

USA secure knockout place with win over Australia

Co-hosts United States reached the FIFA World Cup 2026 knockouts with a 2-0 win over Australia, becoming the second team after Mexico to advance. | P12

THE DAILY tribune

Co-hosts Mexico first team into knockout rounds 11 SPORTS

BUSINESS 4 Khalifa Port logs 97,000 containers by May

HM King Saudi Crown Prince discuss regional developments



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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa held a telephone conversation with His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia.

During the call, the two leaders reviewed the latest regional developments and discussed ongoing efforts to strengthen security and stability in the region.

They also exchanged views on a number of issues of mutual interest and reaffirmed the close ties between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Turkish Airlines to resume Bahrain flights

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Turkish Airlines will resume its scheduled Istanbul-Bahrain-Istanbul services from July 16, restoring regular flights between the two destinations.

The airline announced that passengers can begin planning travel and booking tickets through its official channels.

Two trains reported to have collided north of London

British Transport Police said yesterday it was responding to reports of a train "collision" north of London, with other emergency services saying they were attending to the incident amid media reports of injuries.

Unverified footage posted to social media appeared to show two East Midlands Railway (EMR) trains having collided, with one running into the other, and passengers pictured standing on the tracks beside damaged rail carriages.

Bahrain calls for AI hub and deeper regional integration

Marrakech forum hears proposals to boost innovation, trade and sustainable development



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Bahrain has called for stronger regional cooperation in artificial intelligence, economic integration and sustainable development during the fourth Marrakech Parliamentary Economic Forum for the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf Region.

Speaking during a session on artificial intelligence, Dr Ali Majed Al Noaimi said Bahrain has made digital transformation and AI a key pillar

of its development strategy through investments in digital infrastructure, smart government services and innovation-friendly legislation.

He proposed establishing a regional AI centre for the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf regions to serve as a platform for research, knowledge exchange, capacity building and technological cooperation. The centre, he said, would help accelerate innovation, strengthen cybersecurity, support startups and narrow the digital divide.

Meanwhile, parliamentarian Hanan Mohammed Fardan

highlighted Bahrain's experience in balancing fiscal reforms with continued investment in development projects and essential services. She said fiscal sustainability and economic growth can go hand in hand when supported by diversification, efficient public spending and investment-friendly policies.

Fardan called for a more integrated Euro-Mediterranean-Gulf economic framework to strengthen cooperation in trade, investment and public debt management. She also stressed the importance of

transparency and stronger legislative oversight to ensure long-term economic stability.

Participants at the forum discussed ways to enhance regional economic integration, address global financial challenges and explore new opportunities for cooperation between Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf countries.

The two-day forum brings together parliamentarians, policymakers and economic experts to examine strategies for sustainable growth, innovation and regional development.

Royal Court begins annual Hijri donations



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The Royal Court will begin distributing the annual customary donations to charitable associations and Hussaini ma'atams through the Sunni and Ja'fari Endowments Affairs Councils on the occasion of the Hijri New Year 1448.

The initiative is being carried out under the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and continues a longstanding tradition observed at the start of each Hijri year.

The donations aim to support charitable and community institutions across the Kingdom.

On the occasion of the new Hijri year, wishes were extended for continued prosperity, progress and well-being for Bahrain and its people.

Gulf trade roars back

Commercial vessel crossings through Hormuz hit a two-month high

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A sharp rise in shipping through the Strait of Hormuz has provided a fresh boost for Gulf trade, with commercial vessel traffic reaching its highest level in two months.

A total of 25 commercial ships crossed the strategic waterway on Thursday, according to maritime tracking firm AXSMarine, marking the strongest daily traffic since mid-April and more than three times the average recorded since early March.

The increase points to growing momentum across regional



shipping and logistics networks, reinforcing the Gulf's position as a vital hub for global trade and energy flows. Around a fifth of the world's oil and gas trade passes through the Strait of Hormuz, making it one of the

most important maritime routes in the world.

Activity was also picking up at ports across the region. At the UAE's Khorfakkan Port, container vessels were unloading cargo while queues of trucks formed

outside terminals as operators worked to move goods through the supply chain.

AXSMarine noted that actual traffic levels may have been even higher, as some vessels switched off or altered their tracking signals during transit. Regional authorities continue to facilitate maritime traffic through the waterway. Iran's Gulf Strait Authority said vessels planning to transit the strait should submit requests 48 hours in advance and announced the temporary waiver of certain transit-related charges for ships using the route over the next 60 days.

Next phase of growth

Bahrain secures \$510m IsDB financing for key projects

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Bahrain and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) have signed financing agreements worth about \$510 million for the King Faisal Highway Development Project and the Salman Industrial City Expansion Project.

The agreements were signed on the sidelines of the IsDB Group's 2026 Annual Meetings in Baku, Azerbaijan, along with a broader cooperation frame-



work agreement.

Under the deals, the IsDB will provide around \$180 million for the King Faisal Highway project, which includes upgrading the corridor between Al Farooq and Al Fateh junctions into a free-flowing route through the

construction of tunnels, a bridge and road improvements aimed at easing congestion in central Manama.

A further \$330 million will fund the expansion of Salman Industrial City. The project will reclaim around one million

square metres of coastal land and develop 800,000 square metres of serviced industrial plots, supported by roads, utility networks and electricity infrastructure. Yusuf Abdulla Al Humood, Undersecretary for Financial Affairs at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, said the projects support Bahrain's efforts to strengthen infrastructure, expand industrial capacity and drive sustainable economic growth.

The Sun may not engulf Earth after all, scientists say

AFP | Paris, France

Scientists have offered some distant good news: Earth may avoid being swallowed by the dying Sun after all.

For decades, researchers believed the Sun's expansion into a red giant billions of years from now would eventually engulf Earth. However, a new study suggests our planet could escape if the Sun loses enough mass through stellar winds as it ages.

As the Sun expands, its gravity will pull Earth inward. At the same time, the star will shed mass, pushing Earth into a wider orbit. According to researchers, the planet's fate depends on which effect proves stronger.

The findings, published in the journal *Astronomy & Astrophysics*, challenge the long-held view that Earth is destined to be consumed by the Sun in about five billion years.

