



Al Ramli Fire: Investigation Ordered



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, has ordered an investigation into the tragic fire incident that occurred in a residential apartment in Al Ramli, resulting in the deaths of four members of the same family. His Royal Highness instructed that the circumstances and causes of the fire be thoroughly examined and that necessary measures be taken following the investigation's findings.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister further directed that the findings of the investigation be urgently presented to the Cabinet. In addition, HRH instructed the relevant authorities to ensure compliance with fire safety requirements in residential buildings to prevent the recurrence of such tragic incidents. His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness extended sincere condolences and sympathy to the family and relatives of the victims.

P3

Man Held Over Social Media Posts

The General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security has arrested a 60-year-old man over allegedly misusing social media to publish content containing public insults against religiously revered figures.

The directorate said legal procedures have been taken ahead of referring the case to the Public Prosecution.

Authorities urged social media users to comply with laws and avoid publishing or circulating unlawful content.

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Supreme Council for Women Celebrates 25-Year Milestone

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Supreme Council for Women (SCW) marks its silver jubilee this week, commemorating 25 years since its founding on August 22, 2001, a landmark moment recognising the advancement of Bahraini women under the nation's ongoing development agenda.

Established under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the SCW has served as a cornerstone institution in building the legislative and institutional frameworks that have empowered women to play a full role in national life.



The anniversary coincides with Bahrain's designation of 2026 as the “Year of Isa the Great,” honouring the legacy of the late Sheikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa, underscoring the continuity of Bahrain's nation-building journey.

The celebrations also serve as a precursor to Bahraini Women's Day 2026, held under the royal patronage of His Majesty the King and themed “Twenty-Five Years at the Heart of the

Reform Project.”

The SCW is led by Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, whose stewardship has been central to the Council's enduring achievements.



Leaders Congratulate Morocco



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa sent congratulations to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco on the anniversary of the King and People's Revolution.

His Majesty praised the longstanding fraternal ties between Bahrain and Morocco and affirmed Bahrain's commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, also sent congratulations to King Mohammed VI, as well as to Crown Prince Moulay Hassan and Moroccan Head of Government Aziz Akhannouch.

GCC Housing Awards



Bahrain hosted a meeting of the judging committee for the seventh GCC Housing Award at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning.

The meeting brought together delegations from GCC member states and the GCC Secretariat to review projects submitted for the 2026 award, themed “An integrated housing project that enhances quality of life.”

Kingdom Strengthens Disease Control

Health Minister Dr Jaleela bint Al Sayyed Jawad Hassan chaired the fourth 2026 meeting of the National Taskforce for Infectious Disease Control, with representatives from relevant authorities.

The meeting reviewed national plans to strengthen disease surveillance, testing and early response mechanisms.

Bahrain Condemns Israeli Strikes on Syria

US envoy calls Abu al-Duhur strikes an unnecessary escalation

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has strongly condemned Israeli airstrikes on the Abu al-Duhur military airport in Syria's Idlib Governorate, describing the attack as a violation of Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity and a breach of international law and the UN Charter.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed Bahrain's support for Syria's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, stressing the need to halt escalation and respect the sovereignty of states.

further military incidents.

The strikes also drew a response from Turkey, which rejected Israeli allegations that Ankara posed a threat by preparing to deploy troops to a Syrian base. The facility was reportedly targeted in the Israeli strike.

The incident comes amid



heightened tensions over security arrangements in Syria. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Israel and Syria had agreed on a secu-

rity status quo that Damascus was reportedly close to breaching by allowing Turkish troops to deploy at an airbase near Aleppo. **Read More on page 6-7**

GCC Naval Chiefs Strengthen Maritime Cooperation



The 24th meeting of the Commanders of the Naval Forces of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states concluded in Bahrain. The meeting was hosted by the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), represented by the Royal Bahrain Naval Force, in the presence of Major General Staff Salman bin Ibrahim Al Fadhala, Assistant Secretary General for Military Affairs at the GCC General Secretariat, and Major General Staff Abdulaziz bin Ahmed Al Balawi, Commander of the GCC Unified Military Command. The meeting reviewed several agenda items focused on developing the operational aspects of the GCC maritime system, particularly maritime security and navigational safety in the Arabian Gulf.

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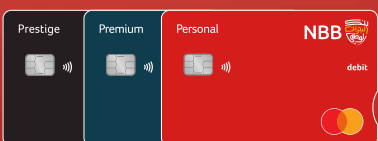
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Finance Minister Highlights Bahrain’s Development Efforts



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His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, received Her Excellency Dr. Rania Abdel Moneim Al-Mashat, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), during her visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The Minister affirmed Bahrain's commitment to advancing development efforts in support of the Sustainable Development Goals and in line with the visions and

aspirations of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

He also highlighted Bahrain's continued efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination with international institutions and organisations, benefiting from the exchange of expertise, experience and knowledge to support development objectives.

The meeting reviewed areas of common interest and cooperation and explored opportunities to further strengthen coordination to achieve shared goals and aspirations.

200 Work Accidents and Four Deaths Reported Since January

Authorities highlight reporting deadlines, disability assessments and compensation rights during labour safety workshop

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

Bahrain recorded 200 work-related accidents and four deaths between January and August this year, according to figures presented during a labour safety workshop.

The figures were announced at a workshop organised by the Labour Training and Awareness Committee of the Free Federation of Bahrain Trade Unions under the title “Reporting Work Accidents and Injuries and Determining Disability Rates and Compensation.” The event was attended by 35 workers and trainees.

The workshop featured Zahra Hashem from the Occupational Safety and Health Inspection Department at the Ministry of Labour, Dr. Wafa Al Jowder, Deputy Head of the Medical Committees at the Ministry of Health, and Zainab Isa, Senior Insurance Benefits Specialist at the Social Insurance Organization.

The speakers stressed the importance of reporting workplace injuries within the legally specified deadlines to protect workers’ rights to medical treatment and compensation.

Reporting deadlines

- 24 hours: Deaths and serious injuries
- 10 days: Work-related diseases
- 15 days: Injuries causing seven consecutive days of absence

Disability assessment

- Depending on the injury, assessment can take 6 months to 2 years
- Head and major nerve injuries may require up to 2 years

Compensation Guide

- No disability: No disability compensation
- 1%-29% disability: One-time compensation
- 30% or more: Work-injury disability pension
- 20% disability: BD3,456 in the example provided
- 40% disability: BD192 monthly pension in the example provided

Four deaths recorded

Hashem said the Ministry of Labour recorded 200 work accidents and four deaths from January to August.

She said accident reports are received from several sources, including the Ministry of Interior,

the Social Insurance Organization and injured workers.

She stressed that reporting accidents helps identify their causes, prevent similar incidents and ensure injured workers receive the treatment and compensation to which they are entitled.

Employers are also required to report injuries to the relevant authorities within the prescribed deadlines and complete the necessary documentation to ensure the injury is officially registered and the worker's insurance rights are protected.



“Disability is assessed only after the medical condition stabilises.”

- DR. WAFAL AL JOWDER



“Reporting an accident helps prevent similar incidents.”

ZAHRA HASHEM



“Serious work injuries remain a concern.”

- ZAINAB ISA

Al Ramli Fire Probe Intensifies After Four Deaths

TDT | Manama

Public Prosecution has launched an investigation into the deadly apartment fire in Al Ramli that claimed the lives of four members of the same family on August 18, as authorities work to establish the circumstances and cause of the blaze.

The Northern Governorate Chief Prosecutor said the Public Prosecution immediately began its investigation after receiving a report from the Northern Governorate Police Directorate.

Crime Scene investigators and a forensic doctor were assigned to conduct technical and medical examinations. A preliminary examination found that the victims died from suffocation.

Prosecutors visited the fire scene and conducted the necessary inspection before examining the bodies at Salmaniya Medical Complex. The bodies were later ordered to be handed over to their families.

Meanwhile, Civil Defence was tasked with preparing a technical report on the cause of the fire, while investigators were instructed to complete all necessary procedures.

The apartment remains under precautionary custody as



Officials visit the Al Ramli building after the deadly fire.



the investigation continues. The investigation aims to determine the fire's circumstances, details and cause, with further legal action to be taken based on the findings and technical reports.

Senior officials also inspected the building following HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa's directive for an expedited investigation.

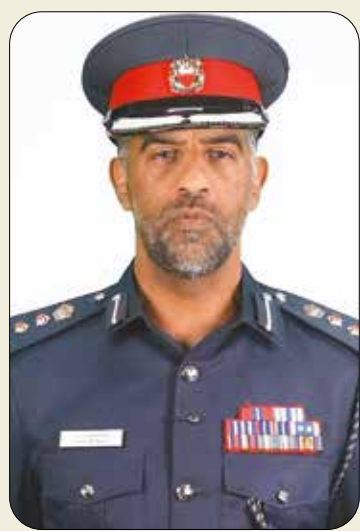
Don’t Ignore the Sirens

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

The first time a siren sounds, people are likely to react immediately. But as warnings become more frequent, some may begin to treat them as routine, continuing their activities or even going outside to see what is happening.

Colonel Osama Bahar of the Interior Ministry warned against this growing sense of familiarity, stressing that repeated exposure to warning sounds should not reduce people's response to potential danger.

He explained that psychology and sociology use several terms to describe this behaviour, referring to a decline in sensitivity and a weaker response to a recurring problem. In simple terms, people can become accustomed to something that initially caused concern.



“Don’t let familiarity put you at risk.”

- COLONEL OSAMA BAHAR

For Bahrain, however, the priority remains personal safety, he stressed.

The warnings are issued to protect the public, and residents should follow them every time they hear a siren. If a siren sounds, people should not go outside. The same applies when the sound of an interception is heard.

Colonel Bahar also stressed the importance of choosing an appropriate safe location.

Being indoors does not necessarily mean being protected, he said, warning people against going onto rooftops or remaining in exposed areas.

The message is clear: familiarity with repeated warnings should never lead to complacency. When a siren sounds, residents should stay indoors and move to a safe, sheltered location.

Rutab season is here: How many can you actually eat?

Seasonal fruit offers fibre and essential nutrients, but portion size matters because of its natural sugar content

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Rutab season is here, and with the sweet fruit appearing on tables and in shops, it can be easy to keep eating more than intended.

Licensed dietitian Hawra Al Radhi said portion size is important, particularly because rutab are naturally high in sugar despite offering a range of nutritional benefits.

A single rutab contains roughly 20 to 28 calories, depending on the

variety. Khalas contains around 20 to 23 calories per piece, while sukkari has about 23 to 26 and barhi around 25 to 28.

For healthy adults without medical conditions, Al Radhi recommends around five to seven rutab a day as part of a balanced diet.

The same general range can apply during pregnancy for women



Hawra Al Radhi, Licensed dietitian

without gestational diabetes. However, pregnant women should monitor their blood sugar levels and pay closer attention to portion sizes, particularly later in pregnancy.

For children, two to four rutab a day is considered a reasonable amount. The fruit can also provide a healthier alternative to sweets and highly processed snacks.

People experiencing constipation may have around four to eight rutab a day, although Al Radhi stressed that this is only a general guide and the appropriate amount depends on the cause of constipation and the individual's overall diet.

For people with diabetes, the recommended portion is considerably smaller. Al Radhi advises limiting intake to one or two rutab a day and counting the carbohydrates as part of their usual dietary plan.

How you eat them matters

Al Radhi recommends eating rutab alongside a source of protein or fibre. This can slow digestion and help reduce a rapid rise in blood sugar compared with eating a large portion of the fruit on its own.

A few pieces can comfortably fit into a balanced diet. The challenge comes when a healthy seasonal fruit becomes something eaten almost unnoticed, with the number of pieces quickly adding up.

Muharraq Souq: Heritage Meets Development

Field visit highlights efforts to support traders and revitalise Souq

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chairman Nabeel Khalid Kanoo has emphasised the importance of preserving the identity of Muharraq Souq while developing its commercial and tourism activities to strengthen its position as a vibrant destination for businesses, shoppers and visitors.

Kanoo described Muharraq Souq as one of Bahrain's most prominent historic and commercial markets, reflecting the Kingdom's longstanding economic heritage and Muharraq's role in the country's trading history. He stressed the importance of supporting businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises operating in the market.

His remarks came during a field visit organised by the Bah-



rain Chamber's Board of Directors to Muharraq Souq, attended by several board members, traders and business owners as part of the chamber's programme of field visits aimed at strengthening direct engagement with the business community and identifying the needs of local markets.

The visit began with an open discussion session with Muharraq Souq traders at businessman Fouad Shwaiter's majlis. Discus-

sions focused on key challenges and proposals related to developing the market, stimulating commercial activity and enhancing its appeal to shoppers, visitors and tourists.

Kanoo said direct communication with traders remains a key pillar of the Board of Directors' approach during its 31st term. He noted that the chamber is keen to listen to business owners at their places of activity,

convey their views and needs to the relevant authorities and coordinate with them to identify appropriate solutions.

He added that the proposals and observations raised by Muharraq Souq traders would be studied and followed up with the relevant authorities, aiming to develop practical initiatives and solutions that support businesses, stimulate commercial activity, enhance the market's

competitiveness and ensure the sustainability of existing businesses.

The chamber chairman and board members also toured the Qaysariya Market and several facilities and shops across the souq, meeting traders and shop owners and listening to their views on developing the market and boosting commercial activity.

Kanoo highlighted the his-

torical and heritage value of Qaysariya Market, describing it as a testament to Muharraq's longstanding commercial standing and its links to trade, pearl diving and traditional markets.

He stressed that preserving this identity while pursuing balanced development would enhance the market's economic and tourism value and support the commercial activities operating there.

Serving Pilgrims with Dedication

Information Minister Commends Hajj Mission's Organised Care for Bahraini Pilgrims

TDT | Manama

Information Minister Dr. Ramzan bin Abdulla Al Noaimi praised the Bahrain Hajj Mission's outstanding efforts in serving and caring for the Kingdom's pilgrims and facilitating the performance of their Hajj rituals with ease and reassurance.

He highlighted His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's royal care and the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to provide the best possible services and care for Bahraini pilgrims.

The minister made these remarks as he received Sheikh Adnan bin Abdulla Al Qattan, Head of the Bahrain Hajj Mission, and members of its Media Committee, who presented the committee's report on the 1447 AH Hajj season.

Dr. Al Noaimi commended



the Hajj Mission's organised and comprehensive work in following up on the pilgrims' affairs and needs throughout the season, praising its commitment to providing high-quality services and care.

He also affirmed the Ministry of Information's continued support for the Media Committee

by providing the necessary media capabilities and assistance to help it carry out its duties efficiently and professionally.

The minister noted the committee's important role in providing comprehensive media coverage that highlights the Hajj Mission's efforts in serving Bahraini pilgrims.

For his part, Sheikh Al Qattan and members of the Media Committee expressed their appreciation to Dr. Al Noaimi for the ministry's support and attention to media work accompanying the Hajj season, noting that the provided resources contributed to the successful completion of the committee's duties.

Labour Ministry Digitises Job Interview Delay Requests

Jobseekers can now submit postponement requests online at least one day before scheduled interviews

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Labour has developed its service for jobseekers seeking to postpone scheduled job interview appointments, as part of government efforts to improve service quality, streamline procedures and accelerate digital transformation.

The upgraded service enables jobseekers to submit a postponement request in advance through the National Employment Platform, with applications reviewed according to approved regulations.

Under the new system, the user interface has been improved and procedures simplified, while the service has been fully digitised. Previously, jobseekers were required to contact the ministry by phone, email or through the National Suggestions and Complaints System, Tawasul, to provide reasons for requesting a postponement.

Following the upgrade, beneficiaries can directly access the National Employment Platform and electronically submit the reason for postponement at least one day before the scheduled interview. Information about the service has also been standardised across all available channels.

Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa,



Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour, said the service forms part of the ministry's continued efforts to adopt innovative digital solutions that enhance the beneficiary experience, improve service efficiency and speed up completion.

He added that the development reflects the ministry's commitment to continuously improving its procedures and services, while strengthening the effectiveness of the labour system.

As part of wider government efforts to develop and re-engineer public services, more than 1,300 government services have been documented, translated and published, with 800 undergoing development and re-engineering across various government sectors.

Two Identical Houses Can Get Two Different Answers

Muharraq Municipality clarifies rules for turning part of a residential property into a commercial space

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Having a spare room at the front of a house, with a road outside, does not automatically mean it can be turned into a shop.

Muharraq Municipality has reminded homeowners that permission to use part of a residential property for commercial purposes depends on the property's classification, permitted uses and the regulatory requirements applying to the site.

A property classified as residential cannot automatically be partially converted to commercial use. The municipality said the possibility of opening or allocating a space for commercial activity varies from one property to another based on approved classifications, zoning maps and the requirements applicable to each site. Several factors determine



Having the space is not the same as having permission



whether commercial use is permitted, including the property's classification and surrounding area, the uses allowed under approved zoning maps, and whether the property is located along a commercial frontage where ground-floor commercial activities are permitted.

The location of the proposed commercial space in relation to the road and the frontage through which commercial access is allowed must also be considered, along with parking and traffic require-

ments for the proposed activity.

In addition, the building and the intended commercial activity must meet the relevant technical and regulatory requirements.

Under the Planning and Development Regulations, com-

mercial frontages are plots where ground-floor commercial uses are permitted under approved zoning maps. The regulations also establish controls governing the opening of commercial premises on properties located along such frontages.

Youth explore Bahrain's parliament



Participants in the Parliamentary Junior Programme visited the Shura Council, where they learned about its legislative and oversight roles, parliamentary procedures and the cooperation between Bahrain's legislative and executive branches.

Bahrain Islamic Bank celebrates ‘We Write in Arabic’ talents

Signing ceremony for second-edition publications held as part of Youth City 2030

TD | Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank celebrated the winners and participants of the second edition of its “We Write in Arabic” initiative at a signing ceremony for the published winning literary works, held as part of the Youth City 2030 events.

The ceremony was held in the presence of Aymen bin Tawfiq Almoayed, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, and Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi, Minister of Youth Affairs, along with officials, writers and participating young talents.

The event marked a milestone for the initiative’s participants, whose literary works transformed from competition entries into published works carrying their names and reaching readers.

Almoayed praised the initiative as an investment in young people’s creative talents, noting its contribution to enriching Bahrain’s cultural scene and strengthening the presence of the Arabic language among younger generations.

He also commended the partnership with Bahrain Islamic



Bank and congratulated the winners and participants, encouraging them to continue developing their talents and contributing to the literary scene.

Tawfiqi highlighted Youth City 2030’s role as a national platform for nurturing young talent, saying the ceremony reflected efforts to help young people

turn their abilities into tangible achievements that enrich Bahrain’s cultural and creative landscape.

Fatima Al Alawi, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Islamic Bank, said the initiative’s impact goes beyond announcing the winners, as it gives young writers the opportunity to see

their ideas transformed into published works and provides their creative voices with a wider platform.

The bank said it will continue supporting young literary talents through the “We Write in Arabic” initiative, helping develop their abilities and expand the reach of their creative works.



Zain Bahrain Visits Youth City 2030



TD | Manama

Zain Bahrain’s management team recently visited Youth City 2030 at Exhibition World Bahrain (EWB), joined by representatives from the Ministry of Youth Affairs. During the visit, a tour of the event was conducted, providing an opportunity to explore the programs and initiatives offered to young participants.

As the main telecom partner of Youth City

2030, Zain Bahrain is supporting the event with internet services while continuing to empower young people with future-focused digital skills through the Zain Esports Academy, one of the flagship initiatives featured in its participation this year. The Academy provides practical programs in esports, game development, coding, and digital creativity, designed to strengthen innovation, teamwork, and strategic thinking.

Oil prices surge as geopolitical tensions tighten global supply

Global oil prices have climbed to multi-week highs as geopolitical tensions and supply disruptions fuel concerns over tighter crude markets.

Brent crude is trading around \$91.60 a barrel, while WTI is near \$85.67. Market volatility has been driven by uncertainty surrounding shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, regional tensions, and declining crude exports from major producers.

Concerns are also growing over falling global diesel and distillate inventories, which



could push fuel prices higher and add to inflationary pressures.

Traders are closely watching US crude inventory data and Federal Reserve signals for clues on whether oil prices will continue rising or face a pullback.

Al Salam Bank Partners with Hope Fund to Offer Employee Loyalty Rewards Program

TD | Manama

Al Salam Bank has announced its enrolment in the Employee Loyalty Rewards Programme, an initiative run by Hope Fund, in a move that underlines the Bank’s commitment to recognising its employees and building a motivating work environment that supports stability and a sense of belonging in the workplace.

The Bank’s participation in the programme reflects its appreciation of the pivotal role employees play in its ongoing success, and its interest in initiatives that celebrate their dedication and contribution towards achieving the Bank’s objectives. It also forms part of the Bank’s efforts to provide a positive work environment that reinforces employees’ sense of recognition and belonging, while encouraging excellence



and long-term commitment.

Through a transparent rewards mechanism, eligible full-time employees will be able to take part in monthly draws offering the chance to win a range of cash prizes, a move expected to boost job satisfaction, strengthen employee engagement and deepen their connection with the organisation.

Commenting on the announcement, Muna Al Balooshi, Chief Human Resources Officer of Al Salam Bank said: “We are proud to join the Employee Loyalty Rewards Programme, which reflects our continued commitment to recognising our employees and valuing their efforts and dedication. We believe our people are the cornerstone

of the Bank’s success and sustained growth, and our participation in this programme underlines our commitment to building a corporate culture rooted in appreciation, engagement and excellence, further strengthening Al Salam Bank’s standing as an employer of choice in the Kingdom of Bahrain.”

She added that joining the programme is part of the Bank’s wider efforts to promote a cul-



Shaikha Noora bint Isa Al Khalifa, representative of Hope Fund



Muna Al Balooshi, Chief Human Resources Officer of Al Salam Bank

ture of recognition and loyalty in the workplace, and to support initiatives that help raise levels of satisfaction and belonging among staff.

For her part, Shaikha Noora bint Isa Al Khalifa, representative of Hope Fund, welcomed Al Salam Bank’s enrolment in the programme. She noted that the move reflects the growing interest among banking sector institutions in recognising their workforce and reinforcing

a culture that values dedication and continuity in the workplace.

The Employee Loyalty Rewards Programme honors employees for their years of service and contributions to the success of their organisations, helping organisations boost engagement and retain talent through incentive-based rewards. It offers monthly cash prizes to employees of participating entities, in addition to the National Grand Prize and the Bahraini Youth Reward.

This partnership reaffirms Al Salam Bank’s commitment to continued investment in its employees, and to developing initiatives that enhance their professional experience, recognise their contributions, and support a positive, sustainable work environment built on engagement, excellence and organisational loyalty.

Israel, after base strike, says Syria acceptance of Turkish troops posed ‘threat’



A member of Syrian government forces, stands guard the Abu Duhur military air base area in Idlib province

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel accused Syria of violating an agreement by accepting Turkish troops on a base in its northwest, which was bombed yesterday in an attack the United States criticised and blamed on Israel.

Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes on Syria since the fall of longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad in late 2024 but Tuesday’s raid was well away from a self-described security zone Israel maintains in the south of the country.

The base was out of service since 2012 and protected by the Syrian defence ministry, a security source told AFP.

According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor, the strikes came after a visit by a Turkish military delegation to the airfield in recent days as part of efforts to reactivate it.

Turkey was the first Muslim-majority nation to recognise Israel but Israel has tense relations with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whose roots are in political Islam and who has vociferously denounced Israel, especially over its devastating offensive in Gaza.

US envoy for Syria Tom Barrack accused Israel of “an unnecessary escalation”, in a rare direct criticism by the United States of its close ally.

Syria condemns unjustified ‘Israeli airstrikes’ on air base

AFP | Damascus, Syria

Syria’s foreign ministry condemned what it said was an unjustified Israeli attack on an air base in the country’s northwest on Tuesday, while Israel has not commented on the incident.

Syria “condemns in the strongest terms the Israeli airstrikes targeting” the Abu

Duhur military air base in Idlib province “and considers them an unjustified act of aggression”, a foreign ministry statement said, urging the international community and the United Nations Security Council to “take a firm position against Israel’s repeated violations of Syrian sovereignty”.

At least 23 dead as bus, truck crash in Brazil

AFP | Brasília, Brazil

A head-on collision between a bus carrying medical patients and a truck killed at least 23 people early Wednesday in southern Brazil, highway police said.

The crash occurred at 3:30

am local time (6:30 GMT) when the truck veered into the other vehicle’s lane in the municipality of Ipiranga in Parana state, police said.

“At least 23 deaths have been confirmed. Most of the victims were on the bus,” authorities said in a press release.

Gold mine collapse kills at least 100 people in C.Africa

AFP | Bouar, Central African Republic

A landslide at an illegal gold mine has killed at least 100 people in the Central African Republic on the border with Cameroon, local sources told AFP yesterday.

Search operations are still under way after the accident at the Zamboye mining site, about 50 kilometres (31 miles) from the town of Baboua, on Tuesday afternoon.

Several local sources said that around 100 people had died and many others were injured in the latest of many such accidents in the miner-

al-rich nation.

“At this stage it’s difficult for us to establish a formal toll,” Baboua elected official Laurent Ngon Baba told AFP early on Wednesday.

At least four of the victims were Cameroonian, the Cameroon Tribune reported.

Survivors were taken to hospital in Baboua, while the search continued on Wednesday. The landslide is believed to have been caused by “the collapse of several underground tunnels in which miners were operating”, the Baboua public prosecutor said in a statement, announcing a judicial inquiry had been opened.

ICC says US sanctions ‘flagrant attack’ on court independence

AFP | The Hague, Netherlands

The International Criminal Court on Wednesday lashed out at the United States after Washington slapped sanctions on ICC President Tomoko Akane, calling it a “flagrant attack” on the court’s independence.

The US sanctioned Akane of Japan and trial lawyer Abdoulaye Seye of Senegal on Tuesday, as part of Washington’s campaign against what it calls a “corrupt and fatally politicised” body.

The EU’s top officials immediately threw their support behind Akane, saying they “stand firmly” with the ICC president and her top officials.

In twin statements on X, European Commission chief Ursu-

la von der Leyen and European Council head Antonio Costa the court “must be able to act independently and without external pressure.”

Germany echoed the stance, with its foreign ministry calling the court’s independence “of central importance”; while the Netherlands, which hosts the court at The Hague, also voiced its disapproval.

Slamming the US move, Spain described the court as “the cornerstone of the international

criminal justice system”.

The court said in a statement: “These sanctions are a flagrant attack against the independence of an impartial judicial institution.” “Such measures targeting judges, prosecutors and staff... undermine the rule of law,” it added.

Washington’s latest move follows sanctions it imposed on several ICC officials, seen as largely in response to the court’s investigations involving Israel, a US ally. Japan also ob-

jected to the sanctions, saying the country has “consistently supported the ICC... in its efforts to prosecute and punish the most serious crimes of concern to the international community and to uphold the rule of law.”

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio earlier said, without providing examples, that the sanctioned “individuals have directly engaged in efforts by the ICC to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute officials whose government has not consented to ICC jurisdiction”.

Established in 2002, the ICC prosecutes individuals accused of the gravest atrocities and acts as a last resort when countries do not have adequate legal systems to ensure accountability.



The ICC is the world’s first permanent international court created to prosecute individuals for the most serious crimes – including genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Kim Yo Jong says ‘unaware’ of Kim-Trump communication

● Trump said on Sunday that he had told the Pentagon to curtail the annual Ulchi Freedom Shield exercises

● Kim Yo Jong nevertheless said her brother still had “good memories and feelings” about Trump

● Nuclear-armed North Korea has long voiced outrage at the exercises, considering them

AFP | Seoul, South Korea

The powerful sister of Kim Jong Un said Wednesday she was “unaware” of reported communication between her brother and Donald Trump, after the US president hinted at contact with the North Korean leader, but said ties between the two remained “excellent”.

Kim Yo Jong’s statement came hours after Washington and Seoul announced their annual exercises would end about a week earlier than planned following an order from Trump to scale them back.

Trump said on Sunday that he had told the Pentagon to curtail the annual Ulchi Freedom Shield exercises -- a day before they started -- citing his “good relationship” with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Asked on Monday whether Kim had responded to his requests for a conversation, Trump said: “Yeah, he has.”

But Kim’s sister, Kim Yo Jong, said Wednesday she was unaware of any such contact between her brother and Trump.

“Regarding the recent news

Trump says will meet North Korea’s Kim later this year

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump said yesterday he would meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un this year, in what would be their first encounter

of Trump’s second term.

“Yeah, I will be,” Trump told reporters during a tour of a new helipad he is building at the White House, when asked if he planned to meet Kim later in 2026.



North Korea’s leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump cross south of the Military Demarcation Line (file)

Trump says North Korea has 57 nuclear weapons

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump said yesterday that North Korea has 57 nuclear weapons, in a rare and unusually precise assessment of Kim Jong Un’s

atomic arsenal.

“He has 57 very powerful nuclear weapons. Should have never allowed it to happen,” Trump told reporters at the White House. “But he’s got them. I get along with him very well.”

from Washington about communication between the leaders of North Korea and the United States, I am completely unaware of it,” she said in a statement.

“It is likely the only matter concerning our top leadership’s

foreign policy that I am unaware of.”

Kim Yo Jong nevertheless said her brother still had “good memories and feelings” about Trump and that the relationship between the two leaders remains

“excellent”.

Earlier Wednesday, Seoul’s military said the drills would wrap up on Friday, not on August 27 as originally planned.

“We have decided to adjust the UFS exercise period to run from the 17th to the 21st,” South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

The decision was made “at the suggestion of the US side”, it added.

The Pentagon said the “substantially reduced” drills would “preserve essential readiness and... (cause) no degradation to US training objectives”.

The exercises are designed to prepare for a possible attack by North Korea.

They were understood to consist of two phases: the first, focused on defending against potential North Korean threats, was due to run until Friday; and the second, focused on a counteroffensive, from August 24 to 27.

The second phase is now understood to have been scrapped.

Kim Yo Jong, however, dismissed the reduction, saying: “we do not consider it worth commenting on and find it completely uninteresting.”

She said reducing the scale or duration of the exercise did not change their “provocative and aggressive” character.

Nuclear-armed North Korea has long voiced outrage at the exercises, considering them dress rehearsals for an invasion.

Wednesday’s early morning commentary by the state-run Korean Central News Agency said they pose “the most immediate and open threat” to North Korea and “regional security”.

That commentary did not mention Trump’s order or his desire to resume talks with Kim, with whom he has hinted at being in contact.

TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Serving others has be-
come more dangerous
than ever. More than 1,000
humanitarians have been
killed in the last 3 years.
Humanitarian workers
stand up for people in
need. We must stand up
for them. We must #Act-
ForHumanity.Now.

@antonioGuterres

02



Music fosters com-
munion. It helps
unite our hearts to over-
come differences be-
tween people and bring
everyone together in
praise of God through
a symphony of voices.
#GeneralAudience

@Pontifex

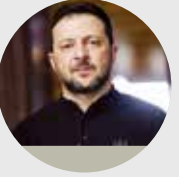
03



Last month, I launched
a diplomatic cam-
paign to dismantle the
ICC's threat to our na-
tional sovereignty. The
Trump Administration
is sanctioning ICC Presi-
dent Tomoko Akane and
Senior Trial Lawyer Ab-
doulaye Seye in our un-
wavering mission to pro-
tect Americans from this
sham of a court. In honor
of our Declaration of In-
dependence, Americans
will never be transported
beyond seas to be tried for
pretend offenses.

@DrTedros

04



Today, 103 Ukrainian
warriors are return-
ing home from Russian
captivity. They are de-
fenders from the Armed
Forces, the State Border
Guard Service, and the
National Guard.

@ZelenskyyUa

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

Sri Lanka unearths golden Buddha statues in ancient capital

AFP | Colombo, Sri Lanka

Sri Lankan archaeologists have excavated 17 gold-plated Buddha statues from a UNESCO World Heritage site believed to have been a monastery more than 2,000 years ago, an official told AFP yesterday.

The rare find on Tuesday came during excavations of a rampart of the Abhayagiri temple complex in Anuradhapura, an ancient capital in the island's centre north.

Project manager Thusitha Herath, of the government's Central Cultural Fund, said this was the most significant discovery in the archaeologically protected area in more than three decades.

"We have found artefacts before, but this is the first time we have seen such a large number of statues," Herath told AFP

from the excavation site, 210 kilometres (130 miles) north of Colombo.

The 17 bronze statues plated in gold have features similar to artefacts from the seventh and eighth centuries, and are estimated to be about 1,200 to 1,300 years old, Herath said.

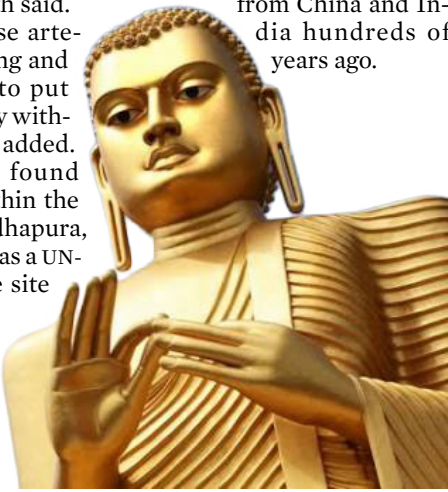
"We have sent these artefacts for further testing and we hope to be able to put them on public display within about a month," he added.

The statues were found buried at random within the Sacred City of Anuradhapura, which has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1982.

Sri Lanka's Central Cultural Fund has been carrying out excavations following the international recognition, which

also imposed conservation responsibilities on the government.

The area is known to have embraced a diverse mix of Theravada, Mahayana and Vajrayana doctrines of Buddhism, attracting scholars and pilgrims from China and India hundreds of years ago.



Israel army admits firing on car in death of five-year-old Hind Rajab

● The Israeli military had previously denied its troops were present in the area

● Alongside the Hind Rajab case, the military published reviews into four other high-profile incidents in Gaza

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

The Israeli military on Wednesday admitted its troops fired on a car carrying five-year-old Hind Rajab in Gaza in 2024, saying it had ordered a criminal investigation into the killing which drew international outrage.

Hind Rajab's body was recovered from a car riddled with bullets in Gaza City days after she was last heard from in a desperate, hours-long phone call to the Palestinian Red Crescent on January 29, 2024.

The Israeli military had previously denied its troops were present in the area near the incident.

"Following review of the findings and due to alleged failures in the coordination of the movement of the Palestine Red Crescent ambulance, it has been decided to initiate a criminal investigation of the incident by Military Police Criminal Investigation Division," the military said on Wednesday.

Alongside the Hind Rajab case, the military published reviews into four other high-profile incidents in Gaza, saying it was also launching a criminal probe into the 2025 killings of 15 Palestinians including medics and humanitarian personnel.

Hind Rajab had made the emergency call after her family's car came under fire during an attempt to flee Gaza City amid an Israeli advance in the Palestinian territory's north.

Her body was eventually re-



5-year-old Palestinian girl Hind Rajab has been found dead. (Palestine Red Crescent Society)



Israeli soldiers stand guard during the demolition of a Palestinian building, citing the lack of a building permit, in Qalandia south of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank

covered along with those of six relatives and two Red Crescent rescue workers sent to find her.

Her death sparked international outrage and calls for an independent investigation, and the original audio recordings of her emergency call were incorporated into the Oscar-nominated feature film "The Voice of Hind Rajab".

Upon publishing its review into the incident on Wednesday, the Israeli military said its findings indicated troops had "fired at a vehicle that was approaching them while travelling contrary to the advance notice" that had been given to residents in the area.

"As a result of the fire, five of the vehicle's passengers were killed, and two survived: Hind Rajab and her cousin Layan Hamada," it said.

The military said that following a call to rescue authorities in which the girls participated, the movement of a Palestine Red Crescent ambulance had been coordinated in order to evacuate the casualties.

"However, according to the allegations raised, upon the ambulance's arrival at the scene of the incident, a shell was fired toward it, resulting in the deaths of the two paramedics travelling in it," it added.

The Hind Rajab Foundation, a Brussels-based legal organisation seeking to address alleged Israeli violations in Gaza, said it had "no confidence" in the move by the Israeli military.

"These reported investigations, even if they do occur, should not be mistaken for a genuine step toward justice," it said in a statement.

U-TURN WITH UK

The Art of Understanding...

P. UNNIKRISHNAN



I couldn't believe my eyes when I first saw the video. I looked again. And then once more.

A Bahraini fisherman was in the sea, seemingly riding alongside a shark. To most of us, the sight is frightening — a shark is one of the ocean's most efficient predators, its instincts and senses honed over millions of years. Yet here was a man completely at ease in its presence.

Perhaps he understood the animal's behaviour better than most of us ever could, knowing exactly when to approach and when to keep his distance. Either way, it was a memory that would stay with him for life.

It reminded me how little we really know about the sea. We have explored only a fraction of our oceans, yet beneath the surface exists an extraordinary world of intelligence, communication, instinct and survival.

One creature that fascinates me most is the orca.

Orcas are the largest members of the dolphin family and are apex predators that are remarkably intelligent, with sophisticated social structures. They have distinct hunting techniques, diets, and calls and clicks passed down through generations.

In some ways, their societies feel surprisingly familiar. Female orcas can live for decades after they stop reproducing, and scientists believe these older females play a vital role — helping younger members locate food and navigate difficult conditions, their accumulated knowledge becoming a survival tool for the whole family. In an ocean where survival depends on intelligence, cooperation and experience, knowledge passes down through generations.

Orcas also have a particular fascination with sharks, with some populations targeting the nutrient-rich livers and leaving much of the rest untouched.

And despite their fearsome reputation, there is no established pattern of wild orcas hunting humans for food. The nickname "killer whale" says more about their power as predators than about their relationship with us.

Perhaps the greatest lesson here is that instinct does not always mean aggression — it means understanding the environment well enough to survive within it.

I have swum in beautiful seas across many countries — the Maldives, Zanzibar, Langkawi. Yet I have always regretted not properly exploring the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, despite their relative closeness to my hometown in India.

A photographer friend once showed me images from his travels through those islands — among them, North Sentinel Island, home to the Sentinelese, one of the world's few remaining uncontacted Indigenous peoples.

For thousands of years, they have lived in remarkable isolation. Their population isn't known with certainty, but is thought to be small. They hunt, fish and gather using traditional methods, and have consistently made clear they want no contact with outsiders.

Their isolation isn't simply a matter of choice — it's a matter of survival. The Indian government strictly protects North Sentinel Island, recognising that people cut off from the modern world for generations may have little or no immunity to diseases ordinary to us, where even a mild infection could be devastating.

In 2018, American missionary John Allen Chau illegally travelled to the island attempting contact, and was killed — a tragic reminder of the danger of ignoring those boundaries. The story is disturbing, but it raises a difficult question: why do we assume every isolated community needs to be contacted, changed, or brought into our way of life?

This brings me back to the shark, the orca and the Sentinelese — at first seemingly sharing nothing: a predator, an extraordinarily intelligent marine mammal, and a human community deliberately separated from the modern world. Yet a common thread may run through all three.

We often think communication means speaking, approaching, touching. It doesn't always. Sometimes it means understanding another being's boundaries — knowing when to come closer and when to stay away. It is about learning how to swim and live together in the short life we have.

P. Unnikrishnan is the Chairperson and Managing Director of The Daily Tribune.

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cancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39723000 or SHADI@XS4ARABIA.COM

MALATE CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36484758 or ATTAU3421@GMAIL.COM

Swat Garage has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33801802 or SWAT.SK89@GMAIL.COM

LEE SALEH GENTS SALOON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34168877 or LESARADOCUMENT0607@GMAIL.COM

KAPPALAM STREET RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(AS-SISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39755678 or Kappaalam@gmail.com

BALLOONS CORNER TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33593752 or IMT_AHMED08@HOTMAIL.COM

KUCHA CONCEPT CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39891992 or KUCHA.CONTRACTING@GMAIL.COM

SABEENA FASHION DESIGNING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35615964 or SMARTGULFDESIGN@GMAIL.COM

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AL TALAAQ CARS has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37223222 or JABERJALIL@GMAI.COM

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MUNDATTU CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36077630 or MAHMOOD301916@YAHOO.COM

AAQIB PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PROJECTS COORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38107826 or ABUAAQIB5680@GMAIL.COM

ABU ZARYAB INTERIOR SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR(INTERNAL WORKS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38026824 or ANWAARISLAM.BHN@GMAIL.COM

Aqua Global Logistics W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33112395 or mgrfin@aquagloballogistics.com

Last Touch Beauty Salon has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33889930 or almadeh99@gmail.com

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ALKOMED ENGINEERING SERVICES CO. has a vacancy for the occupation of AIR-CONDITIONING TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17698500 or ALKOMED@BATELCO.COM.BH

QUALITY EDUCATION SCHOOL has a vacancy for the occupation of TEACHER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17277984 or layla@haridasp.com

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

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RENVO CARGO HANDLING SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33340551 or KANWALRASHID27@GMAIL.COM

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RACING FORCE INTERNATIONAL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17839999 or gov.rfi@racing-force.com

PRIME MODERN WOOD COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33766440 or rizwan@pmwbh.com

PANORAMA CONTRACTING & ENGINEERING SERVI has a vacancy for the occupation of TOOL GRINDER, MACHINE TOOLS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17729935 or AHMED@PANORAMABH.COM

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BAHRAIN GUARDING SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77996666 or GOVERNMENT@mre.co

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

HUSSAIN MARZOOQ AHMED MARZOOQ has a vacancy for the occupation of GROOM, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17690968 or modbake@gmail.com

ALBAQIE MODERN LAUNDRY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PRESSER (HAND), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33299991 or HANAN.SAEED73@GMAIL.COM

SHOWAITER HOME SWEETS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36960999 or INFOBAHRAIN2@GMAIL.COM

AMAZON DATA SERVICES BAHRAIN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33331554 or noorya@amazon.com.bh

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AHMADI INDUSTRIES B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17271333 or HR@AHMADIPEPSI.COM

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MISSION SKATING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66306609 or MSKSKATING@GMAIL.COM

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SECURI CORE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17822228 or HRGUARDS@SECURICORE.BH

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TRADERS VICS CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17586906 or TARIQ.SHARIF@RITZCARLTON.COM

BAHRAIN COMPUTER SUPPORT CENTRE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CO-ORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17826644 or ARJUMA@UNEECO.COM

Madi International CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17550084 or HR@MADI-INTL.COM

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AL AHHAD CONTARCTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36234960 or AJCSHAFIQ72@GMAIL.COM

region

Arab Parliament condemns Israeli strikes on Syria, urges UN action

The Arab Parliament has strongly condemned Israeli air strikes targeting the Abu Al-Duhur military airport in Syria's Idlib province, describing the attacks as a serious violation of Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Arab Parliament President Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Yamahi expressed full solidarity with Syria and warned that continued Israeli attacks could undermine efforts to establish stability and further escalate tensions across the region.

Al Yamahi called on the international community and the UN Security Council to fulfil their responsibilities by taking a firm position against the attacks and working to prevent



further violations.

He stressed that repeated Israeli attacks pose a direct threat to regional security and stability, urging international action to protect Syria's sovereignty.

The Arab Parliament president also reaffirmed Syria's legitimate right to defend its sovereignty and national interests in accordance with international law and established international norms.

Qatar, Saudi FMs Discuss Regional Security



Qatar's Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah Al Saud in Riyadh on Wednesday to discuss bilateral cooperation and regional developments.

The two sides reviewed relations between Qatar and Saudi Arabia and ways to strengthen cooperation and joint action across various fields.

The meeting also focused on regional developments, diplomatic efforts to reduce escalation and contain tensions, and efforts to enhance security and stability. Developments in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories were also discussed.

The two ministers stressed the importance of continued coordination and consultation between the two coun-

tries and closer alignment on current regional developments. They also reaffirmed support for resolving disputes through diplomatic means and strengthening regional and international efforts to ease tensions and promote dialogue.

They further emphasised the importance of ensuring the security and safety of maritime navigation, particularly in the Arabian Gulf and the Red Sea, to safeguard international trade and vital maritime routes.

Qatar and Saudi Arabia also renewed their condemnation of Israel's declared rejection of the roadmap for completing the implementation of US President Donald Trump's comprehensive plan to end the Gaza conflict, which was endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2803, as well as Israel's rejection of the establishment of a Palestinian state.

UAE rejects reports of visa cancellations and financial support to Iran

The UAE is focused on managing regional developments and preparing for the next phase rather than being distracted by what it described as false claims, Dr Anwar Mohammed Gargash, Diplomatic Adviser to the UAE President, said on Wednesday.

Gargash said some platforms were circulating misinformation about the UAE as part of what he called "desperate media campaigns". He said the country's response would be to focus on tangible results and achievements on the ground.

He specifically dismissed reports claiming that the UAE was cancelling workers' residency visas and providing financial facilities to Iran, describing both claims as incorrect.



"The UAE's approach is that the best response to such claims is through work and achievements on the ground," Gargash said in a post on X.

He added that facts and measurable achievements remained stronger than rumours and urged attention to the UAE's continued efforts to address regional developments and prepare for what comes next.



Opel's China shift rattles hometown



- Opel is expanding its partnership with Chinese electric-vehicle maker Leapmotor
- The move comes as Stellantis, Opel's parent company, plans to cut 650 engineering jobs

TDT | agencies

For more than a century, CEO of German carmaker Opel, Florian Huettl



ry, Opel has been at the heart of life in Rüsselsheim. But as the German carmaker turns increasingly to Chinese technology and cuts engineering jobs, the city is wondering what its future looks like without the company at its centre.

Opel is expanding its partnership with Chinese electric-vehicle maker Leapmotor to develop a new SUV, combining German automotive expertise with Chinese know-how in software and low-cost EV production.

The move comes as Stellantis, Opel's parent company, plans to cut 650 engineering jobs at Opel's Rüsselsheim development centre, reducing a workforce of 1,650.

The cuts have raised fears that the site could gradually lose its role as a centre for vehicle development and become little more than

an adaptation hub for cars designed elsewhere.

Opel chief executive Florian Huettl says the changes reflect a new reality. Chinese carmakers accounted for 9 per cent of the European Union car market in the first five months of 2026, rising to 10.5 per cent in June, he said.

"The arrival of Chinese manufacturers in Europe is a reality," Huettl said, arguing that the partnership could combine the strengths of both sides.

But for Rüsselsheim, the changes are difficult to ignore.

Opel's workforce in the city has fallen dramatically from about 42,000 employees in the 1970s to around 6,800 at the end of 2025. The company's decline has mirrored the struggles of Germany's wider automotive

industry, with Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz, BMW and Porsche all pursuing cost-cutting programmes.

There is some relief. Stellantis has allocated production of the next-generation Opel Astra and DS4 to Rüsselsheim, helping secure the plant beyond 2029 as part of a 1 billion investment programme in Germany.

Yet the city is preparing for a future beyond Opel.

The company plans to release 140,000 square metres of industrial land, which officials hope to transform into a green-hydrogen technology hub.

For Mayor Patrick Burghardt, the challenge is balancing the pain of job losses with the opportunity to reinvent the city.

"We have two hearts beating in our chests," he said — one

worried about Opel's decline, the other looking towards a new economic future.



Opel was founded in 1862, but it didn't build its first car until 1899 — meaning the German brand spent nearly four decades making products such as sewing machines and bicycles before entering the automobile business.

New Hyundai Tucson gets bigger, bolder makeover

TDT | agencies

Hyundai has unveiled the next-generation Tucson, giving its popular SUV a larger footprint and a bold new design.

The new model is based on Hyundai's "Art of Steel" design philosophy and is 60mm longer, 40mm wider and 20mm taller than its predecessor. Its wheelbase has also grown by 30mm.

The Tucson adopts a more upright,

boxy profile, with squared-off wheel arches giving it a tougher stance. At the front, a full-width LED light bar is flanked by vertical LED strips, while the rear features vertical LED taillights linked by another full-width light bar. Chunky bumpers complete the rugged look.

Inside, Hyundai has taken an equally unconventional approach. The cabin features a two-spoke steering wheel and a digital instrument cluster positioned

high on the dashboard. A large floating touchscreen takes centre stage on the dashboard.

Hyundai has yet to reveal technical specifications for the new Tucson. Details of its powertrain options are expected to be announced closer to its launch.



WHAT IS A DUAL CLUTCH SYSTEM?

A dual clutch system (DCT) is an advanced automatic transmission that uses two clutches for faster, smoother gear changes.

HOW IT WORKS

Unlike a traditional manual or automatic transmission that uses a single clutch, DCT has two separate clutches:

- CLUTCH 1** Handles odd-numbered gears (1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th...)
- CLUTCH 2** Handles even-numbered gears (2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th...)

HOW GEAR CHANGES HAPPEN

While one clutch is engaged and delivering power, the other pre-selects the next gear.

POWER FLOW (ENGAGED) → PRE-SELECT NEXT GEAR

This allows near-instant gear changes with no interruption in power.

USED IN

Widely used in performance cars, premium vehicles, and increasingly in everyday cars for a perfect balance of performance and efficiency.

ADVANTAGES

- FASTER GEAR CHANGES** Ultra-fast shifts, improving acceleration.
- SMOOTHER DRIVING** Minimal power interruption for a seamless drive.
- BETTER FUEL EFFICIENCY** Optimizes performance and reduces fuel use.
- IMPROVED PERFORMANCE** Quicker throttle response and better overall performance.
- DURABLE & EFFICIENT** Built for high performance and durability.

DISADVANTAGES

- HIGHER COST** DCTs are more complex and expensive to make.
- MORE COMPLEXITY** The advanced mechanism makes the system more complex.
- HEAT & WEAR** Can generate more heat in stop-and-go traffic.
- NOT IDEAL FOR ALL DRIVERS** May feel jerky at low speeds or in heavy traffic, especially in older designs.

Mercedes-Benz unveils updated C-Class

TDT | Manama

Mercedes-Benz has unveiled the facelifted C-Class with refreshed styling, updated technology and revised powertrains.

The sedan gets a larger illuminated grille, redesigned LED headlamps with star-shaped daytime running lights and updated wraparound taillights featuring star-shaped LEDs. Dual exhausts complete the revised exterior.

Inside, the existing dashboard layout is retained, with a portrait-oriented 12.3-inch touchscreen now running Mercedes-Benz's latest MB.OS software.



Swedish union ends Tesla strike after almost three years

Stockholm, Sweden

Sweden's metalworkers' Union IF Metall said Thursday they were ending their strike against Tesla, originally launched in October 2023, saying the US carmaker had bought out all of the union's striking members.

The strike was launched on October 27, 2023, when mechanics at 10 Tesla repair shops in seven cities walked off the job over Tesla's refusal to sign a collective agreement with the metalworkers' union IF Metall.

IF Metall said it was officially ending all labour action against Tesla as of August 19.

Luxury buyers are ditching the badge for better value

TDT | agencies

Luxury car buyers in the US are increasingly switching to mainstream brands, finding that they can get much of the

technology, comfort and features they want without paying a premium for the badge.

A new J.D. Power study points to a growing challenge for brands such as Mercedes-

Benz, BMW and Audi, which are already facing competition from Tesla and Chinese automakers.

The shift comes as affordability becomes a bigger factor

in car-buying decisions. Buyers can now find mainstream models offering features once associated mainly with luxury vehicles, making it harder for premium brands to justify their higher prices.

Premium brands are now averaging discounts of about 7.3% of a vehicle's sticker price, compared with around 6% for mainstream brands.

For luxury carmakers, the message is clear: buyers may

still want luxury — but they are becoming less willing to pay simply for the badge, especially when mainstream brands now offer similar levels of technology, comfort and features at a much lower price.

Asian Games preparations gather pace

Less than a month to go

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's men's handball and basketball teams have stepped up their preparations for next month's Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa, vice-president of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, recently visited training sessions of both teams to assess their progress ahead of the continental showpiece, which will take place from September 19 to October 4.

Shaikh Isa first attended the handball team's training, where he was received by Bahrain Handball Federation president Ali Isa Ishaqi, board members and the squad's technical and administrative staff.

He watched part of the session and was briefed on the team's preparations and level of readiness before meeting the players.

Shaikh Isa conveyed the best wishes of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first deputy chairman, General Sports Authority chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee president, while stressing the importance of reaching peak condition for the Games.

He also praised the handball



HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa with Bahrain's senior men's handball and basketball teams during his visits

team's pedigree on the continental stage and expressed confidence in their ability to challenge for honours in Japan.

Coached by Swede Robert Hedrin, Bahrain have been drawn in a challenging Group B alongside South Korea, Kuwait, Iran and Kazakhstan, while hosts Japan, China, Hong Kong and two-time defending champions Qatar make up Group A.

The nationals will be looking to go one better after claiming silver at each of the past two Asian Games, having also won bronze in 2014.

They head into the tournament following an impressive run of success, winning their maiden Asian Men's Handball

Championship title in January before adding GCC Games gold in May. Bahrain also captured the Islamic Solidarity Games crown last November.

HH Shaikh Isa later visited the men's basketball team's training in the presence of Bahrain Basketball Association vice-president Nader Al Awadhi and other board members, meeting the players and coaching staff while observing their preparations.

Basketball squad depart for Doha

Bahrain's senior men's basketball team have departed for Doha to compete in a three-nation friendly tournament alongside hosts Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

The squad completed their final training sessions at home under head coach Slobodan Subotic, with the coaching staff focusing on technical and physical readiness as well as tactical work.

The Bahrainis will use their two matches in Qatar as their



Slovenian-Greek head coach Slobodan Subotic ahead of the team's departure

final competitive tune-ups before travelling directly to Dubai for their upcoming continental pre-qualifiers.

venian head coach Slobodan Subotic's side will then face Saudi Arabia tomorrow at the same time as they continue preparations for a busy period of international competition.

Following the Doha tournament, Bahrain will travel to Dubai for the first round of the Fiba Asia Cup 2029 pre-qualifiers, where they have been drawn alongside hosts UAE, Oman, Nepal and Kuwait.

Their attention will then turn to the Asian Games, where they will compete in Group C alongside defending champions the Philippines, China and Kazakhstan.

The basketball squad have since travelled to Doha, where they begin a three-nation friendly tournament against hosts Qatar today at 7pm.

Newly appointed Greek-Slo-

BRAVE CF brings modern combat into history's most iconic settings



Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation will turn one of Europe's most storied monuments into a stage for modern mixed martial arts when BRAVE CF 108 arrives at Croatia's iconic Pula Arena on Saturday, September 5.

For the Bahrain-based organization, the occasion represents more than another stop on its international calendar. It extends a distinctive tradition of taking elite combat sports into places where architecture, heritage and spectacle converge.

Built during the height of the Roman Empire, Pula Arena once hosted gladiatorial contests and vast public gatherings. Its limestone structure has endured through the centuries, preserving one of antiquity's most complete amphitheatres.

Now, those historic walls will witness a new generation of athletes competing under modern rules, bringing contemporary MMA into a setting that still carries the grandeur of the ancient world.

"Bringing BRAVE CF to Pula Arena is a tremendous honor. This ancient amphitheater has stood the test of time, and hosting a modern combat sports event inside its walls is a privilege we share with the people of Croatia," BRAVE CF President Mohammed Shahid said.

The extraordinary surroundings will be matched by compelling action inside the cage. Hometown hero Andi "High-light Machine" Vrtacic will headline the evening against France's Sofiane Bouafia in a three-round middleweight clash.

Sharing top billing is a high-stakes encounter between Filipino superstar Stephen "The Sniper" Loman and Georgian sensation Lasha Abramishvili, with the winner potentially earning an opportunity to vie for the vacant BRAVE CF Bantamweight World Championship.

The choice of Pula Arena also follows a blueprint the organization has established at other

remarkable locations.

In Bahrain, the 15th-century Portuguese-era mud-brick Arad Fort became an open-air venue for the "Return to Kombat Kingdom" series in 2021. Four consecutive cards unfolded between March and April, building toward the promotion's landmark 50th global event.

The promotion later took that concept abroad. At BRAVE CF 59 in June 2022, the Bukhara Amphitheatre in Uzbekistan provided another striking setting, further demonstrating its appetite for unconventional stages.

Pula Arena now becomes the latest addition to that history. For BRAVE CF, however, the concept extends beyond visual grandeur. Its choice of destinations reflects an effort to connect sport with the cultural identity of each host country, allowing local heritage to become part of the international viewing experience.

"What awaits this September will elevate our vision even fur-

ther. As we continue to expand into new territories in the region, we aim to deliver unforgettable moments for the global MMA community," Shahid said.

That ambition has accompanied the organization's rapid rise. In less than a decade, BRAVE CF has established the largest share of the European MMA market while extending its presence across 38 nations worldwide.

Croatia will become the 18th European country to stage a BRAVE CF event and the 39th nation overall, underscoring the remarkable breadth of its global footprint.

From a centuries-old fortress in Bahrain to an amphitheater in Uzbekistan and now a Roman landmark overlooking the Adriatic, the promotion continues to challenge conventional ideas about where major MMA events can unfold.

On September 5, Pula Arena will offer more than a glimpse into the past. It will provide the setting for a new chapter in combat sports history.

Arsenal chief expects Arteta to sign new contract 'very shortly'



Mikel Arteta celebrates with the Community Shield trophy

AFP | London

Mikel Arteta will sign a new contract with Premier League champions Arsenal "very shortly", the club's chief executive Richard Garlick said yesterday.

Arteta ended Arsenal's 22-year wait to win the Premier League last season, but the Spaniard has entered the final 12 months of his current contract.

Although Arteta had insisted he was happy to remain at the Emirates Stadium, the lack of progress over a new deal had sparked concern among Arsenal fans about his future.

But the 44-year-old now appears certain to stay with the north Londoners for the long term after Garlick's revelation that a contract extension is on the cards imminently.

"Mikel wants to be at Ar-

senal and we want Mikel at Arsenal. It's only a matter of time before we put that into a new contract," Garlick told the BBC.

"Everyone is very confident and calm. We're just navigating a transfer window and I'm sure Mikel's contract will be resolved very shortly."

Arteta has revitalised Arsenal since taking charge in 2019 and guided the Gunners to last season's Champions League final as well as winning the English title.

He signed his last contract extension in September 2024, and it is anticipated that his next deal will be finalised at the conclusion of this month's transfer window.

Arsenal open their Premier League title defence at home to promoted Coventry in the first game of the top-flight season on Friday.

All to play for in play-off

Bahrain Face Chinese Taipei for Fiba U18 Asia Cup Last Eight

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain face Chinese Taipei today at 11am Bahrain time, with a place in the quarter-finals of the Fiba U18 Asia Cup 2026 on the line in Ahmedabad, India.

Salman Ramadhan's side head into the qualification play-off at the Veer Savarkar Indoor Stadium after finishing runners-up in Group B with two victories from three games.

The kingdom's youth men secured their passage to the play-offs with a commanding 92-68 win over Syria, bouncing back strongly from their heavy defeat to New Zealand in the previous round.

Bahrain had launched their campaign with a 74-68 victory over Lebanon before falling 86-42 to the Junior Tall Blacks, who went on to top the group with a perfect record.

Against Syria, the Bahrainis raced into a 29-15 lead after the opening quarter, only to see their advantage reduced to a single point, 40-39, at half-time.

They took complete control after the break, however, outscoring their opponents 52-29 across the final two quarters and stretching their lead to as many



Hassan Abdulkadir throws down a two-handed dunk in Bahrain's last outing

as 31 points.

Somto Patrick Onoduenyi and Hassan Abdulkadir were again at the heart of Bahrain's success,

with both big men posting double-doubles.

Onoduenyi finished with 26 points, 14 rebounds and five

blocks, while Abdulkadir contributed 21 points, 12 rebounds and two blocks.

Mujtaba Mahmood Rayyan provided further firepower with 17 points, including five three-pointers, while Ali Husain Mohamed chipped in with 10.

Standing between Bahrain and a place in the last eight are Chinese Taipei, who finished third in Group A with a 1-2 record.

The six-time Asian medalists closed their preliminary campaign with a 110-58 loss to defending champions Australia, who swept the group with three straight victories.

Carter Coleman was the standout performer for Chinese Taipei in that defeat, recording 18 points, five rebounds and two assists, and will be one of the main threats Bahrain must contain today.

Chinese Taipei are seeking to improve on their 12th-place finish at the 2024 edition, while Bahrain are bidding to extend their continental run and move within one victory of qualification for the Fiba U19 Basketball World Cup 2027.

The four teams reaching the semi-finals in Ahmedabad will earn Asia's berths at next year's global championship.

Youth handball team begin Asian quest

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain begin their campaign at the 11th AHF Asian Men's Youth Handball Championship today when they take on India in Amman, Jordan.

The kingdom's U19 men face their Group A opponents at 6pm as they look to make a winning start to the continental tournament, which runs until August 31 and also serves as a qualifier for the 2027 IHF Men's Youth Handball World Championship.

Bahrain are competing alongside South Korea, hosts Jordan, India and Uzbekistan in Group A, while Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Qatar and Syria make up Group B.

The Bahrainis face a quick turnaround after today's opener, with hosts Jordan awaiting



Bahrain's under-19 handball team

them tomorrow at 8pm.

They then meet Uzbekistan on Sunday at noon before wrapping up their preliminary-round campaign against South Korea on August 26 at 4pm.

The top four teams from each group will advance to the quarter-finals on August 28, with

the four semi-finalists securing qualification for next year's world championship.

Head coach Mohamed Abdulrahman Soliman has travelled to Jordan with a 16-player squad featuring Ali Adel, Sayed Mahmoud, Shubnar Jaafar Al Zain, Wadih Hilal, Ahmed

Abdulla, Mohammed Al Marzooq, Sayed Ali Bashar, Mahmood Ali, Issa Al Babour, Hassan Saif, Hussain Qassim, Sayed Omran Almuhafeha, Mahdi Jaafar, Sayed Majeed Almuhafeha, Ali Almahroos and Ali Abdullelah.

The tournament marks Bahrain's 10th appearance at the Asian youth championship, where they have established a strong record over the years.

They lifted consecutive Asian titles in 2016 and 2018 and also secured bronze in 2010, while finishing inside the top five in each of their other six appearances.

With four places at next year's world championship on offer, Soliman's side will be aiming to continue that record and launch their campaign with a positive result today.

Suthar shines as India crush Sri Lanka in 600th Test



India's Manav Suthar (L) celebrates after taking the wicket of Sri Lanka's Prabath Jayasuriya

AFP | Galle

Left-arm spinner Manav Suthar finished with 10 wickets as India thrashed Sri Lanka by 165 runs in the first Test in Galle yesterday to take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

Playing only his second Test, Suthar impressed with his line and length to ensure India a memorable win in their 600th Test match.

Suthar, 24, took four wickets in the first innings and kept up the onslaught to take 6-55, helping bowl out the hosts for 206 shortly after lunch on the final day.

Set a target of 372, Sri Lanka's batters failed to apply themselves other than Sonal Dinusha, who top-scored in both innings.

India captain Shubman Gill called the victory "very satisfying".

"We were in a comfortable position but were not sure if the match would go on (be-

cause of weather), but the team responded well," he said.

Gill praised Suthar and the batsmen for their effort on a wicket that was not easy to score runs off.

"He has been bowling magnificently. Looks like a very promising guy and someone who can play for India for a long time," he said.

India claimed two wickets in the morning session after Sri Lanka resumed on 84-4 and then quickly ran through the tail.

Captain Dhananjaya de Silva (59) and first-innings centurion Dinusha tried to fight back, batting for over two hours to add 95 runs for the fifth wicket.

De Silva, dismissed off a no-ball early in his innings, looked set to make the most of the reprieve, posting his 20th half-century.

But his knock ended after he attempted a sweep shot off Ravindra Jadeja and was caught at short fine leg by Suthar.

Bayern's Musiala reveals 'neurological disorder' after on-field collapse



Bayern Munich midfielder Jamal Musiala receives treatment in a Champions League match in May

AFP | Munich

Bayern Munich midfielder Jamal Musiala said he is suffering from a neurological disorder after a second on-field collapse in three days.

The 23-year-old German international fell to the turf just minutes after coming on late in a pre-season friendly at Heidenheim. A similar incident took place on Saturday in Bayern's home win over RB Leipzig.

On Tuesday in Heidenheim, Musiala appeared dazed as he received medical treatment and was helped off the pitch.

Musiala later revealed on social media that he had a disorder which could lead to "temporary but treatable seizures".

"I have been diagnosed with brief, temporary episodes of absence that are easily treatable and are caused by a neurological dysfunction," Musiala said.

"These can lead to the moments that have occurred recently, such as against Leipzig and now in Heidenheim.

"I know that they may seem scary at first glance - but for me, they are currently simply part of my everyday life."

No.1 Sabalenka slams Wang to advance at Cincinnati

AFP | Cincinnati

Aryna Sabalenka unleashed her big game with devastating effect, hammering China's Wang Xinyu 6-1, 6-3 to reach the fourth round of the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Masters.

The world number one took only 20 minutes to blow through the first set against her 36th-ranked opponent and began the second set with a break of serve.

Sabalenka kept up the pressure in the second set with Wang double-faulting on the top seed's first match point after

54 minutes.

The victory marked the 45th in a row for Sabalenka at the Masters 1000 level.

"I cannot complain. She's a tough opponent," Sabalenka said. "To win in straight sets like this in under an hour is insane.

"I'm super happy to be through. I really trusted myself and went for my shots. I wasn't over-thinking. I was able to stay focused and be in every point."

Sabalenka next plays Czech Sara Bejlek, a 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 winner over Ekaterina Alexandrova.



Aryna Sabalenka celebrates while playing Xinyu Wang of China

Fourth seed Coco Gauff needed to battle following a sizzling first set in a 6-1, 7-6 (7/3) victory over fellow American Ann Li.

The 2023 champion had it all her own way in the opening set against her 29th-ranked foe, winning in 30 minutes. The pair exchanged early breaks in the second on the way to a tie-breaker, in which Gauff seized a 4-1 lead and won on her third match point.

"She played better in the second set and I missed a couple of break opportunities," Gauff said. "I tried to forget about those."