

US President posted a map labelling the Strait of Hormuz as "NEW U.S. Territory," renewing his controversial claim over the strategic waterway. | P6-7

Public Holiday

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, issued a circular declaring a public holiday to commemorate Prophet Mohammed's birthday.

Under the circular, ministries, government departments and public institutions across Bahrain will close on Tuesday, August 25, 2026.

Back-to-School Deals Get a Boost



The Ministry of Industry and Commerce is continuing the fifth edition of its Consumer Friend initiative, with 11 commercial establishments participating in offers aimed at providing families with wider choices and better value during the back-to-school season.

The initiative covers food and consumer goods, school supplies and stationery, and electrical and electronic devices. The ministry said the programme strengthens cooperation with the private sector while promoting conscious shopping and advance planning.

Bahrain Voices Solidarity with Iraq

Bahrain has strongly condemned an Iranian drone attack targeting the private office of the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government and the residence of the Director of the Protection Agency in Pirmam, Erbil Governorate.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the attack as a dangerous escalation threatening regional security and stability and a violation of international law, the UN Charter and the principles of good neighbourliness.

Bahrain reaffirmed its full solidarity with Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government and expressed support for measures aimed at protecting Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity and safeguarding the security and stability of the Kurdistan Region.

25 Years of Giving - Bahrain's Humanitarian Heart Beats On



On World Humanitarian Day, Bahrain did not just mark a date on the calendar. It celebrated a legacy.

His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty's Representative for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation, said the occasion renews Bahrain's commitment to humanitarian values, giving and solidarity.

Under his leader-

ship, the foundation has transformed from a relief organisation into a comprehensive humanitarian model — one that combines care, empowerment and development, both inside Bahrain and far beyond its borders.

The numbers tell their own story. Over 32,000 humanitarian cases supported. More than 75,000 forms of assistance delivered. A quarter-century of quiet, consistent compassion.

Foreign Minister Dr Abdulatif bin Rashid Al Zayani reaffirmed Bahrain's unwavering support for international humanitarian efforts, describing it as a core value rooted in the

vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh echoed that sentiment, saying Bahrain has established itself as a prominent model of humanitarian action — a kingdom that does not just talk about solidarity, but lives it.

Acting Secretary-General Ibrahim Delhan Al Doseri said the foundation's next chapter is built on sustainability and independence — helping people not just survive, but thrive.

Twenty-five years in, Bahrain's humanitarian story is far from over. It is only getting started.

New Deputy CEO at REHC



His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister of the Prime Minister's Court and Chairman of the Higher Authority of the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club, has issued a decision appointing Majid Mohammed Majid Al Majed as Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Operations at the club.

The appointment was made following approval by the Higher Authority of the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club.

Global Nominations Open



The King Hamad Global Centre for Coexistence and Tolerance has launched the first King Hamad Award for Coexistence and Tolerance, offering a US\$1 million prize with nominations open worldwide until October 10, 2026.

Established under Royal Order (32) of 2024, the award recognises individuals and institutions that have made exceptional contributions to promoting tolerance, coexistence, dialogue and mutual respect, with nominations submitted through the award's official website.

Education Minister highlights early youth development



Education Minister Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma visited the first "Gadeha Junior" training camp at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre, praising summer programmes that help young people make productive use of their time and develop their skills.

The minister reviewed the camp's physical and practical activities, which focus on building physical and mental abilities while promoting discipline, teamwork, cooperation and self-confidence. He also praised the efforts behind the camp and its focus on developing young participants from an early age.

TDT | Manama

When the Royal Humanitarian Foundation was established 25 years ago, its mission was straightforward — help those in need. Today, it has grown into something far greater.



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa



Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh



Dr. Abdulatif bin Rashid Al Zayani



Ibrahim Delhan Al Doseri

Mother and Three Children Die in Al Ramli Fire

Father returns home to find wife and three young children dead in flat blaze



TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A 27-year-old mother and her three young children died after a fire broke out at their flat in Al Ramli. The woman's husband, Hassan AbdulAl, was away when the fire started. He returned after the blaze broke out and found his wife and their children, aged five, three and one, dead.

The fire erupted in Flat 14 on the first floor of a residential building in Block 714 before spreading through the home. Civil Defence teams brought the blaze under control and evacuated the building.

The five-year-old child was found with a faint pulse, but efforts to save the child were unsuccessful. The mother and her two younger children also died. AbdulAl was later taken to hospital by ambulance.



"We must ensure families have what they need."

- DR SALMAN MOHSEN, NORTHERN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBER



"We must prevent such a tragedy from happening again."

- HASSAN EBRAHIM, MP

The fire forced other residents to leave their homes, with families living in first-floor flats provided with temporary accommodation.

MP Hassan Ebrahim said housing had been arranged for residents who were forced to leave their homes.

"We must stand by the families forced from their homes and make sure they have what they

need after this tragedy," MP Ebrahim told The Daily Tribune.

He offered his condolences to the bereaved family, praised the efforts of Civil Defence crews and called for an investigation into the cause of the fire, along with measures to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Dr Salman Mohsen, a member of the Northern Municipal Council for the fourth constitu-

ency, said the council contacted the Housing Ministry to arrange repairs to the fire-damaged flat.

"We will stay in contact with the families and give them the help they need in the days ahead," he told The Daily Tribune.

Chief of Police Lieutenant-General Tariq Al Hassan visited the scene, where police, Civil Defence crews and representatives from the Interior Ministry, Northern Governorate and Housing Ministry were also present.

The cause of the fire remains unknown, with authorities continuing their investigation into how the blaze started.

Bahrain, Türkiye Discuss Stronger Cooperation



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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, received the the outgoing Ambassador of Türkiye to Bahrain, Dr. Ayşe Hilal Sayan Koytak, at Gudaibiya Palace. HRH Prince Salman affirmed the longstanding Bahrain-Türkiye relationship and the two countries’

shared commitment to advancing bilateral cooperation. He stressed the importance of building on existing progress and strengthening coordination to benefit both peoples. The Crown Prince and Prime Minister thanked Ambassador Koytak for her efforts to strengthen bilateral cooperation and wished her success in her future endeavours. The ambassador expressed appreciation for

His Royal Highness’ support for closer Bahrain-Türkiye relations and wished Bahrain continued growth and prosperity. The meeting also addressed the latest regional and international developments and issues of common interest. Minister of Finance and National Economy HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa and several senior officials attended the meeting.

New Push to Improve Vaccine Management

Specialists exchange expertise on vaccine storage and distribution



TDT | Manama

Bahrain continues to develop its national vaccination programmes in line with global health best practices, said Supreme Council of Health Chairman Lieutenant General Dr. Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa. He made the remarks while opening the Effective Vaccine Management workshop, held in Bahrain until August 20 and or-

ganised by the Supreme Council of Health and Shifa National Medical Supply. The workshop brings together public health specialists and healthcare professionals to strengthen national capabilities and exchange expertise in vaccine management and supply chains. Shaikh Mohammed said Bahrain has continued to prioritise immunisation as a key pillar of public health and disease

prevention, while regularly updating its national vaccination programmes in line with scientific developments and international best practices. He added that the workshop aims to enhance the immunisation system and improve vaccine supply chains, ensuring the timely delivery of safe and effective vaccines in accordance with approved quality standards.

Three Arrested for Illegal Fishing in Bahrain Waters

Bahrain’s Coast Guard arrested three people after intercepting their boat for violating maritime regulations and using prohibited bottom trawl nets for fishing. The Ministry of Interior said the boat had crossed Bahrain’s maritime boundaries and returned despite repeated warnings and orders to stop. The occupants also prevented officers from carrying out inspection



procedures and failed to operate the vessel’s Automatic Identification System (AIS). Legal procedures have been taken against the three, pending referral to the Public Prosecution. The Coast Guard urged fishermen and sea users to comply with fishing and maritime navigation regulations and to immediately follow orders from marine patrols during inspections.

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Bahraini Hiring Drives Financial Sector Job Growth

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Bahraini workers accounted for all of the net job growth in the financial sector in the first three months of 2026, as the workforce rose to 14,880 and Bahrainisation hit 70 pc despite the march towards digital banking.

The number of Bahrainis working across the industry climbed by 97 in three months, from 10,321 to 10,418, while the number of foreign workers fell by one to 4,462, according to Central Bank of Bahrain figures.

Total employment rose by 96 from 14,784 in the final quarter of 2025. The figures show hiring holding up even as bank branches dwindle and customers shift towards apps, online transfers and contactless payments.

Bahrainisation has risen quarter by quarter. It stood at 69.5 pc in the second quarter of 2025, 69.7 pc in the third and 69.8 pc in the fourth before reaching 70 pc at the end of March.

Banks employed 7,235 people in the first quarter, up from 7,208 three months earlier. Bahrainis held 5,715 of those jobs, including 3,419 men and 2,296 women. Another 1,520 posts were held by foreign workers, comprising 1,276 men and 244



Financial Sector at a Glance

- 14,880 Total financial-sector workforce in Q1 2026
- 10,418 Bahraini employees
- 4,462 Foreign employees
- 70% Bahrainisation rate
- +96 Net jobs added in the first quarter
- +97 Increase in Bahraini employment
- -1 Change in foreign employment
- 7,235 Total banking-sector employees
- 5,715 Bahrainis working in banks
- 6,907 Employees in the non-bank financial sector
- 5,115 Women employed across the financial sector
- 81.5% Approximate share of female financial-sector workers who are Bahraini
- +18.3% Growth in POS and e-commerce transaction volumes in H2 2025
- 78.1% Share of POS transactions made through contactless payments
- -15.1% Decline in average ATM transactions in H2 2025

women.

Retail banks employed 5,204 people, up from 5,183, while wholesale banks had 2,001 workers, against 1,996 in the previous quarter. Representative offices employed 30 people.

Jobs also rose outside banking. The non-bank financial sector employed 6,907 people, up from 6,875, including 4,084 Bahrainis and 2,823 foreign workers. Insurance and reinsurance companies had 1,556

employees, of whom 1,188 were Bahraini and 368 were foreign workers. Firms working in insurance-related activities employed another 981 people.

Financial-sector support bodies recorded one of the sharpest gains, with staff numbers rising from 701 to 738. Investment business firms moved the other way, with employment slipping from 688 to 685.

Women held 5,115 jobs across the financial sector. Bahrainis accounted for 4,168 of them, or roughly 81.5 pc of the female workforce.

The rise comes as banking habits keep moving away from the counter. During the second half of 2025, the average daily number of Fawri+ transactions rose 9.6 pc from a year earlier, while average ATM transactions fell 15.1 pc.

Point-of-sale and e-commerce transaction volumes climbed 18.3 pc over the same period. Contactless payments made up 78.1 pc of point-of-sale transactions.

Yet the longer view is flatter. The sector employed 14,892 people in the first quarter of 2025, 12 above the latest figure. The latest numbers therefore show a quarter-on-quarter rebound rather than year-on-year job growth, with the rise driven by Bahraini hiring.

Small Data Leaks Can Expose State Security

Al Assoomi Warns of Espionage Risk From Data Leaks

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A photograph, an employee's name or even the time of a meeting can help a foreign power map a country's weak spots, Shura Council member Adel Al Assoomi has warned, saying small scraps of data can become weapons in the wrong hands.

The former Arab Parliament president said collusion with a foreign state was among the gravest threats to national security because it struck at sovereignty and attacked the state from within.

'Small information builds the big picture,' Al Assoomi said.

He warned that a single detail might look harmless on its own. But when photographs, names, locations, meeting times and social media posts are collected and studied together, they can reveal infrastructure, future plans and security gaps.

Open-source intelligence methods had made such scraps far easier to piece together, he said, raising the stakes for public servants and ordinary citizens alike.

'Protecting national security begins with protecting information and loyalty to the homeland, as they are the first line of defence,' he said.

Al Assoomi said legislative institutions must update laws to de-



"Information is the first line of defence."

- ADEL AL ASSOOMI,
SHURA COUNCIL MEMBER

ter espionage and the leaking of state secrets, while keeping pace with new risks in information security and artificial intelligence.

He said they must also oversee executive bodies to ensure cybersecurity rules and data-protection standards are properly applied.

Schools, universities and the media had a part to play too, teaching people that protecting information was a shared civic duty rather than a task left to security agencies.

He also called for greater awareness of rumours and foreign influence campaigns, saying examples of how such efforts had been countered could help build public resistance to them.

'The goal is to transform the protection of the homeland from a slogan into a daily behaviour for every individual,' Al Assoomi said.

Talent Without Borders

Piano Prodigy, Chinese Champion and Tennis Ace Take Centre Stage

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Three Bahraini students have been highlighted in the Education Ministry's "Our Students Inspiring Stories" campaign, showcasing achievements in music, languages, technology and sport.

Abdulrahman Khalid Isa, a third-year intermediate student at Al Hala Intermediate Boys School, was recognised from an early age for his musical talent and unusual ability to listen to a piece of music and reproduce it accurately on the piano. His school subsequently enrolled him in its gifted pupils pro-

gramme.

His interests extend beyond music. Abdulrahman has developed skills in Python, C++, JavaScript and CSS, alongside web development, artificial intelligence and electrical engineering. He has also won first place in the intermediate schools debate competition and an English speaking competition organised by Hidd Intermediate Boys School, in addition to singing in English.

Sara Mansoor Abdulla of Si-ta Secondary Girls School won first place in Bahrain's Chinese Bridge competition for secondary students, earning the opportunity to represent the kingdom



Abdulrahman Khalid Isa, Sara Mansoor Abdulla and Abbas Nabeel Ebrahim

at the world finals in China.

The competition is one of the major international events for students learning Chinese. Sara has also participated in drawing and poetry competitions, athletics and fitness events, and

won second place in her school's science experiments competition. She volunteered at the 2025 Asian Youth Games and Sports Day 2026, reflecting her belief in the importance of active participation in society.

Meanwhile, Abbas Nabeel Ebrahim of Imam Ali bin Abi Talib Primary Intermediate Boys School has built a promising career in tennis from a young age.

After being registered by his family at a Bahrain Tennis Federation talent festival, Abbas attracted attention for his understanding of the sport's fundamentals and his physical abilities. He was subsequently selected among the federation's promising young players.

He entered his first national tennis championship at the age of eight and has since attended training camps in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Turkey, Hungary

and Serbia.

His achievements include winning the Ebrahim Khalil Kanoo championships in the under-eight and under-12 categories, the under-12 doubles title and the BBK under-12 tournament. He was also runner-up at the Riffa Views under-12 competition and has represented Bahrain twice at the Ten-Pro international tournament.

Abbas has also excelled in football, training with Bahrain's age-group squad and winning titles with Al Maameer Club's football academy. He has been named both best player and top scorer in several competitions.

You may not catch it in the pool - but on the way to the changing room

Damp floors, shared facilities and poor hygiene can pose a greater fungal infection risk than properly disinfected pool water

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Swimming pools are generally considered safe when properly maintained, but the greatest risk of fungal infection may come not from the water itself, but from the damp surfaces surrounding the pool and changing rooms.

Public health consultant Dr Kawthar Al Eid said properly disinfected pool water is unlikely to transmit fungal infections. Instead, infections are more commonly picked up through bare feet on wet floors, shared towels and slippers, contaminated surfaces and prolonged moisture on the skin, particularly between the toes.

The distinction is important because it shifts attention from the pool water to hygiene prac-



"A safe pool depends on both operators and swimmers."

- DR KAWTHAR AL EID, HEALTH CONSULTANT

tices and how swimming facilities are managed.

A properly disinfected and well-maintained pool carries a very low risk of infection, Dr Al

Eid said. However, the risk can increase when disinfection is inadequate, chlorine or pH levels fall outside required limits, or people enter the water while carrying an infection.

Common illnesses associated with swimming environments include fungal skin infections, outer ear infections caused by water remaining trapped in the ear canal, and folliculitis. The latter is often linked to the bacterium *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and can appear as itchy red spots on the skin.

Red eyes are also frequently reported by swimmers. While they can be caused by infection, they may also result from irritation associated with chlorine or poor water quality. Everyday behaviour can also influence the risk.

Entering the pool without showering first, swimming while

suffering from diarrhoea or an infectious skin condition, walking barefoot around shared facilities, sharing towels, swallowing pool water and failing to dry properly can all increase the chances of infection.

Children require additional attention, including the use of swim nappies where appropriate.

Simple precautions can significantly reduce the risks. Swimmers should shower with soap before and after entering the pool, wear sandals around the pool area and changing rooms, and dry themselves thoroughly, especially between the toes.

Towels should never be shared, while anyone who is unwell should stay out of the water. Swimmers should also avoid swallowing pool water, cover cuts with waterproof dressings and use goggles when appropriate.

Social Development Minister Visits Youth City



Minister of Social Development Osama bin Saleh Al Alawi visited Youth City 2030 to review its programmes and initiatives aimed at developing young people's skills and capabilities and preparing them for the future.

Minister of Youth Affairs Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi was present during the visit.

The minister was briefed on the city's main centres and programmes, including the Science and Technology Centre, Arts and Culture Centre, Leadership and Entrepreneurship Centre, Media and Entertainment Centre and Summer Sports City.

The centres provide young people with training and practical experiences across a range of fields.

Al Alawi described Youth City 2030 as an advanced national model for investing in youth potential, praising its diverse programmes and opportunities to develop skills, talents and practical experience.

He highlighted the positive outcomes of the programmes, particularly their contribution to strengthening young people's skills, self-confidence, teamwork and sense of responsibility, while helping them transform their ideas into tangible projects and initiatives.

‘ChatGPT Told Me So’

Doctor Warns Patients Not to Let AI Replace Medical Advice

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Patients once entered the consultation room to describe their symptoms and medical history. Increasingly, ENT consultant Dr Hala Radhi says, some arrive with something else — an answer they have already found online.

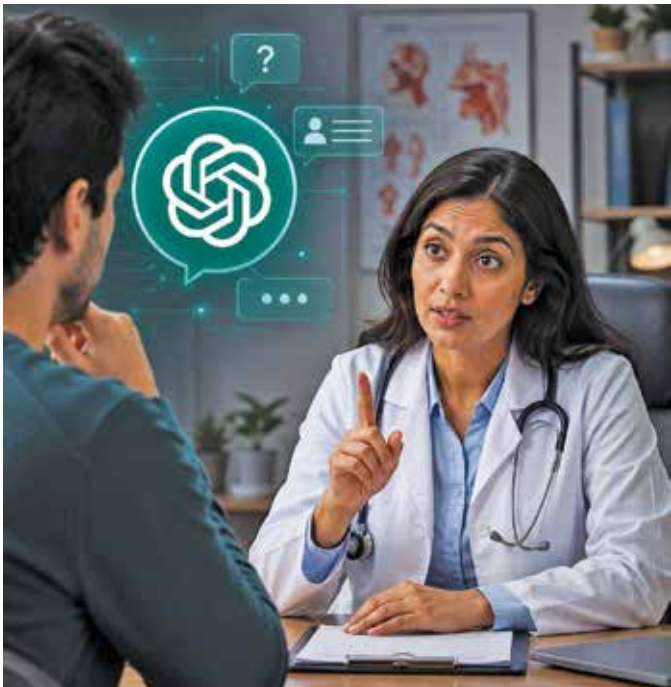
“Instead of the patient telling me his medical history and the symptoms he feels, now the patient comes and sits and argues with me,” she said. “I asked ChatGPT and it told me this...”

Patients are increasingly researching their symptoms, collecting medical information and sometimes forming their own conclusions before they have even been examined.

Dr Radhi said the concern is not that patients are educating themselves, but that information from artificial intelligence cannot replace a medical examination.

“Whatever information you find about your medical condition from ChatGPT, remember what it lacks,” she said. “It cannot smell. It cannot feel. It cannot understand the state you are actually in.”

For an ENT specialist, those limitations can be particular-



ly important. A patient may report a sore throat, a change in voice or a blocked ear, but symptoms alone may not reveal the underlying cause.

“You cannot open ChatGPT and tell it your throat hurts and have it ask what you feel, what you are doing,” Dr Radhi said. “It is impossible, and it needs to examine your ear.”

The same applies to patients who arrive convinced that a change in their voice must have a particular cause based

on information they have found online.

“You cannot tell ChatGPT your voice has changed and ask what the causes might be, and then come and argue with your doctor about what you saw and read there,” she said.

However, Dr Radhi stressed that patients should not stop educating themselves about their health.

“It is not wrong for a person to educate himself. We like education and we like de-



”
Ask ChatGPT, but don’t argue with your doctor.
DR HALA RADHI, ENT CONSULTANT

velopment,” she said, adding that she herself encourages patients to understand their medical conditions.

The problem, she said, begins when information turns into certainty.

AI chatbots can help patients understand medical terminology, prepare questions for a consultation and learn more about a health condition. But they cannot physically examine a patient, observe their condition or make clinical decisions based on what a doctor sees during an examination.

“But please do not argue with the doctor about the treatment plan because you asked ChatGPT,” Dr Radhi said.

Hamad Town Residents Seek Relief From Contractor Noise

Early-morning construction work sparks complaints during summer holidays



TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Construction noise in Hamad Town has prompted calls for stricter action against contractors accused of disturbing residents, including starting work as early as 4 am.

Northern Municipal Council member Abdulla Al Qubaisi urged the Ministry of Labour and the Northern Municipality to increase inspections of construction sites in Block 1209 following resident complaints.

Al Qubaisi said some contractors violate the midday outdoor work ban, which runs from noon to 4 pm under Ministerial Resolution No. 5 of 2026, while others start work in the early hours to avoid the restriction.

He said early-morning con-



Abdulla Al Qubaisi, Northern Municipal Council member

struction and the use of heavy equipment violate regulations protecting public rest in residential areas, disrupting residents’ sleep and daily lives.

Al Qubaisi called for immediate coordination between the Ministry of Labour and the municipality to address the violations and restore peace to the area.

From The Court

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

Businessman Accused of Falsifying Records of 23 People

The High Criminal Court First Circuit has adjourned the trial of a 53-year-old businessman accused of falsifying official electronic records involving 23 people in two separate cases.

The Public Prosecution alleges that the defendant entered false phone numbers and residential addresses into Ministry of Justice electronic systems while pursuing financial claims against the individuals.

According to court records, he allegedly entered the same phone number, which belonged to him, as the contact number for the people involved. As a result, legal notices and court notifications were reportedly sent to his number, preventing the affected individuals from learning about the proceedings

and defending themselves.

A Ministry of Justice official testified that the defendant used his eGovernment electronic key to enter the information into the ministry’s systems. The cases involved 14 people in one case and nine in the other.

More than 14 witnesses told the court that they had no connection to the phone number recorded in the lawsuits. Some said they only learned of the cases after judgments had been issued against them and their bank accounts frozen.

The defendant denied the charges. His lawyer requested his release, but the court ordered that he remain in custody.

The court adjourned the cases until August 24, 2026, for review and responses.

Three-Year Jail Term for Counterfeit Saudi Note

The High Criminal Court First Circuit sentenced a 48-year-old man to three years in prison and fined him BD500 for possessing a counterfeit SAR500 banknote with the intent to pass it off as genuine.

The case surfaced after the defendant was arrested by the Anti-Narcotics Directorate in connection with a drug-use case. When his belongings were returned, a SAR500 banknote found in his possession was later determined to be counterfeit.

A Ministry of Interior major from the Criminal Investigations Department told investigators that the note was discovered while handing over the defendant’s belongings following a Pub-



lic Prosecution order.

A forgery expert from the General Directorate of Material Evidence confirmed the SAR500 note was counterfeit.

The defendant told investigators he received the note from an unidentified person in exchange for BD30.

Three Held After Boat Hits Coast Guard Patrol

Suspects accused of fleeing during maritime ban and assaulting officers

Three suspects have been remanded in custody pending investigation after a boat ignored Coast Guard orders to stop and collided with a patrol boat during a maritime ban.

The Muharraq Governorate Prosecution said a suspicious vessel was detected by radar near the border area. A Coast Guard patrol approached the boat for inspection, but its captain attempted to flee despite repeated warnings to stop.

The boat then collided with the patrol vessel, injuring several officers. Two suspects fell into the sea and were rescued, while the patrol continued its pursuit and



apprehended the third suspect.

The suspects face charges including assaulting Public Security Forces personnel, intentional damage, fishing with bottom trawl nets in territorial waters and sailing during the maritime ban.

The Public Prosecution said investigations are continuing and stressed that legal action will be taken against those who violate maritime restrictions or endanger officers carrying out their duties.

Four Charged After Dating App Robbery

Suspects lured a 35-year-old man before assaulting him and stealing his electric bike

Four young men aged between 16 and 19 have been charged with robbing a 35-year-old Asian man after allegedly luring him through a dating app.

According to Public Prosecution investigations, the victim was riding his electric bike on a public road on June 17 when the defendants stopped him, assaulted him and searched his pocket. They also asked him to open his BenefitPay account.

After he refused, the defendants allegedly assaulted him again, stole his electric bike and fled. A medical report confirmed that the victim sustained injuries.

One defendant told investigators that he had agreed with the others to lure the victim to the location through a dating app. The third and fourth defendants also



admitted assaulting the victim, while all four acknowledged their involvement in the incident.

The High Criminal Court First Circuit adjourned the case until September 1 to appoint lawyers for the defendants, receive social and psychological reports for three of them and hear the defence submissions. Their detention will continue.

Council Reviews Mosque Development Projects

TDT | Manama

The Supreme Islamic Affairs Council, chaired by Shaikh Abdulla bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Khalifa, held today its third regular session of the Council’s sixth term.

On the occasion of the Prophet Muhammad’s Birthday (PBUH), the Council extended its congratulations and blessings to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the Royal Family, the government, the people of Bahrain and the Islamic Ummah.

The Council highlighted the occasion as an opportunity to recall the Prophet’s noble life, character and tolerant message, stressing its importance in promoting unity within the Islamic Ummah and strengthening its



shared purpose.

During the session, the Council reviewed its plans and programmes for 2027 and 2028, in addition to developments in mosque development projects.

The meeting also discussed two tenders related to mosque maintenance and construction and approved recommendations concerning three projects in the Northern Governorate, including the construction of a new mosque and associated facilities.

Bahrain, US discuss security ties



Bahrain and the United States discussed ways to strengthen security cooperation and coordination during a meeting in Manama on Tuesday. Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lieutenant General Adel bin Khalifa Al Fadhel, in the presence of Police Chief Lieutenant General Tariq bin Hassan Al Hassan, received Jeffrey Branigan, Special Agent in Charge for Northern California at Homeland Security Investigations, and US Ambassador to Bahrain Stephanie Hallett. The meeting covered areas of mutual interest, including exchanging expertise and experiences and developing joint cooperation mechanisms to support security and stability.

Tamkeen extends the registration period for ‘Musanada’ until the 30th of September 2026 – in addition to increasing the operational expenses support period

- The period of extension for support extends to applications previously approved.
- The extension, up until the end of September 2026, comes in response to the high demand from various corporations benefiting from the initiative.

TDT | Manama

The Labour Fund “Tamkeen” has announced the extension of the registration period for the “Musanada” program until 30 September 2026, in order to give a

greater number of institutions affected by the Iranian aggression the opportunity to benefit from the support, helping them sustain their operations, accelerate their recovery, and preserve the national workforce employed within them. The extension period includes all three tracks, which include ‘Directly affected Business Support’ track, ‘Operational Expenses Support’ track, and ‘Financing Profit Support’ track. In addition, Tamkeen has increased the support period under the program’s second track from three months to six months, in order to strengthen the ability of beneficiary institutions to continue their operations and retain their workforce.



The “Musanada” program aims to support Bahraini institutions affected by the Iranian

aggression and to help them overcome the challenges they currently face, through a range

of support channels designed to ease operational burdens and strengthen business continuity. Tamkeen continues to invite all institutions that meet the program’s criteria and requirements to take advantage of the extension period and submit their applications through Tamkeen’s official website. Institutions may also contact Tamkeen through its various communication

channels to obtain further information and support in completing the application process. The economic sectors supported under the “Musanada” program’s second track, “Operational Expenses Support,” and third track, “Financing Profit Support,” include the transportation and storage sector, the manufacturing sector, the tourism sector, accommodation and food service activities, trade activities and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, professional, scientific and technical activities, administrative and support service activities, game centre activities within the arts, entertainment and recreation sector, and kindergarten and nursery activities within the education sector.

Bahrain Bourse Hosts AI-Powered Productivity Workshop to Enhance Workplace Efficiency



TDT | Manama

Bahrain Bourse (BHB), a licensed exchange regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain, recently organized a specialized Artificial Intelligence (AI) productivity training workshop for its employees, reaffirming its commitment to fostering innovation and equipping its workforce with the digital capabilities required to thrive in an increasingly technology-driven workplace. The three-hour workshop introduced participants to leading AI tools, including Microsoft Copilot and Claude, demonstrating practical applications that enhance productivity and streamline day-to-day business operations. The workshop also enabled employees to

explore how AI can transform data, emails, meeting notes, and other workplace content into professional reports and business documents. Commenting on the initiative, Salman Alzayani, Director of Human Resources at Bahrain Bourse, said: “At Bahrain Bourse, our technology investments begin with our people. The AI-Powered Productivity Workshop is an important step in cultivating a future-ready workforce equipped to thrive in a rapidly evolving digital landscape. By investing in both our talent and emerging technologies, we strengthen our capacity to innovate, adapt, and deliver sustainable value across the entire capital market ecosystem.” The workshop reflects Bahrain Bourse’s ongoing commitment to empowering its

workforce through continuous professional development and digital innovation. As AI continues to reshape the future of work, Bahrain Bourse remains focused on equipping its employees with the skills and tools needed to enhance productivity, foster innovation, and support the organization’s long-term strategic objectives.



Bahrain Maritime Holding Company Announces Board Appointment and Consolidation of Maritime Assets

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Maritime Holding Company W.L.L., a newly established entity under Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat), the sovereign wealth fund of the Kingdom of Bahrain, announced the appointment of its Board of Directors and the consolidation of key maritime assets under its platform to accelerate the growth of the Kingdom’s maritime sector and position Bahrain on the regional and global maritime map.

Bahrain Maritime Holding Company will initially consolidate two of Mumtalakat’s portfolio companies: H. Al Dhaen Boats, a Bahraini boat-builder established in 1989 and recognised for craftsmanship that reaches customers across the GCC, Europe, North America and Asia; and Masar Group, operator of the Kingdom of Bahrain’s largest commercial passenger fleet, spanning marine transportation, logistics and tourism. Bringing these businesses together under one entity provides the scale, capabilities and ambition to compete regionally and



His Excellency Shaikh Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Board

grow internationally. The newly appointed Board of Directors of Bahrain Maritime Holding Company combines deep expertise across investment, the maritime sector and industry to guide the new entity’s growth. The Board will be chaired by His Excellency Shaikh Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, alongside members Mr. Hamad Yaqoob Almahmeed, Mr. Fawaz Ahmed Behzad, Mr. Husain Mohamed Alqaseer, Shaikh Mohamed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, and Mr. Peter Insull. Commenting on the announcement, His Excellency Shaikh Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, Chairman of Bahrain

Maritime Holding Company, said: “Bahrain Maritime Holding Company marks an important step in strengthening Bahrain’s maritime sector and building a platform with the scale and capabilities to compete regionally and internationally.” His Excellency added: “By bringing together the complementary strengths of H. Al Dhaen Boats and Masar Group, Bahrain Maritime Holding Company is well positioned to deliver more comprehensive maritime solutions, unlock new growth opportunities, and generate sustainable long-term returns and tangible local impact for the Kingdom of Bahrain.” Bahrain Maritime Holding Company aims to strengthen the Kingdom’s position as a regional hub for marine services, boatbuilding, logistics, passenger and cargo transportation, and marine tourism. By consolidating these businesses under a single entity, the company will be better positioned to create operational synergies, diversify revenue streams, and deliver more integrated, end-to-end maritime solutions in Bahrain and across the wider region.

BENEFIT Launches Digital Direct Debit to Advance Lending in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

BENEFIT, Kingdom’s innovator and leading company in fintech and electronic financial transactions service, has launched its Digital Direct Debit service, bringing credit and payment capabilities together to support a more connected lending journey, from credit assessment through to the secure and timely repayment of financial obligations. The service allows banks and financial institutions to establish recurring debit arrangements electronically, making it easier to collect installments and other scheduled payments while reducing reliance on manual and paper-based processes. Customers, meanwhile,

benefit from a straightforward way to manage their monthly commitments according to agreed payment amounts and schedules. By combining BENEFIT’s payment expertise with the capabilities of the Bahrain Credit Reference Bureau, the service addresses different stages of the lending journey within a more integrated framework. Credit information supports sound lending decisions, while the payment component provides an efficient mechanism for managing recurring repayments. Together, these capabilities provide financial institutions with a practical foundation for delivering a more consistent end-to-end lending experience.



Mrs. Latifa Al Mutawa, Assistant General Manager of the Bahrain Credit Reference Bureau

Mrs. Latifa Al Mutawa, Assistant General Manager of the Bahrain Credit Reference Bureau, said: “The growing interest in Digital Direct Debit among banks and financing



Mrs. Shafaq Al Kooheji, Assistant General Manager of Payment Services at BENEFIT

companies reflects the market’s continued shift toward seamless and digitally enabled lending journeys. By connecting reliable credit information with an efficient digital repayment

mechanism, we are helping lenders strengthen the end-to-end lending experience from informed credit decisions through to the collection of repayments. This integration simplifies processes for financial institutions, improves the customer experience, and provides a stronger foundation for the continued growth of digital lending in Bahrain.” Mrs. Shafaq Al Kooheji, Assistant General Manager of Payment Services at BENEFIT, stated: “Digital Direct Debit gives participating institutions a reliable way to arrange and process recurring financial obligations based on clear, pre-authorized instructions. It reduces operational processing, makes payments easier for customers

and supports more consistent collections. Its applications also extend beyond lending to the insurance sector, where it can be used to collect premiums in line with agreed payment schedules, making it relevant across a range of financial activities.” BENEFIT continues to deliver services and solutions that contribute to a more connected financial infrastructure in Bahrain and allow institutions to provide experiences that are more efficient and responsive to customer needs. By linking payment capabilities with credit information, the company is providing practical tools that strengthen the country’s lending ecosystem and broaden the adoption of digital financial services across the local market.

Frenchwoman makes first spacewalk



ESA (European Space Agency) astronaut Sophie Adenot
AFP | Washington, United States

Sophie Adenot became the first French female astronaut to venture outside the International Space Station for a spacewalk yesterday, accompanied by American astronaut Anil Menon.

During the six-and-a-half hour mission, the two astronauts were to replace an antenna that allows the ISS to communicate with mission control in Houston, according to NASA.

"I'm out," Adenot, 44, said after exiting the ISS, some 400

kilometers (250 miles) above the Earth. "I feel very good now."

Adenot, 44, became the second European woman to conduct a spacewalk after Italian astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti's 2022 mission.

The two space travelers could be heard chatting and laughing in NASA footage of their adventure.

President Emmanuel Macron hailed Adenot's space walk as a cause for "French pride," leading a chorus of praise from political leaders in her home country.

Meta in court over child social media addiction

AFP | Oakland, United States

Opening arguments began yesterday in the federal trial of Meta, the social media titan accused of deliberately making Instagram and Facebook platforms addictive to children, with a coalition of states seeking \$200 billion dollars in penalties.

In what many experts have called social media's "big tobacco moment," Meta stands charged with harming children by using technology specifically designed to foster addiction among young users in a similar fashion to cigarettes. The case could be "the be-

ginning of a broader reckoning" for Meta, Stanford law professor Nora Freeman Engstrom told AFP via email, with the company facing the prospect of having to entirely overhaul its two enormously popular global platforms if it loses.

The company has denied all the allegations, insisting it had worked with parents, experts and law enforcement to incorporate protective safeguards for children.

Meta founder and chief Mark Zuckerberg is among the star witnesses expected to testify, along with Instagram head Adam Mosseri.

Philippine student killed in livestreamed school shooting

AFP | Manila, Philippines

A student livestreamed himself shooting another schoolmate dead before taking his own life at a high school in the Philippines on Tuesday, authorities said.

The school shooting, the country's second in as many months, took place at Ateneo de Zamboanga University, a Catholic private institution in western Mindanao.

"What we know so far is that (the shooter) went to the classroom of our known victim. He shot the victim, and after doing that, he went up to the fifth floor and shot himself," regional police spokeswoman Shella Chang told AFP.

In a separate statement, interior secretary Victor Remulla confirmed the ninth-grade suspect had livestreamed the



Police gather at Ateneo de Zamboanga University

incident on social media. The alleged shooter's Facebook account has since been disabled.

In the video, which was circulated by local media, the barrel of a gun can be seen moving down a hallway in the style of a first-person shooter video game before being pointed into a classroom and fired.

West Bank siege exposes Israeli army inaction on settler violence

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

The Israeli military is touted as the most powerful in the Middle East, striking targets deep into enemy territory. But for more than a week, Israeli troops have somehow failed to evict a small group of settlers sitting on rocks in the occupied West Bank.

Experts say the military has long shown inertia when its task is stopping surging violence against Palestinians, due to government backing for the settlement movement and the increasing influence of settler ideology within the army's ranks.

More than a week ago, a handful of settlers at Qusra near Nablus began besieging Palestinians inside their homes, blocking supplies and drawing international and even domestic condemnation.

The Israeli military repeatedly deployed troops, with the United States saying it had requested action by its ally as one of the besieged Palestinians is a US citizen.



Palestinian men watch as Israeli bulldozers demolish a Palestinian building, citing the lack of a building permit, in Qalandia south of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank

But beyond condemnatory statements, the detention of one Israeli, and the dismantling of settlers' tents, little was done to force them out.

Some of the first soldiers to arrive at the scene were even filmed praying with the settlers. The military later vowed disciplinary action.

By Monday, settlers on quad-bikes were back at the site shaking

hands and chatting with Israeli forces, according to videos shared with AFP by a besieged resident.

The government's support for extremist settlers puts the military in an "impossible situation," said Nimrod Novik, a senior advisor and special envoy to former Israeli prime minister Shimon Peres.

The military is "forced to

choose between operating on the basis of its professional judgement and duty, which calls for applying harsh measures against violent settlers, or... adhere to government policy, which provides those terrorists with political backwind as well as resources," he told AFP.

"The result is paralysis with rare exceptions due either to the severity of the crimes or US intervention," Novik added.



The UN Security Council Resolution 2334 says the establishment of Israeli settlements in Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has "no legal validity" and is a major obstacle to a two-state solution.

Trump posts map showing Strait of Hormuz as US territory

● Trump first raised the idea of a US takeover on Friday, saying in a jovial-sounding tone he would soon declare it to be US territory

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump yesterday posted a map on his Truth Social platform showing the Strait of Hormuz as "NEW U.S. Territory," pressing his threat to claim sovereignty over the vital waterway.

Trump first raised the idea of a US takeover on Friday, saying in a jovial-sounding tone he would soon declare it to be US territory -- prompting Iran to retort that the strait "will remain Iranian."



US President Donald Trump posted a map on his Truth Social platform showing the Strait of Hormuz as "NEW US Territory". (Image: Truth Social/@realDonaldTrump)

Trump revisited the idea again Monday in comments to reporters in the Oval Office, suggesting it would be

a good idea.

This is not the first time that Trump, faced with a foreign policy obstacle, has threatened to annex foreign territory.

Since returning to power in 2025, he has threatened to make Canada the 51st US state, seize Greenland and has even alluded to taking control of the Gaza Strip, without following through on any of these threats.

Before the Iran war erupted on February 28, the Strait of Hormuz was an open, international waterway.



Sri Lanka ex-minister arrested over theft of king's sacred stone

● Rambukwella had also been charged with the unrelated offence
AFP | Colombo, Sri Lanka

A former Sri Lankan minister was arrested yesterday for allegedly aiding the theft of a centuries-old sacred rock from the palace of the island's last Sinhala king, an anti-corruption body said.

Keheliya Rambukwella was detained over the theft of the heavy carved circular granite rock known as a "moonstone" --

part of a symbolic stepping stone entrance to the palace of Veera Parakrama Narendrasinghe, the king who reigned until 1739.

The Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) said he had conspired in the removal of the valuable historic object in December 2022, and had also obstructed police investigations at the time.

"He conspired, aided and abetted the theft at a time when he was a minister," CIABOC said.

It said Rambukwella had also been charged with the unrelated offence of using state funds to



Keheliya Rambukwella employ six people for his private business.

The arrest came amid a separate, ongoing court case against him over the purchase of counterfeit medicines for state hospitals while he was health minister.

Police have told the court that he authorised the purchase of a life-saving cancer drug that turned out to be water.

Several other senior health ministry officials have also been indicted over the drug scam.

Rambukwella was health minister when Sri Lanka faced an acute shortage of medicines after defaulting on its \$46 billion foreign debt in April 2022, following its declaration of bankruptcy.

43 BC

Octavian, later known as Augustus, compels the Roman Senate to elect him consul

1839

Louis Daguerre's daguerreotype photographic process with complete working instructions is published "free to the world" in Paris as a gift from the French government



1942

World War II: Over 4,000 Canadian and British soldiers are killed, wounded, or captured during a raid on Dieppe, France

1988

Iran and Iraq begin a ceasefire in their eight-year-old war at 11 pm EDT

X

TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Kofi Annan was my mentor and my friend. Tuesday marks eight years since his passing. He was a guiding force for good and his legacy as a global champion for peace remains an inspiration in my life and in my work.

@antonioгутерres

02



The hour of the pioneers. By becoming the first Frenchwoman to venture into space, Sophie Adenot embodies French pride as much as a horizon for little girls who dream of infinity. The face of all possibilities.

@EmmanuelMacron

03



Strong country leadership is essential to achieving #HealthForAll. That's why @WHO is building its new WHO Representative (WR) Talent Pipeline to identify and prepare the next generation of public health leaders to serve as WHO's most senior representatives at country level.

@DrTedros

04



Extreme heat is reshaping the future of work in South Asia. Rising temperatures are putting millions of workers, productivity, and economic growth at risk.

@WorldBankGroup

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

Hamas says it is committed to Gaza deal

AFP | Gaza City, Palestinian Territories

Hamas said yesterday it remained committed to the US-backed Gaza peace deal after White House envoy Jared Kushner spoke to Israel about steps towards the group's disarmament.

"Hamas is committed to this agreed-upon process. It is clear that, so far, the Israeli side has not given the mediators clear approval of the roadmap," Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem told AFP. "There are timelines and procedural steps that need to be worked out in detail, but there must first be Israeli ap-

proval of the roadmap," he said. Kushner, President Donald Trump's son-in-law, held a rare meeting with Hamas on Sunday in Egypt before meeting the following day in Jerusalem with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has publicly rejected the latest phase of the deal.



A man carries an injured child at a hospital following a reported Houthi drone strike in the Mash'a area of Hays, south of Hodeidah

Qatar says Hormuz deal crucial for US-Iran talks

AFP | Doha, Qatar

Qatar, a key mediator in the stalled US-Iran talks, said yesterday that an agreement between Iran and Oman over the Strait of Hormuz would make it easier to resume negotiations to end the Middle East war.

Iran and Oman, both coastal states bordering the strait, have for weeks been discussing the future of navigation through the waterway, with Tehran saying the geographical coordinates of the route envisaged by both countries "have been agreed upon".

"We are also awaiting an agreement between the Sultanate of Oman and Iran regarding the Strait, which would enable

Trump says no talks taking place or planned with Iran

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump said yesterday that no talks with Tehran are under way or planned and insisted the blockade of Iran's ports remains in force.

"There are no talks or conversations going on, or

scheduled, with the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Naval Blockade remains in full force and effect," Trump wrote on his Truth Social network.

"The Hormuz Strait is open and operating. All water mines have been removed or detonated."

us to return to the framework of negotiations," Qatari foreign ministry spokesman Majed Al Ansari told reporters.

"The agreement over the Strait of Hormuz would make it much easier for us to resume the talks between the United States and Iran," he added.

A memorandum of understanding signed between the two sides in June effectively collapsed over management of the strait.

UN says only 3% of Gaza cropland accessible and undamaged

AFP | Rome, Italy

Just three percent of the cropland in Gaza remains accessible and undamaged, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization warned yesterday, citing an analysis of satellite images.

The report found that since October 2025, when a fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took hold, the area of accessible and undamaged cropland had fallen to 448 hectares from 601 hectares, a reduction of 25.5 percent.

Another 3,643 hectares of cropland are accessible but too damaged to be farmed without rehabilitation, the FAO said.

"Without urgent action to restore safe access and provide



A Palestinian youth carries a sack of oranges from the razed farmland in the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Hanun.

farmers with the support they need, opportunities to restore

local food production will continue to diminish," said Rein Paulsen, director of the agency's Office of Emergencies and Resilience.

Restrictions on the import of agricultural goods are also hampering recovery, with livestock farmers struggling to obtain animal feed and veterinary supplies.

Greenhouse availability has also declined, dropping 17.3 percent since October 2025 to 224 hectares that are accessible and undamaged.

The FAO said the reduced access could be explained mainly by the westward expansion of the so-called "Yellow Line" that separates the ceasefire zone from the area controlled by the Israeli military.

UK PM says not embarrassed by hoax messages with fake Trump aide

AFP | London, United Kingdom

New British Prime Minister Andy Burnham yesterday confirmed he had exchanged messages with someone pretending to be US President Donald Trump's chief of staff. Burnham sent a "few messages" via an unspecified communication channel to a person he believed to be the top aide, Susie Wiles, before becoming suspicious, Politico reported on Monday.

But addressing the hoax while on a visit to the central English city of Wolverhampton, Burnham said nothing sensitive had been discussed in the messages.

Asked if he was embarrassed at being taken in, he said: "No, I'm not, because there was a minimal exchange. Nothing of consequence, and actually, quickly I realised that this needed to be reported, and I did so.

"So I handled it in the right way. All politicians are receiving these pressures and



Andy Burnham

these challenges, but I did everything right," he told broadcasters.

"The correct action has been taken here and in the US," he added.

The incident was deemed serious enough for the British embassy in Washington to raise the matter with the White House, according to two sources cited by Politico.

Neither the date nor the content of the exchanges is known.

Burnham succeeded former Labour Party leader Keir Starmer as prime minister on July 20.

Pakistan court orders ex-PM Khan moved from jail to hospital

AFP | Islamabad, Pakistan

Pakistan's Supreme Court ordered authorities yesterday to move jailed former prime minister Imran Khan to hospital for medical checks, after the popular politician's lawyers complained about his poor health.

Imprisoned since 2023 on corruption charges he deems politically motivated, Khan will be moved "within the next two days" to Shifa International Hospital in the capital Islamabad, the court said in its order.

The three-bench court decided that the 73-year-old ex-cricket captain would also be allowed to meet with his family once a week and speak to his sons via telephone twice weekly.

"We are mindful of the constitutional and legal obligation... to safeguard the life,



health, dignity and security of persons in custody," the panel wrote.

Khan's personal physician Faisal Sultan, and sister and medical doctor Uzma Khan, "shall be permitted to remain associated with the prisoner's medical examination and treatment".

A medical board including an eye specialist and experts in internal medicine and cardiology would be established for Khan's treatment, the order said.

Trump, Carney hold talks as new US tariffs on Canada loom

AFP | Washington, United States

Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney has held urgent talks with US President Donald Trump, Ottawa confirmed yesterday, in an effort to avoid fresh US tariffs on Canadian goods as a midnight deadline fast approaches.

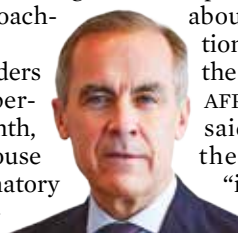
Trump signed orders for the steep 50-percent duties last month, with the White House alleging "discriminatory treatment" by Can-

ada against US alcohol, automobile and dairy products.

The tariffs are set to take effect Wednesday, covering products such as wine, hockey sticks and cement.

Efforts to avoid the tariffs are going down to the wire.

Carney spoke by phone with Trump on Monday afternoon about the trade negotiations, a spokesperson for the Canadian leader told AFP. On Monday, Carney said that talks to avert the duties were at an "intense and delicate" stage.



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applicants can contact 17404071 or PASTRIESONTHEFLY@GMAIL.COM

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region

Qatar says Iran invited to review search and rescue operations for pilots



Dr Majed bin Mohammed Al-Ansari, Advisor to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Qatar has reiterated its invitation for Iran to send a technical team to review details of search and rescue operations conducted following an incident involving Iranian pilots, saying Tehran has yet to respond.

Dr Majed bin Mohammed Al-Ansari, Advisor to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, made the remarks during the ministry's weekly media briefing.

Al-Ansari said the invitation had previously been formally extended to Tehran, but no response had been received. He also rejected recent Iranian media reports, describing them as "entirely devoid of truth" and containing unreasonable claims.

He said the Iranian aircraft involved had entered Qatari airspace and targeted Doha. Qatari forces responded under established rules of engagement after confirming the violation. Attempts were made to communicate with the pilots, but no response was received, he said.

Qatari search and rescue teams immediately began operations in line with international obligations. Al-Ansari said the teams located the remains of one pilot and notified Iranian authorities before handing

over the body, which was subsequently buried by the Iranian side.

Qatar also received an Iranian delegation and offered presentations detailing the search and rescue operation. However, Al-Ansari said Iran had not responded to the invitation to send a technical team to independently review the operation.

He stressed that Qatar would continue to protect its sovereignty and security while maintaining its commitment to respecting state sovereignty and regional coexistence.

On regional tensions, Al-Ansari said Qatar's priority was to contain the crisis and restore

the diplomatic track. He highlighted the need to maintain the ceasefire, ensure freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, and return to negotiations.

He said Qatar remained hopeful that Oman and Iran could reach an agreement on the Strait that would create conditions for negotiations to resume. There were currently no new developments in the Oman-Iran talks, he added.

Al-Ansari also confirmed continued coordination among Gulf Cooperation Council states at political, diplomatic, security and defence levels to prepare for potential regional repercussions and support efforts to prevent further escalation.

UAE detects two missiles launched from Iran; one falls in territorial waters

The UAE Ministry of Defence said yesterday that its air defence systems detected two ballistic missiles launched from Iran towards the UAE, amid heightened regional tensions.

The ministry said the first missile fell outside the UAE's territorial waters, while the second fell within the country's territorial waters. UAE air defence systems responded to the threat, with authorities confirming that multiple incoming threats were successfully intercepted.

The Ministry of Defence said it remains on high alert and fully prepared to respond to any threats targeting the country. It stressed that UAE forces are ready to safeguard the nation's sovereignty, security and stability, as well as protect its national interests and capabilities.

Authorities reassured residents that the situation across the UAE is safe. The Ministry of Defence and the National Emergency Crisis and Disasters Management Authority said



unusual sounds heard in some areas were caused by air defence systems intercepting the threats.

A mobile alert sent to residents confirmed that the situation was safe and thanked the public for their cooperation. Authorities said normal activities could resume, while urging residents to remain vigilant and continue following official channels for real-time updates.



The authorities also urged the public to avoid rumours and false information and rely only on official sources for updates.

CHANGE OF NAME

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fact check

Fact and fiction - the line has never been more blurred



In a world where information spreads faster than ever, not everything you see or hear is necessarily true.

This page takes a closer look at viral claims, trending stories and widely shared information — checking the facts, examining the evidence and separating truth from misinformation.

Old UAE fire clip falsely linked to Mideast war

TDT | agencies

Renewed fighting between the United States and Iran in July 2026 set off a torrent of falsely shared visuals online, including footage of a burning building that posts claimed

showed US missiles hitting an Iranian target. The video, frequently misrepresented as a scene from the Middle East conflict, in fact depicts a fire that engulfed a public market in the United Arab Emirates in August 2020.



“The US fired 1,800 missiles at Iran. Every single missile hit the target,” says a post written in Chinese and shared on the Chinese social media platform NetEase Video on July 23, 2026.

The video circulated elsewhere on X and spread online in other languages such as Hindi and English.

The posts emerged online as the US military carried out strikes on Iran, in the largest rekindling of the almost five-month-old war since an April ceasefire (archived link).

Iran has retaliated by firing at US military facilities in the Gulf. However, the circulating video is unrelated to the Middle East conflict and had in fact been previously misrepresented as an Iranian attack on a Dubai gas facility and a blaze at the Dubai International Airport.

A reverse image search on Google found the same clip



Screenshot comparison between false X post (L) and Google Maps street view of same location in Ajman, with similar elements.

Years-old Kuwait blaze falsely linked to renewed US-Iran conflict

TDT | Manama

As the United States and Iran resumed fighting, online posts shared footage they falsely claimed showed Iranian missiles causing a massive fire on an unnamed US military base in the Gulf. In fact, the video was shared by Kuwait's fire force in a July 2020 post about a blaze in a warehouse linked to air conditioning gas canisters.

“America is finished. Iran dropped bombs on the largest military base in the Gulf,” says a Facebook post written in Thai shared on July 17.

The featured 36-second clip, viewed more than 46,000 times, depicts a huge nighttime blaze, with smoke rising from a building behind a fire truck.

Misleading

The video has also been misrepresented on Instagram and spread in English and Arabic posts.

Fighting over the strategic Strait of Hormuz derailed diplomatic efforts between Washington and Tehran, triggering a US air campaign and Iranian reprisals that expanded the conflict to shipping lanes, Gulf allies and military bases across the region (archived link).



Fighting has also spread to a new front. Iran-backed Houthi rebels said they downed a Saudi drone over northwestern Yemen, after the Yemeni group claimed it attacked oil facilities in the Gulf kingdom.

The Houthis had said they struck Saudi Aramco sites in Jizan and Yanbu, after Riyadh bombed Houthi targets.

But the circulating video is unrelated to the Middle East conflict.

2020 Kuwait fire

A reverse image search on Google using keyframes led AFP to the same clip shared by the Kuwait Fire Force on its official Instagram account on July 29, 2020 (archived link).

The caption says air conditioning gas canisters caused the warehouse fire. The fire force also published video and photos showing fire trucks tackling the blaze at the warehouse

Warehouse

Subsequent keyword searches on Google surfaced a report from Kuwaiti newspaper Dasman News on July 29, 2020 that included the recently misrepresented video.

The Arabic-language post said explosions occurred at a warehouse in Kuwait's agricultural Sulaibiya area, caused by gas canisters used to fill air conditioning units.

Kuwait Times reported the same day that several refrigerating gas cylinders exploded



Screenshot comparison between the false Facebook post (L) and the Instagram post by Kuwait Fire Force

during the fire, citing Kuwait's Fire and Safety Department, adding the warehouses were

operating in violation of their agricultural license (archived link).

Fireworks at 2026 FIFA World Cup closing ceremony were white, not blue



TDT | agencies

Social media users claimed FIFA had prepared for Argentina's victory after a video appeared to show blue fireworks following Spain's 2026 World Cup final win.

The claim was used to suggest FIFA favouritism towards Argentina and Lionel Messi, with posts arguing that the fireworks matched Argentina's blue-and-white colours.

However, AFP photos and footage from other media outlets show the fireworks were white, not blue.

Spain beat Argentina 1-0 on July 19, with Ferran Torres scoring in extra time. The fireworks were launched from the top of the New York New Jersey Stadium after the trophy presentation.

The claim spread across X, Facebook, Instagram, Weibo, Threads and Xiaohongshu in several languages.



Muharraq, Al Khaldiya learn Asian rivals

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain clubs Muharraq and Al Khaldiya were handed their group-stage opponents for the 2026-27 AFC Champions League Two following yesterday's draw in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Reigning Nasser bin Hamad Premier League champions Muharraq were drawn in Group B alongside UAE side Al Jazira, Iran's Gol Gohar Sirjan and Turkmenistan's FK Arkadag.

League runners-up Al Khaldiya, meanwhile, face a challenging Group A featuring UAE outfit Al Wahda, Uzbekistan's FC Nasaf and Kuwait SC.

The 32-team competition is split evenly between West and East Asia, with four groups in each region. Teams will face each of their group opponents home and away, with the group stage running from September 15 to December 9.

Muharraq enter the competition as one of five former champions in this season's field and will be looking to improve on their showing last term.

The Red Wolves finished third in Group A in 2025-26, collecting seven points from two wins, one draw and three defeats as they narrowly missed out on the knockout stage.

Their upcoming campaign will mark the return of Bahraini coach Isa Al Saadoun, who has replaced Portuguese manager Fernando Manuel de Jesus Santos.

Al Saadoun previously managed Muharraq and returns to the club five years after guiding the Red Wolves to the AFC Cup title in 2021.

His side have been preparing for the new season at a training camp in Turkey, where they



Muharraq officials Abdulla Al Buainain and Mohammed Yaseen attend the draw

played four friendlies.

They suffered a 2-1 defeat to UAE side Fujairah before successive 1-0 losses against Egypt's ZED FC and Algeria's ES Sétif, and concluded their camp with a 1-1 draw against Qatar's Muaither Sports Club.

Al Khaldiya will also begin their Asian campaign under new management, with Croatian Goran Tomic succeeding

Tunisian coach Lassaad Chabbi.

They will be hoping to go one better than last season after also finishing third in their group, recording one win, three draws and two defeats for six points.

Al Khaldiya previously reached the round of 16 in the inaugural AFC Champions League Two campaign in 2024-25.

Like Muharraq, they have

spent part of their pre-season in Turkey, drawing 1-1 with Fujairah, losing 2-1 to Kuwait's Kazma and playing out a 2-2 draw with Al Salmiya.

Tomic's side then ended their friendly programme on a winning note, edging Kuwaiti outfit Qadsia 3-2 in their final pre-season test.

The top two teams from each of the eight groups will progress to the round of 16, which is scheduled to take place from February 9 to 18 next year.

The quarter-finals will follow from March 2 to 18, with the semi-finals scheduled for April 6 to 14 and the final set for May 15.

Japanese side Gamba Osaka enter the new campaign as defending champions after defeating Cristiano Ronaldo's Al Nassr 1-0 in the 2025-26 final.

Muharraq will be seeking another deep continental run as one of Bahrain's most decorated clubs in Asian football, having twice won the competition in its previous guise as the AFC Cup, lifting the trophy in 2008 and 2021.

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
AL WAHDA	AL JAZIRA	AL TAIHOUN FC	AL HUSSEIN
FC NASAF	GOLGOLHAR SIRJAN	AL RAYHAN	AL SHORTA
KUWAIT SC	MUHARRAQ	AL FAYSAL Y	AL SEEB
AL KHALDIYA	ARKADAG	AL NASSR	EAST BENGAL FC
GROUP E	GROUP F	GROUP G	GROUP H
FC SEIKO	ADELACE UNITED	MACHIDA ZELEA	GAZANHON
MELBOURNE VICTORY	BO PHATHAN LTD	SHANGHAI SHENHUA	KUANGHONG CITY
THE COMET - VIETTEL	LIJON CITY SAILORS	PKT SVAY RIENG	KITCHEE
WINNER AFC TWO PS (EAST)	TAI PO	TAMPINES ROVERS	PHANOM PENH CROWN

All eight groups following the AFC Champions League Two draw

Youth cagers eye last eight



Bahrain duo Onoduenyi and Abdulkadir during their group-phase finale

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain will look to book their place in the FIBA U18 Asia Cup quarter-finals when they face Chinese Taipei tomorrow at 11am Bahrain time in Ahmedabad, India.

The kingdom's youth men enter the qualification play-off on the back of an impressive 92-68 victory over Syria, which secured second place in Group B with two wins from three games.

Salman Ramadhan's side will now face Group A third-placers Chinese Taipei at the Veer Savarkar Indoor Stadium, with a place in Friday's last eight at stake.

Bahrain opened their campaign with a 74-68 victory over Lebanon before suffering an 86-42 defeat to group winners New Zealand.

They responded strongly against Syria, leading by as many as 31 points and dominating the second half 52-29 after their opponents had cut the deficit to just one at 40-39 by half-time.

Somto Patrick Onoduenyi and Hassan Abdulkadir once again spearheaded the victory, with both recording double-doubles.

Onoduenyi produced 26

points, 14 rebounds and five blocks, while Abdulkadir finished with 21 points, 12 boards and two blocks.

Mujtaba Mahmood Rayyan also played a key role with 17 points, including five three-pointers, while Ali Husain Mohamed added 10.

Chinese Taipei head into tomorrow's encounter after finishing third in Group A with a 1-2 record.

The six-time Asian medalists suffered a heavy 110-58 defeat to defending champions Australia in their final group game, having previously done enough to secure their place in the qualification play-offs.

Carter Coleman has emerged as a major threat for the East Asian side and was their lone player in double figures against Australia, scoring 18 points while adding five rebounds and two assists.

Chinese Taipei will be aiming to improve on their 12th-place finish at the previous edition in 2024, while Bahrain are seeking to reach the quarter-finals and move a step closer to a place at next year's Fiba U19 Basketball World Cup.

The four semi-finalists in Ahmedabad will secure qualification for the global championship.

Stephen Loman brings Cordillera warrior spirit to Pula Arena

Manama

Stephen "The Sniper" Loman has spent years carrying the name of the Cordillera far beyond the mountains of northern Luzon.

Born into the Ifugao community and shaped by highlands that rise to nearly 2,928 meters, the Filipino hard-hitter grew up far from the city lights of Metro Manila.

The rugged terrain helped forge the fighter he is today, instilling resilience through adversity, composure under pressure, and an instinctive refusal to back down.

Now, Loman will bring that warrior ethos to a place where combatants once faced one another before roaring crowds.

On September 5, he returns to BRAVE Combat Federation for the first time in five years, facing Georgian rising star Lasha Abramishvili in the co-main event of BRAVE CF 108 at the iconic Pula Arena in Croatia.

It will be Loman's first appearance in Croatia and the first time a Cordilleran fighter competes inside the ancient



amphitheater.

"I'm very excited to fight in Croatia for the first time. I've competed in many countries throughout my career, but this will be a completely different experience. Competing in a location with so much history makes this opportunity even more special," Loman said.

His career has already carried him across continents and into some of the most prominent venues, including the Singapore Indoor Stadium, Gachibowli

Indoor Stadium in India, Mall of Asia Arena in the Philippines, SSE Arena in Northern Ireland, and Khalifa Sports City Arena in Bahrain.

Pula Arena, however, offers a backdrop unlike any he has encountered.

Its story stretches back nearly two millennia. A wooden structure first occupied the site during the reign of Emperor Augustus before the monumental stone amphitheater was developed during the Flavian

dynasty in the first century CE under Emperors Vespasian and Titus.

The structure became a stage for gladiatorial contests and major public gatherings, drawing immense crowds to spectacles that would become part of Roman history.

Much of that grandeur remains.

Pula Arena is one of the best-preserved Roman amphitheaters in the world, with its limestone exterior, four side towers, and three classical architectural orders remarkably intact. It remains one of Croatia's most celebrated landmarks and a striking reminder of an era when gladiators entered the arena with thousands of eyes fixed upon them.

At BRAVE CF 108, Loman will cross that threshold under the rules of modern mixed martial arts.

"I know the history of Pula Arena, and that makes this fight even more meaningful. Warriors fought here centuries ago, and now I have the chance to compete in the same place in a different era. I want to honor

that history by giving the fans a performance they will remember," Loman said.

The significance of the occasion reaches far beyond the amphitheater.

The Cordillera is home to several distinct Indigenous tribes, including the Ifugao, Kalinga, Bontoc, Ibaloi, Kankanaey, and Isneg. While each community has its own language, customs, and traditions, their histories are bound by a fierce determination to protect their ancestral domains.

For more than 300 years, Cordilleran communities resisted Spanish colonization, defending their ancestral lands and gold-rich territories from outside control. The formidable highlands became a natural bastion, helping preserve their independence long after much of the Philippines had fallen under Spanish rule.

Loman is proudly Ifugao. Now based in Baguio City, he has carried that identity from the highlands to the international stage while building a legacy of his own.

"The Sniper" became the

inaugural BRAVE CF Bantamweight World Champion and successfully defended his crown four times during a remarkable 1,179-day reign.

After five years away, Loman will reunite with BRAVE CF as one of its pioneering figures, bringing the character of his homeland into a setting steeped in the memory of warriors from another age.

"I'm proud to be a Cordilleran. Wherever I compete, I carry my people and my heritage with me. Our ancestors were fiercely independent, and they protected their land and way of life for generations," he said.

"That determination is part of me, and I want to show the world what a Cordilleran warrior is all about."

Pula Arena has endured for centuries, preserving the memory of those who once entered its gates to battle.

On September 5, Loman will walk through those same gates carrying the pride of the Cordillera and the opportunity to etch his name into the story of one of the world's most historic arenas.

India close on victory in first Test against Sri Lanka

● India bowl Sri Lanka to 84-4

● Target set at 372 runs to win

● Pant reaches 100 Test sixes

AFP | Galle

India took a big step towards victory in the first Test in Galle yesterday after their bowlers reduced Sri Lanka, chasing a daunting 372 to win, to 84-4 on day four.

Left-arm spinner Manav Suthar took two wickets to rattle Sri Lanka's top-order on a pitch offering big turn.

Earlier, India were bowled out for 193 at tea after Rishabh Pant top-scored with 66 and became the fastest player to hit 100 sixes in Test cricket.

Sri Lanka then slipped to 47-4 before skipper Dhananjaya de Silva, unbeaten on 31, and Sonal Dinusha, 25 not out, put on a stubborn stand to steer their team to stumps.

"In Galle if you look at the history, spin plays a big part in the last couple of days and batting gets tough," said Sri Lanka's pace bowling coach Ryan van Niekerk.

"As a bowling group we have tried to improve and continue to find ways to get wickets. A team



India's Rishabh Pant plays a shot

like India will continue to take the initiative."

Opener Nishan Madushka Fernando was the first to go in the chase, top-edging a hook off Mohammed Siraj straight to fine leg to be dismissed for six.

Pasindu Sooriyabandara endured a forgettable debut after coming in as a concussion substitute for veteran Dinesh Chandimal, who hurt himself while fielding when he hit his head on the ground and was ruled out of the rest of the match.

Pant shines

Sooriyabandara was trapped



lbw by Suthar for a golden duck.

"The wicket was playing well," said Suthar. "Even when we were bowling in the second innings, we were getting only a little turn. Maybe tomorrow

there will be more turn."

Prasidh Krishna then had Kamindu Mendis caught at the first slip for two.

De Silva survived being caught at slip off a no ball by Ravindra Jadeja when he was on seven.

But Lahiru Udara fell to Suthar after close-in fielder Dhruv Jurel took a low catch, which the TV umpire gave out after several replays.

The Sri Lankan camp were disappointed with the decision, as the ball looked to have hit the turf before settling into Jurel's hands.

Bahrain head to Qatar for friendly tournament

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's basketball team will depart for Doha today to compete in a three-nation friendly tournament as they step up preparations for the Fiba Asia Cup 2029 pre-qualifiers.

The nationals will join hosts Qatar and Saudi Arabia in the three-day tournament, which gets underway tomorrow and runs until Saturday.

Bahrain open their campaign against Qatar tomorrow before facing Saudi Arabia on Friday, with both games scheduled for 7pm.

The tournament will provide another opportunity for newly appointed Greek-Slovenian head coach Slobodan Subotic to assess his squad ahead of the first round of the continental pre-qualifiers in Dubai.

The Bahrainis have continued their preparations at home in recent days, with training focused on improving the players' technical and physical readiness and implementing Subotic's tactical plans.

An initial 18 players were called up for the preparations: Mustafa Hussain, Ahmed Salman, Mohammed Bualay, Ahmed Bindayneh, Mohammed Juma'a, Ali Jaber, Mahmood Abbas Isa, Mustafa Hussain in action during training in Bahrain

Ali Hussain, Ahmed Alderazi, Emran Ashkanani, Abdulkader Thani, Hamad Faisal, Mohammed Ghazi, Ali Mohsen, Hassan Fahad, Nader Shaker, Muzamil Ameer Hamoda and JaKarr Sampson.

The squad is expected to be trimmed to a final roster ahead of Bahrain's competitive campaign.

Following the Doha tournament, Bahrain will turn their attention to the pre-qualifiers, which are scheduled to take place in Dubai from August 24 to September 1.

They have been drawn in Group A alongside hosts UAE, Oman, Nepal and Kuwait.

Bahrain begin their campaign against Oman on August 27 before facing the UAE the following day. After a rest day, they take on Nepal on August 30 and conclude the round against Kuwait on August 31.

The top three teams from the group will progress to the second round of pre-qualifiers, scheduled to be played later this year.

Bahrain are also preparing for next month's Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, where they have been drawn in Group C alongside defending champions the Philippines, China and Kazakhstan.



Kane confirms Bayern extension talks set to start



Harry Kane celebrates during a match (file photo)

AFP | Munich

Bayern Munich striker Harry Kane has said he is set to start negotiations to extend his contract with the Bundesliga champions beyond 2027.

Speaking at a media day in Munich, the 33-year-old England captain told reporters the discussions had been delayed until after he returned from a post-World Cup holiday, but would begin soon.

"I'm not sure exactly when, but they'll start this week or next week," Kane said of the extension talks.

"We're calm, they're calm with the situation. Obviously now's the time to start talking, because with only a year left

it's important.

"But both sides are relaxed and I'm pretty sure there'll be talks this week or next week."

Kane arrived at Bayern on a four-year deal in 2023 and has won two Bundesliga titles and a German Cup, while making the Champions League semi-finals in two out of three seasons. He has scored a remarkable 146 goals in 147 games in all competitions for Bayern.

Bayern have repeatedly said they want to extend Kane's deal at the club, having called the former Spurs striker their "best transfer ever" at the end of last season.

German media report-

Williams sisters fall at Cincinnati while Zverev advances

AFP | Cincinnati

Serena and Venus Williams lost in their first doubles match together since 2022 while men's top seed Alexander Zverev battled into the fourth round at the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Masters.

The Williams sisters, with 14 Grand Slam titles and three Olympic gold medals together, were side-by-side for the first time since the 2022 US Open but lost to American Payton Stearns and Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine 6-2, 1-6, 10-8.

"It was fun and special. We kicked off a little rust," Serena Williams said. "I didn't come here to win this tournament. It's about having fun and I did want to do the best I could."

German star Zverev, the reigning French Open champion, won his ATP season-best 46th match of the campaign by defeating Terrance Atmane 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (8/6).

Zverev finished the Frenchman, a 2025 Cincinnati semi-finalist, with a sizzling backhand down the line.

"He was playing incredibly aggressively, hitting forehands



Venus Williams and Serena Williams confer while playing Marta Kostyuk and Peyton Stearns

all over the court," Zverev said. "He made it difficult for you to play aggressive yourself."

Serena, 44, and Venus, 46, each lost serve once in the first set, dropping six of the final seven games, but dominated the second set and rallied from 8-2 down in the 10-point tie-breaker third set only to

lose on a Venus double fault.

"It was weird to be in a full stadium. This is not my usual Monday night," said Serena, who noted with the US Open approaching that their reunion is a limited-time attraction.

"This is not forever. It's... not long," she said. "We don't have to play every week. It's a bit

It was fun and special. We kicked off a little rust. I didn't come here to win this tournament. It's about having fun and I did want to do the best I could

SERENA WILLIAMS

different."

Alexandra Eala, the 17th-seeded Filipina, lost to US ninth seed Amanda Anisimova, who recovered after losing a 65-minute opening set for a 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory.

The opener featured a 20-minute fifth game, with Eala, 21, coming back from a break down before Anisimova battled back.

Men's fifth seed Alex de Minaur battled through multiple rain interruptions to defeat Arthur Fery 7-5, 7-6 (7/3). The Australian was up a set and 5-1 after a 30-minute stoppage before Wimbledon semi-finalist Fery caught fire, but he took the tie-break to advance despite 29 unforced errors.