

Antonelli fastest for Mercedes in second practice in Belgium

Antonelli outpaces McLaren and Red Bull as Gasly's crash cuts practice short | P11

Trump revives election fraud claims ahead of US midterms

THE DAILY tribune

France, England prepare for gloomy World Cup send-off

Bahrain Bourse and IDX join hands



Cricket great Garry Sobers dies at 89

TDT | agencies

Sir Garfield "Garry" Sobers, regarded as one of the greatest cricketers of all time, has died at the age of 89, leaving behind a legacy few in the sport can match.

The West Indies icon excelled as a batsman, bowler and fielder during a remarkable career spanning two decades. He played 93 Tests, scoring 8,032 runs at an average of 57.78 and claiming 235 wickets, while also taking 109 catches. Australian great Sir Donald Bradman once described Sobers as "the greatest cricketer of all time".

Born in Barbados in 1936, Sobers made his Test debut at just 17 before rewriting cricket history with an unbeaten 365 against Pakistan in 1958, then the highest individual Test score. He later captained the West Indies to their first Test series victory over Australia and, in 1968, became the first player to hit six sixes in a single over in first-class cricket.



Gaza health officials say Israeli airstrike near market kills 8

Gaza City, Palestinian Territories

Gaza's civil defence agency and a hospital said an Israeli airstrike yesterday killed eight people near a market.

A ceasefire remains in place between Israel and Hamas, but it has not halted violence in Gaza, and efforts to secure a lasting agreement to end the war have stalled.

"Eight people were killed after Israeli warplanes struck a gathering of civilians in the Al-Balata market area of the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza," the civil defence agency, which operates as a rescue service under Hamas, reported.

The area's Al-Awda hospital said it received the eight dead and 22 people wounded in the strike.

Travellers urged to stay alert abroad

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The Interior Ministry has urged travellers to take extra precautions at home, at the airport and abroad as part of a travel safety advisory issued ahead of their journeys.

The ministry advised citizens and residents to check travel requirements and security regulations before leaving Bahrain and remain vigilant throughout their trip. Police from the General Directorate of Ports Security will provide

assistance at the airport, safeguard passengers and luggage, and help resolve any issues.

Travellers were urged to secure their homes against theft by asking relatives to check on the property, using light timers and removing signs that indicate a house is unoccupied.

The ministry also advised passengers to ensure their passports remain valid, obtain the necessary visas, arrange flights, accommodation and travel insurance, and arrive at the airport at least two hours before departure.

Passengers should avoid carrying prohibited items, comply with cabin baggage rules for liquids and gels, and never accept packages from strangers or leave luggage unattended. Valuables such as cash and jewellery should be kept on their person rather than in overhead lockers.

Those travelling by road were advised to ensure their vehicles

are roadworthy, carry all required documents and follow local traffic laws.

While abroad, travellers should keep passports and valuables in hotel safes, avoid carrying large amounts of cash, save local emergency numbers and inform Bahrain's embassy of their whereabouts. The ministry said the embassy should be contacted immediately if a passport is lost or damaged or if a traveller encounters legal difficulties.



US hits Iran for 7th straight night

Fighter jets, drones and warships hit military sites across Iran

Regional allies intercept missiles as conflict escalates

TDT | Manama

The United States stepped up its military campaign against Iran yesterday, with US Central Command (CENTCOM) carrying out a seventh consecutive night of precision strikes on Iranian military targets.

CENTCOM said fighter jets, drones and warships hit dozens of targets, including coastal surveillance and air defence sites, military logistics infrastructure and maritime capabilities.

The operation was conducted under the direction of US President Donald Trump as part of efforts to further degrade Iran's military capabilities and hold Tehran accountable for recent attacks on commercial shipping.

BDF intercepts Iranian aerial attacks targeting Bahrain

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) said its air defence systems intercepted and destroyed several Iranian aerial attacks targeting the Kingdom yesterday, reaffirming the military's high state of combat readiness.

In a statement, the BDF General Command said all formations and units remain on the highest level of readiness to safeguard Bahrain. It added that the Royal Field

Engineering Unit is prepared to safely deal with any suspicious objects resulting from the attacks.

The BDF urged the public not to approach unfamiliar objects and to report them immediately to the authorities.

It also condemned the use of missiles and drones against civilians and private property, describing the attacks as a clear violation of international humanitarian law.

CENTCOM said more than 50,000 US service members remain deployed across the Middle East and are "vigilant, lethal and ready" to respond

to developments across the region.

The latest wave of strikes marks an expansion of US operations against Iran's military infrastructure as tensions between the two countries continue to escalate.

Meanwhile, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar said they had intercepted missiles launched during the regional escalation.

Kuwait said that a power and water plant had been damaged by an Iranian attack.

"One of the power and water distillation plants was the target of an attack as part of the Iranian aggression... resulting in a fire, damage, and the impairment of several production units," the electricity ministry said in a statement, urging users "to ration their electricity consumption during this exceptional period".

Iran's health ministry said 38 people had been killed and more than 400 injured in US strikes since June 22.

Diplomatic efforts to contain the conflict continued, with the foreign ministers of China and Pakistan calling on Washington and Tehran to end hostilities and return to negotiations following talks in Shanghai.

S e p a r a t e l y, the US military said American forces boarded a vessel in the Gulf of Oman as part of Washington's renewed blockade of Iranian ports. CENTCOM also said it had redirected three vessels attempting to circumvent the blockade after it was reimposed amid the fighting.



US Marines from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit conducting a verification boarding aboard M/T Wen Yao in the Gulf of Oman.

US links Taco Bell lettuce to multistate parasite outbreak



New York, United States

US officials on Friday pinned the source of a diarrhea-causing foodborne parasite as shredded iceberg lettuce used by the fast food chain Taco Bell.

A federal investigation by the Food and Drug Administration traced the contamination back to a single supplier of iceberg lettuce from Mexico, which was used by Taco Bell locations in five states, according to a statement from the Centers for Disease and Control.

The CDC said that more than 1,644 people in five states -- Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia -- were confirmed to be infected with cyclosporiasis, which can cause "explosive diarrhea," among other symptoms.

Israel parliament dissolves as it gears up for elections

Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel's parliament voted to dissolve itself early Friday as the country gears up for October elections, wrapping up a last-minute legislative blitz by the government aimed at pleasing allies.

The vote, endorsed by 62 of the Knesset's 120 members, clears the way for polls on October 27 in which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is seeking another term despite waning popularity.

Despite the vote to dissolve, the Knesset's legal adviser Sagit Afik said the chamber can continue to operate for around 10 more days.

Pedestrian killed in Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Street crash

TDT | Manama

A pedestrian was killed after being struck by a vehicle on Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Street near Bu Quwah yesterday, authorities said.

The circumstances surrounding the crash are under investigation. No further details were immediately available.

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Youth City 2030 earns MPs’ backing for expansion

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Youth City 2030 should be expanded to give more young Bahrainis access to the skills and opportunities it offers, MPs Maryam Al Sayegh and Waleed Al Doseri have said.

The MPs said the initiative has become an effective platform for preparing young people for the labour market by equipping them with skills in technology, business, leadership, the arts and voluntary work.

Ms Al Sayegh said the project reflects the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the Government, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to empower young Bahrainis and give

them a greater role in shaping the Kingdom’s future.

She also praised His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, for supporting the initiative and helping it become a platform for nurturing talent and innovation.

She added that Youth City 2030 also strengthens Bahraini identity through programmes promoting the Kingdom’s history, tolerance, public service and civic responsibility.

Mr Al Doseri said the initiative had transformed youth policy from care to empowerment, enabling young Bahrainis to become active contributors to national development while remaining proud of their national identity.

Both MPs pledged full parliamentary support for the initiative and called

for it to benefit a larger number of young Bahrainis.

Maryam Al Sayegh, MP



Waleed Al Doseri, MP

Ministers should answer to citizens

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Ministers should meet citizens regularly to hear complaints first-hand and be held accountable for improving public services, a group of MPs has proposed.

The proposal, submitted by MP Basema Mubarak and four colleagues, calls for ministries to hold public meetings at fixed intervals, work closely with Parliament and resolve complaints within clear deadlines.

Under the plan, citizens would submit complaints and suggestions through an online portal before each meeting, allowing discussions to focus on unresolved issues and the action needed to address them. Sessions could

The proposal, submitted by MP Basema Mubarak and four colleagues, calls for ministries to hold public meetings at fixed intervals, work closely with Parliament and resolve complaints within clear deadlines.

be held in person or online.

The MPs also proposed quarterly meetings between ministers to review progress and ensure promises made to the public are carried out.

They argued that the gap between citizens and government departments has widened, while demand for public services continues to grow.

Direct engagement, they said, would speed up decision-making, reduce bureaucracy and replace routine responses with practical solutions based on citizens’ experiences.

Each meeting would be documented and its findings made public, allowing citizens to track government commitments, completed actions and outstanding issues.

The proposed online platform would also help ministries identify recurring problems and improve future policymaking by analysing public feedback.



King Hamad Coexistence Programme Begins Second Edition



TDT | Manama

The second edition of the King Hamad Programme for Leadership in Coexistence has begun, bringing together young leaders to promote peace, dialogue and mutual understanding while building on the success of its inaugural programme.

Dr Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence, said Bahrain has become a leading model for respecting religious and cultural diversity while empowering young people to champion the values of peace, coexistence and dialogue.

He said the initiative reflects the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to strengthen tolerance, coexistence and mutual respect among cultures and religions.

Organised in partnership with the Faith in Leadership Foundation and the 1928 Institute at the University of Oxford, the programme brings together young professionals for training in dialogue management, effective communication, pluralism, countering hate speech and developing community initiatives that strengthen social cohesion.

Dr Shaikh Abdulla highlighted the involvement of graduates from the programme’s first edition, who are now leading training sessions after completing a “Training of Trainers” track, describing it as evidence of the initiative’s success in building sustainable leadership capacity.

He reaffirmed the centre’s commitment to investing in young people and equipping them with the skills needed to promote peace and coexistence in their communities.

Musical prodigy, 3, enters India Book of Records

TDT | Manama

Three-year-old Neelkrishna, an Indian child living in Bahrain, has secured a place in the India Book of Records after astonishing judges with his remarkable ear for music.

The youngster identified more than 40 songs in just 13 minutes by listening only to short instrumental snippets. Without hearing the lyrics or the singer’s voice, he correctly recognised each song from its tune and musical arrangement.

Neelkrishna’s love for music became clear at an early age. He would happily sing along to songs and even recreate their melodies in his own style, leaving his parents convinced they were witnessing something special.

Encouraged by his talent, his parents, Dr Rasna Pilakal and Sujith Kumar P. Rajan, submitted his achievement to the India Book of Records, where it was officially recognised.

The family, originally from Thalichalam in Trikaripur, Kasaragod district of Kerala, now lives in Bahrain.

For Neelkrishna, this record is just the first note in what could become a lifelong musical journey.



Bahrain breaks into global top 20 for competitiveness

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain has entered the world’s top 20 most competitive economies for the first time after climbing 10 places in the 2026 IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook.

The Kingdom ranked 20th among 70 economies in the Swiss-based index, improving from 30th place in 2022. It also secured third place globally for prices under the economic performance category, reflecting strong performance in inflation, living costs and the cost of goods and services.

Bahrain ranked 11th worldwide for international trade. Gross domestic product reached about \$49 billion, while the economy recorded real growth of 3.5 per cent.

GDP per capita, measured by purchasing power parity, stood at \$70,650, placing Bahrain 20th globally. The Kingdom also ranked ninth for foreign direct



investment inflows, equivalent to 5.25 per cent of GDP.

Under government efficiency, Bahrain placed fifth for tax pol-

Bahrain reaffirms commitment to sustainable cities at UN

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable and inclusive urban development during a United Nations meeting reviewing progress on the New Urban Agenda in New York.

Housing and Urban Planning Minister Amna bint Ahmed Al Rumaihi led Bah-



rain’s delegation and said the Kingdom considers the agenda a practical framework for improving quality of life and building resilient cities in line with Sustainable Development Goal 11.

She said Bahrain has integrated the agenda’s principles into national policies under the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, plac-

ing people at the centre of development.

Al Rumaihi also highlighted the government’s housing programme, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, including the delivery of 50,000 housing units to create integrated communities with housing, services and economic opportunities.

Lost passport abroad?

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Don't panic if you lose your passport while travelling abroad.

Inform the local police first. Then contact the nearest Bahraini embassy or consulate.

That is the Foreign Ministry's advice to Bahrainis who lose their passports while travelling abroad.

Travellers should obtain a police report before visiting a

Picture for representation only

Bahraini mission, where officials can issue the documents needed to help them continue their journey or return home.

Citizens should carry any available proof of identity when visiting



the embassy or consulate. Depending on the circumstances, officials will arrange either an emergency travel document or a replacement passport in coordination with the relevant authorities. A replacement pass-

port can also be requested through Bahrain's eGovernment portal. Applicants may choose to have the new passport delivered to a preferred address or to the nearest Bahraini mission. The process takes fewer than 10 working days.

Those unable to apply online can submit their application through a Bahraini embassy or consulate and choose where they wish to collect the new passport. The ministry also urged travellers to check that

their passports remain valid before leaving Bahrain, keep both printed and digital copies, and avoid leaving the document unattended in public places.

Citizens were further advised to save the contact details of the nearest Bahraini embassy or consulate before travelling. The ministry has published contact information for Bahraini missions in several countries through its official platforms to help citizens seek assistance while overseas.



Apply for a replacement passport online through Bahrain's eGovernment portal or via a Bahraini embassy or consulate

Health Ministry explores AI to tackle obesity

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is exploring how Artificial intelligence and innovation can help tackle obesity and improve public health through a renewed focus on nutrition.

The initiative was highlighted as the Ministry of Health launched a nutrition symposium and exhibition, bringing together healthcare experts, government officials, private sector representatives and health partners to discuss the future of nutrition in the Kingdom.

The event showcased Bahrain's efforts to promote healthy eating and strengthen evidence-based public health policies while highlighting national achievements and initiatives in the nutrition sector.



Discussions examined the use of artificial intelligence in nutrition services, Bahrain's strategy to accelerate efforts to reduce obesity, innovative approaches to tackling the condition, and the future of nutrition through digital transformation and public-private partner-

ships.

An accompanying exhibition showcased national nutrition programmes, public awareness campaigns and the development of services designed to encourage healthier eating habits and support healthier lifestyles across the Kingdom.



Bahrain calls for unified regional action against desert locusts

To host FAO's 34th session in December



TDT | Manama

Bahrain has called for a unified regional response to combat desert locusts, describing the pest as a cross-border threat.

The call came during a meeting between Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Minister Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak and Dr Mamoon Al Alawi, Executive Secretary of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region under the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO),

who is visiting the Kingdom to prepare for the commission's 34th session, which Bahrain will host in December.

Al Mubarak reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to supporting the commission and said the Kingdom would provide all necessary resources to ensure the success of the meeting, reflecting its commitment to stronger Arab and regional cooperation in protecting agricultural resources and enhancing food security.

The meeting, attended by Agriculture and Animal Wealth Affairs Undersecretary Eng.



Asim Abdullatif Abdullah and other ministry officials, also explored ways to strengthen regional coordination against desert locust outbreaks.

The two sides discussed expanding early warning systems, improving data and information sharing, building national capacities, and making greater use of modern technologies for monitoring, risk analysis and preparedness to respond to future outbreaks.

Shelter repaid with theft: Houseguest jailed

TDT | Manama

A houseguest who was given temporary shelter by a company manager has been jailed for stealing his host's bank card and withdrawing money from the victim's account.

The High Criminal Court sentenced the 54-year-old Asian man to three years in prison, fined him BD1,000 and ordered his deportation after completing his sentence.

According to the Public Prosecution, the defendant stole the victim's bank card from his home on December 10, 2025, and used it along with the PIN to withdraw BD130 from the account. He was also convicted of illegally accessing the bank's electronic system. Court records show that the 43-year-old victim received

three text messages shortly after midnight alerting him to cash withdrawals totalling BD130. Unable to find his bank card, he immediately reported the matter to the authorities.

Police reviewed ATM CCTV footage, which showed the defendant making the withdrawals and checking the account balance. The timestamps matched the transactions recorded in the victim's bank statement.

The victim told investigators that he had allowed the defendant, who worked for his sister, to stay at his home for five days at her request until he found accommodation.

Confronted with the CCTV footage and other evidence, the defendant admitted during police questioning that he had withdrawn the money from the victim's account.

The High Criminal Court sentenced the 54-year-old Asian man to three years in prison, fined him BD1,000 and ordered his deportation after completing his sentence

Lawyer jailed for defrauding client's mother of BD14,000

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court of Appeal has upheld a one-year prison sentence against a lawyer convicted of fraudulently obtaining BD14,000 from his client's mother by falsely claiming the money was needed for bail and legal work. The court also referred the civil claim to the competent court without legal costs.

According to court records, the woman had agreed to pay the lawyer BD3,500 to represent her son in a criminal case and transferred the amount.

Before the verdict, the lawyer allegedly requested another BD8,000, claiming it was needed to secure the son's release on bail. The woman transferred BD4,000 in two payments.

He later sent a WhatsApp voice message asking for a further BD6,000, saying he needed to travel abroad for legal

consultations and to prepare submissions. She transferred the amount in two instalments.

The victim's daughter later contacted the lawyer, who admitted making a mistake and promised to repay the money. He handed her three cheques totalling BD8,000, but she rejected them, noting that her mother had paid him BD17,500 in total.

The lawyer claimed BD3,500 represented his legal fees, leaving BD14,000 outstanding, but said he could not repay it. Investigators found his travel records contradicted his claims and uncovered similar complaints, leading to his conviction for fraud.



Picture for representation only

Businessman cleared in BD43.7m land deal fraud case

TDT | Manama

A businessman has been acquitted of fraud charges linked to a BD43.7 million land deal after the High Criminal Court of Appeal ruled that the dispute was civil,

not criminal, overturning an earlier conviction following a Court of Cassation ruling.

The court set aside a previous judgment that had sentenced him to one year in prison, suspended the sentence and imposed a BD1,000 fine.

Lawyer Abdulrahman Ghunaim argued before the Court of Cassation that the case involved a contractual dispute rather than fraud, seeking his client's acquittal.

The case arose from a complaint alleging that the businessman received BD43,725,950 after selling a residential plot that was not registered in his name at the



Lawyer Abdulrahman Ghunaim

time of the agreement. He had undertaken to transfer ownership and provide the title documents within three months.

When the transfer was delayed, the buyer filed a complaint and later discovered that the land had initially been registered under another company before being transferred to the businessman.

The court found that the unregistered sale agreement created contractual obligations but did not transfer ownership. It ruled that the delay resulted from property registration procedures rather than an intention to deceive the buyer.

The buyer had already secured compensation through civil proceedings, which the businessman paid. Finding no proof of fraud, the court acquitted him of all charges.

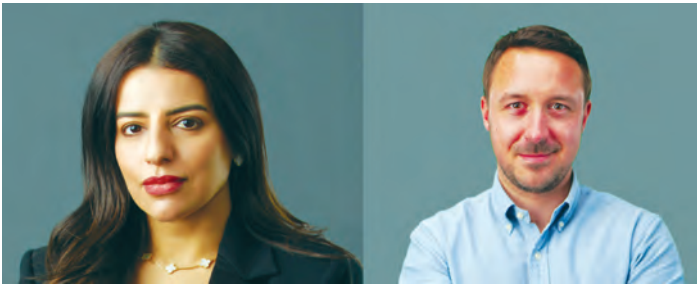
FROM THE COURT - Rehab Mohammad

Bahrain Bourse and IDX join hands

Deal to enhance digital investor relations across listed companies

● **IDX will support listed companies through enhanced presentation of key areas**

TDI | Manama



Shaikha Alzayani, Senior Director of Listing & Disclosure at Bahrain Bourse and James Taylor, Head of Middle East at IDX

Bahrain Bourse, a licensed exchange regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain, has announced a strategic partnership with IDX, a global leader in corporate and investor relations websites, to strengthen the digital investor relations capabilities of listed companies at Bahrain Bourse by offering advanced IR solutions.

The partnership aims to

strengthen the digital presence of investor relations for listed companies by enhancing investor relations digital platforms in line with best practices and global standards, facilitating access to relevant company information and improving the overall investor experience.

IDX will support listed companies through enhanced presentation of key areas such as the company's equity story, governance framework, strategic direction, sustainability initiatives, and financial performance.

As part of the collaboration, IDX will perform a mar-

ket-wide assessment of Bahrain Bourse-listed companies investor relations websites and provide participating issuers with practical assessment and recommendations to improve their digital investor communications, accessibility, and overall market presentation.

The programme will also include educational workshops and issuer engagement sessions designed to support listed companies in understanding how investor expectations and digital discovery behaviours are evolving globally.

Shaikha Alzayani, Senior Director of Listing & Disclosure at Bahrain Bourse said; "As investor expectations continue to evolve globally, digital investor relations capabilities are becoming increasingly important in

how listed companies are discovered, assessed and understood. This collaboration with IDX enables us to deliver on our ongoing commitment to supporting market development, transparency, and enhanced investor engagement across the Kingdom's capital markets ecosystem, while also supporting Bahrain Bourse-listed companies to enhance their digital presence and align more closely with international best practice."

"Corporate and IR websites are no longer simply destinations for investors. Increasingly, they are becoming critical infrastructure feeding institutional research workflows, AI systems, and digital discovery journeys," said James Taylor, Head of Mid-

dle East at IDX. "Through this partnership, we're delighted to be supporting Bahrain Bourse to deliver on its commitment to help issuers strengthen how they communicate with the market digitally."

IDX currently manages almost 4,000 corporate and investor relations websites globally, supporting some of the world's largest listed companies across Europe, North America, the Middle East, and Asia.

The collaboration is expected to pave the way for broader issuer engagement programmes and future initiatives focused on digital disclosure, investor accessibility, and AI-driven investor communications.

China's Moonshot AI chases 'DeepSeek moment' with much-hyped model

AFP | Shanghai, China

A model released yesterday by Chinese startup Moonshot AI has fuelled buzz around the country's tech prowess, as experts said it could rival some of the more advanced offerings from US labs.

Large language models underpin chatbots and other artificial intelligence tools with their ability to crunch huge amounts of digital data.

Moonshot AI's "Kimi K3" is one of several from China growing in global popularity thanks to their lower costs and source code that programmers can customise.

Soon after its launch, Kimi K3 had topped a leaderboard for AI



coding run by a platform called Arena created by UC Berkeley researchers.

That drew excitement from industry insiders, with some evoking a 2025 release from China's DeepSeek that shook assumptions of US dominance in AI.

"Kimi K3 seems really good, closest to the frontier yet," Ethan Mollick, a University of Pennsylvania professor and a leading voice on AI, said on X.

But it "cannot write a good murder mystery (though neither can any other model). That remains the jaggedest of frontiers" of AI development, he said.

"Sensing a violent market reaction to KimiK3... similar to

DeepSeek moment," tech writer and investor Kevin Xu wrote.

Beijing-based Moonshot AI said Kimi K3 was the world's first open-source model of its size.

The more internal variables, or parameters, a model has, the better it can handle complex requests, and Kimi K3 has around 2.8 trillion.

Leading US players Anthropic and OpenAI do not release details of how many parameters their top models have.

'Frontier-level'

"Kimi K3 demonstrated frontier-level performance across our evaluation suite, consistently outperforming other tested models," Moonshot AI said.

However, overall performance "still trails the most powerful proprietary models" from Anthropic and OpenAI, the company said.

Hussein Abbass, a computing professor at UNSW Canberra, said Kimi K3 appears to be good at coding, "but it is still unknown how competitive it is across the whole range of tasks expected from foundation models".

Should US rivals be concerned? "I wouldn't say they need to be worried. But they shouldn't be still," to maintain their edge, Abbass told AFP.

He added that AI performance is "not just about the model" but also the hardware that runs it, along with data centres and supply chains.

Arena ranked Kimi K3 ninth worldwide for text queries. When AFP tried Kimi K3, it generated ideas for tech reporting that compared favourably with responses from other chatbots.

Kimi K3's release follows that of other much-hyped Chinese AI models such as Zhipu AI's GLM-5.2.

It came during a major tech conference in Shanghai where President Xi Jinping on Friday urged international cooperation on AI governance.

Chinese airlines order 95 Airbus jets for \$17.8 bn

● **The planes will be delivered in batches between 2029 and 2032**

● **Flag carrier Air China agreed to buy 55 Airbus planes for itself**

● **Airbus had made "significant price concessions" for both airline purchases.**

AFP | Beijing, China

Chinese airlines have ordered 95 Airbus jets in deals totalling more than \$17 billion, according to company announcements Friday.

China is a key export market for European aircraft, machinery and cars.

Flag carrier Air China agreed to buy 55 Airbus planes for itself and a subsidiary in a \$12.44 billion deal, it said in a filing to the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

The Beijing-based operator will take 15 Airbus A350-900 jets and its subsidiary Shenzhen Airlines will get 40 aircraft in the A320neo family, according to its filing.

The planes will be delivered in batches between 2029 and

2032, Air China said.

It added that Airbus had made "significant price concessions" for both airline purchases.

Hainan Airlines, which has one of China's largest fleets, said it had agreed to buy 40 Airbus A320neo aircraft for no more than \$5.36 billion in a separate filing to the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

The aircraft are scheduled for delivery between 2028 and 2032, it said.

In April, China Southern Airlines said it ordered 137 single-aisle Airbus A320neo planes for a catalogue value of \$21.4 billion.

In March, China Eastern Airlines said it signed a \$15.8 billion deal to buy 101 Airbus A320neo planes.

The European aviation giant aims to deliver 870 commercial aircraft in 2026, which would surpass its record of 863 in 2019.

870

Airbus aims to deliver 870 commercial aircraft in 2026

YOU KNOW WHAT

Kimi K3 has 2.8 trillion parameters, making it one of the largest open-source AI language models ever released

India's Reliance profit beats estimate on resilient oil business

AFP | Mumbai, India

Indian conglomerate Reliance Industries reported better-than-expected quarterly profit on Friday, helped by a steady performance across its core oil-to-chemicals arm and consumer-facing divisions.

The retail-to-refining giant led by billionaire tycoon Mukesh Ambani is India's most valuable company by market capitalisation.

It said net profit attributable to owners of the company came in at 209.46 billion rupees (\$2.17 billion) for the April-June quarter, down more than 22% from



Reliance Industries Chairman and Managing Director and billionaire business tycoon Mukesh Ambani (L), along with his wife, Reliance Foundation Founder and Chairperson Nita Ambani

the same period last year.

This beat the average analyst estimate of 198.23 billion rupees.

The drop in profit was expected as the bottomline in the same quarter last year was drastically boosted by a one-off gain from the sale of a key investment.

Revenue from operations meanwhile rose over 25% year-on-year to hit 3.11 trillion rupees.

However, that was accompanied by a nearly 31% jump in the "cost of materials consumed".

Despite having aggressively expanded into telecoms and green energy over the last decade, Reliance still depends on its traditional oil business for

profits.

The conglomerate owns and operates the world's largest refinery complex in the Indian state of Gujarat.

This business has faced multiple headwinds from the Mideast conflict, but a Reliance statement said it was able to weather the storm through "crude basket diversification, efficient product placement in deficit markets and favourable ethane cracking economics".

Chairman Ambani added that the oil-to-chemicals unit delivered a "strong performance", helped by "all-time high" refining margins.

"This was achieved despite a challenging global energy market backdrop with disrupted supply chains," he said in a statement.

Reliance's consumer-facing businesses also helped prop up its overall June quarter performance.

The company's telecoms arm, which is set for its own IPO later this year, saw its average revenue per user rise 3.3% year-on-year.

The company said the slight uptick was due to a "better subscriber mix" and came despite several discount schemes that were rolled out for fixed broadband customers.

China landslide kills 8, at least 34 missing: officials



Rescue workers search for survivors at the site of a landslide
AFP | Beijing

A landslide in southwest China killed at least eight people and left 34 missing yesterday, local authorities said, with Chinese President Xi Jinping urging comprehensive inspections as rescue efforts were ongoing.

The landslide happened around 9:10 am local time (0110 GMT) in Chongqing's Pengshui County, with more than 800 rescuers deployed to the site, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

County leader Ren Xujiang told a press conference that 18 people who were trapped were rescued. Among those, eight were pronounced dead.

Footage shared by CCTV showed a huge buildup of rocks and dirt covering part of a residential and commercial street at the bottom of a mountain in the region.

Clips also aired by the broadcaster showed people yelling and running away from a cloud of dust.

The area where the landslide happened is known for "unpredictable" steep terrain, a local official told a press conference late yesterday, adding that dangerous rocks still remain along the sides of the cliff.

At least 14 dead in Peru road accident: authorities

AFP | Lima

At least 14 people died and five others were injured when a van plunged off a roadway in northern Peru, authorities said.

"We have reports of 14 people dead and five injured after a minibus fell into a ravine," said Ricardo Chilon, head of institutional communications for the San Juan municipality, located more than 800 kilometers (500 miles) north of Lima in the Cajamarca region.

Police and fire crews arrived at the scene of the accident, outside San Juan, to recover the victims' bodies, including those of the driver and a child, Chilon said.

The vehicle was carrying 19 people from the San Juan district to Ciudad de Dios. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

Trump revives election fraud claims ahead of US midterms

China rejects Trump's allegations as critics accuse him of undermining confidence in future elections

● Voting restrictions receive renewed push

● Democrats warn of eroded trust

● Midterm election tensions intensify

AFP | Washington

US President Donald Trump revived sweeping and unsupported claims of voter fraud and Chinese meddling -- firing a clear warning shot ahead of midterm elections that many expect him to dispute.

In a primetime White House address, Trump portrayed the US electoral system as dangerously exposed and urged lawmakers to adopt new restrictions on voting, despite scant appetite for the measures even within his own Republican Party.

"We can never watch a stolen election again," Trump said, referring to his 2020 defeat by Democrat Joe Biden.

Trump said he was declassifying intelligence that showed, among other things, that China had illicitly acquired 220 million US voter files.

"Over a period of years, starting during the 2020 election cycle, the People's Republic of China carried out what is believed to be the largest compromise of election data in history," he said from the White House.

Beijing denied Trump's claims and urged the Washington "to do more to benefit China-US relations."

"The relevant claims made by the US side are pure fabrications and malicious smears that have long since been proven to be groundless statements," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told a news conference yesterday.



US President Donald Trump points after addressing the nation from the East Room of the White House

Trump also claimed that more than 250,000 non-US citizens were registered to vote in four states.

He then attacked US broadcasters that refused to interrupt programming to carry his speech live, naming ABC and NBC, and baselessly implying they were involved in election-rigging attempts.

"They and others in the media are part of a plot," Trump said. "Fraud like this should mean a revocation of their licenses."

Trump's claim that the 2020 election was "rigged" has never been substantiated. More than 60 lawsuits produced no ruling establishing fraud capable of changing the outcome, while recounts, audits and his own Justice Department found none.

Over a period of years, starting during the 2020 election cycle, the People's Republic of China carried out what is believed to be the largest compromise of election data in history

DONALD TRUMP

'Unsupported' claims

Trump had promised "big news" on election security, but analysts said much of the address repackaged old or unsupported material.

Rick Hasen, an election law ex-

pert at UCLA in California, called it the "same old unsupported, and surprisingly weak, claims of American election vulnerabilities."

"It was a tired speech with recycled and debunked claims," Hasen said. "I don't think it changes anything with how American elections will be run."

Trump devoted little time to issues voters appear more focused on, including the Iran war and the economy.

Democrats accused Trump of trying to undermine confidence ahead of November's midterms, in which Republicans fear his unpopularity could cost them control of Congress.

Senate Democrat Dick Durbin called the speech "a dangerous attempt to resurrect disproven lies to undermine future elec-

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Donald Trump threatened to revoke the broadcasting licenses of major television networks, specifically targeting ABC and NBC, after they refused to interrupt their scheduled programming to carry his primetime address live

tions before a single vote is cast."

Former Trump White House lawyer Ty Cobb said the speech appeared intended to build a case for declaring an election emergency.

"I think tonight's speech is intended to add to the predicate that he needs to declare an emergency at or about the time of the elections," Cobb told PBS, adding that he believed immigration officers at polling places were a "virtual certainty."

Trump has been pushing lawmakers to pass the SAVE America Act ahead of the midterms, but the measure has little appetite even in his own party.

The bill would require proof of citizenship to register to vote -- already required under existing law in federal and state elections -- and photo identification at polling places, while imposing new limits on mail-in ballots.

Trump has never accepted his 2020 defeat. Months after the election, he urged supporters to Washington before a mob stormed the US Capitol on January 6, 2021.

Two ex-leaders warn of threat to future Palestinian state

AFP | Washington

Two former heads of government from the Elders group of international figures founded by Nelson Mandela yesterday warned of the potential disappearance of the Palestinian territories and called for an end to what they called Israeli "impunity".

The call from former Ireland president Mary Robinson and former New Zealand prime minister Helen Clark comes after they visited Israel, the occupied Palestinian territories, Jordan and Lebanon.

They said in a statement that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government was seeking "to make Palestine disappear physically, economically,



Mary Robinson and Helen Clark

culturally and politically."

Speaking to journalists in Jerusalem, they said the international community must do more

to end Israeli "impunity" in the occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem, which Palestinians seek as the future capital of a

sovereign state.

"I think if we were to summarise the key message that we've heard across civil society, both in the West Bank and here, as to what are they looking for, it's accountability and no impunity," said Clark.

Robinson said she was "ashamed" that the European Union had not taken a firmer stance on the issue, calling for Brussels to suspend the trade component of its association agreement with Israel and to ban the trade of products from Israeli settlements.

The two leaders said they had observed a severe deterioration of the situation in the West Bank since a previous mission in 2023.

The two former leaders warned that continued settle-

ment expansion would result in "Palestine disappearing before our eyes."

Since taking office, Netanyahu's government has approved the establishment of 102 settlements in the West Bank, according to Israeli anti-settlement group Peace Now.

And since the start of the Gaza war in 2023, the United Nations has reported a sharp rise in settler violence, while some Israeli ministers continue to call for the annexation of all or part of the occupied West Bank.

Excluding east Jerusalem, more than 500,000 Israelis live in settlements in the West Bank, which Israel has occupied since 1967, among some three million Palestinians.



New Labour leader Burnham vows to **renew hope** as next UK PM

Former Manchester mayor takes over as UK's seventh prime minister in a decade

● Starmer steps
down as premier

● Labour retains
parliamentary majority

● Regional devolution
tops agenda

AFP | London

Andy Burnham vowed yesterday to "give hope" back to the British people as he was confirmed as the ruling Labour party's new leader, set to be the next UK prime minister.

"People and places ... have been waiting too long for politics to let them hope again ... We're going to give them hope back," he vowed at a special party conference.

"I am for us, for all of us," he told cheering delegates.

Burnham takes over from Keir Starmer, who resigned last month as premier after months of political turmoil, scandal and missteps.

Centre-left Labour retains an



Andy Burnham (L) hugs his wife Marie-France van Heel (R) as he is confirmed as the Labour Party's new leader and the country's next prime minister

overwhelming majority in parliament after the 2024 elections, so the leader of the largest party becomes the country's prime minister, without new polls being held.

It is only four weeks since

ex-Manchester mayor Burnham sensationally returned as a member of parliament following a nine-year absence, determined to replace Starmer.

On Monday, he will become the UK's seventh prime minister

379

of Labour's 403 MPs
backed Andy Burnham as
the new leader

in a decade, with Labour MPs betting Burnham is the party's best chance of reining in Nigel Farage's anti-immigrant Reform UK party, tipped in the polls to win the next general election, expected in 2029.

Nicknamed "King of the North" for winning three successive elections to the Greater Manchester mayoralty, Burnham's flagship idea is devolving powers to other cities in a bid to fire up Britain's economy, including by setting up a "Number 10 North" office.

He said the past four decades since "the 1980s have not been kind to the places that built our party, nor to the communities

across the UK in rural and coastal areas. So we pledge today, to them, to be better."

"If we want an economy and a country that works for all people and places ... then it requires a new path to the one we've been on for the last 40 years," he said.

Hailing from the party's so-called soft left, Burnham favours more public control of services and reindustrialisation.

After facing no challengers, he becomes leader at his third attempt, following failed bids in 2010 and 2015.

Burnham, an MP between 2001 and 2017 and former government minister, has since reinvented himself as a man of the people, melding a relaxed folksy style with slick social media videos.

Labour MPs hope he can communicate with the public better than Starmer and that he is willing to take a more radical approach to reforming Britain's battered public services.

"Let's take a problem solving rather than a point scoring approach. Let's have the courage to fix the big things that politics has neglected," he told the conference.

India launches first hydrogen-powered train in clean energy push

AFP | New Delhi

India launched its first hydrogen-powered train yesterday, joining a small group of nations testing the technology as part of efforts to decarbonise rail transport and cut dependence on fossil fuels.

The project is part of a broader push to modernise one of the world's largest rail networks while reducing carbon emissions.

The 10-coach train runs along an 89-kilometre (55-mile) route between Jind and Sonapat in India's northern state of Haryana, powered by a 1,200-kilowatt hydrogen fuel cell propulsion system.

Officials described the system as the world's most powerful for a train.

Hydrogen trains use fuel cells to generate electricity by combining hydrogen and oxygen, emitting only water and steam.

"This is a very significant day in the direction of self-reliant India and sustainable development," Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who flagged off the inaugural journey, said in a social media post.

The railway ministry said the train was "developed entirely in India".

The ministry also inaugurated what it described as the country's largest railway hydrogen storage and refuelling facility in Jind, with a capacity of some 3,000 kilograms, to "support hydrogen-powered train operations".



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagging off Indian Railways' first hydrogen-powered train during an inaugural ceremony at Jind railway station in Haryana's Jind city

1200

kilowatts power the
hydrogen fuel cell
propulsion system,
making it the world's most
powerful for a train

ations".

The pilot project cost around \$12 million, according to a senior railway official.

However, he said costs were expected to fall as the technology matures.

With the launch, India joins countries such as Germany,

Japan, China and the United States that are testing or operating hydrogen-powered trains.

India's railways have undergone a major transformation since the first passenger steam train puffed out in 1853 from Mumbai.

In recent years, New Delhi has pumped billions of dollars in investment aimed at upgrading infrastructure, improving safety and expanding capacity.

The vast network carried 7.41 billion passengers and 1.67 billion tonnes of freight last year, official data shows.

India has also introduced its domestically designed Vande Bharat trains, which can reach speeds of up to 180 kilometres (112 miles) per hour.

Wildfire smoke engulfs millions in US ahead of World Cup final



People look at the Brooklyn Bridge as wildfire smoke from Canada causes hazy conditions

AFP | New York

Dense wildfire smoke billowing down from Canada set off unhealthy air quality alerts across the United States again yesterday, fomenting concern over the weekend's World Cup final outside New York.

Detroit and Chicago posted air quality index readings in the "hazardous" range, with tracker IQAir saying they were the top polluted cities in the world.

Winds drifting south meant the capital Washington was also hard-hit, coming in at the second-highest "very unhealthy" ranking on the index, when authorities urge all people to avoid unnecessary outdoor activity.

In New York and neighbor-

ing New Jersey, where the final will be played on Sunday in an open stadium, the metro area was experiencing "unhealthy" air conditions after smog on Thursday made the Manhattan skyline barely visible. The issue is being "monitoring closely" by tournament organizers, White House World Cup task force executive director Andrew Giuliani told a briefing.

Forecasters at the National Weather Service warned the smoke may thicken overnight into Saturday morning.

"What we should start to see is a return of northwesterly winds over the Great Lakes, and that's going to pick up some of that smoke and push it over the Northeast," Peter Mullinax, a meteorologist for NWS, said.



TOP 4

TWEETS

01



Early-warning systems are the most cost-effective protection against climate disaster. Where coverage is comprehensive, disaster deaths are at least six times lower. Yet one-third remain unprotected. AI can deliver faster, earlier warnings & alerts that people can receive, understand & act on.

@antonioguterres

02



From lowering electricity prices. To adapting our carbon market to global realities. Our Electrification Action Plan is also our investment and independence plan. To decarbonise, innovate and lead by example.

@vonderleyen

03



The high mountains of Gilgit Baltistan: a place of beauty, and danger. Landscape unchanged for centuries. Until now. Thoughts on pilgrimage, politics of climate vandalism, and a perilous future.

@UNReliefChief

04



In Caracas, I met @Ivelcyrodriguez & offered my condolences to the Venezuelan people. EU stands with Venezuela. We acted fast: emergency response reached the ground within hours. Guided by humanity, neutrality, impartiality & independence, we stay committed to those who need us most.

@hadjalahbib

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

Classifieds



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UNITER CONTRACTING AND TRADING EST has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39852444 or admnfluidtech@gmail.com

AMWAJ EDUCATIONAL COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 16033105 or aber@amwaj.bh

SHER ALAM COMBINE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33082231 or SHREALMA49@GMAIL.COM

RANEEM PIZZA AND BROASTED has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39063609 or ALMOHSEN.83@HOTMAIL.COM

POPEYEE STATIONERY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32393005 or ABDURRASHID.IT85@GMAIL.COM

NOWSHERA SPARK CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33054872 or S.U.L-LAHKHAN5678@GMAIL.COM

ROHAN MART W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38008479 or MADNINIAZI1@GMAIL.COM

VIKASH CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33290430 or RAMANJENNY22@GMAIL.COM

ALAMTHAL LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of PRESSER (HAND), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39652626 or HBOKHMAS@BATELCO.COM.BH

ALJAZZAF SPARE PARTS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39232232 or ALJAZAFDOCUMENTS@GMAIL.COM

PRIME SOURCE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35099835 or jacobph@gmail.com

UM ALYAS COLD STORE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN (GROCERY OR COLDSTORE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35178350 or Abu935417@gmail.com

MR MURTAZA MUSTAFA FOR TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of GARDENER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66756754 or SAYEDMURTADAPLANT@GMAIL.COM

ARAB COATING & METAL TREATMENT. has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35555510 or ABDULLATHAWADI@CLOUD.COM

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

BAHRAIN PIPE LINE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66398999 or BPLCC@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@almoayyedcg.com

POLIFORM DIGITAL MARKETING. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33082227 or DEVENSN999999@GMAIL.COM

AL AREEN PALACE AND SPA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17845000 or ADNAN.ASLAM@LPDWA-TERPARK.COM

PEARL CUTZ GENTS SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33925455 or ADIN4562@GMAIL.COM

ASFCO Auto Electrical has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER (CAR ELECTRICAL WORKSHOP), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39120524 or punjabi.tadka8388@gmail.com

BLACK STONE GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33209180 or ASIF_ABAS001@HOTMAIL.COM

ALBARZAKH CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17592120 or haifa@alrowishgroup.com

TEBODIN MIDDLE EAST LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR AND GENERAL FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700544 or TEBODIN@BATELCO.COM.BH

AHL AL KHALEEJ CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39332938 or SALMANSOOFFY@YAHOO.COM

BAHRAIN FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36644511 or LAYLA@ALHOTYBAHRAIN.COM

ELITE CRYSTAL HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17313372 or hrd@dadabhaiconstruction.com

ELITE CRYSTAL HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17313372 or hrd@dadabhaiconstruction.com

FAZALPUR CONSTRUCTION CO BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39799526 or BH.FAZAL2023@GMAIL.COM

KINGDOM TECHNICAL WORK SHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17791919 or HELAL@BATELCO.COM.BH

GREEN LIFE CITY FRUITS AND VEGETABLES 2 W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33922311 or PRABHULESH@GMAIL.COM

AMMAR OPTICIAN COMPANY BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17590033 or AMMAROPTICAL@YAHOO.COM

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

Al fateh cleaning and Maintenance Company w.l.l has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830078 or kanakaraj.pk@horizonintlgroup.com

BIN HINDI MOTORS Co.W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of VEHICLE SHEET-METAL WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17408000 or Imra4@BINHINDI.COM

Secure Me W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17749697 or secure.me@live.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

French Food W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33310987 or INFO@FRENCHFOODCO.COM

5 LINES FOOD DELIVERY has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39168636 or 5linesfooddelivery@gmail.com

Al fateh cleaning and Maintenance Company w.l.l has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830078 or kanakaraj.pk@horizonintlgroup.com

SHAHEEN ELECTROMECHANICAL W.L.L (SEMCO) W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17813535 or hrd@shaheengroup.com

Doniv Marble W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17785525 or vinod0doniv@gmail.com

TRIMMER SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39411441 or MAM-DOOH.AHMED@ME.COM

ABNA ALMUHARAQ AC AND REF REPER-ING WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of AIR-CONDITIONING TECH-NICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33851089 or usmanhameed1732@gmail.com

Jeevan Jewellers has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17271507 or VAYA-VIRENDRA@HOTMAIL.COM

WAJEEHAA INTERIOR DECORATION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34300273 or PRINCEDO-HA786@GMAIL.COM

BUSHANAB BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34176204 or AMINSULAIMAN6204@GMAIL.COM

BLOOM & WRAP CREATIONS CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DEC-ORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37519692 or DESHAN.DIMUTHU@GMAIL.COM

dar alamear at beauty saloon has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36333557 or AHLAM030@YAHOO.COM

KINGDOM ASPHALT COMPANY W L L has a vacancy for the occupation of GUARD (ESTABLISHMENT SECURITY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17466776 or ABDULLA@KINGDOM.BH

ICG SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17623723 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

ICG SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17623723 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

ICG SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of INSULATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17623723 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

ALAALI CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17566444 or alaalic@batelco.com.bh

Askar Gate Cafeteria has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17257479 or MOHAMEDM436@GMAIL.COM

NAD FOODS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RESTAURANT MANAGER,

suitably qualified applicants can contact 17593465 or AALI@MINISO-BH.COM

LOTUS HOTEL has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (HOTEL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17251444 or NAMALCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

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

THE ART PLANTATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33843197 or ABOOKYANDTHELATARIST@GMAIL.COM

TANDOORI CHAI CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33311247 or AMIR.ALNAZI@GMAIL.COM

AMERICAN CREATIVITY ACADEMY SCHOOL - BAHRAIN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TEACHER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17103030 or kahmed@beacon.edu.bh

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDBLAST-ER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674319 or DUAIJMALKHALIFA@ASRY.NET

RUKUN ALYAQeen INTERNATIONAL W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSIS-TANT TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17718033 or BHABANI.MISHRA@rayinternational.bh

KHALAF CARGO SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(HEAVY VEHICLE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 77028823 or AMEENA.KHALAF@KHALAFCARGO.COM

SUN MIDDLE EAST CONTRACTING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (PROJECT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17245435 or MK-SADMN@GMAIL.COM

RUKUN ALYAQeen INTERNATIONAL W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSIS-TANT TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17718033 or BHABANI.MISHRA@rayinternational.bh

Al Sahel Resort B.S.C. (Closed) has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17561327 or hr@edamah.com

KIDS KINGDOM ENTERTAINMENT has a vacancy for the occupation of OPERA-TOR(AMUSEMENT PARK EQUIPMENTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17343976 or KMKBRN@GMAIL.COM

CHICKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35114403 or DPASIF@YAHOO.COM

STUDIO ANNE HOLTROP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DESIGNER(FURNITURE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17340591 or MAIL@ANNEHOLTROP.NL

WASH ON GO CAR POLISHING has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36111336 or JALAL-HAJI@HOTMAIL.COM

DANAT ALNUWAKTHAH CONSTRUCTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17009270 or AHMADJAJ@HOTMAIL.COM

JAHANGIR ALAM MD MAINTENANCE AND DECOR SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36849695 or SAIB.DOCUMENT@GMAIL.COM

DAKSHIN DELIGHT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33122110 or KAKD23@GMAIL.COM

: THE COMMERCIAL NAME IS DELETED W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33341786 or KAHLONBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

ANSARI ENGINEERING SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of LAND SURVEYOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17534123 or ADMIN@AESBAH.COM

LAGOONA BEACH RESORT&SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN AIDE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17660383 or INTERMILAN.1984@HOT-MAIL.COM

BLACK TOWER REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RENT COL-LECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34103333 or BLACKTOWN197529@GMAIL.COM

HARIS ALI CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a va-

cancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33331564 or INFROTRUEOUTH@GMAIL.COM

GOLD CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(PARTIES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17458191 or ABOOTY@HOTMAIL.COM

PLATINUM CARGO has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33419920 or ASIARAFIQ7468@GMAIL.COM

talapady market wll has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN (GROCERY OR COLDSTORE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17789307 or SHAFIQ2000US@GMAIL.COM

BAHRAIN CITY CENTER TOWERS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVI-SOR, suitably qualified applicants can con-tact 17811616 or BMFAQEEH@GMAIL.COM mohammad shahzad mohmmmad MUSH-TAQ for Fashion Design company - B has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39273180 or SHAMEER67@HOTMAIL.COM

LYALLPUR RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33079624 or Shahbazaslamm1@gmail.com

ARENA GOLD COMPUTER SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of AC-COUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35002840 or PUREMIND.BH@GMAIL.COM

ALIF MAS LAUNDRY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of LAUNDERER/PRESSER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38800561 or ADIL-LINE@GMAIL.COM

FACT INFO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33831993 or MMT-CL.BH@GMAIL.COM

ZREN OCCASIONS has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33316049 or ZRENAHRA@GMAIL.COM

AL HAMZ DESIGN CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of GYPSUM CARVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36213700 or RAAJIRIF@GMAIL.COM

ABU HASSAN GARAGE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38385157 or ABBAS.MOSCOW@GMAIL.COM

MODERN MECHANICAL ELECTRICAL & TRANSPORT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17708888 or Imra@mmtc.com

TAIBA DAIRY MANFACTURE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36622995 or ASED_BARBARY@YAHOO.COM

FAROUJ ABU ALABD W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36309300 or Info.bh@aseertime.com

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

GULF CITY CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39641612 or yousif@aanass.net

S M D S SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38181800 or khantpml@gmail.com

AHMED OMAR TRADING & CONTRACTING EST .W L L has a vacancy for the occupa-tion of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified ap-plicants can contact 17258545 or admin@ahmedomer.com

LULU BAHRAIN HYPERMARKET. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RETAIL TRADE SALESMAN, suitably qualified ap-plicants can contact 17558558 or careers@bh.lulumea.com

aiz luxury trading has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36639292 or NAYEF.ALAMMADI@GMAIL.COM

ALTEEN wa alZAYTOON TRADING EST. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES SU-PERVISOR (WHOLESALE TRADE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17779742 or SHAKERM@BATELCO.COM.BH

HARJEET SAHIB G PUBLICITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PUBLICITY

AND INFORMATION CLERK, suitably qual-ified applicants can contact 34345874 or HRJT.BH.786@GMAIL.COM

AMERICAN CREATIVITY ACADEMY SCHOOL - BAHRAIN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATIVE ASSIS-TANT, suitably qualified applicants can con-tact 17103030 or kahmed@beacon.edu.bh

SHUTDOWN MAINTENANCE SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably quali-fied applicants can contact 17742961 or smswllhr@gmail.com

HUSAIN HAMAD SHOWAITER SWEETS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES-MAN, suitably qualified applicants can con-tact 34120044 or ALKHOOOKH@HOTMAIL.COM

Seven Energy W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qual-ified applicants can contact 17500791 or hr@seven-energy.com

AL SHARQ RESTAURANT AND CAFE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAIT-ER, suitably qualified applicants can con-tact 36373762 or lbrahim.abu.azab@gmail.com

Hertel W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupa-tion of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36633899 or MOHAMMED.QASSIM@HERTEL.COM

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SAND-BLASTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674319 or DUAIJMALKHALIFA@ASRY.NET

CIATTEL GARAGE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of AUTOMOBILES MECHAN-IC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17458467 or JAMAL2BH@GMAIL.COM

INTERIOR SOLUTIONS COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832022 or hamida.alhubail@havelock-one.com

SAIF TRANSPORT EST has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34441777 or SAIF.0073@YAHOO.COM

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

naib global it consultancy has a vacancy for the occupation of INFORMATION SYS-TEMS ADMINSTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17531534 or hr@naibit.com

RAMEE CALIFORNIA HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17826007 or hrs.bh@rameehotels.com

MARAWY BEAUTY SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35510188 or MARAWYBEAUTY243@GMAIL.COM

Premiere Hotel W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17811811 or CORP@DADABAI.COM

Bello gents salon has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39444245 or ben-shehab@hotmail.com

INFINITE AUTO SHINE has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36656416 or infin-iteautoshine1@gmail.com

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

VALVETON INFORMATION SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SU-PERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39867269 or AKSASHSINGH.AD3310@GMAIL.COM

CHAI 66 W.L.L has a vacancy for the occu-pation of WAITER, suitably qualified appli-cants can contact 36094541 or bunandpat-tybh@gmail.com

DIKOB A GENERAL TRADING & SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36908690 or RUPESH.PALE86@GMAIL.COM

GREAT SKY INTERNATIONAL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(-MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qual-ified applicants can contact 35002840 or PUREMIND.BH@GMAIL.COM

AUTO ART W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CAR WASHER/CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36633886 or BUCHERY@GMAIL.COM

region

Arab States Unite in Condemnation of Iranian Attacks

Regional leaders reaffirm solidarity with Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and Jordan, call for de-escalation



Reports indicate that the Zour Thermal Power Plant in Kuwait suffered damage to power generation units following an attack on July 17, 2026.

Arab nations have strongly condemned the recent Iranian attacks targeting Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan, describing them as a serious violation of international law and a threat to regional peace and stability. Governments across the region reaffirmed their solidarity with the affected countries and pledged support for measures to safeguard their sovereignty, security and territorial integrity.

Qatar, which was among the countries targeted, also issued a strong condemnation of the attacks, describing them as a blatant violation of international law, the UN Charter and the principles of good neighbourliness. The Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed Doha's solidarity with Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan while asserting Qatar's right to take all necessary measures to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The ministry also called for an immediate cessation of military escalation in the region, warning that continued hostilities could undermine diplomatic efforts and further threaten regional security. It urged all parties to return to dialogue and pursue peaceful solutions through diplomatic channels.

The coordinated statements from Arab governments reflect growing regional consensus against actions that threaten the sovereignty of neighbouring states, while underscoring a shared commitment to maintaining peace, stability and security across the Gulf and the wider Arab world.

Enhancing GCC Cooperation Now a Strategic Imperative

Dr. Anwar Gargash, Diplomatic Advisor to the UAE President, has stressed that strengthening cooperation among Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states has become a strategic necessity amid increasing regional and global challenges.



He said the GCC was established with a long-term vision to promote the security, stability and prosperity of its member countries. In the current geopolitical climate, he noted, expanding both collective initiatives and bilateral cooperation is essential to effectively address evolving political, economic and security issues.

Gargash highlighted the GCC's central role in fostering joint Gulf and Arab coordination, describing it as the primary platform for protecting national achievements, preserving regional peace and advancing sustainable development. He said the council's ability to co-ordinate common positions has strengthened solidarity among member states and enabled them to respond more effectively during periods of crisis.

Referring to ongoing geopolitical changes, Gargash said the region requires closer integration across key sectors,

including security, economics and diplomacy. He explained that greater coordination would improve the GCC's ability to manage emerging risks while safeguarding the shared interests of its member states and their citizens.

He also underlined that enhanced Gulf cooperation supports long-term stability and creates opportunities for economic growth and regional development. According to Gargash, unified policies and stronger partnerships will help the GCC remain resilient in an increasingly complex international environment.

Concluding his remarks, Gargash said deeper GCC integration is fundamental to maintaining peace and security in the Middle East. He added that continued cooperation among member states will strengthen the council's regional influence while enhancing its position as a leading bloc on the global stage.



Lewandowski MLS debut match postponed by air quality concern

AFP | Chicago

Polish star Robert Lewandowski's Major League Soccer debut was on hold Thursday after the match between the Chicago Fire and Vancouver Whitecaps was postponed due to air quality issues caused by wildfires.

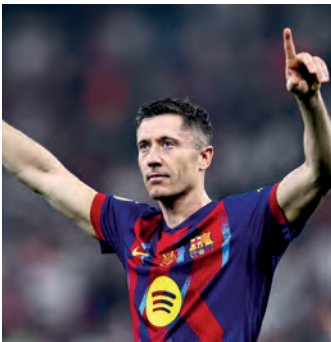
Thursday's scheduled clash at the Fire's stadium was pushed back to October 6, the club said in a statement.

"The decision to reschedule the match was reached in close consultation with local health experts, MLS, Vancouver Whitecaps FC, and the City of Chicago," the Fire said.

Some 40,000 fans had been expected at Soldier Field for a match that was part of MLS's restart in the wake of its World Cup break.

Lewandowski, who arrived from Barcelona after helping the Spanish giants capture the La Liga crown last month, was expected to play his first MLS minutes in a matchup that would have pitted him against Thomas Mueller, his former teammate at Bayern Munich.

The next opportunity for



Robert Lewandowski reacts during a match (file photo)

Poland's all-time leading goal scorer to make his MLS debut will be next Wednesday at Inter Miami, where Lionel Messi is not expected to feature due to his participation in Sunday's World Cup final.

Illinois was among the US states hardest hit by smoke from the fires.

A haze also hung over the New York City area, where Messi's Argentina are to take on Spain in the World Cup final on Sunday.

New York state authorities warned of fine particulate matter from the fires that would make being outdoors "unhealthy".

Pele's World Cup jersey fetches \$4.9 million at US auction



The jersey on display before the auction

AFP | New York

A jersey worn by soccer giant Pele in the first World Cup final ever won by Brazil sold for \$4.9 million at a US auction.

The Brazilian attacker nicknamed "The King" was 17 when he scored two goals in his country's 5-2 victory over host country Sweden in 1958.

The blue shirt became the second most expensive jersey sold at auction after an anonymous

buyer beat out four other bidders at Sotheby's in New York.

The record of \$9.3 million is for a jersey worn by Argentinian star Maradona during a legendary quarter-final clash with England in the 1986 Mexico World Cup.

Argentina won the match 2-1 thanks to two Maradona goals, including his infamous "Hand of God" finish in which he illegally punched the ball into the net.

Tazhudinov wins 97kg gold

TDI | Manama

Akhmed Tazhudinov fought back from the brink to seize 97kg free-style gold for Bahrain in Budapest, crushing Slovakia's Batyrbek Tsakulov with a late burst to win 13-7.

The Olympic champion had trailed 5-3 before drawing level at 7-7, though Tsakulov still led on criteria. With 30 seconds left, Tazhudinov struck with a four-point counter, then drove home a final takedown.

It was his second straight gold at the Polyák Imre, Varga János and Kozma István Memorial, part of wrestling's Budapest Ranking Series.

Tazhudinov tore through the draw before the final. He beat Ukraine's Ivan Prymachenko 10-0, swept aside Adlan Viskhanov 12-0 and pinned Poland's Zbigniew Baranowski in the semi-final while leading 10-0.

The 23-year-old won Bahrain's first Olympic wrestling gold at the Paris Games in 2024, a year after taking the world crown at 97kg.



Akhmed Tazhudinov

Tom Marquand extends Bahrain Turf Club deal

● World-renowned jockey signs two-year contract extension as racing partnership continues

TDI | Manama

Firmly established as one of the world's leading riders, Tom Marquand has been an ambassador for the Bahrain Turf Club since 2021, and during the July Festival at Newmarket he signed a two-year contract extension with the Club.

Marquand has enjoyed major race success all over the world, including the Middle East, Europe, Hong Kong, Japan, Australia and the USA. Last week he added another Group 1 victory to his list when winning the Grand Prix de Paris at Paris-Longchamp on Maltese Cross.

Ed Veale, Director of Racing and International Relations at



the Bahrain Turf Club, said: "Tom has established himself as one of the world's leading jockeys, making him an outstanding ambassador for the Bahrain Turf Club. His professionalism, international success and reputation within the sport reflect the standards and ambitions we have for racing in Bahrain. He is also an excellent role model for

the next generation, and we are delighted that he has committed to extending his partnership with the Club."

In recent years, the multiple Group 1 winning jockey has strengthened his partnership with the Kingdom of Bahrain through his sponsorship contract with the Bahrain Turf Club.

Tom Marquand said: "I am delighted and grateful to extend the sponsorship with Bahrain. They are excellent partners and it has been exciting to witness the growth of racing in Bahrain during my time as ambassador, as highlighted by the promotion of the Bahrain International Trophy to a Group 1 this year."

Marquand has become a welcome and regular visitor to the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club in Bahrain, including when he rode two winners at the 2026 Crown Prince's Cup Festival. The first came in the navy and white colours of Al Adiyat Racing when he guided Up The Pace to victory in the Hawar Cup, part of the Bahrain Turf Series.

Marquand carried the same navy and white silks to victory on Economics, owned by His Highness Shaikh Isa Bin Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa, in the 2024 running of the Group 1 Royal Bahrain Irish Champion Stakes at Leopardstown.

Neymar returns to Santos with questions hanging over his future

AFP | Sao Paulo

Neymar returns to his home club Santos yesterday with only a few months left in his contract and questions over his future after indicating he would no longer play for Brazil following the country's World Cup disappointment.

The injury-plagued Neymar was included in the World Cup squad almost three years after he last appeared for Brazil, and played only 37 minutes across two matches.

His only goal -- a penalty -- was not enough to prevent an early exit for Brazil after a 2-1 defeat to Norway in the Round of 16.

An AI-generated video created by a fan circulated on social media, showed a young Neymar asking the current Neymar to chase a sixth World Cup title with Brazil in 2030.

Brazil's all-time leading scor-



Neymar reacts after a match (file photo)

er added a comment: three laughing/crying emojis.

The striker returned in January 2025 to his boyhood club Santos from Saudi club Al-Hilal, and his contract runs out in December.

After undergoing left-knee

surgery late last year, Neymar played in only eight of the 19 matches Santos contested in the 2026 Brasileirao -- the country's top football league.

Nevertheless, he tallied four goals and two assists, offering glimpses of the footballer who

dazzled fans at Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain.

A source at Santos told AFP that the renewal of Neymar's contract will largely depend on board elections in December.

Santos president Marcelo Teixeira, who spearheaded Neymar's return, has not said whether he will seek re-election.

"The first question was whether Neymar would stop playing," a club official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

"It ends here," Neymar said after Brazil's loss to Norway, which saw him collapse in tears after the final whistle.

Amid press speculation about a permanent retirement, his father and agent Neymar Santos Sr urged him not to give up.

"Son, keep playing football. Feel the joy of having the ball at your feet again; smile on the pitch again," he wrote in a letter released via an Instagram video.

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Antonelli fastest for Mercedes in second practice in Belgium

Antonelli outpaces McLaren and Red Bull as Gasly's crash cuts practice short

● Norris finishes second overall

● Verstappen takes third place

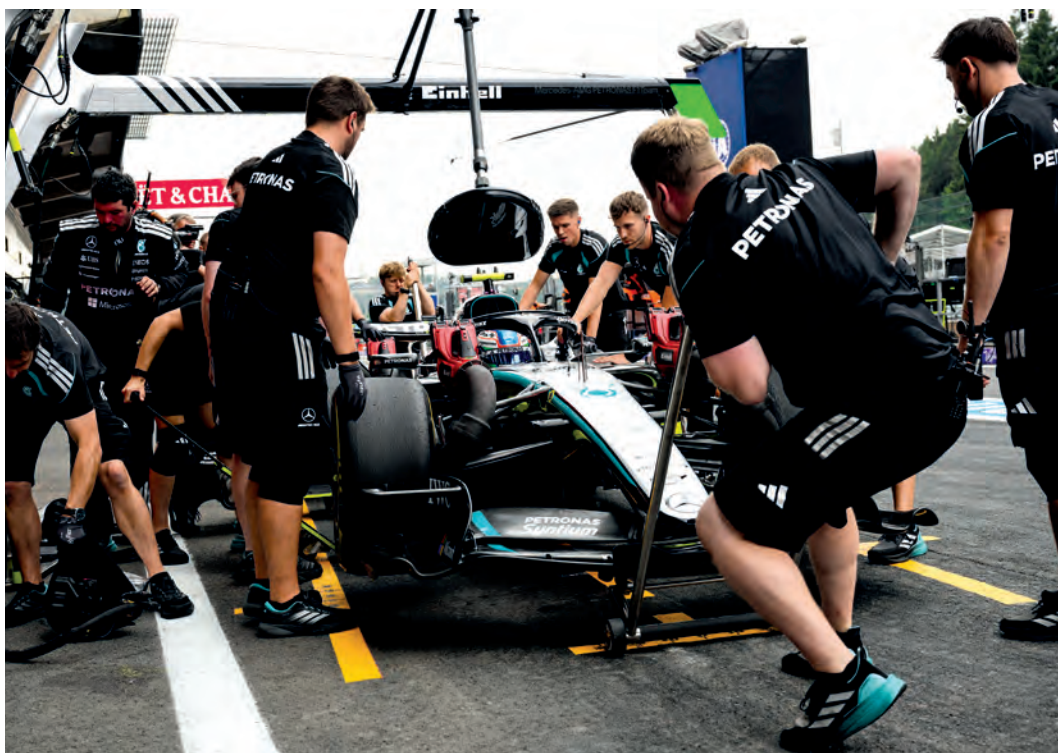
AFP | Spa-Francorchamps

World championship leader Kimi Antonelli topped the times for Mercedes ahead of defending champion Lando Norris of McLaren in yesterday's second free practice ahead of this weekend's Belgian Grand Prix.

The 19-year-old Italian clocked a best lap time of one minute and 45.944 seconds to outpace Norris, who has a 10-place grid penalty for Sunday's race after taking a new battery, by 0.190 seconds with Max Verstappen third for Red Bull.

The four-time champion was 0.472 seconds adrift after a much-improved day using the team's traditional rear wing after ditching the much-criticised 'Macarena' wing, described by Verstappen as very dangerous.

He had crashed at both the Austrian and British Grands



Mercedes' Italian driver Kimi Antonelli makes a pit stop during the first practice session

Prix, but bounced back to go fastest in the earlier opening session yesterday.

Seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton was fourth for Ferrari ahead of Isack Hadjar in the second Red Bull, Oscar Piastri in the second McLaren and Franco

Colapinto who was seventh for Alpine.

This left George Russell down in eighth in the second Mercedes, more than 1.2 seconds behind Antonelli, ahead of Racing Bulls' rookie Arvid Lindblad and Liam Lawson, the pair push-

ing Charles Leclerc down to 11th in the second Ferrari.

The session ended after an extended red-flag interruption after Pierre Gasly crashed into the barriers in his Alpine. He was unhurt.

After a light shower between

BETTER YOU KNOW

After a 13-minute red-flag delay caused by Pierre Gasly's crash, teams had only two minutes of track time remaining to complete practice starts

the sessions, the action began with Antonelli setting the pace in 1:46.911 with Verstappen chasing his time before a brief red flag delay to clear gravel from the track.

The Dutchman, showing some frustration, grumbled colourfully about his gearbox.

On resumption, several drivers swapped mediums for softs as Piastri joined the fray, after repairs for a hydraulics problem, in a spell of qualifying simulation laps.

Hadjar swiftly went top on softs before Verstappen and then Antonelli regained the initiative,

the Italian clocking 1:45.944 to soar nearly five-tenths clear.

Ferrari responded with both drivers setting personal-best times in the first and second parts of the lap, but Hamilton wound up third behind Verstappen and ahead of Hadjar. He was 0.747 adrift of Antonelli.

Russell, 25 points behind his 'silver arrows' team-mate in the drivers' title race, tried a lap on softs, but was 1.285 seconds slower than the flying Italian as he settled for sixth.

Like Russell, Piastri was struggling to match his team-mate as Norris went second in 1:46.134, two-tenths off the pace. The Australian, last year's winner, went sixth, but was 0.982 adrift.

With 15 minutes remaining, the action was red-flagged when Gasly lost control of his Alpine and brushed the barriers at the Fagnes chicane. He was unhurt and walked away from his damaged car, which had lost its rear wing.

The action was suspended for 13 minutes allowing the teams only two minutes' action at the end of the session to complete their programme and engage in a few practice starts on the uphill grid.

Swiss rider Schmid cramps up but wins Tour de France stage 13

AFP | Belfort

Swiss rider Mauro Schmid said that he had to overcome cramps before he beat Colombian Harold Tejada in a two-man sprint finish to win the 13th and longest stage of the Tour de France yesterday.

Briton Tom Pidcock, who finished third two seconds back, was the big winner of the day as he climbed up the standings from 10th to fourth overall.

The Olympic mountain bike champion is now just 4min 15sec behind race leader Tadej Pogacar, and nine seconds off Remco Evenepoel in the final podium spot.

Jayco AlUla's Schmid and Astana's Tejada had broken clear of a 10-man group at the head of the race with 16km to ride and they held off their charging former breakaway companions to contest the sprint finish.

Tejada launched first, but Schmid dragged him back and pipped him to the line after 205km from Dole in the Jura to Belfort in the Vosges.

It was particularly satisfying for Schmid, who lost an almost identical finish to Norwegian Jonas Abrahamson in the 11th stage in Toulouse last year.

"I can't believe it at the moment. It was an incredibly hard day from the start," said Schmid.



Team Jayco AlUla's Swiss rider Mauro Schmid cycles to the finish line

"I felt really good from the start but it was just full gas from the first minute."

Schmid said he had started to suffer cramps with 4km left, and that his attempt to make Tejada lead out the sprint in the final kilometre failed.

"At some point he forced me to the first position," said the 26-year-old.

"I launched a bit late. The first 50 metres I thought maybe it's the same as last year."

"Then when I saw the finish line I found my legs again and just went for it."

Behind them, Pidcock edged out Maxim van Gils and Brandon McNulty to claim four bonus seconds for finishing third. He was more disappointed

206

kilometres from Dole to Belfort make stage 13 the longest day of racing in this year's Tour de France

with missing out on the stage win than celebrating his jump up the standings, which he said he does not expect to last with two tough mountain stages to come this weekend and a time-trial on Tuesday.

"Third is frustrating, but it was also a very positive day, so take everything from that," said Pidcock.

"It would be nice to say, yeah, we can defend (fourth place), but for sure in the time trial I will lose some minutes."

"And I'm going to feel my legs tomorrow, that's for sure."

The peloton finished 7min 32sec after the stage winner, meaning Pidcock jumped six places, having begun the day almost 12 minutes behind Pogacar.

The first two-thirds of the race was all about the green jersey contenders battling for points at the intermediate sprint.

West Ham captain Bowen to stay despite relegation



West Ham captain Jarrod Bowen reacts during a match (file photo)

AFP | London

West Ham captain Jarrod Bowen has pledged his future to the club despite their relegation from the Premier League.

Bowen was linked with a move away from the London Stadium following West Ham's plunge into the Championship last season.

But the 29-year-old England forward has promised to stay with West Ham after pondering his future in the close-season.

"There's a lot of thinking time over the summer and a lot of things that go on in your head," he said.

"For me I look in years and years to come of when I retire,

what's going to bring me the most happiness?"

"It was a no-brainer. The main motivation is staying and bringing this club back into the Premier League where we belong."

Bowen revealed that he recently flew to Prague to meet with West Ham's majority shareholder Daniel Kretinsky to discuss the club's ambition for an immediate return to the Premier League.

Nuno Espirito Santo has also stayed on as West Ham manager following the end of their 14-year stay in the top-flight.

"The ambition I got from them, certainly in terms of the direction that the club wants to move in, interested me a lot," Bowen said.



France, England prepare for gloomy World Cup send-off

Semi-final losers meet in Miami as Mbappe and Kane chase individual milestones

● Both teams seek consolation victory

● Deschamps ends France tenure

● Golden Boot race continues

● Tuchel plans squad rotation

AFP | Miami

France and England will bid a gloomy farewell to the World Cup tomorrow when they face each other in the dreaded third-place play-off in Miami.

Both teams head to Florida still raw from semi-final defeats that have left both footballing nations licking wounds, which, in the eyes of many, were largely self-inflicted.

France, the tournament's outstanding team en route to the last four, were anonymous in the face of a tactical masterclass by Spain on Tuesday and slumped to a 2-0 defeat.

England added another chapter to their long history of World Cup heart-ache on Wednesday when they surrendered the initiative and a

lead to lose 2-1 to Argentina in Atlanta.

France and England must now attempt to summon the remnants of their competitive will and physical reserves for a game that is widely disliked throughout football.

"None of our players and none of the French players want to play this match," England manager Thomas Tuchel said after his team's agonising semi-final defeat.

"They want to play the final. We gave everything to achieve that. Everyone plays to win the



World Cup, but that's how it is. "We have one less day of recovery than France, but we will do it with professionalism."

Sad footnote for Deschamps

The match will mark a sad footnote to Didier Deschamps' long reign as France coach.

Deschamps, who, like Tuchel, has faced stinging criticism for the tactical decisions that marked his team's semi-final defeat, is stepping down as manager after the tournament.

The 57-year-old's departure ends a successful 14-year spell in charge that included a World Cup triumph in 2018, defeat in the final in Qatar in 2022 and a run to the last four in the current tournament.

"There's a third-place finish to play for, so we'll do everything we can to get it," Deschamps said after France's semi-final loss.

"We're not where we wanted or expected to be. The disappointment match-

Kylian Mbappe

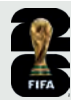


World Cup Schedule (Third Place)

Tomorrow

Time	Match	Venue
12:00 AM	France vs England	Miami Stadium

(All games in Bahrain time)



es our ambitions, but we have to accept it. We have no other choice."

Yet while it will be scant consolation, the game might well prove pivotal for the World Cup's Golden Boot race.

France captain Kylian Mbappe is joint top scorer for the tournament alongside Argentina skipper Lionel Messi on eight goals, and will be looking to add to his tally against an unsettled English defence.

England's Harry Kane and Jude Bellingham -- who are on six goals apiece -- could also enter the running with a big performance at the Hard Rock Stadium.

Last dance for Kane?

For England's all-time record goalscorer Kane, the game may also mark the final World Cup appearance of his career.

The Bayern Munich forward turns 33 this month and it is questionable whether he will

be around for the 2030 finals.

Kane declined to speculate on his international future following Wednesday's defeat.

"It's too early to talk about that," Kane told reporters.

"I'm taking it year by year and the national team is my pride and joy. It's what I love to do more than anything.... I never want to put a limit on these things."

The match is also an opportunity for Mbappe to move into top spot in the all-time World Cup scoring charts. The Real Madrid striker is currently on 20 goals, one behind Messi on 21.

Much may depend on the strength of the lineups fielded by both teams. Tuchel is expected to rotate his starting side heavily after what has been a gruelling campaign.

An energy-sapping last-16 trip to the thin air of Mexico City and the Estadio Azteca was followed by a brutally hot quarter-final win over Norway in Miami before the shattering

Harry Kane



defeat to Argentina.

Tuchel is likely to give game time to players who have been on the fringes throughout the campaign, most likely meaning a World Cup debut for Manchester United's Kobbie Mainoo and possibly a start for Kane's understudy as striker, Ollie Watkins.

Deschamps may be tempted to field veteran midfielder

N'Golo Kante, one of the heroes of Les Bleus' 2018 World Cup win, who has not seen a minute of action in the United States.

Argentina await FIFA decision over displaying World Cup Falklands banner

AFP | London

Football's global governing body FIFA will assess match reports before deciding if they take any action over Argentina's players holding up a banner reading "Las Malvinas son Argentinas" (The Falklands are Argentine) following their 2-1 victory over England.

A British minister had Thursday called for FIFA to look into the incident following the World Cup semi-final match in Atlanta.

FIFA released a statement late Thursday saying they were "assessing the match reports".

"As is standard procedure, Fi-



Argentina players hold up a banner saying 'The Malvinas (Falkland Islands) are Argentine'

fa's independent disciplinary committee is currently assessing the match reports and considering the relevant circumstances before deciding on potential further steps based on the Fifa disciplinary code," it said.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Downing Street office Thursday backed the calls by Business Minister Peter Kyle, who called the flag waving an "egregious violation" of FIFA rules which ban political symbols on the field of play.

"The World Cup might not be ours, but the Falkland Islands definitely are," a Downing Street

spokesperson said.

Argentina invaded the British Overseas Territory in the South Atlantic in 1982.

But Britain regained the archipelago in a brief war after then prime minister Margaret Thatcher dispatched a naval taskforce.

"Politics needs to be separate from football. In fact, the World Cup has one of its central tenets that politics is separate from football," Kyle told BBC television.

Argentina's football association were fined £20,000 (\$27,000) by FIFA in 2014 for players posing in front of a ban-

ner with the same message before a friendly against Slovenia.

FIFA said the gesture had breached rules on "political action" and team misconduct.

Britain occupied the Falklands in the 19th century, but Argentina claims the islands are part of its territory.

Argentina President Javier Milei called the stunt "perfectly valid and legitimate."

"It's a feeling that exists within all Argentines," he told El Observador radio station.

"The Malvinas are Argentine, we're going to recover them, and we will do it through diplomatic means," said Milei.