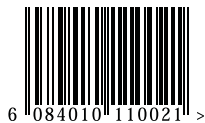


HM King Names New LMRA Deputy Chief



HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued Decree (38) of 2026, appointing a Deputy Chief Executive at the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, based on a proposal by the Labour Minister and Cabinet approval. Fatima Al Sayed Redha Ibrahim, previously Director of Projects at the Prime Minister's Office, has been appointed Deputy Chief Executive for Policies and Market Data at LMRA. The Labour Minister will implement the decree, which takes effect immediately and will be published in the Official Gazette.

220 fils (includes VAT)



Missile and Drone Strikes Target Civilian Sites

International community urged to act decisively

TDT | Manama

Bahrain strongly condemned repeated Iranian missile and drone attacks on vital civilian infrastructure in the Kingdom, calling them a direct threat to civilian lives and a clear violation of its sovereignty, international law, the UN Charter, and UN Security Council Resolution 2817.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said drone strikes hit civil aviation navigation equipment and overflight traffic systems within the Bahrain Flight Information Region (FIR). It warned that targeting critical navigation infrastructure endangers international civil aviation and breaches the Chicago Convention and ICAO rules.

The Ministry praised the Bahrain Defence Force's air defences for successfully intercepting the incoming strikes, affirming Bahrain's right to self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter.



Bahrain renewed its call on the international community and UN Security Council to take decisive action to end Iranian aggression immediately. It demanded stronger enforcement to protect air and maritime navigation and insisted Iran be held fully accountable, legally and financially, under international law.


وزارة المواصلات والاتصالات
Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications

Flights unaffected, says CAA

Separately, the Civil Aviation Affairs (CAA) confirmed that hostile drones targeted the FIR's civil air navigation systems but did not disrupt air navigation services. Authorities responded immediately under established security procedures to ensure continuity of operations. The CAA said flights and overflights through Bahrain's airspace continue normally, with close coordination and monitoring ongoing alongside international aviation bodies and relevant authorities.

Bahrain Launches Arab Education Quality Model

Education Minister Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma attended the launch of the Arab Model for Quality and Excellence in Education, calling it a major step toward strengthening quality across

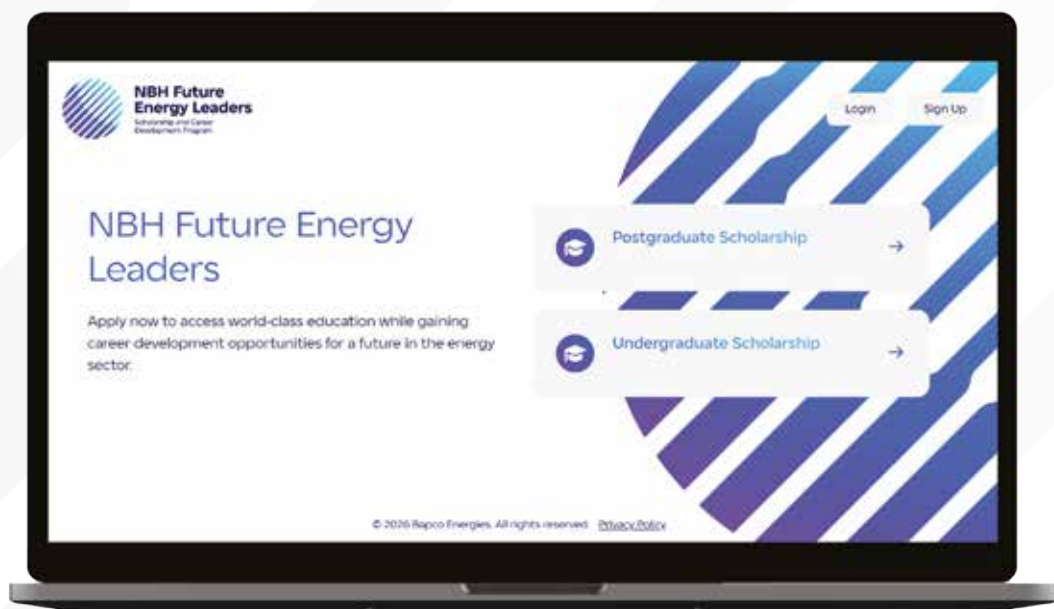


Arab educational institutions. Organised by UNESCO's Regional Centre for Quality and Excellence in Education and hosted by Bahrain, the launch included a leadership training programme. Minister credited HM King Hamad and HRH Crown Prince Salman for boosting Bahrain's role as a regional education hub, praising ongoing partnerships with UNESCO and ALECSO officials attending the ceremony.



NBH Future Energy Leaders

Scholarship and Career Development Program



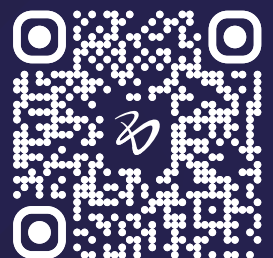
Applications for the January 2027 postgraduate intake are now open

While applications for the September 2026 intake have closed, applications will remain open for the January 2027 intake.

Application Deadline: November 30

Apply now

bapcoenergies.com/nbh-future-energy-leaders



بنك السلام
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VISA



Cyber Safety Starts at Home

MOI urges parents to guide children, strengthen online safeguards and promote responsible digital behaviour.

TDT | Manama
Neethu V

As children spend more time online for learning, entertainment and communication, Bahrain's Ministry of Interior is urging parents to play an active role in protecting them from digital threats through awareness, guidance and open communication.

The Ministry's Child Protection in Cyberspace Unit has issued practical safety guidelines to help families create a safer online environment while encouraging children to use technology responsibly.

The unit stressed that safeguarding children in cyberspace is a shared responsibility, encouraging parents to stay informed about their children's digital activities and maintain regular conversations about their online experiences.

Among the key recommendations is enabling privacy settings on devices, applications and social media platforms to protect children's personal information. Parents are also encouraged to use parental control features to ensure



age-appropriate access to online content.

The ministry further advised teaching children to create strong passwords and never share them with others. It also urged parents to educate young users about the dangers of communicating with strangers or accepting friend requests from unknown people online.

Parents are encouraged to talk regularly with their children about their online experiences, listen to their concerns and foster an environment where they feel comfortable reporting anything that makes

them uneasy.

The guidelines also recommend setting reasonable screen time limits to promote a healthy balance between digital activities, rest and everyday life. Families are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the apps, games and websites their children use to better understand potential online risks.

Children are also advised not to click on suspicious links or download files from unknown sources, as these may expose their devices to malware, scams or harmful content.

The Ministry emphasised

How to Report Online Child Safety Concerns

MyGov App:

Submit reports through the app.

Email:

cpcu@interior.gov.bh

Hotline: 992

Mobile: 33523300

Traffic Police Target Trucks Parked on Pavements

Field campaign launched to enforce Bahrain's public roads occupation law



A truck which is illegally parking on the pavement in Manama

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Officials say some drivers avoid designated parking bays simply to dodge the fees.

Capital Municipality, working with the General Directorate of Traffic, has launched a field campaign against trucks illegally parked on pavements across the capital. The drive aims to enforce Legislative Decree No. (2) of 1996 on the Occupation of Public Roads, after officials cited widespread violations blocking pedestrians and damaging public facilities.

Under current rules, drivers of trucks, trailers and public transport vehicles caught parking illegally face fines of BD20 to BD100, doubling for repeat offences within a year. Officials said designated truck bays are available, but many drivers park on pavements instead



Officials during the field campaign

to avoid paying usage fees, shifting costs onto pedestrians and infrastructure.

The campaign follows earlier drives against heavy vehicles in residential areas, including bans on gas cylinder trucks parking near homes. Councillors and MPs have urged stricter rules, citing noise, safety risks and road damage. The municipality pledged continued monitoring with traffic police.

Firms Urged to Fund Cloth Bags

Bahrain Pushes Reusable Bags as Plastic Ban Nears

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Northern Municipal Council member Bassim Abu Idris has asked banks and Bahraini firms to fund reusable cloth and paper bags carrying their logos, to be handed out at malls, markets and events. He said the bags would replace plastic ones while doubling as environmental adverts, and urged government, business and civil groups to join the effort.

MP Dr Maryam Al Dhaen said new curbs on single-use plastic bags followed her parliamentary proposal and reflected strong cooperation between Parliament and ministries. She linked the move to Bahrain's 2060 net-zero goal, noting reduced plastic use would cut emissions from production and disposal. She praised the Industry and Commerce Ministry for giving businesses time to adapt.

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce confirmed most firms are ready for the ban on plastic bags thinner than 57 microns, effective August 20, 2026, under Ministerial Decision No. 7 of 2026. Awareness visits will continue, followed by inspections once the ban begins. Exemptions



cover household waste, medical waste and export bags. Consumers are urged to switch to reusable alternatives.



"Today's action supports tomorrow's net-zero future."

MARYAM AL DHAEN, MP



"Businesses can help turn shopping into an environmental win."

- BASSIM ABU IDRIS, NORTHERN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Health Centre in Galali 77% Complete

New facility to offer 14 clinics, dental care and emergency unit

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

The Bahrain Kuwait Health Centre in Galali is 77 percent complete, MP Khalid Buanaq said, calling it a major boost to Bahrain's primary healthcare network. Built on a 6,828 square metre site, the centre will feature 14 consultation

clinics, 14 examination rooms and a 12-bed emergency department on the ground floor, with eight dental clinics and a maternal and childcare unit upstairs. Buanaq said the project meets top engineering and environmental standards, incorporating green building concepts and energy-efficiency systems. He praised cooperation between



the Ministry of Works, Ministry of Health and BBK, and urged that Galali residents be given priority for administrative jobs once the centre opens, boosting local employment and community benefit.

Woman Jailed for Exploiting Domestic Worker

Court upholds three-year sentence for forced labour case

Bahrain's Court of Cassation has upheld a three-year prison sentence and a BD2,000 fine against an Asian woman convicted of exploiting a 20-year-old domestic worker through forced labour.

The court also ordered the woman to cover the cost of returning the victim to her home country.

According to court documents, the victim worked for nine different families between

January 2024 and January 2025 without receiving wages, apart from payments during her first two months. The defendant also withheld the worker's passport and illegally collected her salaries.

Investigations by the Ministry of Interior and the Labour Market Regulatory Authority found evidence of human trafficking and unlicensed labour recruitment. The Court of Cassation has now confirmed the conviction.

Court Orders Mother to Hand Over Daughter

Cassation upholds custody ruling in father's favour

The Court of Cassation upheld a ruling ordering a mother to hand over her daughter to the child's father, who had previously been granted custody by the Sharia Court.

The mother had refused to comply with the custody order



despite repeated requests. Instead of enforcing a six-month prison sentence, the court ordered her to hand over the child within one week of the judgment becoming final and to pay BD500 in temporary civil compensation to the father.

The ruling had earlier been up-

Man Finds Himself Registered for Job He Never Worked

Forgery trial continues as compensation claim filed

A 25-year-old Bahraini told a court he discovered he had been registered as an employee at a company without his knowledge after applying for unemployment benefits.

The registration allegedly prevented him from receiving unemployment assistance and affected his entitlement to his late father's pension. He has filed a BD2,000 compensation claim.

A 70-year-old company

owner is on trial before the High Criminal Court on charges of forging the man's signature on an employment contract and submitting it to the Social Insurance Organisation and the Ministry of Labour.

The defence argues the registration may have resulted from an administrative error rather than intentional forgery. A verdict is scheduled for August 11.

Family Demands Inquiry After Weight-Loss Surgery Death

Bahraini mother dies days after gastric bypass; family says doctor lacked training

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Aziza Janahi, a Bahraini mother in her thirties, died days after undergoing a mini gastric bypass at a private hospital, sparking her family's call for a full investigation.

Janahi reportedly woke from surgery on July 12 in severe pain, which continued the next day. Relatives say a doctor dismissed her complaints as normal post-surgery discomfort. She was discharged despite the ongoing pain and breathlessness.

Her husband, Saud Al Shaikh, tried reaching her by phone before asking their 11-year-old son to check on her. The children found her unresponsive; paramedics later confirmed her death. A forensic report cited severe internal bleeding.

The family claims the doctor lacked bariatric training and later left Bahrain, which they view as fleeing. They are demanding answers on her care and discharge. The hospital has not responded publicly.

Alba Reinforces Safety Excellence with Annual Summer Safety and Health Campaign

TDT | Manama

Aluminium Bahrain B.S.C. (Alba), the world's largest aluminium smelter on one site, has launched its annual plant-wide Summer Safety and Health (S&H) Campaign under the theme "Safety by Choice, Excellence by Habit."

Running until 29 July 2026, the Campaign reaffirms Alba's commitment to strengthening its safety culture and promoting the health and wellbeing of its workforce, particularly during the summer season, through a series of awareness activities and events. Employees, contractors and workers will receive valu-



able information and practical guidance on key topics, including heat stress prevention, proper hydration and summer safety best practices, delivered by both internal and external safety specialists.

During his opening remarks



at the Campaign launch, Alba's Chief Executive Officer, Ali Al Baqali, emphasised that safety at Alba is a core organisational value and a year-round commitment that underpins every aspect

of the Company's operations. He noted that the Summer Safety and Health Campaign represents an important milestone in Alba's journey towards safety excellence, providing an opportunity

to renew awareness, strengthen safe behaviours and safeguard everyone throughout the most challenging period of the year.

Al Baqali also urged all employees to continue adhering to safety

procedures to achieve a 10th consecutive summer without a single heat-related injury or illness, by staying well hydrated, remaining vigilant at all times and reinforcing safety as a conscious choice in every aspect of their work.

As one of Alba's flagship annual safety initiatives, the Summer S&H Campaign highlights the importance of continuous awareness, personal accountability and proactive risk management in industrial workplaces. The Campaign also plays a vital role in promoting safe behaviours, reducing heat-related incidents and fostering a culture where safety is embraced as a shared responsibility and an enduring daily practice.

Al Salam Bank Launches 20th Edition of Summer Internship Program to Support Development of Future Bahraini Talent



TDT | Manama

Al Salam Bank has announced the launch of the 20th edition of its Annual Summer Internship Program, reaffirming its long-standing commitment to youth development and supporting the growth of future Bahraini talent through practical learning experiences designed to prepare students for the evolving demands of today's professional and business environment.

This year's program welcomes 50 university students from leading local and international academic institutions and will run from 1 July until 31 August 2026. As one of the Bank's flagship talent development initiatives, the annual program continues to provide students with valuable professional exposure and hands-on workplace experience within Bahrain's dynamic banking and

financial services sector.

The program will begin with a dedicated Induction Week, during which participating students will be introduced to the Bank's various departments through a series of awareness and orientation sessions designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the Bank's operating structure, core business functions, and overall organizational environment. Following this phase, participants will transition into on-the-job training placements, where they will work alongside teams across different departments and gain direct practical exposure to day-to-day operational and business functions.

Designed to bridge the gap between academic learning and practical industry experience, the Summer Internship Program enables students to strengthen their professional capabilities, develop workplace readiness, and gain

valuable insight into the standards, discipline, and collaborative culture required within the banking and financial services sector. The initiative reflects the Bank's continued focus on investing in human capital development and preparing young talent to contribute meaningfully to Bahrain's future economy.

Commenting on the launch of the program, Muna Al Balooshi, Chief Human Resources Officer at Al Salam Bank, said: "At Al Salam Bank, we believe that empowering young talent and investing in future generations remains an essential part of building a sustainable and competitive workforce for the future. Through our Annual Summer Internship Program, we aim to provide students with practical workplace experience that extends beyond academic learning by exposing them to real business environments, professional mentorship, and mean-



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

ingful learning opportunities. As we mark the twentieth edition of this program, we remain committed to supporting the development of young Bahraini talent by equipping students with the knowledge, confidence, and practical experience needed to succeed in their future careers."

As one of the Bank's long-standing development initiatives, the Annual Summer Internship Program reflects Al Salam Bank's broader commitment to creating meaningful community impact through education, youth development, and talent empowerment. Through initiatives such as this, the Bank continues to contribute to the development of a highly capable future generation prepared to support Bahrain's long-term economic growth and the continued advancement of the Kingdom's financial sector.

Eskan Bank launches fourth edition of Kafaat Training Programme



TDT | Manama

As part of its ongoing commitment to corporate social responsibility and support for Bahrainization initiatives, Eskan Bank has launched the fourth edition of its Kafaat Training Programme, reaffirming its commitment to developing Bahraini talent and preparing the next generation of professionals for successful careers in the Kingdom's banking sector.

Now in its fourth consecutive year, the programme underscores Eskan Bank's commitment to developing human capital in the financial sector and fostering a sustainable pipeline of qualified Bahraini talent, in line with the Kingdom of Bahrain's efforts to enhance workforce readiness and strengthen the competitiveness of national talent in the labour market. The programme was also designed to bridge the gap between academic learning and practical workplace experience, by equipping participants with the technical knowledge, professional skills, and industry exposure needed to thrive in today's competitive job market.

'Kafaat' provides Bahraini graduates with a comprehensive training experience through job rotations across Eskan Bank's various departments and divisions, complemented by mentoring, coaching, and professional development programmes. This enables participants to gain practical, hands-on experience and develop a deeper understanding of the financial services sector.

Previous editions of the programme have resulted in several outstanding participants joining Eskan Bank's workforce, reflecting the programme's success in attracting, developing, and retaining tal-



Ms. Reem Albinali, Senior Manager of Human Resources at Eskan Bank

ented Bahraini professionals. Commenting on the launch of the fourth edition of the programme, Ms. Reem Albinali, Senior Manager of Human Resources at Eskan Bank said: "Investing in Bahraini talent is one of the Eskan Bank's strategic priorities. Through the 'Kafaat' programme, we continue to provide meaningful opportunities for young Bahrainis to gain practical experience and develop their professional capabilities, helping to prepare highly skilled national talent capable of supporting the continued growth of Bahrain's financial sector. The fact that several programme graduates have gone on to join the Bank also reflects the initiative's positive and lasting impact."

She also added: "The 'Kafaat' programme offers a comprehensive professional development experience that combines hands-on training, one-on-one mentoring, and collaboration with industry specialists and experts, equipping participants with the skills and confidence to succeed in today's evolving banking environment."

Through the 'Kafaat' programme, Eskan Bank continues to invest in young Bahraini talent and strengthen its contribution to the Kingdom's economy and support the sustainable growth of the financial services sector.

Bahrain Chamber Visits Manama Souq to Support Traditional Markets



TDT | Manama

Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, Nabeel Kanoo, affirmed that Manama Souq represents one of Bahrain's most prominent economic, commercial, and heritage landmarks. He emphasized that preserving its status and enhancing its economic and tourism role are top priorities for the Chamber.

This occurred during a field visit organized by the Bahrain Chamber's Board of Directors to Manama Souq, with participation from several board members and a gathering of the souq's business

owners. The visit aimed to assess the souq's conditions and needs, and to hear directly from business owners' insights and suggestions at their places of business.

Kanoo stated that the Board of Directors adopts an approach based on field presence and direct communication with business owners, stemming from his conviction that the best economic decisions build on real, on-the-ground experience.

He explained that this visit marks the first in a regular program of field visits that will cover traditional markets and economic sectors across all governorates of

the Kingdom, bringing the Chamber closer to business owners and enabling it to directly identify the priorities of various economic sectors.

He noted that traditional markets are a core part of Bahrain's economic and national identity, not just commercial spaces. The visit included open discussions with shop owners, whose feedback the Chamber will follow up on with relevant authorities to develop into practical improvements for the business environment.

Kanoo added that most businesses operating in Manama

Souq fall under the small and medium enterprises (SME's) sector, making their support a top priority for the Board of Directors. He pointed out that establishing a specialized department to support these enterprises reflects the Chamber's commitment to following up on their needs and working with relevant authorities to enable their growth and expansion.

Kanoo concluded his remarks by affirming that these field visits fall within the framework of the Chamber's role as a partner in Bahrain's economic development journey.

ASB Capital Continues Capital Markets Momentum with Joint Lead Manager Role on AlJazira Bank’s USD 500 Million AT1 Sukuk Issuance

TDT | Manama

ASB Capital, a purpose-driven asset and wealth management firm with assets under management (AUM) of USD 9.3 billion, acted as Joint Lead Manager and Bookrunner on AlJazira Bank’s USD 500 million Additional Tier 1 (AT1) perpetual non-call 5.5-year Sukuk issuance.

The transaction attracted investor orders exceeding USD 1.5 billion, more than 3 times over-subscription, and was priced with a profit rate of 6.5%. The issuance was undertaken ahead of AlJazira Bank’s planned redemption of its existing USD 500 million Tier 1 Sukuk, supporting the bank’s capital management objectives.

ASB Capital participated in the transaction alongside a syndicate of leading regional and international financial institutions, including Citi, Goldman Sachs, J.P. Morgan, First Abu Dhabi Bank, Emirates NBD Capital and Standard Chartered Bank.

The mandate marks ASB Capital’s third consecutive Joint Lead Manager and Bookrunner appointment in recent weeks, following its participation in AT1 Sukuk issuances for Alinma Bank in Saudi Arabia and Dubai Islamic Bank in the UAE. It also represents the firm’s third AT1 mandate in Saudi Arabia, further strengthening its track record across one of the region’s most active debt capital markets.



Ahmed Saif, Group Chief Strategy Officer at Al Salam Bank

The strong level of demand for the transaction highlights continued investor appetite for GCC bank issuances and confidence in the region’s debt capital markets. The successful outcome also demonstrates the depth of liquidity available for well-positioned issuers seeking to access international capital markets.



Hichem Djouhri, Senior Executive Officer at ASB Capital

Commenting on the transaction, Ahmed Saif, Group Chief Strategy Officer at Al Salam Bank, added: “The steady build-out of ASB Capital’s debt capital markets offering is a key initiative within the Group’s wider strategy to develop a differentiated regional investment banking platform, one that is leveraging the Group’s own balance

sheet. Establishing ASB Capital as a trusted strategic partner to leading issuers positions the Group at the intersection of regional capital formation and global investor demand.”

Commenting on the transaction, Hichem Djouhri, Senior Executive Officer at ASB Capital, said: “Our role on this transaction signifies a period of strong activity for ASB Capital within regional debt capital markets. Acting as Joint Lead Manager and Bookrunner on several consecutive mandates within a short period showcases the relationships we have built with issuers and investors across the GCC. We continue to focus on connecting regional issuers with a broad institutional investor base and supporting their fund-

ing and capital management requirements.”

ASB Capital has participated in several debt capital markets transactions across the GCC, including issuances by Kuwait Finance House, Kuwait International Bank, Bapco Energies, Solidarity Bahrain, Al Salam Bank, Alinma Bank and Dubai Islamic Bank. The firm continues to expand its capital markets and investment banking activities alongside its broader asset management and advisory platform.

The AlJazira Bank transaction further builds on ASB Capital’s growing presence across regional debt capital markets and adds to a series of mandates completed across the GCC’s banking sector in recent months.

Al Baraka Islamic Bank Launches “Your Summer is Better with Al Baraka” Campaign for Credit Cardholders

Running until the end of December 2026

TDT | Manama

Al Baraka Islamic Bank, one of the leading Islamic banks in the Kingdom of Bahrain, recently announced the launch of its new summer promotional campaign for credit cardholders under the slogan “Your Summer is Better with Al Baraka”.

Running from July until December 2026, the campaign gives all existing and new Al Baraka credit card holders the opportunity to earn guaranteed Baraka reward points and enter draws to win cashback prizes through both local and international spending via POS or online transactions, in addition to a grand prize for the customer with the highest overall spend during the campaign period.

Under the campaign, customers will receive guaranteed bonus Baraka reward points based on their total local spending during the campaign period. Customers who spend between BD500 and BD999 will receive 2,000 reward points, while those who spend BD1,000 or more will receive 3,500 points. This structure enables customers to benefit from direct rewards as they increase their use of Al Baraka credit cards for local

transactions.

For international transactions and online international purchases, the campaign offers higher rewards to encourage customers to use their credit cards while travelling or shopping online internationally. Customers whose international spending ranges from BD500 to BD999 will receive 3,000 Baraka reward points, while those who spend BD1,000 or more will receive 5,000 Baraka rewards points, further enhancing the value customers receive from spending outside the Kingdom.

The campaign also includes six cashback draws to be held in September and November 2026 and January 2027, with total of 60 prizes divided equally between local and international spending. In the local spending category, 15 customers within the BD500 to BD999 spending tier will each win BD200, while another 15 customers who spend BD1,000 or more will each win BD300.

In the international spending category, 15 customers within the BD500 to BD999 spending tier will each win BD300, while another 15 customers who spend BD1,000 or more will each win BD500. The campaign therefore provides customers with multiple oppor-



Mazin Ahmed Dhaif, Chief Retail Officer at Al Baraka Islamic Bank

Commenting on the occasion, Mr Mazin Ahmed Dhaif, Chief Retail Officer at Al Baraka Islamic Bank, said: “We designed this campaign to provide our customers with added value by combining guaranteed rewards with opportunities to win cashback, making the use of Al Baraka Islamic Bank credit cards even more rewarding for both local and international transactions. The variety of spending tiers and prizes reflects our commitment to offering practical benefits that suit different usage patterns and reward customers directly for their everyday transactions.”

He added: “We are pleased to invite our existing and new credit cardholders to take advantage of the campaign, increase their card usage throughout the remainder of the year and enhance their chances of earning additional re-

- 60 cashback prizes in every draw, worth up to BD800 per winner
- Guaranteed reward points and a grand prize of 60,000 points
- Chances to win through local and international spending
- 6 draws throughout the promotional campaign

ward points and winning cashback prizes. The grand prize for the customer with the highest overall spends also provides an additional incentive to use the card for a wide range of purchases, as part of a banking experience that combines flexibility, security and rewarding benefits.”

The campaign forms part of Al Baraka Islamic Bank’s commitment to continuing to develop its credit card offers and the Al Baraka Rewards Programme, which enables customers to earn points when using their cards and redeem them through a variety of options. The campaign also reflects the Bank’s focus on introducing incentive-based initiatives linked to actual card usage, providing customers with progressive benefits as their spending increases, both within and outside the Kingdom of Bahrain.

It is worth noting that Al Baraka Islamic Bank credit cards are fully Sharia-compliant and offer a range of exclusive benefits that vary according to the card category. These include complimen-

tary access to a range of airport lounges worldwide, in addition to travel benefits, rewards and other exclusive offers, subject to the applicable terms and conditions of each card.

Al Baraka Islamic Bank is among the leading Islamic banks in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Since its establishment in 1984, the Bank has achieved outstanding results in providing banking services to both individuals and corporates. It has a strong track record of innovation and delivering Shari’a-compliant investment and financing solutions. The Bank also continues to play a pioneering role in supporting social responsibility and sustainability initiatives, maintaining a prominent position among Islamic banking institutions serving customers worldwide.

For more information about this promotion or to learn about other banking offerings, please visit Al Baraka Islamic Bank’s website at www.albaraka.bh, check out the bank’s verified Instagram page, or call 13300400.

Joyalukkas Lifestyle Developers Unveils Gold Tower Thrissur-Kerala’s Tallest Residential Tower Sets a New Benchmark for Luxury Living

Joyalukkas Lifestyle Developers officially unveiled Gold Tower Thrissur, Kerala’s tallest residential tower, at an exclusive launch event held on 16 July 2026 at Hyatt Regency, Thrissur. The landmark project, which will rise 50 storeys and approximately 190 metres above road level, marks a defining milestone in Kerala’s luxury real estate landscape and reinforces the company’s vision of creating iconic residential destinations that rival the world’s finest developments.

The invitation-only event was attended by distinguished guests, business leaders, industry professionals, patrons, and members of the media, who were introduced to the project’s architectural vision and thoughtfully curated lifestyle experience.

A NEW ICON FOR THRISSUR

Strategically located in the heart of Thrissur city, Gold Tower Thrissur is set across 2.2 acres and has been designed to combine world-class engineering, contemporary architecture, and exceptional livability.

With more than 50 world-class amenities and over 77% landscaped open spaces, the development offers an elevated lifestyle unlike anything currently available in Kerala. Residents will enjoy a 25-metre infinity swimming pool, wellness and fitness facilities, co-working spaces, private theatre, landscaped gardens, sports and recreation facilities, children’s play areas, and an exclusive Sky Deck offering panoramic views of the city.

Designed to international standards and built with pre-

mium specifications, the project reflects Joyalukkas Lifestyle Developers’ commitment to delivering residences that seamlessly blend luxury, innovation, and enduring value.

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF LUXURY LIVING

Addressing guests at the launch, Joy Alukkas, Chairman and Managing Director of the Joyalukkas Group, shared the vision behind the landmark development.

“Gold Tower Thrissur represents our belief that Kerala deserves homes that stand alongside the finest luxury residences anywhere in the world. Every detail has been thoughtfully planned, from the scale of the architecture and the quality of construction to the lifestyle experiences within the development. We wanted to create

a landmark that future generations would identify with the city, while giving residents an address they would be proud to call home. This project reflects our unwavering commitment to quality, trust and excellence, values that have guided the Joyalukkas Group for more than five decades.”

REDEFINING THE CITY SKYLINE

As Kerala’s tallest residential tower, Gold Tower Thrissur is poised to become a defining feature of the city’s skyline while introducing a new benchmark for premium urban living.

The project combines expansive residences, globally inspired amenities, landscaped open spaces, and cutting-edge engineering to create an environment that balances lux-

ury with functionality. Every aspect of the development has been envisioned to offer residents an elevated lifestyle while strengthening Thrissur’s position as one of Kerala’s most desirable destinations for luxury real estate.

BUILDING ON A LEGACY

Gold Tower Thrissur follows the success of Gold Tower Kochi, further strengthening Joyalukkas Lifestyle Developers’ growing portfolio of landmark residential developments across Kerala.

Backed by the trust and legacy of the Joyalukkas Group, the company continues to create thoughtfully designed communities that combine architectural excellence, premium construction standards, and customer-centric living experiences.



Trump dismisses NY mayor's threat to arrest Netanyahu

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump on Monday vowed that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would not face arrest at a UN summit in New York, after the city's new mayor said he was investigating the move.

Mayor Zohran Mamdani admitted he was unsure if he

had the power to order police to detain a foreign leader but said he was discussing the matter with the city's legal team ahead of the summit in September. "Benjamin Netanyahu will not be arrested, in any way, shape, or form, while in the United States of America. He is fighting against the Islamic Republic of Iran," Trump said on social media.

UK PM stresses 'commitment to defence' in Trump call

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Britain's new Prime Minister Andy Burnham underlined his "commitment to defence and security" in his first phone call with US President Donald Trump yes-

terday, his spokesperson said. Burnham "said ensuring the security of the UK and its Allies was at the top of his agenda", 10 Downing Street said, adding the new prime minister invited Trump to visit his political home, the northern city of Manchester, "in the future".



Israeli army bars West Bank family from own bathroom

AFP | Umm Al-Kheir, Palestinian Territories

An Israeli military order has blocked a Palestinian family in the occupied West Bank from reaching their bathroom for three weeks, residents said Monday, after tensions with nearby settlers prompted the army to intervene.

Ikhlas al-Hathalin, 42, lives with her family of 14 in the village of Umm al-Kheir, near the settlement of Carmel.

Their outhouse sits between their home and a caravan that Israeli settlers installed less than 100 metres (330 feet) away last year.

"In order to disperse all parties involved, a temporary closed military zone order was issued," the military told AFP.

Hathalin told AFP that prior to the military order, "the settlers would come to the bathroom and knock on the door, wanting us to leave".

The family now goes "to the community centre's bathrooms or to the neighbours", she added.

"The embarrassment and hardship of going to the toilet is beyond what you can imagine."

The dispute escalated earlier this month when settlers installed a swinging chair between the family's house and the outhouse, triggering a confrontation that drew in Israeli forces.

The military said soldiers stationed in the area regularly witness "unlawful activity by Israelis, some of which may include violent incidents or actions directed at Palestinians or their property".

Hathalin said the military order also prevents the family from accessing the nearby sheep pen -- its source of livelihood -- except when Israeli forces are in the area, every three to four days.

The military said the closure was temporary, without giving an end date, and maintained that the family retains access to its livestock.

"We are trying to put pressure on the occupation authorities, but the matter is in the hands of the settlers, and the current occupation government is itself a government of settlers," said Ahmed al-Hathalin, a member of the village council.

Behind the Hathalin home, five new mobile homes mark the latest settlement outpost taking shape in the area.



Israeli settlers exit a vehicle to inspect the aftermath of a fire that broke out the previous day in the Israeli settlement of Havat Gilad, adjacent to the Palestinian village of Tell in the occupied West Bank

Iran will pay 'many times over' for US troop deaths

US expands strikes across Iran

● Rubio said he would "continue to try" to reach a diplomatic solution.

● President Donald Trump said US strikes on Iran "hit them very hard" in honour of the American fatalities.

● Despite the latest attacks, Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said diplomatic exchanges with the US via mediators were ongoing.

AFP | Washington, United States

President Donald Trump warned Iran yesterday that it would pay "many times over" for every US soldier it killed after Washington announced over the weekend three new military fatalities and one service member missing in action.

"Every time Iran kills an American Soldier they will pay for that killing many times over!" Trump posted on his platform, Truth Social. "This directive has been passed on to Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Daniel Caine, and every Leader in the Military."

Meanwhile, Iran president said it is fighting a "full-scale war" with the United States, as Washington expanded its strikes across the Islamic republic.

The declaration came as Tehran's Yemeni allies, the Houthi rebels, threatened to expand the war yet further by announcing they would blockade Saudi ports.

Saudi Arabia has been able to continue exporting millions of barrels of oil a day despite the Hormuz blockade -- although far below its prewar totals -- via its Red Sea port of Yanbu.

The Revolutionary Guards had earlier said that two oil tankers trying to transit the strait "exploded and were brought to a halt", according to a statement reported by Tasnim news agency.

On Sunday, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio called on countries around the world to share the burden of protecting global shipping.

US Central Command (CENTCOM) said on Sunday that it successfully completed the ninth consecutive night of strikes against Iran, while Rubio said he would "continue to try" to reach a diplomatic solution.

Diplomatic exchanges

The fresh fighting came after a weekend in which the US announced three new US military fatalities and one service member missing in action.

Two were killed during Iranian missile and drone attacks on

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Tensions escalate as Iran, Houthis and regional nations trade fire and issue strong warnings.

01 HOUTHIS ANNOUNCE SAUDI BLOCKADE

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels declared a maritime embargo on Saudi Arabia, days after the two adversaries exchanged fire for the first time in years.

MARITIME EMBARGO

02 IRAN: 'IN FULL-SCALE WAR' WITH US

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said his country is in a "full-scale war" with the United States and that Tehran should "accept the reality and stop illusions".

"We are in a full-scale war with the United States. Accept the reality and stop illusions."

03 IRAN ATTACKS US BASE IN QATAR

Iran launched missiles at the US Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the largest American military installation in West Asia.

Qatar says its air defences intercepted the missiles.

04 CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE TARGETED

Several Gulf countries report attacks on civilian infrastructure.

KUWAIT: Iran hit a power and water plant causing a fire.

BAHRAIN: Accused Iran of targeting civilian infrastructure.

05 IRANIAN NUCLEAR PLANT ATTACKED

Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation confirmed that part of the Fordo nuclear site was targeted in US airstrikes.

No radioactive material leak reported.

06 A REGION ON EDGE

The Middle East faces a dangerous escalation with expanding attacks, retaliations and rising rhetoric.

- Missile exchanges across the region
- Civilian targets under attack
- Risk of wider regional conflict

Crew abandons vessel on fire attacked in Hormuz: UK maritime agency

AFP | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Sailors safely abandoned a vessel set alight after it was attacked in the Strait of Hormuz, the UK Maritime Trade Operations agency said yes-

terday. "The vessel was struck by an unknown projectile. The crew safely abandoned the vessel and have been recovered by a tug boat. The fire has not been extinguished and the vessel is currently adrift. There is

no reported environmental impact," UKMTO said in an update to their earlier statement.

Earlier, the agency had reported the ship was "on fire" eight nautical miles northwest of Kumzar, Oman.

Houthi blockade of Saudi Arabia risks 'even wider' regional conflict: UN spokesman

AFP | United Nations, United States

The threat from Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, who have announced a maritime block-

ade of Saudi Arabia, risks an "even wider" regional conflict, the spokesman for the UN secretary-general warned yesterday.

"We've seen the reports and are very much concerned by

the renewed Houthi threats against Saudi Arabia, against freedom of navigation, which leads to the risk of an even wider regional escalation," spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters.

Jordan on Friday, while another service member was killed in northern Iraq during the controlled detonation of unexploded ordnance from a downed Iranian drone, CENTCOM said.

President Donald Trump said US strikes on Iran "hit them very hard" in honour of the American fatalities.

The deaths brought to 17 the

confirmed number of US military fatalities since the conflict began. On Friday, Iran's health ministry reported that 50 people had been killed in recent fighting and more than 500 wounded.

Despite the latest attacks, Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said diplomatic exchanges with the US via medi-

ators were ongoing.

"Ideas have been conveyed to us by certain mediators," he told a news conference in Tehran attended by AFP.

Iran's Interior Minister Es-kandar Momeni was set to travel to mediator Pakistan's capital on Monday, a Pakistani interior ministry source told AFP, without confirming the reason.

Herostratus sets fire to the Temple of Artemis in Ephesus, one of the Seven Wonders of the World

An earthquake on Crete followed by a tsunami around the Eastern Mediterranean allegedly destroys Alexandria



First Battle of Bull Run [Battle of First Manassas], the first major battle of the US Civil War, is fought near Manassas, Virginia, and ends in a Confederate victory

After 13 years, the 4,607-mile Trans-Siberian Railway is completed

EU fines AliExpress 550 mn euros over illegal products

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The EU yesterday slapped a 550-million-euro (\$630 million) fine on online retailer AliExpress for allowing the sale of illegal products, including unsafe toys and cosmetics.

The European Union said AliExpress also did not do enough to stop the sale of counterfeit products and that when the platform detected illegal goods were on sale, many remained online for several weeks.

The EU found some of the products sold on the platform did not meet the bloc's strict

environmental and safety standards during its investigation into AliExpress launched in March 2024.

"Risks must be identified and addressed systematically to ensure consumers can safely shop online. Today, we are holding AliExpress to this standard and request it to take action," EU tech chief Henna Virkkunen said in a statement.



Greece to ban children from scooters after accidents

AFP | Athens, Greece

Greece will toughen rules on electric stand-up scooters this week, a minister said Monday after recurring accidents mainly involving youths



banned under a bill that will be voted on tomorrow," deputy transport minister Giorgos Kotsiras told Skai TV.

Kotsiras said the bill provisions would include a ban on users under the age of 17, increased fines for unsafe riding and compulsory accident insurance.

"Based on statistics, we had seen that among our fellow citizens under the age of 17 there are increased rates of accidents," Kotsiras said.

EU suspects cement additive makers of price-fixing

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The European Commission on Monday accused several manufacturers of additives for cement and concrete -- including Mexican giant Cemex and a subsidiary of French group Saint-Gobain -- of colluding to charge customers higher prices for their products.

The chemical additives are commonly used in the construction sector to improve the properties of concrete, cement, and other mortars.

The EU Commission --

which carried out surprise inspections in the sector in 2023 -- accuses manufacturers and professional organisations in France, Germany, and Spain of forming a cartel to raise their prices in a coordinated manner in 2021 and 2022, in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

If the suspicions are confirmed, Brussels could impose heavy fines -- up to 10 percent of global annual turnover -- on the companies involved.

They will, however, have an opportunity to defend themselves.

Rubio open to Russia, China meets on Philippines visit

AFP | Joint Base Andrews, United States

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Sunday he was open to meeting with his Chinese and Russian counterparts this week while in the Philippines for a meeting of Southeast Asian foreign ministers.

Rubio's attendance at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) gathering in Manila comes as the United States seeks to counter China's growing regional influence and days after President Donald Trump accused Beijing of meddling in US elections.

"We'd be open to meeting with them," Rubio told reporters when asked if meetings with Chinese Foreign Minis-

ter Wang Yi or Russia's Sergei Lavrov were in the works.

"I would never tell you guys in a press conference what we would raise in meetings like that. Those are delicate matters," he added.

Rubio met Wang on the sidelines of the ASEAN gathering in Kuala Lumpur last year. The two also spoke by telephone following Trump's visit to China in the spring.



Trump says new Air Force One to be ‘maxed out’

AFP | Joint Base Andrews, United States

US President Donald Trump said Sunday his new Qatari-gifted Air Force One jet needed to be sent off for a month to be "maxed out," after reports of security concerns on a trip to Turkey.

Trump took his first flight on the retrofitted Boeing 747-8 plane on July 1, but questions swirled after he took an older jet home from a NATO meeting in Ankara on July 10.

The New York Times reported that the new plane lacked the same security countermeasures, including anti-missile defenses. Its reporters were then subpoenaed by the Trump ad-

ministration.

"It has a lot of capability, but as I understand it, in about a month or so, they're going to send it to have it be maxed out," Trump told reporters when asked why he was still flying on a plane without full defensive capabilities.

"So they're going to be sending it, and they'll have it be maxed out. It'll take about a month."

Trump, who was speaking after flying back to Washington from the World Cup final in New Jersey, did not give details about how the plane would be "maxed out."

The 80-year-old Republican has previously played down any suggestion of problems with the

new aircraft.

He originally said he had sent the plane on ahead from the Turkey summit to an airbase in Britain so that service members could see it.

Qatar's royal family donated the luxury airliner last year after Trump complained about the state of the two aging jets that have served as the US presidential plane since 1990.

The aircraft features a new Trump-designed livery in red, white and navy blue, in a change from the previous white and light blue livery.

Two brand new Boeing Air Force Ones are due to be delivered later this decade after a series of delays and cost overruns.



Members of the media make their way to board Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland

More than 100 missing as deadly flooding hits Afghanistan

AFP | Kabul, Afghanistan

More than 100 people are missing after deadly flooding hit Afghanistan's Nuristan province yesterday, disaster officials and the governor's office said.

Twenty bodies have been recovered and more than 80 people injured, Afghanistan's disaster agency ANDMA said.

The casualties were reported in the provincial capital Parun and other areas of Nuristan, which borders Pakistan, ANDMA said on X.

In Parun, the mayor and government employees were among the missing, the governor's office said.

"Nine dead bodies are recovered," said Feraidon Samim, spokesman for the Nuristan governor.

Both he and the disaster



A river flowing past houses at the Eshtiwi village in Afghanistan's Parun district.

agency said more than 100 remained missing.

AFP journalists who visited the remote northeastern area last month said a market, shops and other buildings were located near the riverside in Parun.

Ashiquallah Safi, head of Shpoul, an NGO in the town,

told AFP the flood had "completely destroyed the municipality" as well as hotels and dozens of shops.

Residents were searching the area without equipment, he said, after floodwaters left big boulders in the town.

India says four nationals killed in attack on ship in Ukraine

AFP | New Delhi, India

India said yesterday that four of its nationals were killed in attacks the day before on a commercial ship near the Ukrainian port in Odesa and another was critically injured.

A foreign ministry statement condemned the strike, saying the MV Golden Leo "was attacked while departing the port

of Odesa" and had five Indians among its crew of 17.

"As per information available, four Indian nationals have tragically lost their lives, while one is hospitalized in a critical condition," the statement said.

Ukraine's navy said Sunday that Russian missile strikes on the Golden Leo, a Turkish-owned cargo ship carrying grain, had killed five peo-

ple on board, while another five crew members were missing.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiga said the crew had included citizens of Syria and India.

"A Ukrainian maritime pilot was killed, as well as four crew members, eight crew members were evacuated and five still remain missing," he said.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I extend my congratulations to @AndyBurnham on his appointment as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. In the face of the challenges that unite us, I hope that we will deepen our relationship in service of our peoples and by giving new momentum to the partnership between the United Kingdom and the European Union.

@EmmanuelMacron

02



Louise Haigh has been appointed as First Secretary of State, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office

@10DowningStreet

03



I was happy to speak with Andy Burnham @andyburnham and congratulate him on taking office as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. I truly appreciate that the support for Ukraine and our people will remain steadfast.

@ZelenskyyUa

04



Mandela firmly believed that our common humanity could triumph over the forces of hatred, division, discrimination & injustice. Let's re-commit to the timeless principles that defined Madiba's life: freedom, justice, equality, solidarity, reconciliation, compassion & peace.

@antoniouterres

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

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AWAFI RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39360722 or MRAAY89@GMAIL.COM

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

ALMANAR CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17777703 or ALMANAREST@GMAIL.COM

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ALTHABIT CARPENTRY WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36858778 or AL.Thabet.c.w@gmail.com

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

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

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

LAGOONA BEACH RESORT&SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17660383 or INTERMILAN_1984@HOTMAIL.COM

NAPCO NATIONAL COMPANY FOR GENERAL TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PRESS DESIGNER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17762222 or TONY.ABIRAMIA@NAPCOGROUP.COM

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HARIS ALI CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33331564 or INFROTRUEOUTH@GMAIL.COM

BAHRAIN CITY CENTER TOWERS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17811616 or BMFAQEEH@GMAIL.COM

SOOBATT KHANN GRAPHIC DESIGN CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34300273 or PRINCEDO-HA786@GMAIL.COM

SHAFI ALAH Conditioner Central Contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36108435 or FOUZI-ANADEEM110@GMAIL.COM

NAMOS FURNITURE WORKSHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PRODUCTION MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35465891 or multibsbh@gmail.com

ASIM BILAL ELECTRONICS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of REPAIR-

MAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66304324 or BAHRAIN.JOB2040@GMAIL.COM

GLAM BEAUTY HEAVEN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIRDRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33993272 or NEWBLUEMOONTRADING@GMAIL.COM

ZULJINAH MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36368180 or HJAMEEL400@GMAIL.COM

KASHIF ARSHAD STAR SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33213724 or TAYYABZ213@GMAIL.COM

NURSHAN PACKAGING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34570419 or WAQARGONDAL846@GMAIL.COM

ABWAB ALKAHAIR MARKAT - BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36960999 or FATIMA.QALADARI@KHUH.ORG.BH

SADIA JEWELLERY DESIGN has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JEWELLERY & PRECIOUS METAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34346307 or sadieyousif@gmail.com

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GULF AIR B.S.C. (C) has a vacancy for the occupation of CABIN CREW / FLIGHT STEWARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17337804 or recruitment@gulfair.com

GULF AIR B.S.C. (C) has a vacancy for the occupation of CABIN CREW / FLIGHT STEWARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17337804 or recruitment@gulfair.com

UNI CARE INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17292626 or furgansharief@gmail.com

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ISMAIL SMART CLEANING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34005350 or ISMAILYOUSUF8@GMAIL.COM

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

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FAISAL MOHAMED TAHER ALTAHOO has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17272708 or ADMIN@FALTAHOOMANAGE- MENT.COM

BDC MANPOWER SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/ PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17180530 or mona.alnokhedha@ bas.com.bh

SHALIMAR TAILORING has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39902999 or OM- ALOOYY@GMAIL.COM

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WADI AL-DAIH GENERAL TRADE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33363999 or ALIALI1984BH@GMAIL.COM

ISA ABDULLA HASAN ALBUAINAIN / SULHOT - 11238 has a vacancy for the oc- cupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37000030 or al- buainainsalman@gmail.com

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YAHYA TOM YAM KUNG W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qual- ified applicants can contact 33545410 or INFO@THAIMARTBAHRAIN.COM

alredha tourist transport has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700680

or info@alredhatransport.com

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SREENIVAS PUTT RESTAURANT W.L.L W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAIT- ER, suitably qualified applicants can con- tact 33960111 or SREENIVASPUTT32018@ GMAIL.COM

FALAFEL ABU ZAINAB has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDWICHES MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33639898 or SADIQ_s9s@HOTMAIL.COM

AHMED MANSOOR ALAALI has a vacancy for the occupation of EMPLOYEE(OCCU- PATIONAL SAFETY), suitably qualified ap- plicants can contact 17265555 or adeel. hameed@al-aali.com

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ATLAS ALUMINUM W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34130996 or S.HUSSAIN.ISMAIL@AT- LAS-ALUMINUM.COM

ALAM WADI ALMELOK GENTS SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33323737 or ALIJAWADSARHAN@GMAIL. COM

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ALMANNAI FOTO has a vacancy for the oc- cupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified ap- plicants can contact 17712438 or STUDIOAL- MANNAINI@GMAIL.COM

ALYAMAMA HOUSE FOR CLEANING CON- TRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the oc- cupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345569 or YAMAMAHOUSE1@GMAIL.COM

ALPHA9 INTERIORS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34830007 or MUHEBILAL49@GMAIL.COM

FARHAN AND SABLU REPAIR OF ELEC- TRONICS CO BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupa- tion of WORKER(ELECTRICAL LINESMAN/ CABLE JOINTER), suitably qualified ap- plicants can contact 66991080 or MIR- ZAMUBEEN1155@GMAIL.COM

IMKA SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNT- ING DIRECTORATE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39196859 or CEN- GLI25481@GMAIL.COM

KARAK JEE CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39122259 or ALWANI007@HOTMAIL.COM

Covenant Builders Co. WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17554832 or SHINUTHOMASM@GMAIL.COM

THC FACILITY MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77225050 or satish@cinco-me.com

MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345051 or info@magicshinebh.com

ROZITE HOME WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17620026 or MOJII1110@GMAIL.COM

ALAHLAM STEEL FACTORY has a vacan- cy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17785335 or HAMED_996@HOTMAIL.COM

zenon BOUTIQUE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qual- ified applicants can contact 77140192 or BOB_200420@HOTMAIL.COM

FOOD CORNER CITY CO. W.L.L has a vacan- cy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17535982 or BUTALAL1953@YAHOO.COM

NOUMAN CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34031687

or Sadiqkhannyb@gmail.com

Bridge Industrial Services b s c closed has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OP- ERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39995338 or hr3@bis.com.bh

Makkah Motor Cycles has a vacancy for the occupation of REPAIRMAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 77229911 or info@awtadi.com

SPARK LIGHT BAHRAIN CO. W.L.L has a va- cancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66627665 or SPEEDTRAVELS.TOURISM@ GMAIL.COM

LONG HAIR GINTS SALOON has a vacan- cy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36008131 or AHMEDJAFFARADAM@GMAIL.COM

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barbeer Green Contracting - Bahraini Part- nership Co. has a vacancy for the occupa- tion of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENER- AL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34384278 or barbeergreen9876@gmail.com

ALMOAYED GROUP W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of GENERAL MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17828828 or AMMAR@ALMOAYEDICT.COM

AL KHAIR GENTS TAILORING has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qual- ified applicants can contact 39682292 or ALKHAIR234@gGMAIL.COM

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BY KOJO W.L.L has a vacancy for the oc- cupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qual- ified applicants can contact 17877880 or RMK@RMKGROUP.COM

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SEVEN DAYS CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVI- SOR, suitably qualified applicants can con- tact 39454342 or SHAKEELG8607@YAHOO.COM

SRI ANNALAKSHMI RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(- GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35081459 or SENTHILKALAIMA- NI8@GMAIL.COM

WHITE & GREEN LAUNDRY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WASHING MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66659525 or ADEL- AWACHI66@GMAIL.COM

SUROOH PROPERTY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION). GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33054999 or ADNANALOTAIWI@ YAHOO.COM

U B Z BAHRAIN SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE AS- SISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66627665 or UBZBAHRAINSERVI- CESCOWLL@GMAIL.COM

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ROME PALACE GENERAL TRADING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified ap- plicants can contact 32242713 or romepala- cescorpion@gmail.com

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FOUR WALLS DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EX- CUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33701736 or DESAIHUSSAIN16@ GMAIL.COM

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cupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66626168 or TDAINEH@GMAIL.COM

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ALSHARAF ORTHOPEDIC AND SPINE SPE- CIALIST CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of NURSE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39666287 or YOU- SIF_SHARAF@HOTMAIL.COM

GOLDAN KARAK has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38112234 or MOH. MADAN89@GMAIL.COM

SAIF AL SHAHRIYAH EVENT MANAGMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13106833 or SAIFAL- BAHRAIN.BM@GMAIL.COM

PINDIYA KULA COMPUTER MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36563904 or BWC- COMPANYV6@GMAIL.COM

HARRY MACHINERY INSTALLATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNI- CIAN, suitably qualified applicants can con- tact 36418308 or HARMINDERKAINTH93@ GMAIL.COM

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NASSER ABD MOHAMMED B.S.C(CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL CHIPPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700888 or admin@nasserco.net

MANSOUR JASSIM SHOWAITER INTERNA- TIONAL SWEETS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKERS(FOOD & BEVERAG- ES INDUSTRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36688808 or UMN00R5562@ GMAIL.COM

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alshaya trading co w l l has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qual- ified applicants can contact 17556555 or AYMAN.JAFAR@ALSHAYA.COM

ALNOOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL has a vacancy for the occupation of TEACHER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17736773 or roonlasc@batelco.com.bh

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SAWARI TRAVEL WORLD CO. BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17276007 or MOHIUDDINSJ@GMAIL.COM

K9K SIGNATURE SERVICES W.L.L has a va- cancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39212227 or KAFEELRAJPOOT1122@ GMAIL.COM

SOUTH GATE CONSTRUCTION AND CLEAN- ING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77061717 or YKHALFAN@GMAIL. COM

IMRAN SHAHBUDDIN BUSINESS MANAG- MENT CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacan- cy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37440019 or imranahmed0410@gmail.com

AROJ BANO FASHION DESIGN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35974725 or 143AROJ143@GMAIL.COM

AVENTEN STAR CONTRACTING has a va- cancy for the occupation of CONSTRUC- TION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35141212 or AVENTENSTAR. BH@GMAIL.COM

KROM WOOD W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qual- ified applicants can contact 35465891 or multibsbh@gmail.com

region

Saudi Launches Multiple-Entry Umrah Visa

365-day permit allows multiple visits with up to 90 days’ total stay



TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Saudi Arabia’s Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has launched a multiple-entry Umrah visa, allowing hold- ers to enter the kingdom several times during its 365-day validity period from the date of issue, with a cumulative stay of up to 90 days over the life of the visa.

The Saudi Press Agency re- ported that the new visa is part of efforts to develop services for pilgrims and achieve the goals of Saudi Vision 2030 and the Pilgrim Experience Programme, by making it easier for pilgrims to travel to the kingdom, en- riching their experience and raising the efficiency of services provided.

The ministry said the length of stay is calculated cumula- tively based on the number of

days a pilgrim spends in the kingdom across multiple vis- its. A service package must be purchased from an approved service provider through the Nusuk platform for each visit, with an Umrah permit issued through the app before arrival.

It confirmed that entry under the visa remains subject to travel and entry requirements and ap- proved regulatory controls, not- ing that the visa cannot be used for entry during the Hajj season, from the first of Dhul Qadah to the 13th of Dhul Hijjah.

The ministry added that the new visa enhances flexibility in planning visits and supports the integration of digital and operational services linked to the pilgrim’s journey, as part of efforts to provide an easier, higher-quality experience from the planning stage through to departure from the kingdom.

UAE Condemns Iran’s Missile and Drone Attacks on Bahrain and Kuwait

The United Arab Emir- ates (UAE) has strong- ly condemned Iran’s renewed missile and drone attacks targeting the King- dom of Bahrain and the State of Kuwait.

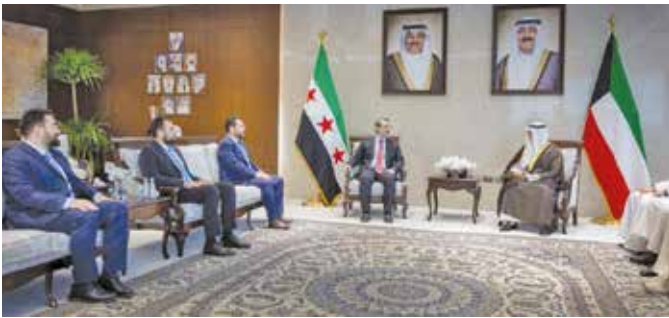
In a statement, the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs de- scribed the attacks as a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of both countries and a serious threat to regional security and stability.

The ministry reaffirmed the



UAE’s full solidarity with Bah- rain and Kuwait, expressing its support for all measures taken to protect their security, sta- bility, and territorial integrity.

Syria, Kuwait Agree to Deepen Diplomatic and Economic Relations



Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad Al-Shaibani met with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to discuss strengthening bilateral rela- tions through enhanced dip- lomatic, trade, and investment cooperation.

During the meeting, both sides agreed to establish a joint coordination committee, work toward exchanging ambassa- dors, and create a Syrian-Ku- waiti Business Council to boost economic collaboration, according to the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA).

Al-Shaibani also condemned recent Iranian attacks target- ing Kuwait and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states following the renewed hostilities between the United States and Iran in early July. He reaffirmed Syria’s support for Kuwait and its commit-

ment to respecting the coun- try’s sovereignty.

On Monday, Al-Shaibani also held talks with Kuwait’s Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah in Kuwait City. The discussions focused on regional develop- ments and ongoing efforts to enhance security and stability across the region.

Kuwait has supported Syr- ia’s gradual reintegration into the international community since the fall of Bashar As- sad’s government in Decem- ber 2024.

In a further sign of improv- ing ties, Kuwait Airways re- cently resumed direct flights between Damascus and Ku- wait City for the first time in 14 years. The service follows Ja- zeera Airways’ inaugural flight to Syria in late June, which landed at Aleppo International Airport.



Garcia departure leaves Belgium facing ‘generational change’



Belgium’s French head coach Rudi Garcia reacts after a match (file photo)
AFP | Paris

Rudi Garcia has left his role as Belgium coach after his side were knocked out of the World Cup quarter-finals, the Belgian football federation (RBFA) said yesterday.

Garcia, 62, took over the Red Devils in January 2025 before guiding them to a last-eight loss to eventual tournament winners Spain.

The Frenchman replaced Domenico Tedesco and also helped Belgium secure their place in Nations League A with an ageing generation of big names players such as midfielder Kevin De Bruyne, forward Romelu Lukaku and goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois.

“We sincerely thank Rudi Garcia and his staff for their dedication, professionalism and commitment over the past 18 months,” the RBFA said.

“And wish them every success in the future,” it added.

Bahrain beat Oman to reach Asian youth handball quarter-finals



Ahmed Eid

TDI | Manama

Bahrain powered into the quarter-finals of the 19th Asian Men’s Junior Handball Championship after brushing aside Oman 33-23 in China yesterday, turning a close first half into a one-sided win.

The Bahrainis held a 15-13 lead at the break before taking charge after the restart, winning the second half 18-10 to seal their third victory in four matches.

Ahmed Eid hit eight goals from eight shots to lead the scoring. Mohammed Adam, Ahmed Abdulla and Ahmed Al Samahiji each added four, while Abbas

Ali and Abather Yateem scored three apiece.

Bahrain finished with a 70pc shooting rate and struck nine goals on the counter, while Oman managed three.

The win lifted Bahrain to six points in Group A after earlier victories over Chinese Taipei, 39-27, and Hong Kong, 43-15. Their only defeat came against Saudi Arabia, who won 30-26.

Bahrain will meet hosts China on Wednesday, with the result deciding second and third place in the group.

The tournament runs until July 27, with the top four sides earning places at the 2027 Men’s Junior World Championship in North Macedonia.



Abbas Ali

The Football Fanzone at La Med Wraps Up an Unforgettable World Cup Experience



Manama

The Football Fanzone at La Med, The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain, concluded with the highly anticipated World Cup Final, welcoming a sold-out crowd for a memorable evening as Spain secured the title with a 1-0 victory over Argentina.

The Football Fanzone transformed La Med into a dedicated indoor destination for World Cup viewing, where guests enjoyed every match on a 3-metre screen in an energetic and welcoming atmosphere. Combined with thoughtfully curated dining options and The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain’s renowned hospitality, the experience offered

football fans the ideal setting to come together throughout the tournament.

Delivering an unmatched viewing experience, La Med served as the perfect venue for the tournament’s grand final between Spain and Argentina. Fans remained on the edge of their seats throughout the match, cheering through every



intense moment while enjoying a selection of Spanish and Argentine-inspired dishes crafted especially for the occasion. Because no match day is complete without delicious bites, guests were treated to a memorable culinary experience that complemented the excitement of the final. The night concluded with a remarkable champion-

ship victory for Spain, bringing the Football Fanzone experience to a high-energy and celebratory close.

The Football Fanzone at La Med highlighted The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain’s commitment to creating meaningful guest moments by bringing together exceptional hospitality, outstanding dining, and the excitement

of world-class sporting events in one destination. While the final whistle marked the close of this event, it doesn’t end there, it is only one of the many experiences we are proud to offer, and we look forward to welcoming you all again on our next line-up of memorable moments at The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain.



Messi denied **dream** farewell

Spain defeats ten-man Argentina in extra-time to win the World Cup

- **Messi left in tears after loss**
- **Fernandez sees red in late stoppage time**
- **Argentina struggles to create scoring opportunities**
- **Messi touches ball only 54 times**
- **Spain dominates tense physical encounter**

AFP | East Rutherford

Lionel Messi could have ended all debate over who is the greatest player of all time by winning another World Cup with Argentina, but he was left in tears following Spain's 1-0 win.

Messi, now 39, dragged the holders to another final, scoring eight goals and also providing two assists in the dramatic late comeback against England in the semi-finals.

But the dream of lifting the trophy again, four years after he inspired Argentina to victory in Qatar, ultimately proved too good to be true.

Ten-man Argentina did not lay a glove on Spain at the MetLife Stadium, and were lucky to survive until the 106th minute, when Ferran Torres finally broke the deadlock.

The blunt South Americans struggled throughout the match and faced a huge challenge when Enzo Fernandez was sent off in stoppage time.

The final passed Messi by, and as he broke down in tears it was easy to think that he might have been much better off bowing out on that glorious night in Doha in 2022.

That victory allowed him to emulate Diego Maradona, who dragged Argentina to glory in 1986. But this time he emulated his legendary predecessor in a different way.

Maradona's Argentina returned to the final as holders in 1990, only to deliver a dreadful, cynical display in losing 1-0 to West Germany, a game they finished with nine men.

They fouled their way through this game too, appearing to have no tactic other than to try to get under Spain's skin.

Messi touched the ball only

3

World Cup finals feature Lionel Messi, matching the historic milestone record set by Brazil legend Cafu

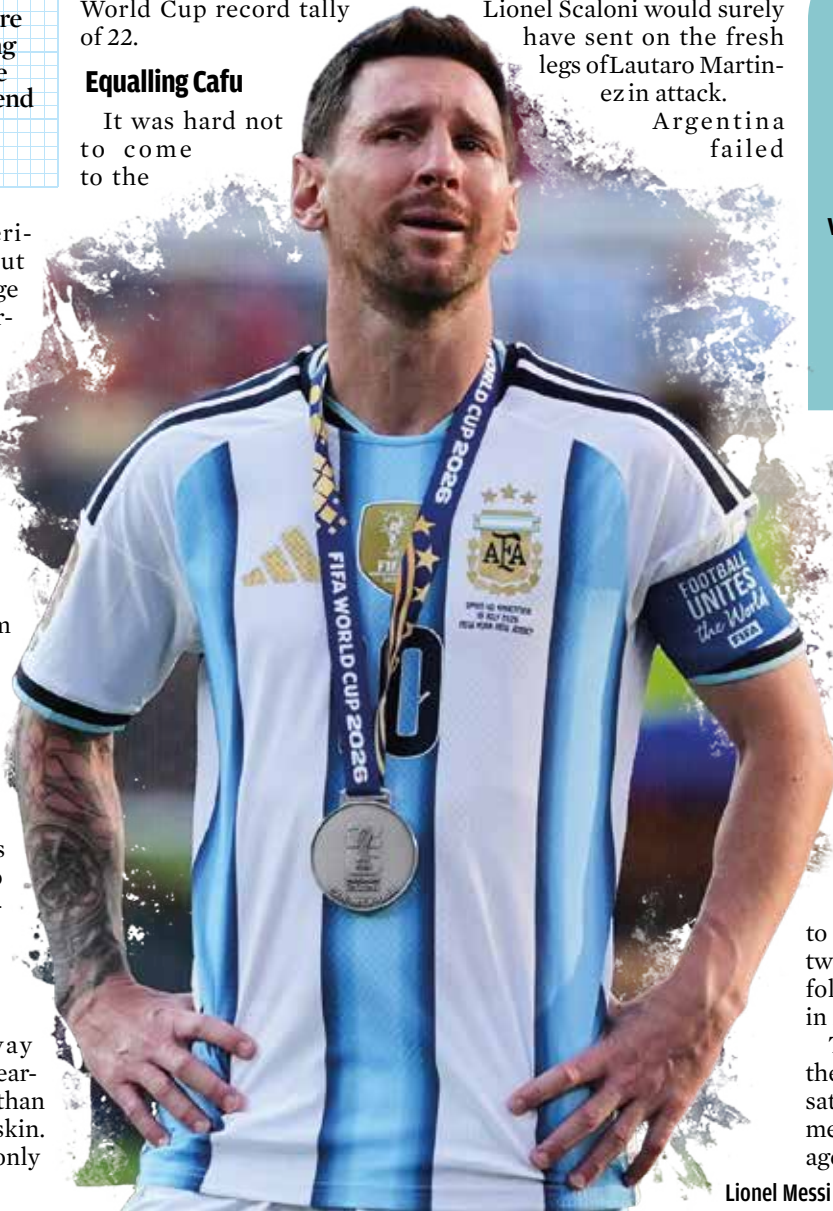
54 times, with almost half of those coming in extra-time, and never looked like scoring the goal that would allow him to equal Kylian Mbappe's overall World Cup record tally of 22.

Equalling Cafu

It was hard not to come to the

conclusion that he ended up hindering his side once they were down to 10 men -- he was left as their lone forward, when in any other circumstances coach Lionel Scaloni would surely have sent on the fresh legs of Lautaro Martinez in attack.

Argentina failed



Lionel Messi



Messi's final was played at the same MetLife Stadium where he dramatically announced his international retirement in 2016 before his remarkable late-career revival

to become the first team to retain the World Cup since Brazil in 1962, but this was still a momentous day for Messi.

He became only the second player to appear in three World Cup finals, matching the achievement of Brazil great Cafu.

Pele won three World Cups, but did not play in the 1962 final due to injury. Maradona played in two finals.

If Messi does still have any doubters, they may point to the fact that he has now lost two of his finals, with this defeat following the loss to Germany in 2014.

The final took place back at the same stadium where he sensationally announced his retirement from international football aged 29 in 2016.

He had won more than 100 caps by then, and was already regarded as one of the greatest players of all time thanks to his achievements with Barcelona.

A game too far

But with Argentina he had already lost three major finals, including the 2014 World Cup final, when he came to the MetLife Stadium for the Copa America Centenario decider against Chile in 2016.

The game ended 0-0, before Messi missed his penalty in the shootout as Argentina lost again. "For me the national team is over," he said then.

He went on to enjoy an incredible late career revival with his country, winning the Copa America back-to-back in 2021 and 2024, either side of the 2022 World Cup.

The 2026 tournament in North America felt at first like a victory lap for Messi, as he scored a hat-trick in the opening game against Algeria and the goals kept flowing.

He now has more than 200 caps, and has played a record 34 World Cup games across a joint-record six tournaments.

Surely this will bring the curtain down on his World Cup career, given he will be into his 40s in 2030.

There may, however, be calls for him to keep playing for his country a little longer, especially as he has a contract with Inter Miami until 2028.

It has been a glorious career, but the final was a game too far for Messi and Argentina.

We have grown together, says Spain coach de la Fuente



Luis de la Fuente, Head Coach of Spain, holds the trophy

AFP | East Rutherford

An emotional Spain coach Luis de la Fuente spoke of his pride in his players after they won the second World Cup in the country's history.

"I feel especially proud of this generation of footballers who have grown with this idea... giving us an example of a group, of a family," he said.

"They are players with exceptional talent. For me, it has been an honour to have accompanied them on this journey."

De la Fuente, who also coached them to the Euro 2024 crown, added: "I'm very emotional, looking back. We have won everything, and that

is wonderful.

"They are a generation of footballers who are a source of pride for Spain. Together, we are stronger."

The 65-year-old coach said he believed Spain should have won the game earlier than the 106th minute goal by Ferran Torres that settled a tense final, but he praised Argentina 'keeper Emi Martinez for an inspired performance.

"I think the game should have been decided earlier. Dibuj's great saves prevented us from winning sooner, but it is a World Cup final and, even with ten players at the end, you have to suffer," de la Fuente said.

Spain deserved to win: Argentina's Scaloni

AFP | East Rutherford

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni admitted Spain were the better team following his team's defeat.

The South American champions, led by Lionel Messi, had been seeking to become the first team since 1962 to win back-to-back World Cups.

"They were the better side -- that's the truth -- but I'll cherish the memory of them (his team), of what they achieved, and of the value of making it this far," said Scaloni, who later broke down in tears at his post-game press conference.

"We have to place immense value on this because it takes so much effort."

Scaloni, who had to break up an ugly skirmish after the final whistle that involved Argentina midfielder Leandro Paredes, said his team must accept defeat with the same grace they had shown when celebrating recent successes.

"We are gracious in victory, and we must be gracious in defeat. Today, we are showing that we know how to lose," he said.

"We lost the match and we accept it, but that doesn't mean we stop living or forget everything we did to get here."

He thanked the fans for their incredible support throughout the 2026 tournament in Canada, Mexico and the United



Argentina's head coach Lionel Scaloni (C,R) clashes with Spain's defender #04 Eric Garcia at the end of the match

States.

"To the people, my players, and the country, I want to say that we gave it our all," he said.

"We arrived here facing a realistic situation, but if the players leave everything on the pitch, as they did today, it sets a great example for our people and our country."

"We have to pick ourselves up again, there is no other way," he added.

Scaloni, 48, said Argentina's achievement in reaching a second successive final should be appreciated.

"I certainly value the runners-up spot because it takes so much to get here, and I think it deserves huge recognition,"



We are gracious in victory, and we must be gracious in defeat. Today, we are showing that we know how to lose

LIONEL SCALONI

he said.

"Naturally, we would have liked to win, but ultimately I feel gratitude. That is the only word I have, along with sadness, of course."

"But when you give everything like that, regardless of whether you play well or poorly, it's very

hard to find fault."

Scaloni later cast doubt on his long-term future as Argentina coach, suggesting he may choose to step down when his existing contract ends in December.

Reports in Argentina have said he has already reached a verbal agreement to continue through to the 2030 World Cup.

"I already have an idea of what I want to do," he said. "I will honor the contract and then see."

"I feel the need to think, because I don't know if it's possible to achieve something as big as this," Scaloni added at his press conference, before breaking down in tears.

Superb Spain **worthy** winners

La Roja combine resilience and teamwork to secure a second World Cup triumph

● **Spain concede only one tournament goal**

● **Rodri named player of the tournament**

● **Yamal contributes despite struggles**

AFP | East Rutherford

It was a World Cup in which football's biggest names sprinkled stardust over the tournament, yet in the end the trophy deservedly went to a formidable if unspectacular Spain side who were simply too strong, even without Lamine Yamal being at his thrilling best.

The 19-year-old winger was the focus of so much attention, but he initially struggled to find full fitness and finished with just one goal, in a

group-stage win over Saudi Arabia.

This World Cup, the first to feature 48 teams, had an average of 2.96 goals per game, making it the most prolific since 1970.

Spain scored only 14 times in eight games, but they take the trophy home after silencing Lionel Messi and defeating a disappointing Argentina 1-0 at the end of extra time at the MetLife Stadium.

La Roja completely outplayed the defending champions, but needed a Ferran Torres goal in the 106th minute to become world champions for the second time.

The key to their success was a remarkable defence which conceded only once in the whole competition, against Belgium in the

quarter-finals.

Protecting that defence as brilliantly as ever was the captain Rodri, and it was telling that he was named player of the tournament rather than Messi, Kylian Mbappe or any of the other attacking superstars on display.

There were echoes of 2010 in South Africa, when Spain won their first World Cup with a fantastic side whose success was also built around a watertight back line.

"When you don't concede I think it is much easier to win," said Marc Cucurella, the floppy-haired full-back who recently signed for Real Madrid from Chelsea.

"We attack together and defend together, and that is one of the

key things about this team."

Rodri outshines Messi

Messi and Argentina did not muster a single shot on target as their attempts to become the first team to successfully defend the World Cup since 1962 fell flat.

In the semi-finals, Spain had also shut out France's remarkable attack, including Mbappe who still ended the tournament as the top scorer with 10 goals.

"If you could speak to all the gloves I have worn in this World Cup, I think they would tell you they didn't have much work to do," joked goalkeeper Unai Simon.

Behind Mbappe and Messi, who got eight goals, in the race for the golden boot were Jude Bellingham, Erling



Teenagers Lamine Yamal and Pau Cubarsi joined an elite group of only ten players ever to win the World Cup as teenagers, even though Yamal finished with just one goal

Haaland, reigning Ballon d'Or Ousmane Dembele, and Harry Kane.

Some of the most recognisable faces of this World Cup, but their teams could not match Spain, who are the first country to be world and European champions at the same time since they did the double themselves in 2008 and 2010.

The future looks just as bright -- Yamal and fellow 19-year-old Pau Cubarsi are now part of an elite group of only 10 players ever to have won the World Cup as teenagers.

Hosts in 2030

Coach Luis de la Fuente, who took over following the disappointing last-16 exit at the 2022 World Cup, is a veteran at 65 but has achieved astonishing results and has a contract until Euro 2028.

Before the tournament, so much attention was on the big-name coaches who came into interna-

tional football with huge reputations.

Carlo Ancelotti and Thomas Tuchel failed to live up to the expectations of Brazil and England respectively, while Mauricio Pochettino could only lead the United States to the last 16 and Julian Nagelsmann's Germany disappointed.

"These players are exceptionally talented and it is an honour to accompany them," said De la Fuente, happy to stand back and let them bask in the glory.

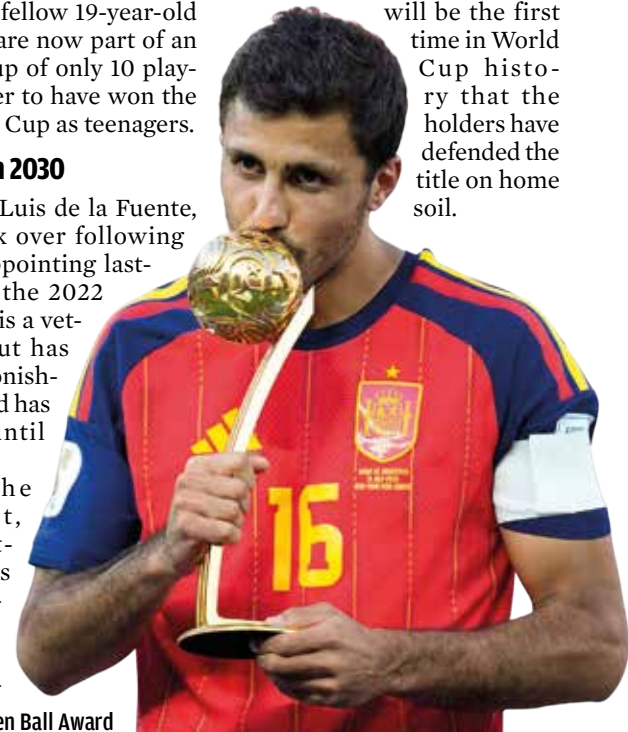
The last two decades have seen Spain firmly shake off their reputation as international football's great underachievers, and they have now won two World Cups and three European Championships since 2008, as well as one UEFA Nations League.

They will be back in action in just two months with Nations League games against England and Croatia.

For now, though, they can enjoy being world champions again, and think about the tantalising prospect of defending the trophy in 2030 -- that will be the first time in World Cup history that the holders have defended the title on home soil.



Spain's players celebrate with the trophy



Rodri kisses the Golden Ball Award

Cucurella praises 'incredible' defence

AFP | East Rutherford

Marc Cucurella hailed Spain's "incredible" defence after they won their second World Cup with a 1-0 victory against Argentina.

Coach Luis de la Fuente's team conceded just one goal in their eight games at the 2026 tournament -- the fewest by any side in a World Cup-winning campaign.

Belgium were the only team to breach their defence, in the quarter-finals in Los Angeles.

"When you don't concede, I think it's much easier to win," said Cucurella, who has recently sealed a transfer from Chelsea to Real Madrid.

"We've done an incredible job in that regard all tournament, and not just the defenders and the goalkeeper, because I think it's a team effort.

"Ultimately it's about everyone making sacrifices. We attack together and defend to-



Marc Cucurella celebrates with the trophy

gether. That's one of the keys to this team."

The 27-year-old left-back said Spain, who also won the World Cup in 2010, could at last switch off.

"Now it's time to celebrate," he said. "We came here with a goal, spent 50 days, or nearly 50, in camp, and now it's time to be together, enjoy every moment, reminisce, and above all, switch off.

"I think we deserve a good party."

Trump lingers on stage to lap up spotlight

AFP | New York

US President Donald Trump grabbed a share of the spotlight at the World Cup final, staying on stage with winners Spain as they lifted the trophy after beating Argentina.

Despite being met by resounding boos as he walked on to the pitch with FIFA president Gianni Infantino, Trump basked in the attention at the end of a tournament he has called "the most successful sporting event maybe in the history of the world."

Trump briefly lingered on stage as Infantino tried to lead him away while the Spanish team held the trophy aloft in celebration.

The 80-year-old US leader even did a quick version of his trademark "Trump dance" in front of the Spanish players.

Trump had arrived on his Marine One helicopter at the



Spain celebrate World Cup triumph as FIFA President Gianni Infantino (R) tries to lead US President Donald Trump (2R) away from the stage

New York-New Jersey stadium to watch Spain and Argentina battle it out for the trophy.

During the game, he sat next to Infantino and First Lady Melania Trump, and stood and saluted for the US national an-

them.

Trump said before kick-off that he thought superstar Lionel Messi would give Argentina the edge and talked about his own close ties with Argentina's right wing President Javier Milei.

But he told reporters afterward that he "wasn't sad" Argentina had lost. "I would say Spain played better, really," Trump said.

The game also provided a chance for some diplomacy.

Trump said he had spoken to Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney -- whose country co-hosted the tournament with the United States and Mexico -- about wildfires that have sent smoke over the US northeast.

The US leader said he had a "good relationship" with Carney "but maybe they should pay us some damages or something, or we should do some tariffs." The smoke had at one point threatened to disrupt the final.

Trump said he also spoke to Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, insisting there was "no tension" despite recently lashing out at Madrid for failing to help with the Iran war and falling short on NATO spending.