

HEZBOLLAH DENIES ATTACK INVOLVEMENT

Hezbollah has denied any involvement in a deadly attack on UNIFIL peacekeepers in southern Lebanon, following accusations from France that the group was responsible. | P6

SUNDAY APRIL, 2026
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THE DAILY **tribune**



Bahrain Squad Checks In, Trains Up, and Gets Set for ABG 11 SPORTS

BUSINESS 05 La Plage Brings Live Football to the Waterfront

Bahrain Hajj Mission Checks

Committees from the Bahrain Hajj Mission conducted field visits to Mecca and the holy sites as part of preparations for the upcoming 2026/1447 Hajj season.

The visits focused on inspecting accommodations and camps designated for Bahraini pilgrims and assessing their full readiness.

Specialized teams reviewed the quality of housing facilities, while the evaluation and follow-up committee examined buildings and ensured all amenities are fully prepared. Meanwhile, the security committee verified that accommodations meet safety and civil defense requirements.

Tankers Under Attack

● **India Summons Iranian Envoy**

● **Maritime Security Alert After Hormuz Clash**

A serious maritime security incident in the Strait of Hormuz has triggered diplomatic concern after reports that two Indian-flagged merchant vessels came under fire during a passage through the strategic waterway.

According to a reported radio exchange from one of the tank-



“You gave me clearance to pass, now you’re firing on me?”
CAPTAIN (DISTRESS CALL)

er captains, the vessel was first given clearance before coming under sudden attack from Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) boats, leading to a frantic distress call.

The captain is reported to have said over radio communications: “You gave me clearance to pass! My name is listed as number 2 in your papers! Now you’re firing on me?! Give me

a chance to turn around and go back!”

The incident has been described as a dangerous escalation in one of the world’s most critical shipping lanes, which handles a significant portion of global energy trade.

India Raises Concerns

In response, India’s Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) summoned the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in New Delhi for a formal meeting with the Foreign Secretary on Thursday evening.

During the meeting, the For-

eign Secretary conveyed India’s “deep concern” over the reported firing incident involving Indian-flagged vessels in the Strait of Hormuz.

He emphasised the importance India places on the safety and security of merchant shipping and seafarers, and also recalled that Iran had previously assisted in ensuring safe passage for vessels bound for Indian ports.

According to the statement, the Iranian Ambassador assured that the concerns would be relayed to the relevant authorities in Tehran. (Related report on Page 6 and 7)



Ambassador Jamal Faris attends the event alongside world leaders, including King Willem-Alexander and UN Secretary-General António Guterres

Rule of Law

Ambassador Jamal Faris Alrowaiee, Bahrain’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, attended the official ceremony marking the 80th anniversary of the International Court of Justice’s (ICJ) first sitting, held at the Peace Palace in The Hague.

World leaders and senior officials attended the event, including King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands and UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

Speaking as the President of the UN Security Council for April, Alrowaiee praised the ICJ for its continued contribution

to peaceful dispute settlement and the strengthening of international law.

“The International Court of Justice remains a cornerstone in upholding the rule of law and supporting the peaceful resolution of disputes between states,” he said.

Building a Fairer World

Calls for Stronger Global Cooperation

The Asian Parliamentary Assembly called for enhanced global cooperation to address rising international tensions and build a more just and stable future for coming generations, during discussions at the 152nd General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Istanbul.

Speaking on behalf of the Assembly, Vice President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, H.E. MP Ahmed Sabah Al Salloom, stressed that growing global challenges require greater responsibility from parliaments worldwide.

He said the theme of “promot-

● **Peace, justice, and future generations**

● **Bahrain showcases marine conservation initiatives**

ing hope, safeguarding peace, and ensuring justice for future generations” reflects both a moral and political obligation, linking present decisions with long-term global consequences.

Drawing attention to global instability, he warned that the world faces overlapping challenges, including conflicts, climate change, development gaps, and rapid technological transformation.

Climate Action and Blue Economy

During a workshop held on



“Respecting international law is essential to building trust and safeguarding global stability”
MP AHMED SABAH AL SALLOOM

the sidelines of the IPU General Assembly, the Parliamentary delegation of the Kingdom of Bahrain reaffirmed the country’s commitment to global efforts to protect oceans, address climate change, and advance the blue



“Bahrain remains committed to advancing the blue economy through sustainable policies”
DR. MAHDI ABDULAZIZ AL SHUWAIKH

economy. The statement was delivered by Member of Parliament Dr. Mahdi Abdulaziz Al Shuwaikh during a session titled “Oceans and Climate Change: Parliamentary Leadership in Protecting



“The right to nationality is a fundamental human right that ensures access to education, healthcare, and dignity”
DALAL JASSIM AL ZAYED

Our Blue Planet.” Dr. Al Shuwaikh said Bahrain places strong importance on marine environmental protection and climate action as part of its national and international environmental priorities.

Nationality Rights and Legal Identity

Dalal Jassim Al Zayed, Member of the Shura Council, reaffirmed Bahrain’s commitment to protecting the right to nationality within a rule-of-law framework aligned with international standards.

Al Zayed highlighted that Bahrain’s constitutional framework ensures strong protection of legal identity and equal citizenship rights, citing Article 18, which guarantees equality among citizens and prohibits discrimination.

She noted that cases of statelessness are extremely rare in Bahrain, pointing out that national laws grant citizenship to individuals born in the country to unknown parents or foundlings, reflecting the Kingdom’s commitment to safeguarding identity.

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Rain, Recovery and Risk

Bahrain's Farms Face Mixed Season

TDT | Manama
Neethu V / Hasan Barakat

This year's rainfall has presented a varied outlook for Bahrain's agricultural sector, with farmers reporting some crop damage alongside encouraging signs of renewed growth as the season progresses. While certain open-field farms were affected by heavier showers, others operating within controlled environments were largely able to remain protected.

Across Bahrain, heavy showers hit open fields unevenly, while protected farms shielded their crops, highlighting a growing divide in how agriculture responds to changing weather patterns.

At Abdulwahab farm, Farooq said greenhouse-style structures have become essential rather than optional. Most crops are grown under covered systems, which reduces exposure to sudden rain and extreme heat.

The result is stability. Crops continue to grow under controlled conditions, with minimal disruption, while drip irrigation ensures precise water use regardless of rainfall. Even so, he



A glimpse of rain fed agriculture at Al Jasra Organic farm



noted that the real challenge arrives later. As temperatures climb toward June, heat begins to cut into yields, reducing output despite careful irrigation.

Damage

In contrast, open-field farming tells a different story.

At Al Jasra Organic Farm, where all fertilizers and manure are prepared in-house, manager Wahid said several crops, including sunflowers and gourds, sustained visible

damage due to the recent rains. However, he noted that the recovery process has already begun.

"Some of the crops were damaged by the rain, but new green leaves are returning," he said, pointing to fresh growth across the farm.

He explained that local and regionally adapted crops tend to recover faster, while imported varieties remain more vulnerable to Bahrain's sudden weather shifts.



Farooq at Abdulwahab farm

Despite the damage, rain is not considered a loss.

Wahid stressed that rainfall plays a deeper role, naturally delivering nutrients such as magnesium sulphate into the soil, improving plant health in ways irrigation alone cannot replicate.

"Rain is not only water," he said. "It also brings nutrients that help plants become greener and healthier."

This season also revealed how critical timing has become.

Tomatoes, planted in October and harvested from December, delivered strong results, with yields reaching around five tonnes before the season tapered off in March. As temper-

YOU
KNOW WHAT

For Bahrain's farmers, rain is no longer simply good or bad. It is a test of preparation, a measure of resilience, and a reminder that even with modern systems, agriculture remains tied to forces beyond control.

atures rise, only heat-tolerant crops such as okra, sweet corn, amaranth and long beans continue to survive.

Farmers are increasingly paying close attention to rainfall dates, humidity, and seasonal timing, especially as weather patterns become less predictable. For Bahrain's cultivators, this year's rains were a reminder of how closely farming remains tied to nature.

Employee Wins BD 31,000 Compensation

● Employee served 15 year

● Court ruled the dismissal unfair

● The employer failed to prove misconduct

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad



lawyer Zahra Neama

The High Labour Court ordered a company to pay around BD 31,000 to a former employee after ruling that his dismissal was unfair and lacked proper notice, ending a dispute following 15 years of service.

According to lawyer Zahra Neama, her client had worked with the company for more than 15 years, earning a monthly salary of BD 1,900 before his employment was abruptly terminated without valid justification or settlement of his dues.

The company defended its decision, arguing that the termination was a disciplinary action based on alleged employee violations; therefore, no compensation or notice payment was required.

However, after reviewing testimonies and evidence from both parties, the court found that the employment contract was open-ended and that the employee had not received his final salary of BD 1,391 after lawful deductions. Because the company failed to prove payment, the court ordered it to settle the amount.

On the issue of dismissal, the court ruled that the employer provided insufficient evidence to justify termination. It also rejected the company's witness statements, noting there was no proof that the employee committed the alleged violations.

The court further stated that the mandatory three-month notice period was not observed, rendering the dismissal unlawful.

As a result, the court awarded BD 5,238 in lieu of notice and BD 20,962 as compensation for unfair dismissal.

In addition, the court ruled in favor of the employee regarding unused annual leave, finding no credible evidence that he had received or used his entitlement. It awarded BD 3,438 for 60 days of unused leave covering the last two years and part of the third year.

The company must pay the full amount, along with statutory interest for delayed payment, and to issue an official certificate of service covering the employee's tenure.

Our Eyes Under Pressure... The Cost of a Digital Life

TDT | Manama
Ghadeer Alkumaish



As digital devices dominate daily routines across Bahrain—from classrooms and offices to entertainment—eye specialists report a noticeable rise in cases of eye fatigue linked to prolonged screen use, particularly among students and working professionals.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Tribune, Dr. Walaa Ahmed Mounier, Ophthalmology Consultant at Dr. Haifaa Eye Hospital, said digital eye strain has become one of the most common complaints in recent years.

"Patients frequently report headaches, pain around the eyes, blurred vision, dryness, and difficulty focusing," she said. "In some cases, especially among children, there is also excessive blinking and a constant feeling

of eye fatigue."

She explained that the condition is becoming increasingly widespread due to uninterrupted screen exposure and a lack of regular breaks, especially in academic and work environments. However, Dr. Mounier clarified that screen use does not directly cause permanent vision loss.

"Screen use alone is not proven to directly cause vision loss. It is a multifactorial issue that includes genetics, environmental factors, and lifestyle habits. However, prolonged screen exposure is a significant contributing factor," she noted. She also warned that working or stud-



“Protecting our eyes is no longer optional—it is essential”

DR. WALAA AHMED MOUNIER

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Follow the 20-20-20 rule

- Every 20 minutes, look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds
- Take regular breaks away from screens to rest your eyes
- Use lubricating eye drops to prevent dryness
- Ensure proper and balanced lighting while using devices
- Avoid prolonged screen use in dark or poorly lit rooms
- Blink frequently to keep eyes naturally moist
- Maintain a safe distance from screens during use

10-Year Sentence in Airport Drug Bust

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad



The High Criminal Court has sentenced a defendant to 10 years in prison, fined him BD10,000, and ordered his deportation, while acquitting a second suspect in a drug smuggling case uncovered at Bahrain International Airport.

The case began when a customs officer flagged a suspicious image during routine X-ray screening of a passenger's luggage. A search revealed narcotics hidden inside food items, including nuts, fruits, and cigarette packs, carefully concealed among

clothing to avoid detection.

Authorities from the Anti-Narcotics Directorate launched an investigation, during which the first defendant admitted he had been assigned to deliver the drugs using a "dead drop" method—leaving the package at a prearranged location for collection.

Officers monitored the operation and arrested the second suspect when he arrived at the site and attempted to flee after noticing police presence.

Investigations later linked the individuals to a wider drug trafficking network.

Seafood Supply Surge

TDT | Manama

Fish markets are witnessing a noticeable abundance and variety of seafood, with Omani and Pakistani fish widely available after the fishing ban on safi, shaari, and andaq came into effect on April 1.

This has helped boost supply and provide consumers with multiple alternatives. Prices for safi currently range between 2.5 and 3 dinars per kilogram, depending on quality.

Other options such as Bahraini hamour and hamam fish are also available, although many customers continue to prefer Omani safi and shaari.



Parliament to Review Arab Energy Organisation Reforms

● Scope expanded to cover all energy sectors

● Judicial authority to be removed

● Kuwait to remain headquarters

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Parliament is preparing to debate a draft law that would approve major amendments to the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries agreement, including renaming it, expanding its mandate, and restructuring its legal framework.

The proposed changes would rename the body the Arab Energy Organisation and widen its scope to cover all energy sectors, rather than just petroleum.

The draft removes the organisation's judicial authority, revises its governance system, and introduces a new dispute resolution mechanism starting with mediation and moving to arbitration. Kuwait would re-



Ahmed Al Musallam, Speaker of Parliament

main the headquarters, and the body would gain wider legal status and operational privileges.

Despite the reforms, Bahrain's annual contribution will remain fixed at BD210,000. The bill also repeals earlier legislation linked to the organisation's judicial protocol.

Housewives Over 40 May Qualify for Social Aid

A draft amendment to Bahrain's Social Security Law, which proposes including married housewives aged 40 and above in the social assistance system, is set for parliamentary discussion.

The bill defines eligible housewives as women without sufficient income, aiming to improve living standards and recognize their family role.



Talal Al Mannai, Shura Council member

● Seeks to broaden and diversify the national economic base.

● It cites regional best practices

● Saudi Arabia's model that links public procurement with local content.

● Updates legal terminology by replacing the minister's title with "minister concerned with industry affairs."



Parliament in session

The government has warned the proposal could weaken need-based assistance rules, create financial strain, and conflict with existing family support laws.

Boost for Bahraini Products in Government Spending

A Shura Council proposal aims

to strengthen Bahrain's industrial sector by increasing the use of local products in government tenders and public procurement.

The draft law introduces an official list of national products and allows local content requirements in state tenders, subject to Cabinet approval.

Sponsors say the move will

reduce import dependence, strengthen supply chains, and expand opportunities for Bahraini SMEs and workers.

The proposal aligns with Bahrain's Industrial Sector Strategy 2022-2026 and draws inspiration from regional models that link public spending to domestic production.

Key Laws Under Shura Review

● Amendments to Central Bank law

● Tougher penalties proposed

● Disability employment quota

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The Shura Council will discuss key legislative and economic matters in its 27th session on Sunday, including amendments to financial regulations, an international tax agreement, and a proposal on disability employment quotas.

The Council will first examine a decree-law amending Article 161 of the Central Bank of Bahrain and Financial Institutions Law. The Financial and Economic Affairs Committee has recommended approval, noting that the changes align Bahrain's framework with updated international standards,



Shura Council

particularly FATF requirements on anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing.

The amendment also strengthens regulatory oversight and introduces tougher penalties, including imprisonment and fines of up to BD1 million, aimed at improving compliance and financial system integrity.

In another item, the Council will review a draft law approving a double taxation avoidance agreement between Bahrain and Jersey. The deal aims to elimi-

nate double taxation on income and prevent tax evasion, while boosting investment cooperation and improving transparency between tax authorities.

The committee endorsed the agreement, highlighting its role in supporting economic growth and attracting investment, noting that Bahrain already has 49 similar agreements in force worldwide.

The Council will also debate proposed amendments to the disability employment law,

which seeks to increase the hiring quota for persons with disabilities from 2% to 4% in establishments.

However, the Services Committee rejected the proposal in principle, stating that current laws already ensure sufficient employment opportunities and that the main challenge lies in enforcement rather than legislation. It also cited audit findings showing widespread non-compliance with existing quotas across the private sector.

Used Fake Signatures to Resign Workers

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

● African jailed, fined

An African defendant has been sentenced to five years in prison, fined him BD5,000, and ordered his deportation after serving his sentence in a case involving forged electronic resignations of Bahraini workers.

The court also ordered the confiscation of forged documents used in the scam, which targeted five Bahraini employees allegedly misled into sharing mobile verification codes.

According to case details, the defendant—a security company supervisor—deceived workers by telling them the codes sent to their phones were for work-related transfers. Instead, the codes were used to electronically submit resignation forms in their names without consent.

The victims, employed under a private company con-

tracted to a government entity, later discovered they had been resigned without approval and filed complaints.

One worker said he was called to the company after his contract ended and, due to limited English skills, unknowingly shared the verification code sent to his phone. He later learned it was used to process his resignation, resulting in job loss and unpaid entitlements.

Another worker realized the message indicated a resignation form and refused to approve it, later reporting the incident to authorities.

A Ministry of Labour official confirmed that resignation submissions were received after the contracts ended, but suspicions arose when workers denied voluntarily resigning, prompting an investigation.

The Public Prosecution charged the defendant with forging electronic signatures, submitting false resignation documents, and unlawfully using them in official labour system procedures.



Jassim Al Issa, lawyer

Shop Eviction Ordered in BD5,400 Rent Case

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A court has ordered a company to vacate a rented shop and pay BD5,400 in overdue rent after failing to pay rent from January 2024 to March 2026.

The case was filed by four landlords, who also sought eviction, recovery of unpaid

rent, and legal costs. The property was leased at BD200 per month.

Court records showed the company did not respond or attend hearings, and failed to prove rent payments. The court therefore confirmed BD5,200 in arrears, plus BD200 for March 2026, bringing the total to BD5,400.

The court also ruled that the

company must hand over the premises and pay 1% monthly interest on the unpaid rent.

However, it dismissed claims against two individuals linked to the company, stating there was no legal basis for personal liability.

The lease was terminated and eviction ordered after the court found clear non-payment for more than two consecutive months.

Mulberry Season Ends

Ghadeer Alkumaish
TDT | Manama

The Bahraini mulberry season for 2026 came to a vibrant close after two exciting days on April 16 and 17 at the Farmers Market in Hoorat Aali, where it drew strong crowds of citizens and residents celebrating one of

the Kingdom's most loved seasonal fruits.

The atmosphere was filled with energy, fresh produce, and unique experiences that highlighted the richness of local agriculture.

Visitors enjoyed a wide variety of mulberry-based treats, including mulberry ice cream, and fresh mulberry juice.

Game Nights at La Plage bring the energy of live football to **The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain**



TDI | Manama

As evening settles over the Arabian Gulf, La Plage shifts into a lively, welcoming, and social atmosphere where the energy of live football meets the ease of being by the water. With matches streamed across multiple screens, guests

are invited to gather, settle in, and enjoy the game in a way that feels social, relaxed, and easy.

There is something special about watching football in this setting. The atmosphere builds naturally, conversations move across the table, and every moment of anticipation is shared. It becomes less about following

the match, and more about the feeling of being there together, celebrating each moment as it happens.

The Game Night Specials menu is designed to complement this experience, with a selection of dishes made for sharing. Full of bold flavors and familiar favorites, each

plate arrives to be enjoyed together, adding to the rhythm of the evening and encouraging a more connected way to dine.

To enhance the experience, guests can enjoy selected dishes with a complimentary beverage pairing, with additional drinks available throughout the evening. Sharing pitchers are

also available, offering a simple and enjoyable way for groups to continue the evening as the match unfolds.

At La Plage, game nights bring together great food, shared moments, and the excitement of live sport, creating an experience that feels lively, effortless, and memorable from start to

finish. For reservations and further information, please call +973 1758 6499

For additional information about The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain, call the hotel directly at (+973) 1758 0000, or visit The Ritz-Carlton website atritzcarlton.com/bahrain.

Iran internet blackout now in its 50th day: NetBlocks

AFP | Paris, France

The internet blackout imposed by Iranian authorities at the start of the Middle East war has entered an "unprecedented" 50th day, according to the monitor NetBlocks.

"Iran has now been isolated from the global internet for seven weeks with the digital blackout entering its 50th day after

Iranians suspected of using VPNs since the war began have received text messages warning them of arrest or imprisonment.

1176 hours," NetBlocks said on X. "Metrics show the measure, unprecedented for a connected society, continues to the detriment of most Iranians' livelihoods and human rights."

The blackout in Iran, which

was imposed soon after the US and Israel attacked the country on February 28, was already the longest nationwide shutdown on record as of April 5, according to NetBlocks.

The monitor noted at the time

that some countries had experienced intermittent or regional-level shutdowns over longer periods, while North Korea had never been connected to the global internet at all.

Iran's extremely restricted local intranet has been working throughout the war, enabling people to connect to domestic websites.

To connect to the global web for news or to banned social media networks such as Instagram, some resort to virtual private networks (VPNs) to disguise their IP addresses in rare moments when network bandwidth is available.

Iranians suspected of using VPNs since the war began have received text messages warning

them of arrest or imprisonment.

Far more limited numbers of people have access to Starlink or other satellite-based internet providers, which are also banned.

Iranians were previously placed under an 18-day internet blackout in January amid anti-government protests during which thousands were killed.

Bahrain, US Explore New Avenues for Financial Cooperation

TDI | Manama

Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy met US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent in Washington to discuss strengthening bilateral economic and financial ties.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Spring Meetings of the IMF and World Bank Group.

Shaikh Salman reaffirmed the strength of Bahrain-US relations and highlighted ongoing cooperation in financial and economic sectors, stressing the need to build on existing ties



and expand future opportunities.

The talks were attended by Bahrain's Ambassador to the United States Shaikh Abdullah bin Rashid Al Khalifa and Cen-

tral Bank of Bahrain Governor Khalid Ibrahim Humaidan.

Both sides also exchanged views on recent regional developments and global economic trends.



Investment Protection Pact

His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Bahrain's Minister of Finance and National Economy, and His Excellency Guy Parmelin, President of the Swiss Confederation, during the signing of the Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Swiss Federal Council in Washington, D.C.

JOB VACANCY

Bahrain Aluminum Extrusion Company (BALEXCO)



Invite applications for the following positions: -

PRIMO SYSTEM SALES MANAGER

Qualification:

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- Minimum seven years' experience in reputed organization with good knowledge on façade systems, Auto CAD, accessories and aluminum profiles.
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Job Responsibilities:

Supervise and perform estimation, design, projects, fabrication, quality requirements of department for Primo systems products and achieving the planned sales targets by strategic planning, leadership, direction and budget compliance. Provide technical services support to architects, consultants, quantity surveyors, contractors and customers and ensure adequate support for PRIMO products systems and engineered products. Develop Primo marketing strategies to identify prospective clients, establishing strategic partnership with key business accounts to achieve maximum sale order for PRIMO system.

Software skills

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- Microsoft
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SALES & MARKETING HEAD/MANAGER

Qualification:

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Job Responsibilities:

Take over, manage and lead the overall responsibility for sales department activities and operations. Planning, organizing, leading, controlling sales team to achieve organizational goals by setting objectives, delegating tasks, fostering development, monitoring performance, ensuring efficient operations and successful outcomes. Explore markets and prospective clients for BALEXCO's products in accordance with BALEXCO's long-term goal. Committed to achieve the agreed target.

Preferred Candidate profile would be

- Age between 35 - 50 years
- Preferably Bahrainis
- Good command in both Arabic and English language
- Travel without limitations for new markets and visiting customers.
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Applicants to submit CV along with a covering letter stating the current and expected salary package, notice period for joining, a passport size photo within 7 days to email: careers@balexco.com.bh or in sealed envelope mentioning the applied position, addressed to - GM Office, Bldg. 267, Road 105 / Block 601/Sitra Industrial Area, Kingdom of Bahrain

Iran says its enriched uranium 'not going to be transferred'

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran's foreign ministry on Friday said the country's stockpile of enriched uranium would not be transferred "anywhere", denying an earlier claim by US President Donald Trump that the Islamic republic had agreed to hand it over.

"Iran's enriched uranium is not going to be transferred anywhere," Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei told state TV.

"Transfer of Iran's enriched uranium to the US has never been raised in negotiations."

Penguin Walk



Visitors watch penguins as are led for a walk inside the Scientific Center in Kuwait City. The Scientific Center, one of the centers of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, presents a unique Penguin Walk experience, allowing visitors to get up close in an engaging educational setting.



Two of the 3 French soldiers injured in Lebanon attack seriously wounded: ministry

AFP | Paris, France

Two of the three French peacekeepers injured in an attack in Lebanon that also killed a French soldier are in serious condition, the French Foreign Ministry said.

The ambush on French troops deployed with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), in addition to claiming the life of Staff Sergeant Florian Montorio, "also left three French soldiers wounded

Iran's central military command yesterday appeared to reverse the decision to reopen the route, saying it would resume "strict management" of the strait because of the continued US naval counter-blockade.

Ships hit in Hormuz

IRGC gunboats fired on India-flagged tanker Sanmar Herald

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Commercial ships came under fire and threats from Iran's military as they tried to cross the Strait of Hormuz yesterday, security monitors said, as Iran

closed the crucial trade route again following a brief reopening.

Iran reversed its pledge to reopen the strait to commercial traffic during a ceasefire in the Middle East war in protest at an

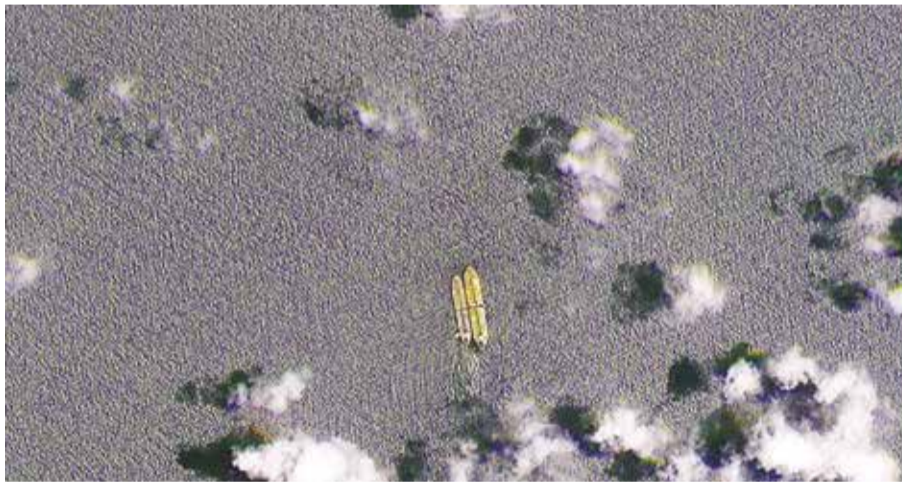
ongoing US counter-blockade of the route, a crucial passage for commodity shipments.

A UK maritime security agency said Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) fired at a tanker, while security intelligence

firm Vanguard Tech reported the force threatened to "destroy" an empty cruise ship that was fleeing the Gulf after Tehran on Friday announced a brief respite.

A handful of oil and gas tank-

ers crossed the strait early Saturday during the brief reopening, tracking data showed, but others retreated and tracking platforms showed hardly any vessels crossing the waterway by the late afternoon.



Iranian vessels conducting what appears to be offshore cargo transfer, 70 km off the south-east coast of the Malay Peninsula, near Singapore. Near Singapore, 6,000 kilometres (3,700 miles) from the Strait of Hormuz, ship-to-ship transfers of Iranian oil cargoes have continued during the Middle East War, helping evade sanctions and maintaining trade with China. The ageing vessels that comprise Iran's "ghost fleet" operate with a high degree of opacity, often exploiting dubious ownership structures, false flags, a lack of insurance and manipulation of GPS data to keep a low profile.

Tanker shot at

IRGC gunboats fired on the tanker in the strait north-east of Oman, the UK Maritime Trade Operations Centre (UKMTO) said in an online statement, adding the vessel and crew

were safe. Vanguard identified the tanker as the India-flagged tanker Sanmar Herald.

It cited the captain as saying two IRGC patrol boats approached it with no radio contact and "shots were fired, re-

sulting in damage to the bridge windows".

Vanguard said separately that the Malta-flagged cruise ship Mein Schiff 4 reported a splash nearby while crossing near Oman, on the far side of the

strait from Iran.

"The Master confirmed VHF (radio) traffic from IRGC units stating 'we are carrying out operation, we will fire and destroy you,'" but no damage was reported, Vanguard said.

In a third incident, the UKMTO said that it also received a report of a container ship in the same area "being hit by an unknown projectile which caused damage to some of the containers" but no fire.

Hezbollah denies involvement in deadly attack on UN peacekeepers

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Hezbollah yesterday denied it was involved in a deadly attack on United Nations peacekeepers (UNIFIL) in southern Lebanon, after France accused the group of being behind the incident.

"Hezbollah denies any connection to the incident that occurred with UNIFIL forces in the Ghandouriyeh-Bint Jbeil area, and calls for caution in making judgments and assigning responsibilities regarding the incident pending the Lebanese army's investigations to determine the full circumstances of the incident," the group said in a statement.

One peacekeeper was killed and three others wounded from the French battalion, with Paris blaming Hezbollah.

At least eight oil and gas tankers crossed the strait

During the reopening, at least eight oil and gas tankers crossed the strait early yesterday after the Iranian announcement on Friday afternoon, data from

tracking firm Kpler indicated. Tracking platform MarineTraffic showed several other crude oil tankers approached the strait but turned back near

Iran's Larak Island, a checkpoint for vessels seeking to exit the Gulf under the Iranian blockade of the passage.

Four French-owned container

ships bearing the name of major shipping firm CMA CGM also made U-turns in the strait on Saturday around 1000 GMT after starting to exit, the platform

indicated. Besides the Mein Schiff 4, MarineTraffic indicated three other cruise ships -- reportedly empty -- had fled the strait.

1775

American Revolution begins in Lexington, Massachusetts, with the "Shot Heard Round the World" fired later that day in Concord

1982

Sally Ride is named the first American woman astronaut



1995

Oklahoma City bombing: Timothy McVeigh sets a truck bomb at Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, killing 168, including 19 children, and injuring 500

2011

Fidel Castro resigns his position of First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba after 45 years in power

First Makkah Route Flights Touch Down in Madinah

The first flight carrying Pakistani beneficiaries of the Makkah Route initiative landed at Prince Mohammed bin Abdulaziz International Airport in Madinah arriving from Karachi's Jinnah International Airport.

Saudi Arabia has allocated a quota of 179,210 Pakistani pilgrims for this year's Hajj season, with around 118,000 seats under the government scheme and the remainder through private operators. Officials from Sindh, including Gov. Nehal Hashmi, saw off the pilgrims; 160 travellers departed in the initial group amid prayers and well-wishes, according to the Sindh Hajj Directorate.

The initiative also saw arrivals from other participat-



ing countries. A flight carrying Bangladeshi pilgrims landed at King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah from Dhaka, while additional groups from Malaysia and Türkiye reached Madinah on Saturday as part of the expanding programme.

The first Indian Hajj group was also received at Madinah Airport by Ambassador Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan and Consul General Fahad Ahmed Khan Suri, alongside Saudi and Indian officials, who reviewed reception facilities and support services.

Iran's top national security body vows no 'compromise, retreat' in US talks

Trump says Iran cannot 'blackmail us'

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump yesterday warned Iran not to "blackmail" Washington with its flip-flopping on the fate of the Strait of Hormuz, after Tehran declared the strategic

waterway once again closed. "We're talking to them. They wanted to close up the strait again -- you know, as they've been doing for years -- and they can't blackmail us," Trump said at a White House event.

Trump said there would be "some information" about

Iran later in the day, adding: "We're taking a tough stand."

Iran's military yesterday declared the strait, through which about one-fifth of the world's crude and liquefied natural gas normally passes, was once again closed, a day after saying it was open.

Iran says reviewing 'new proposals' from US

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran's top national security body said yesterday that the country was reviewing "new proposals" received from the United States, even as it warned that its negotiators would cut no compromises with Washington.

"In recent days, with the presence of the commander of the Pakistani army in Tehran as an intermediary and mediator in the negotiations, new proposals have been put forward by the Americans, which the Islamic Republic of Iran is currently reviewing and has not yet responded to," the Supreme

National Security Council said in a statement.

It went on to say that Iran's negotiating delegation "will not make even the slightest compromise, retreat or leniency, and will defend with all its strength the interests of the Iranian nation".

Israeli 'yellow line'

The Israeli military said it had established a "Yellow Line" demarcation in the part of southern Lebanon it has invaded, similar to the one separating its forces from territory still held by Hamas in Gaza. The army added it had already struck suspected militants approaching its troops along the line.

Turkey slams Israel

Turkey's foreign minister accused Israel of using security as a pretext to acquire "more land".

"Israel is not after its own security. Israel is after more land. Security is being used by the Netanyahu government as an excuse to occupy more land," Hakan Fidan told the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, referring to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



When the law of force replaces the force of law, instability becomes contagious, conflicts spill over & economic shocks reverberate around the world. More than ever, we must reject a future ruled by coercion & embrace a future rooted in the @UN Charter & international law.

@antoniojuterres

02



I received a phone call from my dear friend, President Emmanuel Macron. We discussed the situation in Western Asia and agreed on the urgent need to restore security and freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. We will continue our close cooperation to promote peace and stability in the region and beyond.

@narendramodi

03



It began with coal and steel. But from the very start, our Union was always meant to be much more.

75 years ago, in Paris, with the signing of the Treaty of Paris, Europe chose a different path.

One of unity over division, of Peace over war.

The European Coal and Steel Community was never just an industrial project.

It was a project for peace in Europe.

A project for shared prosperity.

A project for strength and independence in a world of great power competition.

The very same purpose that still drives our Union today.

@vonderleyen

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Iran Crisis Spurs Bahrain's Strategic EV Motorcade

CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD



The escalating Iran crisis is no longer confined to the realm of geopolitics; it is rapidly reshaping the global economic order—most visibly within the energy and transportation sectors. As tensions threaten critical oil supply corridors, the vulnerability of hydrocarbon-dependent mobility is once again exposed. What we are witnessing is not merely market volatility, but a structural shift—one that is accelerating the transition from internal combustion engines toward electrified transport systems.

In this evolving landscape, the question is no longer whether electrification will dominate, but which nations will lead—and which will lag behind.

For decades, the Gulf region has been synonymous with oil driven prosperity and a deep-rooted

automotive culture built around high-performance engines. Today, however, that paradigm is being strategically reconsidered. While major economies such as China have insulated themselves through large-scale EV adoption and diversified energy portfolios, many countries remain exposed to recurring fuel shocks—what can now be described as a persistent "diesel vulnerability."

This volatility is already influencing consumer behavior. Across global markets, including the Gulf, purchasing decisions are shifting from preference-driven to risk-aware. The rise of the used electric vehicle market is particularly telling. It reflects a growing public awareness that energy security is no longer an abstract policy issue—it is a daily economic concern. Used EVs, in this context, represent a transitional solution: accessible, practical, and strategically aligned with long-term energy stability.

Yet, this transition cannot be left to market forces alone. It demands deliberate state intervention. The real battleground is no longer oil production, but energy infrastructure resilience—specifically, the capacity of national grids to sustain large-scale electrification without compromising affordability or reliability.

Here, Bahrain is positioning itself with notable strategic clarity.

Through coordinated government policy and private sector engagement, the Kingdom is accelerating its transition toward an integrated EV ecosystem. The Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) has moved beyond pilot initiatives, deploying high-capacity 360 kW fast-charging stations designed to meet future demand rather than current necessity.

More significantly, Bahrain has adopted a forward-looking regulatory framework. The introduction of mandatory EV charging infrastructure in new commercial developments from 2025 reflects a policy mindset that is anticipatory rather than reactive. Simultaneously, efforts to reinforce the national grid and integrate renewable energy sources signal a broader commitment to energy diversification and long-term sustainability.

These measures are not isolated technical upgrades; they represent a strategic repositioning of Bahrain within the regional energy landscape.

With plans to expand the public charging network to over 200 stations in the current phase, Bahrain is laying the groundwork for a resilient, electrified transport system—one capable of mitigating external shocks while enhancing national energy security.

In a region often defined by its hydrocarbon legacy, Bahrain has an opportunity to redefine leadership through adaptation and foresight. If current momentum is sustained, the Kingdom will not simply participate in the global shift toward electric mobility—it will help shape its direction within the Gulf.

The Iran crisis, therefore, may prove to be more than a moment of instability. It could well serve as a strategic inflection point—one that propels Bahrain to the forefront of a new energy and mobility paradigm.

By 2027, the Kingdom may not just be keeping pace with change, but leading a regional EV motorcade grounded in resilience, innovation, and strategic intent.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

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

Diplomatic Powerhouses Meet Amid Worldwide Unrest

● More than 20 heads of state and government,

● 40+ foreign ministers, and representatives

● 75+ international organisations

● Over 40 panel discussions

The fifth edition of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF) was held in Antalya, Türkiye, beginning on April 17, bringing together heads of state and government, foreign ministers, diplomats, academics, think tank experts, and journalists from around the world.

The three-day forum, which runs until today, was inaugurated by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan. This year's theme, "Mapping Tomorrow, Managing Uncertainties," reflected growing global concerns over geopolitical tensions, shifting power dynamics, rising trade barriers, and challenges to multilateral cooperation.



Organisers said the discussions took place against a backdrop of increasing global unpredictability, highlighting the need to anticipate risks, identify opportunities, and develop long-term strategies to strengthen international stability.

The forum brought together more than 20 heads of state and government, over 40 foreign ministers, and representatives from more than 75 international organisations. Delegations from around 150 countries participated, along with hundreds of academics and students.

Among the participants were

Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Syria President Ahmad al-Sharaa, Serbia's Prime Minister Đuro Macut, Democratic Republic of Congo President Félix Tshisekedi, North Macedonia President Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova, Somalia President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, Georgia Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze, Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, and Moldova President Maia Sandu.

The forum featured more than 40 panel discussions covering key geopolitical, diplomatic, economic, and political issues. It also provided a platform for bilateral and multilateral meetings between participating delegations.

On the sidelines of the forum, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan held several high-level meetings, including the third Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the Balkan Peace Platform, a Gaza-focused multilateral meeting involving eight parties, an informal session of the Organisation of Turkic States Foreign Ministers Council, and a four-party meeting involving Türkiye, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt.

On the sidelines of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum 2026 in Türkiye, His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs, held a meeting with His Excellency Ahmed Attaf, Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs, National Community Abroad, and African Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

Saudi-Algeria Strategic Dialogue



The meeting took place as part of ongoing diplomatic engagements at the forum, which brings together global leaders and foreign ministers to discuss key regional and international developments, strengthen cooperation, and

The forum, which brings together global leaders and foreign ministers to discuss key regional and international developments and enhance multilateral dialogue.

enhance multilateral dialogue.

Both sides reviewed bilateral relations between Saudi Arabia and Algeria and discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation across various fields, in addition to exchanging views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

NATO Pushes Defence Industry Growth



NATO Deputy Secretary General Radmila Šekerinska outlined the Alliance's progress on defence commitments during her participation at the Antalya Diplomacy Forum 2026

in Türkiye.

Speaking on a panel titled "Securing Europe: Unity and Strategic Renewal towards the NATO Ankara Summit," Šekerinska said that Allied nations are expected to demon-

strate concrete progress on decisions made at last year's NATO Summit in The Hague.

She stressed that increased defence investment and faster defence production are strengthening NATO's over-

all capabilities, noting that "our security is strongest when it is transatlantic."

The Deputy Secretary General highlighted that while European Allies and Canada are expanding defence spending and taking greater responsibility for collective security, further efforts are needed to develop advanced capabilities and technologies.

She also underlined the importance of cooperation between NATO Allies and international partners, including Ukraine and Indo-Pacific nations, to enhance defence industrial capacity.

Reaffirming NATO's continued support for Ukraine, Šekerinska said Allies are increasing military assistance and deepening cooperation with Ukraine's defence sector, including through the UNITE-Brave programme.

Kuwait Reaffirms Hormuz Stance

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Shaikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, reaffirmed the country's firm position that the Strait of Hormuz is a natural international waterway, in line with established principles of international law and the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

He made the remarks while chairing Kuwait's delegation on behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during an international meeting on freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, held via video conference.

The Kuwaiti delegation emphasized the importance of safeguarding maritime security and ensuring the uninterrupted flow of global trade through international waterways, underscoring Kuwait's continued commitment to international legal frameworks governing maritime navigation.



The Kuwaiti delegation emphasized the importance of safeguarding maritime security and ensuring the uninterrupted flow of global trade through international waterways.

Tensions Escalate Around Hormuz Corridor



U.S. Army AH-64 Apache helicopters conduct aerial patrols over the Strait of Hormuz on April 17, maintaining a visible security presence to support freedom of navigation and regional maritime stability.



The Littoral Combat Ship USS Canberra (LCS 30) conducts maritime patrol operations in the Arabian Sea as part of ongoing U.S. naval enforcement activity. Since the operation began, U.S. forces have directed multiple commercial vessels to alter course while naval units maintain monitoring and control measures across key shipping routes near Iranian coastal waters.

Qatar-Syria Meeting Ahead of Forum



Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani met Syrian President Ahmed Al-Sharaa ahead of the opening of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, according to a post shared on his official Instagram account.

The meeting took place prior to the start of the forum, where several regional leaders have

gathered to discuss key developments in the region.

Qatar's Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, was also present during the meeting, underscoring Doha's diplomatic engagement at the high-level event.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“One-stop travel”

The “One-stop travel” system with Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates becoming a good move and faster travel formalities at the entrance airport is widely welcomed. The Gulf Cooperation Council rolled out a one-stop travel system related to all travel procedures like immigration, customs, security checks at the departure airport itself to avoid repeating the same procedures again. It could be expedited for investor visa holders and GCC Resident visa holders also to be considered due to the present air travel situation across the region. It reduces time and efforts for more comfortable travel if all entry and exit formalities take place at the single point during the airport departure itself.

Considering the present airspace connectivity in the GCC, to include GCC residents also in “one-stop travel” facilities to get benefits would be a great relief from a long-standing queue in the airport and eliminate repeated inspections at check-in points at their destination airport as usual. Presently, Bahraini travelers can feel that departing from Bahrain airport to Dubai is a more relaxing prior experience due to entry check without repeating at the exit point.

Later, but not far away, in the near future, expect other GCC airports to also complete all travel check-in formalities at the entry airport and, upon arrival at the destination airport, can proceed directly as if arriving feels like a domestic destination on an easy way faster process without any delay or queue for investor visa holders and GCC resident Visa holders as well on the next stage of implementation to consider priority basis one by one.

Sunil Thomas Ranny

Peaceful nights please, not midnight chaos

I am a new mother living in Juffair, and I recently saw your post about noisy vehicles and the strict action being taken across Bahrain against disturbing vehicle noise. I felt compelled to write because I genuinely support this initiative and appreciate that the issue is being taken seriously.

What really struck me was reading the comments under your post and seeing how many residents from different areas expressed the same concern. It was eye-opening to realise how widely this problem is experienced. People living in areas such as Karbabad and Amwaj were describing similar situations, late-night reckless driving, drifting, and loud motorbikes in the early hours of the morning.

From my own perspective as a new mother to a 3-month-old baby, this issue feels even more personal. At this stage, sleep is already very fragile, and even small or sudden noises can disrupt an entire night. When these disturbances happen repeatedly, it becomes extremely difficult to maintain any sense of rest or routine. I can only empathise with other families, especially those with young children, elderly members, or individuals who have early work commitments and depend on quiet nights to function the next day.

I sincerely hope that the enforcement measures being introduced continue to be implemented firmly and consistently across all affected areas.

Thank you for highlighting this issue and giving residents a platform to voice their concerns.

Melissa Fernandez

Heat Is Not the Answer to Tooth Pain

Many people mistakenly believe that all pain responds the same way to heat. While a warm compress may help ease joint or muscle discomfort, it is not suitable for tooth pain, particularly when the cause is infection.

As an oral and maxillofacial surgeon, I often see patients who have tried applying heat to an aching tooth, only to return the next day with severe facial swelling and worsening pain. Heat causes vasodilation, increasing blood flow to the area. While this may aid healing in some conditions, in dental infections it can aggravate the problem and may allow the infection to spread beyond the tooth.

What begins as a simple toothache can progress into facial cellulitis, deep space infections, or in rare but serious cases, life-threatening complications that can affect swallowing and breathing. These situations are often preventable with timely dental treatment.

Another concern is self-medication with antibiotics. Some patients begin taking over-the-counter antibiotics without proper consultation, while others stop after only a few doses once symptoms improve. This can lead to incomplete treatment, recurrence of infection, and contribute to antibiotic resistance.

Tooth pain should never be dismissed or treated casually. Pain is usually a sign of an underlying problem that requires proper diagnosis and care. Rather than relying on heat or temporary home remedies, patients should seek prompt dental attention so the root cause can be treated safely and effectively.

Dr Abhishek Ghosh

How Corner Parking Endangers Road Safety

I would like to draw attention to a common yet dangerous practice seen across many neighborhoods in Bahrain: cars being parked on the corners and turning points of cut roads.

While this may seem convenient for some drivers, parking at road corners significantly decreases visibility for motorists approaching a turn. This often leads to near-misses and, in some cases, avoidable accidents, especially on narrow residential streets where children, pedestrians, and cyclists are present.

I believe this issue can be addressed through clearer road markings, designated “no parking” zones near corners, and increased public awareness about the risks involved. Stricter enforcement of existing traffic regulations would also encourage better parking habits.

A small change parking a few meters away from a turning point, can make a big difference. Improving visibility at corners will help ensure safer roads for everyone in Bahrain.

Moni Biswas



Fleeing home but still paying rent?

As tensions disrupt daily life, many tenants are leaving their homes suddenly - but rent obligations don't simply disappear. While leases remain legally binding, exceptional cases may be considered, leaving tenants and landlords to navigate a difficult balance between safety, law, and financial strain.

TOP COMMENTS

manu_mohan_a_n
Sometimes humanity can be a bit more than just legal. Nobody expected or prepared for this situation; it all happened so suddenly. Some people lost their jobs but can't leave the country. It's not something you can explain simply in terms of legality. We've all been hoping for a good tomorrow every day since February 28th, and we should give a chance to whoever's been affected by this situation.

nabila.aziz.129
For 1 and half months we are searching flat and rent are really very high . It's really not affordable especially in this difficult situation and tough time.... landlord and brokers are very stubborn for reducing the rent

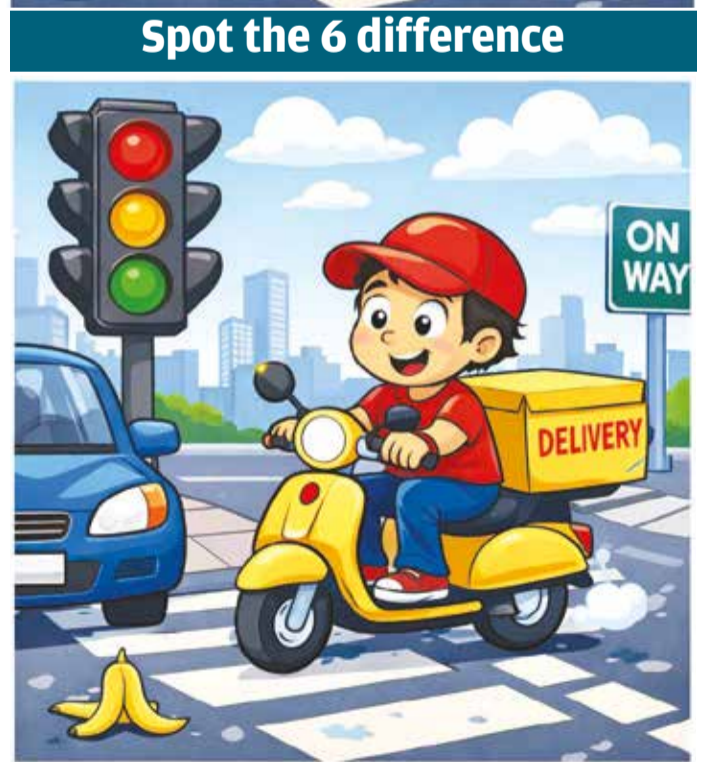
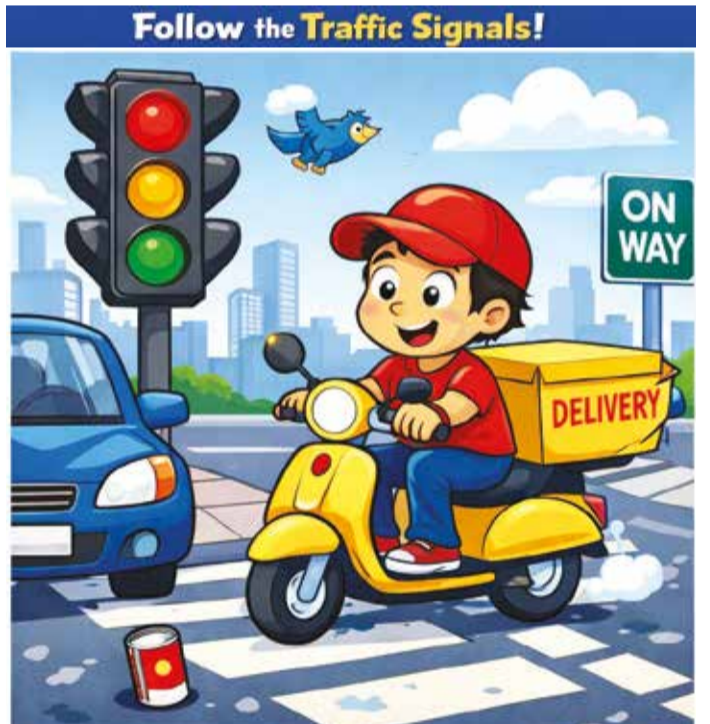
nick_zanotti90
Companies paying half salary if you don't want they will terminate your contract and our bills still remain the same how can we cope ?

craneladyseattle
Tenants have rights during wartime which they might not otherwise have. Force majeure typically applies to renters during wartime, as war is generally listed as a “superior force” in contract law that excuses nonperformance of obligations. However, its application is not automatic; it depends heavily on the specific language of the lease, the jurisdiction, and the extent to which the war renders the performance of the lease impossible rather than just more difficult. In Bahrain, where Bahrainis have lost employment due to the war and thus lost their income, a judge may very well find force majeure to apply. By the same argument, the owners of the rental properties are losing income because their tenants cannot pay and the property owners could be defaulted on bank loans. Again, force majeure may very well apply. God willing, Trump and Israel's war against Iran will be officially ended soon. I have already paid the March fee, but my child did not attend even a single day. Now nurseries are asking for April fees as well. Nursery kids are too young to benefit from online classes – they mainly need care and physical interaction. I kindly request that fees be reconsidered or adjusted during this period.

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Photo : Biju Haridas



We would love to hear from you.

If you have anything you'd like to say or share with us, please feel free to write to us at online@newsfobahrain.com

Classifieds



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Beach Handball Team prepares in Sanya

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's beach handball and swimming teams have arrived in Sanya and officially settled into the athletes' village ahead of the 6th Asian Beach Games, scheduled from April 22 to 30.

The Bahraini delegation was welcomed on arrival by Head of Delegation Ahmed Mohammed Abdulghaffar and Deputy Head Maryam Mardana, who supervised entry procedures and ensured a smooth check-in process. Abdulghaffar also inspected the village facilities early, expressing confidence in the overall readiness of the accommodation and support services.

Once settled, the focus quickly shifted toward preparation. Athletes moved into pre-arranged rooms, with equipment and logistical support already in place. Administrative briefings followed, covering training schedules, competition regulations, and daily operational planning.

On the sporting side, preparations began almost immediately.



The beach handball team took to the Tianya Haijiao venue for their first training sessions, combining physical conditioning with technical and tactical drills. Recovery work was also incorporated to manage training load in the early phase of acclimatisation.

As part of their build-up, Bahrain also played two friendly matches against Oman,

helped maintain the team's readiness. The 10-player roster features Adam Al-Nasheet, Sayed Ahmed Faeq, Komail Ali, Mahdi Ali, Komail Mahfoodh, Ali Al Mawlani, Ali Al Hayki, Bilal Askani, Abdulla Al Zaimoor, and Ali Ghassan.

Al Qaidoum described the preparation phase as encouraging despite limited time due to domestic league commitments. He noted that consistency in local competition and prior international experience have

helped maintain the team's readiness.

Looking ahead to the Games in Sanya, he acknowledged the strength of the opposition but stressed Bahrain's determination to compete strongly.

He also extended his appreciation to the Bahrain Olympic Committee for its continued support and to the Bahrain Handball Federation for facilitating the team's participation in the event.



Al Malkiya Leave It Late as Al Khaldiya Go Top



Al Khaldiya celebrate their opener as Sitra goalkeeper Yousif Habib reacts in frustration

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Matchweek 18 of the Nasser bin Hamad Premier League ended in late drama at both ends of the table, with Al Malkiya beating Al Shabab 1-0 and Al Khaldiya defeating Sitra 3-1 to go top.

In the early kickoff at the Bahrain National Stadium, Al Malkiya needed a late breakthrough to overcome a stubborn Al Shabab side. With the match defined by fine margins and few clear chances, the decisive moment arrived in the 88th minute.

Before that, tensions had already risen. Samuel Sarfo's sliding challenge on Daniel Omokhoa in the 76th minute was reviewed for a possible red card but ultimately judged to be a foul only. Minutes later, Isa Al Bari was booked for simulation after going down inside the area, further frustrating Al Malkiya's search for a winner.

When the breakthrough finally came, it was worth the wait. Cyril Olisema slipped a short pass into Abdulhalim Abdo on the edge of the box, and the Moroccan unleashed a powerful strike into the top corner, leaving goalkeeper Rashid Aldoseri helpless.

The result lifts Al Malkiya to fourth place on 27 points, while Al Shabab remain stuck in 11th on 11 points, still inside the relegation zone and struggling for hope.

Later at Khalifa Sports City,

Al Khaldiya produced a controlled yet eventful 3-1 victory over Sitra to return to the summit.

Sitra started brightly and nearly struck early when Othman Al Hajj latched onto a long ball, forcing an important save from Ricardo Silva. However, Al Khaldiya gradually settled and struck just before halftime. Joel Beya converted from the penalty spot after Dominique Mendy was fouled during a cross from Mohammed Adel, marking his 10th goal of the season.

After the break, Sitra pushed for an equaliser, but Lassaad Al Chabbi's side remained disciplined and dangerous on the break. Their second goal arrived in the 80th minute when Nizar El Otmani drove forward and unleashed a powerful long-range strike beyond Yousif Habib.

Sitra briefly responded through Bruno Bezerra, who finished calmly in the 86th minute after a loose ball fell behind the defence. But their comeback ended in stoppage time when Abdulrahman Omar was sent off for a last-man foul.

Moments later, Al Khaldiya were awarded a penalty, and Mohammed Al Romaihi converted to seal a 3-1 win.

The victory moves Al Khaldiya back to the top of the table on 45 points, two clear of Muharraq, while Sitra remain in the relegation play-off zone on 18 points.



Action from Al Malkiya's victory at Bahrain National Stadium

Leeds pull clear of trouble, Bournemouth sink Newcastle

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Leeds beat Wolves 3-0 to open up a nine-point cushion in the battle for Premier League survival before Tottenham aim to dig themselves out of trouble at home to Brighton yesterday.

Fresh from a first league win away at fierce rivals Manchester United since 1981, Leeds all but secured their top-flight status.

Two goals in two first-half minutes from James Justin and Noak Okafor pushed Wolves to the brink of relegation before Dominic Calvert-Lewin's penalty in stoppage time rounded off the scoring.

Rooted to the foot of the table, with just three wins from 33 games, Wolves will be mathematically relegated if Spurs break their 14-game winless run in the Premier League against the Seagulls.

Tottenham's woeful campaign has been compounded by an impressive return to the top flight by Sunderland and Leeds, to buck the trend of recent seasons.

For the past two years all three promoted sides have gone straight back down.

However, Daniel Farke's men not only look set for survival, but could reach a first FA Cup final since 1973 should they beat Chelsea in next weekend's semi-finals.

Spurs boss Roberto De Zerbi

English Premier League results

Brentford 0 Fulham 0
Leeds 3 (Justin 18, Okafor 20, Calvert-Lewin 90+5-pen) Wolves 0
Newcastle 1 (Osula 68) Bournemouth 2 (Tavernier 32, Truffert 85)
Playing later (all times GMT)
Tottenham v Brighton (1630), Chelsea v Manchester United (1900)
Sunday (1300 GMT unless stated)
Aston Villa v Sunderland, Everton v Liverpool, Nottingham Forest v Burnley, Manchester City v Arsenal (1530)
Monday
Crystal Palace v West Ham (1900)

faces his old club in his first home game in charge as Tottenham aim to avoid falling out of the top tier for the first time in nearly 50 years.

Howe under pressure

Bournemouth piled more pressure on Eddie Howe's future as Newcastle manager with a 2-1 win at St. James' Park.

The Cherries showed no ill-effects from the news that Andoni Iraola will depart as boss at the end of the season.

Marcus Tavernier and Adrien Truffert struck for the visitors to extend their unbeaten Premier League run to 13 matches.

Bournemouth climb to eighth and within four points of the Champions League places.

Newcastle, by contrast, remain in 14th with their hopes of European football next season all but over.

Howe did not include Anthony Gordon as speculation mounts that the England international could leave St. James' Park this summer.

Despite delivering Newcastle's first domestic trophy for 70 years last season, Howe is another high-profile Premier League manager who could move on at the end of the campaign.

Brentford missed the chance to leapfrog Chelsea into the top six after being held to a 0-0 draw by west London rivals Fulham.

Chelsea need to snap a three-game losing streak to revitalise their chances of Champions League football next season when Manchester United visit Stamford Bridge in a 1900GMT kick-off.

Third-placed

United lead the Blues by seven points but travel to London decimated by injuries in defence.

Leaders Arsenal travel to Manchester City in a clash that could decide the destiny of the title race on Sunday.

The Gunners hold a six-point lead, but City have a game in hand and home advantage when the top two clash at the Etihad Stadium.

Bournemouth's US midfielder #12 Tyler Adams battles for the ball with Newcastle United's Danish striker #18 William Osula during the English Premier League football match between Newcastle United and Bournemouth at St James' Park in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, north east England



Rybakina powers past Andreeva to reach Stuttgart final



Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina returns the ball to Russia's Mirra Andreeva (not in picture) during their semifinal match at the Women's Tennis Grand Prix WTA tournament in Stuttgart, southwestern Germany,

AFP | Stuttgart, Germany

Australian Open champion Elena Rybakina surged to a 7-5, 6-1 victory over teenager Mirra Andreeva on Saturday and will face Karolina Muchova for the title in Stuttgart.

Rybakina shook off any lingering fatigue from a late finish in Friday's quarter-final win over Leylah Fernandez to reach her third final of the year.

Top seed Rybakina snatched a tight opening set by breaking Andreeva, who was 7-0 on clay this season and won in Linz last week, with the Russian serving to force a tie-break.

She carried over that momentum to sweep into a 5-0 lead in the second set before closing out victory in 77 minutes.

"First set, we were going pretty even," said Rybakina. "I had some opportunities to go up but didn't take them. But I'm happy that in these important moments, my serve worked and I stayed aggressive."

"Then in the second set being up, I was more free to hit, to step in, to play even more aggressive."

"So I'm pretty happy with the performance. It was really solid. And I guess the three-hour match yesterday, it did help me today."

Muchova edged Elina Svitolina 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 earlier in the day to book her spot in the final. The world number 12 will play the first 500-level final of her career as she goes in search of a third WTA title.



Rybakina, who finished runner-up at Indian Wells last month, will have a chance on Sunday to regain the title she won two years ago and drive off with a second Porsche sports car -- the coveted prize awarded to the champion in Stuttgart.

24-hour arrival, instant impact

Deshawndre Washington fires Muharraaq to championship glory

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Muharraaq's championship-clinching victory on Friday night carried significance far beyond a single result. It completed a historic domestic treble and reaffirmed their dominance in Bahraini basketball, with one explosive performance at its center.

Deshawndre Washington arrived just 24 hours earlier, but immediately became central to the outcome. He delivered a title-defining performance as Muharraaq edged Manama in overtime to win Game 4 and seal the Zain Bahrain Basketball League final series 3-1.

Thrown straight into a finals decider, the American guard delivered under pressure. He finished with 27 points, nine rebounds, six assists and three steals. It was his blistering third quarter that flipped the game on its head. He scored 17 points in that period, which is the most in a single quarter of a finals game since 2016.

The final itself had all the ingredients of a classic. Muharraaq, coached by Peter Schomers, built a double-digit lead deep



Washington embraced by Muharraaq supporters at Khalifa Sports City



A statement dunk from the American guard



Deshawndre Washington celebrates with Muharraaq's league and cup titles

into the fourth quarter, only for Manama to respond with relentless pressure to erase the deficit and force overtime.

In the extra period, the Red Wolves held their pack together. Their defense tightened at the rim, possessions became more deliberate, and they executed cleanly to secure the title.

The victory sealed Muharraaq's fifth league championship in their history. While still well behind Manama's record 25 titles, it crowns a season of complete domestic dominance.

Manama's resistance was led by Donovan Smith, who quickly became their interior focal point after joining just before the fi-

nals. He produced 31 points and 13 rebounds, driving a 13-point comeback that nearly overturned the series. But Muharraaq had enough depth and composure to respond. The win completed a clean sweep of domestic honours, adding the Khalifa bin Salman Cup and the Bahrain Super Cup to their league triumph.

Captain Bader Malabes once again stood at the heart of their success, adding another chapter to an already decorated career. He now holds five league titles, seven Khalifa bin Salman Cups, and three Super Cups -- a record that reflects his long-standing influence at the top of Bahraini basketball.

For Manama, defeat came with both frustration and pride. Captain Abdulla Salman was candid after the game. "I normally don't take pride in silver medals, I wouldn't have them in my house," he said. "That's the standard Manama are used to. But this season, I'll put it right next to our 2023 West Asian Super League gold medal. I've never been in a team like this -- the brotherhood is something special."

Head coach Salman Ramadhan also chose perspective over disappointment. "We couldn't do anything about Washington," he said after the game, acknowledging the performance that ultimately decided the series. In the dressing room, his message to the players focused on belief. "This is the best team I've ever had and I'm proud of you," he said, taking responsibility for the loss and urging his squad to keep their heads up.

In the end, Muharraaq's season will be remembered for its trophies and dominance. Yet the final chapter belonged to one explosive performance that swung a championship series and sealed a treble under pressure.