC.BH@GMAIL.COM

NASS CONTRACTING COMPANY (W.L.L) has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725522 or yousif@aanass.net

MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345051 or info@magicshinebh.com

ENERFLEX MIDDLE EAST W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN (INSTRUMENT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33667675 or bshuqair@enerflex.com

GCS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DIRECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37722884 or government@mre.co

Al Anood Aluminium has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36516561 or kdyashraf@gmail.com

QAMAR ALZMAN TRADEING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39696054 or MSBH123MSBH@GMAIL.COM

RED DINGARDEN CARGO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STOREKEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36563904 or KHANBWC@GMAIL.COM

EGYPTIANS MAYOR MARKETS & BAKERIES has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17342685 or OMDACOMPANY.BH@GMAIL.COM

Security Solutions Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77996666 or GOVERNMENT@MRE.CO

Security Solutions Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77996666 or GOVERNMENT@MRE.CO

M AZAM SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39771163 or RS1327493@GMAIL.COM

TEAM CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39289289 or team-co98@gmail.com

BACKBONE INTEGRATED SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17306890 or BH.BACKBONE@GMAIL.COM

MILLIONAIRES BARBER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36939097 or JACKSONHEROONE@GMAIL.COM

HEALTH WELLNESS BY NISHA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33612936 or INFO@HEALTHWELLNESSBY-NISHA.COM

synergic facility services has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(FOOD DISTRIBUTION), suitably qualified applicants can con-

tact 66637663 or HESSAHESSAHESSA@YAHOO.COM

PEST PATROL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17720648 or INFO@LCMWLL.COM

MOHAMMAD FIAZ INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33689627 or MUHAMMAD33689627@GMAIL.COM

KENTUCKY has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36051050 or ssaleh@AMERICANA-FOOD.COM

HAMDAN FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36320165 or TAWFITSAMMIR@GMAIL.COM

QUICK ZEBRA SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

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QUICK ZEBRA SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

la ville market has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17456630 or JAF-FAR.ALAHL@GMAIL.COM

PRO KLEEN SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36845820 or PADAM1739@GMAIL.COM

UNIQUE FACILITY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33306469 or CHIRIVELLAHARIKZ@GMAIL.COM

DAR AL-SHIFA MEDICAL CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 16161616 or RASHEEDA@DARALSHIFA.COM.BH

PROLUCK REAL ESTATE CO.W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35900842 or ROSE.R103@ICLOUD.COM

RIFFA SWEET WATER has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39133187 or MUDDC.BH@GMAIL.COM

Security Solutions Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77996666 or GOVERNMENT@MRE.CO

ART'S CONSTRUCTION ( ARTCON ) W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17730015 or hamed@unitcogroup.com

HABIB PRINTING SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17896399 or Hussain240@hotmail.com

SALMAN MOHAMED HUSAIN / SALHOT ALBAHAR 10807 has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36693040 or HUSSAIN-ALALIOO@HOTMAIL.COM

ABDULLA ABDULRAHMAN ALRAYES AND SONS CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(FORKLIFT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17252144 or HR@ALRAYESDECOR.COM

FATENAT ALKHALEJ BEAUTY CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39966051 or beauty.gulf@hotmail.com

BANT ALDERA GYPSON CARVINS CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17791783 or alijma16@gmail.com

LILLY THAI MASSAGE & SPA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of THERAPIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33700991 or SUMAYA.WAHAB82@GMAIL.COM

# Classifieds

**VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED**

FIRST MILE EVENT MANAGEMENT has a vacancy for the occupation of SECRETARY, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66378446 or GHASSAN@WAILIEST.COM

BE H HERBAL SPA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13666658 or HERBALSPABH@GMAIL.COM

GREENSIDE LANDSCAPE CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39774501 or NJDMIL@GMAIL.COM

AL WAFA 2025 CAR MAINTENANCE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66335228 or ALTAJCLEARANCE@GMAIL.COM

Dream World Construction Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34111999 or sharef.works@gmail.com

LAXI BAHRAIN CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66627665 or FASTWAYBAH@GMAIL.COM

HANG OUT CAFETERIA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37743914 or MABDULHUSIF@GMAIL.COM

taslam electronics has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39133472 or JAMALMEHA@GMAIL.COM

POWER FLOW ELECTRICAL has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICAL WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38725942 or JARNAIL.29@GMAIL.COM

DAR ELSAADANY REALSTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36973343 or OMARSLIEN5777@GMAIL.COM

Leather master establishment has a vacancy for the occupation of BORER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66764276 or s.o.aljabr@gmail.com

AL SHEHAB CERAMICA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SETTER(MARBLE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36662660 or ALSHEHAB@BATELCO.COM.BH

ALMOAYYED CLEANING & MAINTENANCE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or proffice@almoayyed-cg.com

BAHRAIN SPECIAL TECHNICAL SERVICES STS CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17622082 or info@BAHSTS.COM

Manar Alomran Scaffoldings Contracting W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36992388 or bahrain@manar.com.sa

Manar Alomran Scaffoldings Contracting W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36992388 or bahrain@manar.com.sa

Manar Alomran Scaffoldings Contracting W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36992388 or bahrain@manar.com.sa

AHMED HAMED HUSAIN HAMED HASAN (196323) has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33992145 or aminullah2@gmail.com

ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM

MURALI BAIJU & SONS JEWELLERY DESIGN CO - BAHRAIN PARTNERSHIP C has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKERS(JEWELLERY & PRECIOUS METAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35983358 or MURALIBAIJU71@GMAIL.COM

HASAN ALI JASSIM SARHAN ( JASIM FAMILY /10146 ) has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified

applicants can contact 33682850 or HASANJASSIM950@GMAIL.COM

abo-hatim building contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33608787 or ABO-HATIM@OUTLOOK.COM

TAKATUF FOOT CARE has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33665773 or A-ALMALKI@LIVE.COM

WHITE FALCON PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICES Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66626168 or TDAINEH@GMAIL.COM

TECHNO INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT CENTER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17272975 or TISC@BATELCO.COM.BH

S M SUITES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HOUSEKEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34204096 or FLORISSANT.BH@GMAIL.COM

NASSER ABD MOHAMMED B.S.C(CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700888 or admin@nasserco.net

SARAYA 2 LADIES TAILORING has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36454071 or RMOKHA69@GMAIL.COM

WARSAK COMPUTER MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36563904 or KHANBWC@GMAIL.COM

DAR SANAD FOR HOME MANPOWER RECRUITING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37222122 or DARSANAD.BH@GMAIL.COM

OLIVE HOTEL has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17251444 or NAMALCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

Dag Ayoosh Restauraent W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226588 or lmra52@delmonfish.com

TERRACE GARDEN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33119292 or Kgroupbahrain007@gmail.com

MICROTECH COMPUTERS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17233797 or MICROBAH@BATELCO.COM.BH

PAK GHAZI ELECTRONICS REPAIRING BAHRAIN PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33862221 or CMRIFAT1512@GMAIL.COM

GRACE SPA AND MASSAGE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39433545 or KANYANAN624@GMAIL.COM

GRACE SPA AND MASSAGE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39433545 or KANYANAN624@GMAIL.COM

JAKARTA SALOON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17790456 or aakf.saar75@gmail.com

BDC MANPOWER SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CO-ORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17180530 or mona.alnokhedha@bas.com.bh

SANDHU EXPRESS CARGO AND CONSULTANCY CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34538404 or 606SANDHUSAAD@GMAIL.COM

BDC MANPOWER SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CO-ORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17180530 or mona.alnokhedha@bas.com.bh

AZLAN ZAKI BAKERY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33005777 or ADEEZV@GMAIL.COM

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## region

### 23 Palestinians Killed in One Week, Says OIC Media Observatory



The Media Observatory of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation documenting Israeli actions in Palestinian territories reported that 23 Palestinians were killed and 95 others wounded between June 9 and June 15, 2026. The report also recorded 129 detentions and 128 settler attacks during the same period.

In the Gaza Strip, the Observatory reported 21 deaths resulting from continued bombardment and alleged breaches of a ceasefire agreement by Israeli forces. These strikes also left 79 people wounded. Civil defense teams reportedly recovered two bodies from under the rubble.

In separate incidents in the West Bank, 16 Palestinians were reported injured. The report also noted that an Israeli child was wounded and seven others were arrested, while a young man with disabilities was shot and injured near the entrance to the village of Madama.

Property destruction and raids

The report documented the demolition of 22 homes, commercial shops, and livestock structures across four locations in the West Bank, along with bulldozing of agricultural land.

### Warning Issued Over Israeli Measures in Hebron



The General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation has issued a warning over Israeli plans aimed at altering the political, historical, and legal status of the city of Hebron and its holy sites.

The Secretariat expressed concern over recent measures, including a decision attributed to Israel's Minister of Finance to remove municipal authority over key areas of the city, including the Ibrahimi Mosque, the Old City of Hebron, and surrounding areas, as well as moves to revoke the Hebron Agreement.

It stressed that Israel, as an occupying power, holds no sovereignty over Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including Hebron and its religious, historical, cultural, and heritage sites. The statement referenced relevant United Nations and UNESCO resolutions affirming the protected status of these sites.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation also renewed its call on the international community to assume its responsibilities in safeguarding the Ibrahimi Mosque, Hebron's Old City, and its historic landmarks. It emphasized that these sites are an integral part of the cultural heritage of the State of Palestine and are inscribed on UNESCO's List of World Heritage in Danger.

### Sport Brings Hope to Palestinian Children



A new initiative will support 1,250 children across the West Bank and Gaza through sport-based learning, promoting wellbeing, resilience, and inclusion in communities affected by conflict.

# Messi equals World Cup goals record as Argentina win

Veteran captain scores hat-trick as Argentina beat Algeria 3-0

● **Argentina controls throughout**

● **Opposing goalkeeper Luca Zidane beaten thrice**

AFP | Los Angeles

Lionel Messi scored a dazzling hat-trick for Argentina on Tuesday to equal Miroslav Klose's all-time record of 16 goals at World Cups as the defending champions swept Algeria aside 3-0.

On a night for the ages in Kansas City, the records kept tumbling for Argentina's miracle man, considered by many to be the greatest footballer of all time.

When the match kicked off at the home of the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs, Messi became the first player to feature in six World Cup tournaments, in his 200th international match.

And the 38-year-old lit up the occasion with three goals in a clinical display by the reigning world champions.

Messi produced a majestic finish from distance in the 17th minute, sparking a frenzy among his adoring fans, who had turned the match into a virtual home game.

Algeria goalkeeper Luca Zidane, the son of France great Zinedine Zidane, got his hands to the ball, but could not keep it out.

Messi netted again in the sec-

ond half from close range, gobbling up a rebound to take him just one goal behind the all-time record held by Germany's Klose.

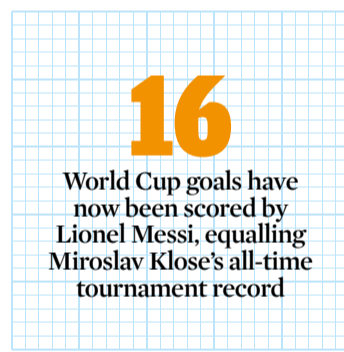
And he completed his first hat-trick at a World Cup with an unstoppable finish in the 76th minute.

The diminutive genius was substituted shortly afterwards, forcing Argentine fans to wait to see their hero have a shot at the outright record.

## Messi magic

The Group J match in the open-air stadium started at a frantic pace and both sides had early goals ruled out for offside, including one from Messi.

But Argentina took the lead when Rodrigo De Paul played a



Lionel Messi scores Argentina's opener

beautifully measured through ball which Messi picked up before driving at goal and unleashing a fierce drive from outside the penalty area that curled away from Zidane.

The South American team were largely in control of the match, fluid in attack with their Number 10 pulling the strings.

But as the clock ticked towards half-time Algeria enjoyed a better spell, with Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez forced to parry a shot from Fares Chaibi from a tight angle.

Messi curled another effort over the bar in the early minutes of the second half and Zidane kept out a shot from Lautaro Martinez.

But the crowd did not have to wait long to celebrate another goal from the veteran forward, who plays for MLS side Inter Miami.

Zidane could not handle a sizzling Alexis Mac Allister strike from distance and Messi was there to sweep home in the 60th minute.

Time stood still six minutes later as Messi was through again but this time Zidane pushed the ball over the bar.

But he was not to be denied, completing his hat-trick after being set up by substitute Nico Gonzalez.

Lionel Scaloni's Argentina are seeking to become the first back-to-back winners since Brazil managed the feat in 1962.

Algeria are hoping to reach the knockout round for only the second time, in a group that also includes Austria and Jordan.

Earlier, the roads around the Kansas City Stadium were clogged as tens of thousands of Argentine fans streamed towards ground dressed in blue and white, many with Messi's name on the back of their shirts.

Argentina's all-time top-scorer is just the third man to reach 200 caps after Cristiano Ronaldo and Kuwait's Bader Al-Mutawa.

## Winless Start for Arab Nations at 2026 FIFA World Cup

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

Arab teams have endured a mixed start to their 2026 FIFA World Cup campaigns, with four nations collecting valuable points from their opening matches while four others began the tournament with defeats.

The 2026 edition has already marked a historic milestone for Arab football, with a record eight Arab nations competing on the world stage: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Among the standout results was Morocco's impressive 1-1 draw against five-time world champions Brazil in Group C. The Atlas Lions started bravely and repeatedly pinned Brazil back with aggressive attacking play. Their positive approach was rewarded in the 21st minute when Ismael Saibari delicately lobbed goalkeeper Alison Becker to give Morocco the lead. Brazil responded 11 minutes later through a moment of brilliance from Vinicius Junior, whose powerful right-footed strike beat Yassine Bounou to level the scores, but the African side held firm to secure a valuable point.

Egypt also made a positive start, earning a 1-1 draw against Belgium in Group G. Saudi Arabia matched that result in Group H after holding Uruguay to a draw, while Qatar claimed the first World Cup point in their history with a dramatic 1-1 draw against Switzerland in Group B. The Swiss looked set for victory and missed several chances to put the game beyond reach before captain Boualem Khoukhi headed home a late equaliser in the dying minutes.

Elsewhere, Algeria endured a difficult opening match, suffering a 3-0 defeat to Argentina in Group J. Lionel Messi scored all three goals for the



Morocco's Achraf Hakimi challenges Brazil's Vinicius Jr.

South Americans, drawing level with the World Cup's all-time scoring record of 16 goals.

Iraq also fell to defeat, losing 4-1 to Norway in Group I. Erling Haaland stole the headlines on his World Cup debut, scoring twice as Norway secured all three points despite a spirited performance from the Lions of Mesopotamia.

Jordan's first-ever World Cup appearance ended in a 3-1 defeat to Austria. Although Ali Olwan found the net for the Jordanians, they were unable to mark their historic debut with a positive result.

Tunisia suffered the heaviest defeat among the Arab representatives, falling 5-1 to Sweden in Group F. The result prompted swift action from the Tunisian Football Federation, which appointed Hervé Renard as head coach ahead of the team's next fixture. The Frenchman arrives with an impressive pedigree, having guided Zambia to the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations title and Ivory Coast to continental glory in 2015. He is also widely remembered for masterminding Saudi Arabia's stunning 2-1 victory over eventual world champions Argentina at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, one of the greatest upsets in tournament history.

## Czechia and South Africa face early exit threat

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

Defeats in their opening Group A matches leave the Czech Republic and South Africa playing catch-up when they meet in Atlanta tonight (7pm Bahrain time). Both sides will need a significantly improved performance to keep their World Cup Round of 32 hopes alive.

South Africa had the privilege of featuring in the World Cup opener, but in a match where they had two players sent off, they fell to a 2-0 defeat against co-hosts Mexico. It was a damaging start for a side appearing at the World Cup for the first time since hosting in 2010, and their fourth overall appearance, with their record of never progressing beyond the group stage still intact. Against Mexico, there was little to suggest that trend is about to change.

The Czech Republic, meanwhile, stuck to their pragmatic, route-one approach in their opener against South Korea, relying heavily on set pieces to create chances. They did briefly take control when Ladislav Krejci headed home from a throw-in to give them the lead, but they were eventually overpowered in a 2-1 defeat. Their final group game comes against



Czech Republic's Tomáš Souček and Tomáš Chory cut dejected figures after their opening match defeat

## World Cup Schedule

Today			
Time	Match	Group	Venue
7:00 PM	Czechia vs South Africa	A	Atlanta Stadium
10:00 PM	Switzerland vs Bosnia & Herzegovina	B	Los Angeles Stadium
Tomorrow			
1:00 AM	Canada vs Qatar	B	Vancouver Stadium
4:00 AM	Mexico vs South Korea	A	Guadalajara Stadium
10:00 PM	USA vs Australia	D	Seattle Stadium

(All games in Bahrain time)

Mexico at the Azteca Stadium, South Africa is widely viewed as their best opportunity to take

points and stay in contention.

South Africa will be without the suspended Sphelo Sithole and Themba Zwane, forcing manager Hugo Broos into changes, with a switch back to a traditional back four a possibility after he used a back five against Mexico.

The team will be hoping lessons were learned from that opening defeat as they attempt to reset their campaign.

Captain and goalkeeper Ronwen Williams struck a determined tone after the loss, insisting the group still has time to respond. "Now that we've seen the level of this competition, we'll come back stronger," he said. "We'll prepare with even greater intensity and continue working hard. There are still two massive games left for us."

The Czech Republic have waited even longer for a World Cup return than South Africa, with their last appearance coming 20 years ago.

That long absence adds further weight to this fixture, especially with defender Jaroslav Zeleny stressing its importance. "Against South Africa, we have to get it right," he said. "Mexico will probably be a tougher challenge afterwards, so we have to give everything in the match against South Africa and absolutely make sure we win it."

## Austria earn World Cup win against debutants Jordan



Marko Arnautovic #7 of Austria scores the team's third goal from penalty

AFP | East Rutherford

Austria were given a scare by World Cup debutants Jordan on Tuesday before securing a 3-1 win rounded off by a penalty in added time from veteran forward Marko Arnautovic.

The Austrians went ahead at Levi's Stadium near San Francisco when Romano Schmid produced a brilliant opening goal, smashing in a shot from distance.

Jordan never stopped chasing the game and Ali Ol-

wan's glancing header nearly put them level before he scored the first World Cup goal in his country's history -- and it was worth the wait.

He cut in and directed a superb right-footed shot Austria 'keeper past Alexander Schlager and off the post.

But Austria regained the lead in the 76th minute thanks to an own goal from Yazan al-Arab before 37-year-old former West Ham man Arnautovic added a stoppage-time penalty to make the game safe.



# DR Congo Hold Portugal as Ronaldo Misfires

Hussain Almaskati

Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal were held to a surprising 1-1 draw by DR Congo in their opening Group K match of the 2026 FIFA World Cup on Wednesday.

The result earned DR Congo their first-ever World Cup point in a performance that matched, and at times unsettled, one of the tournament favourites.

Portugal made the perfect start, taking the lead after just five minutes at Houston Stadium. João Neves continued his impressive rise with a well-placed header from Pedro Neto's inviting cross.

Despite dominating possession and finishing the first half with 80 percent of the ball, Roberto Martinez's side struggled to convert that control into meaningful attacking opportunities. DR Congo, meanwhile, posed a genuine threat on the counter-attack and registered six shots before the break — three times as many as Portugal.

The Leopards were rewarded moments before halftime when Yoane Wissa guided a header beyond Diogo Costa to level the score at 1-1, netting DR Congo's first-ever World Cup goal.

Portugal thought they had restored their lead nine minutes into the second half when João Cancelo acrobatically found the net with a bicycle kick. However, the effort was correctly ruled out for offside in the build-up.

Much of the pre-match attention centred on Ronaldo's sixth



Axel Tuanzebe challenges former Manchester United teammate Cristiano Ronaldo

World Cup appearance. The 41-year-old entered the match under the spotlight after Lionel Messi, his long-time rival, scored a stunning hat-trick in Argentina's 3-0 victory over Algeria the previous night. Kylian Mbappé and Erling Haaland had also opened their tournaments with braces, adding intrigue to the early Golden Boot race.

Ronaldo had a golden opportunity to put Portugal back in front with 20 minutes remaining. A pass arriving slightly be-

hind him disrupted his control, and the ball ricocheted awkwardly off his leg before rolling wide of the post.

Minutes later, a superb through ball from Bruno Fernandes split the DR Congo defence and created another opening for Ronaldo, but the veteran forward was quickly closed down and could only send a tame effort wide.

Neither side created a clear-cut chance in the closing stages. Portugal pushed for a winner, but DR Congo's discipline en-

sured the scores remained level. Portugal will still be expected to top Group K, but there are clear areas for improvement. Despite controlling possession, they lacked cutting edge in the final third and will need to be more clinical as the tournament progresses.

DR Congo, meanwhile, have already made history. Having secured both their first World Cup goal and point, the Leopards will believe they have a genuine chance of reaching the Round of 32.

# Everything to play for as Switzerland meet Bosnia in LA

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

Switzerland meet Bosnia-Herzegovina in a key World Cup Group B fixture at Los Angeles Stadium, with both sides still searching for a first win after opening draws. Kick-off is set for 10pm Bahrain time.

The group remains wide open after all four teams began with 1-1 results, meaning any victory here could significantly shape qualification hopes heading into the final round of matches.

Switzerland were seconds away from beating Qatar in their opener before a stoppage-time own goal denied them victory. It was a frustrating finish for Murat Yakin's side, who had controlled long periods of the match but failed to see it out.

Bosnia also dropped points after taking the lead against Canada in Toronto. Jovو Lukic put them ahead in the first half, but they were pegged back

after the break in a 1-1 draw. Switzerland have lost just once in their last eight World Cup group matches and have scored in nine of their last 10 finals group games, underlining their consistency at this stage of tournaments.

Bosnia, meanwhile, are unbeaten in nine internationals under Sergej Barbarez, although six consecutive draws highlight a lack of cutting edge in attack.

The only previous meeting between the sides came in a friendly in 2016, when Bosnia won 2-0 in Zurich.



Swiss captain Granit Xhaka

# Bahrain boxing teams begin Sarajevo campaign



Bahrain's young boxing talent with coaches and officials

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's youth and junior national boxing teams begin competition today at the International Olympic Hopes Boxing Tournament in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, which runs from 18 to 21 June.

The tournament follows the squad's completion of a 20-day training camp in Bosnia, where preparations focused on technical development, physical conditioning, and international sparring ahead of competition.

The Olympic Hopes event is a key developmental platform for U15, U17, and U19 boxers and forms part of the World Boxing pathway recognised by the International Olympic

Committee for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic cycle.

Bahrain's squad includes Saif Ahmed, Hassan Jamsheer, Ibrahim Amin, James Ingham, Yousif Moosa, Mohammed Moamen, Ali Aman, Jayden Price, and Mohammed Attiya.

The team is led by head coach John Conlan, with assistant coach Mohammed Naseem also part of the delegation. Maryam Khamis also joins the group as part of her development programme; she will take part in the training camp but will not compete in the tournament.

Bahrain will now aim to convert their preparation into competitive performances against a strong international field in Sarajevo.

# Haaland double fires Norway past Iraq

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

Norway opened their 2026 FIFA World Cup campaign with a 4-1 victory over Iraq at Boston Stadium, with Erling Haaland once again the decisive figure. The result sends them top of Group I alongside France, with Senegal also in the group.

Both sides returned to the global stage for the first time this century, but it was Norway's star striker who made the difference. Haaland struck twice in the first half to set the tone for a dominant opening win, with Leo Østigård also on the score-sheet and an own goal completing the scoring late on.

The breakthrough arrived in the 29th minute after a patient move involving 14 passes ended with David Møller Wolfe delivering from the left, allowing



Erling Haaland celebrates after giving Norway the lead

Haaland to slide in at the back post for a simple finish.

Iraq responded well and lev-

elled 10 minutes later when Aymen Hussein rose highest to meet Amir Al-Ammari's chipped cross, becoming just the second Iraqi player to ever score at a World Cup finals.

However, parity lasted only until just before half-time. A mistake in possession allowed Haaland to pounce on a loose ball between Zaid Tahseen and Jalal Hassan; the striker's pressure forced the goalkeeper into a costly error that restored Norway's lead.

Iraq still had chances to equalise before the break, but Ibrahim Bayesh, Ali Al-Hamadi and Akam Hashim all failed to convert promising opportunities.

The second half produced fewer clear chances, but Norway extended their lead in the 76th minute when substitute Leo Østigård powered home a header from a corner.

Deep into stoppage time, Iraq's misery was compounded when Aymen Hussein inadvertently turned the ball into his own net under pressure from Kristian Thorstved, sealing a comprehensive 4-1 defeat.

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