

The United States warned that fighting involving Saudi Arabia and Iran-backed Houthis could escalate rapidly as President Donald Trump considers his next move on Iran. | **P6-7**



Water Strategy Advances



Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa chaired the regular meeting of the Water Resources Council, which reviewed progress on Bahrain's National Water Strategy 2021-2030.

The overall completion rate for the strategy's indicators, projects and initiatives reached 86.5%, with 23 of its 40 initiatives completed and 17 still under implementation. Ministries also briefed the Council on their respective projects aimed at strengthening water security.

Bahrain Condemns Attacks

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Bahrain, UN Discuss Challenges



Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani met United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The meeting reviewed Bahrain-UN cooperation, regional developments and challenges, including disruptions to maritime navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and Bab Al Mandab. The two sides also discussed issues on the UN General Assembly agenda and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

Bahrain-EU Dialogue Expands Across Trade and Security

TDT | Manama

Senior Bahraini officials held separate meetings with European Parliament delegation, discussing Bahrain-EU relations, economic cooperation, parliamentary ties and regional developments.

The delegation, led by Reinhold Lopatka, Chair of the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with the Arab Peninsula, met with His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Deputy King, at Riffa Palace.

HRH Prince Salman affirmed Bahrain's commitment to strengthening its partnership with the European Union in line with the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. He highlighted the longstanding relationship between Bahrain and the EU and its contribution to cooperation across several sectors.

Discussions covered ways to expand bilateral coordination, with particular emphasis on economic, trade and investment cooperation. HRH Prince Salman also highlighted the EU's role, alongside its partners, in supporting regional security and stability.

Separately, Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, Speaker of the Council of Representatives,

received the delegation and reviewed opportunities to deepen cooperation between Bahrain and EU countries.

The meeting also addressed regional security developments and international navigation. Al Musallam commended the EU's support for Bahrain and GCC states in condemning Iranian attacks and its diplomatic efforts concerning the Strait of Hormuz, international trade and energy security.

He stressed the importance of respecting state sovereignty, pursuing disputes through legal channels and ensuring accountability for attacks.



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa met with the European Parliament delegation led by Reinhold Lopatka.



Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh discussed parliamentary cooperation and regional security with the European Parliament delegation.

Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh also met the delegation; talks focused on parliamentary diplomacy, dialogue and cooperation between legislative institutions.

The meeting examined developments in the Middle East and their implications for regional security, international navigation and the global economy, including concerns over attacks

on Bahrain's civil and vital facilities. Al Saleh emphasised the importance of parliamentary dialogue and joint efforts to support peace, stability and international cooperation.



Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam held talks with Reinhold Lopatka.

Arab Parliamentarians Back Bahrain Maritime Proposal

TDT | Manama

The Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union's Executive Committee has unanimously backed a Bahrain proposal to place freedom of navigation through international waterways and straits on the agenda of the upcoming 153rd General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The proposal was approved during the 43rd meeting of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union Executive Committee in Cairo, attended by Bahrain's parliamentary delegation led by MP Ahmed Abdulwahid Qarata, Second Deputy Speaker of the Council of Repre-



Ahmed Abdulwahid Qarata, MP

sentatives.

The proposal, submitted on behalf of the Arab Group, calls for an emergency agenda item addressing the need to safeguard maritime navigation and the flow of trade through international maritime corridors and straits,

while condemning armed acts targeting or disrupting them.

Qarata said the proposal reflects Bahrain's commitment to protecting the safety and security of international maritime navigation and ensuring the uninterrupted movement of trade through key maritime routes.

He stressed the importance of respecting international laws and conventions governing maritime navigation and strengthening international cooperation to protect the security and stability of vital waterways.

Qarata also highlighted the role of parliaments in supporting international efforts to promote

security and peace.

The meeting, chaired by Sheikh Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al-Alsheikh, Speaker of the Shura Council of Saudi Arabia, also reviewed financial and administrative matters concerning the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Discussions included a report by the Interim Financial Committee on financial auditing and oversight regulations, along with criteria for appointing an internal auditor and legal accountant.

The committee also reviewed measures to address the Union's financial position and diversify its income sources, as well as a Gen-

HM King Sends Congratulations



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa sent a cable of congratulations to Armenian President Vahagn Khachatryan on the occasion of Armenia's Independence Day.

His Majesty also sent a congratulatory message to Belize Governor-General Froyla Tzalam on her country's Independence Day. He received a cable of thanks from Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in response to his congratulations on Uzbekistan's Independence Day.

Housing Ministry Certified



Health Minister Dr. Jalila bint Al Sayyed Jawad Hassan presented Housing and Urban Planning Minister Amna bint Ahmed Al Rumaihi with the ministry's accreditation under the Healthy Lifestyle-Enhancing Workplaces Programme after it met the requirements for the Diamond level.

The Health Ministry praised the Housing Ministry's focus on employee health and safety. The programme promotes healthy lifestyles through initiatives covering proper nutrition, physical activity, smoking prevention, mental health and occupational health.

Space Agency Presents Research



Researchers from the Bahrain Space Agency participated in the SPIE Sensors + Imaging conference in Scotland, presenting two research papers on artificial intelligence and Earth observation technologies.

The participation formed part of a joint research programme between the Bahrain Space Agency and the University of Strathclyde focused on environmental and infrastructure monitoring in the Gulf using remote sensing and artificial intelligence. One study examined the monitoring of temporary water bodies formed by rainfall in extremely arid coastal environments.

Faiths Join Hands for Peace



The King Hamad Global Centre for Coexistence and Tolerance organised a dialogue session marking the International Day of Peace, bringing together representatives of religious communities and places of worship in Bahrain. Titled "Common Ground: A Dialogue on Shared Values among Religious Communities," the session was attended by ambassadors, government officials, members of the Centre's Board of Trustees, religious and intellectual figures, and others interested in dialogue and coexistence.

The session reflected His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's vision of promoting coexistence, tolerance and dialogue among religions and cultures, as well as Bahrain's continued efforts in this area under the guidance of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister. Speaking at the event, Shaikha Maryam bint Hamoud Al Khalifa, Acting Director of the Coexistence Department at the Centre, said peace is a daily practice reflected in communities, human relationships and places of worship. She said meaningful dialogue is built on understanding and respecting diversity while identifying shared values that can contribute to peace and community service. The session also explored the contributions of religious communities to Bahraini society, the role of places of worship in strengthening communication and bridging the community, and humanitarian work as a shared value among religions.

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Bahrain-US Relations Advance



HRH the Deputy King, Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, received US Ambassador Stephanie L. Hallett at Riffa Palace. HRH Prince Salman highlighted the continued growth of Bahrain-US ties and the importance of strengthening cooperation under the C-SIPA agreement. They also discussed regional and international developments and issues of mutual interest. Senior officials attended.

Chinese Ambassador Bids Farewell



HRH the Deputy King, Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, received outgoing Chinese Ambassador Ni Ruchi and highlighted the longstanding Bahrain-China relationship. The meeting also covered issues of mutual interest and regional and international developments. Senior officials attended.

Cash rewards proposed for recycling

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

People need a reason to recycle, not simply another bin, Southern Municipal Council Chairman Abdulla Abdul Latif has said as he called for cash rewards and easier collection.

A proposal has already been submitted for a German-style bottle return scheme, under which people would get money back when they hand in empty bottles.

‘People should get something back when they recycle,’ Abdul Latif said. MP Hassan Ebrahim told The Daily Tribune that Bahrain also needed to make recycling easier to reach and worth the effort.

‘Our strategy therefore needs to move from simply telling people to recycle towards making recycling easy, convenient and rewarding,’ he said.

Abdul Latif said many recycling bins had small, awkward openings that forced people to



push waste through one item at a time. For someone carrying a large amount of recyclable material, he said, that could mean standing at the bin for a long



time feeding bottles and other items through separately. ‘You bring a bag full of bottles and then you are expected to open it and put every bottle in separately,’ Mr Abdul Latif told The Daily Tribune. ‘Why make things hard for people? Give them an open container where they can put the recyclable material in easily.’

Bahrain already has 300 recycling centres across all four governorates.

The Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture said in December 2025 that the 300 centres had been placed across the country, with separate containers for paper and cardboard, plastic, glass and metals.

From January through October 2025, they collected 279 tonnes of recyclable material.

Paper and cardboard made up 209 tonnes, while plastic and glass each came to 28 tonnes and metals to 14 tonnes.

Abdul Latif said the problem now was getting people to use the centres regularly.

He said people were less likely to recycle when doing so took extra effort and offered them nothing in return. A local supermarket had previously tested a reward scheme for recycling, he said. ‘The experiment was tried for a period and the results were very good,’ he said. ‘The municipality benefits and the citizen benefits.’

Ebrahim called for home or neighbourhood collection so families could separate recyclable waste without having to search for a recycling point.

Reverse-vending machines could also be placed in supermarkets, malls, universities and sports grounds, allowing people to return bottles and cans for points, discounts or another reward.

Like Abdul Latif, Ebrahim said Bahrain should study a deposit-return scheme for drinks containers, with people getting back a small sum when they return an empty bottle or can.

He also said recycling should be taught from an early age, with pupils introduced at school to why it matters and how it should become part of everyday life.

‘These are useful projects and the government has to support them,’ he said. ‘We need the ministries concerned to help such ideas grow and become part of how we deal with waste.’

He said recycling would work better when bins were easy to use, collection was closer to homes and bottles, cans and other useful material had some value instead of being thrown into the rubbish.



Lawmakers urge peaceful settlement of disputes

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Lawmakers say disputes should be settled through dialogue and international law, arguing that peace is key to security, growth and social stability.

Shura Council member Adel Al Assoomi, Parliament Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee chairman Dr Hassan Bukhammas and MP Khalid BuAraq make the call as Bahrain marks International Day of Peace.

‘Peace is the civilised choice and the way to achieve security, stability and sustainable development,’ Mr Al Assoomi says.

He pointed to Bahrain’s hosting of interfaith and intercultural talks, the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence and programmes aimed at encouraging tolerance, moderation and respect for diversity.

Mr Al Assoomi credited His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa with making coexistence and tolerance part of Bahrain’s national policy, with support from His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

He also praised the Foreign Ministry’s work at regional and international forums and the role of parliamentary diplomacy in making Bahrain’s case for peace and dialogue abroad.

Dr Bukhammas says Bah-



rain favours the peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for state sovereignty and non-interference in domestic affairs.

He cited the Kingdom of Bahrain Declaration, calls for dialogue between followers of different religions and sects, and Bahrain’s hosting of dialogue forums.

‘Bahrain continues to call for peaceful solutions, respect for the sovereignty of states and non-interference in their internal affairs, while supporting UN and regional efforts aimed at security for all,’ he says.

Dr Bukhammas says MPs support laws and policies that encourage peace and tolerance at home and reject violence, hatred and discrimination.

He says Bahrain’s long his-



tory of coexistence among its communities is something that should be preserved.

‘The conflicts and crises facing the world today show that peace remains the only sustainable choice,’ he says.

Mr BuAraq says there can be no development without security, no prosperity without understanding and no progress without dialogue based on respect for others.

He pointed to Bahrain’s interfaith and intercultural work, the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence and programmes promoting moderation and tolerance.

Mr BuAraq also praised the Foreign Ministry and Bahrain’s parliamentary diplomacy for working with parliaments overseas on peace and security.



The Little Teacher Who Speaks With Her Hands

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Her father is deaf, so she learned to communicate with him through signs from an early age. What started as a way to speak with her father soon became something she wanted to share with others.

At school, Munira began teaching her classmates basic sign language, demonstrating signs and helping them understand how to communicate without spoken words. Her initiative quickly earned her a special place among her classmates, who began calling her the ‘little teacher.’

She later extended the lessons to her teachers, sharing the language she had learned at home and helping them communicate more easily with peo-



ple who use sign language.

For Munira, learning sign language was not about overcoming a difficulty linked to her father’s deafness. It was simply learning the language her family used to communicate.

Her initiative has since become one of the projects emerging from government schools

through cooperation between schools and parents, with support from the Ministry of Education.

Through a skill she first learned to communicate with her father, Munira has helped give her classmates and teachers another way to connect with people who use sign language.

Ministry Orders Dissolution of Inactive Groups

Ministry of Social Development has ordered the compulsory dissolution of several registered civil society organisations that had remained inactive for extended periods.

The move follows a review of organisations that had stopped their activities and were unable to hold general assemblies for lengthy periods, the ministry said.

Before taking action, the ministry gave the organisations an opportunity to regularise their status. They were invited to contact the Civil Society Organisations Support Directorate, update their records and complete the required legal and



regulatory procedures. Several organisations responded and began correcting their status and fulfilling the necessary requirements. Others, however, remained inactive and failed to respond after the deadline expired.

Minister of Social Development Osama bin Saleh Al Alawi issued Ministerial Decision (57) of 2026 ordering the compulsory dissolution of the organisations covered by the completed

review process.

The ministry said the review of inactive organisations will continue, with further action to be taken where necessary in line with applicable laws and regulations.

It will also begin liquidation procedures for the organisations covered by the decision and complete all legal requirements arising from their dissolution.

The ministry said the measures aim to improve the efficiency and organisation of Bahrain’s civil society sector and ensure that registered organisations remain active and fulfil the roles and objectives for which they were established.

Al Salam Bank Adds Malaysian Ringgit to its Multi-Currency Debit Card in Conjunction with the Upcoming Formula 1 Event in Malaysia

TDT | Manama

Al Salam Bank announced the addition of the Malaysian Ringgit (MYR) to the currencies supported by its Multi-Currency Debit Cards, in conjunction with the upcoming Formula 1 event in Malaysia. Existing cardholders can add and link the MYR to their existing card, while new clients will have access to all supported currencies upon card issuance.

The Multi-Currency Debit Cards enable clients to link multiple foreign currency accounts to a single card, with transactions automatically processed from the linked account that matches the transaction currency. The card also eliminates the markup fees on international and online transactions when used in supported currencies.

Commenting on the announcement, Mr. Mohammed Buhijji- Chief Retail Banking Officer at Al Salam Bank, said: “The addition of the Malaysian Ringgit to our Multi-Currency Debit Cards comes in conjunction with the upcoming Formula 1 event in Malaysia, providing our travelling clients with



Mr. Mohammed Buhijji- Chief Retail Banking Officer at Al Salam Bank

an additional option to manage their payments in local currency. We continue to enhance the card and introduce features that support our clients’ travel and international spending needs, while ensuring a simple and integrated experience through our digital channels.”

Clients can instantly issue the card through the Al Salam Bank mobile application. They can also open supported currency accounts and link to the card through the app. The card additionally offers higher daily point-of-sale limits compared to normal debit cards.

Cardholders also benefit from Visa Smart Delay, which



provides the cardholder and up to four guests with complimentary access to eligible airport lounges in the event of a flight delay.

The addition of the Malaysian Ringgit forms part of Al

Salam Bank’s ongoing enhancements to its Multi-Currency Debit Card, expanding the range of currencies available to clients and supporting its use for travel and international transactions.

Qatar Creates New Investment Division to Boost Domestic Economy



TDT | Agencies

Qatar’s Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani announced on Sunday the creation of Doha Investment, a new Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) division focused on developing domestic investments.

The announcement was made during a special edition of the Qatar Economic Forum in New York. Sheikh Mohammed said the initiative aims to expand the private sector’s role in Qatar’s economic growth by supporting leading companies, helping emerging businesses expand, deepening capital markets and attracting international capital and expertise.

The division will manage QIA’s local portfolio, initially overseeing 45 state-owned enterprises representing roughly one-third of the sov-

ereign wealth fund’s total assets, according to Qatar’s Minister of Commerce and Industry, Sheikh Faisal bin Thani Al-Thani. He will serve as Doha Investment’s managing director and vice-chairman.

Sheikh Faisal said the division represents a consolidation of existing efforts rather than an entirely new initiative, with the concept under consideration for more than a decade.

QIA, estimated by Global SWF to manage \$580 billion in assets, has expanded its domestic investments in recent years, including Qatar Airways, QNB, Ooredoo, Qatari Diar and Katara Hospitality.

The new division will focus on building national champions, supporting privatization, increasing private-sector participation and diversifying Qatar’s economy.

Batelco by Beyon Partners with Procural to Digitise Procurement Capabilities and Expand SME Participation

TDT | Manama

Batelco by Beyon has signed a partnership with Procural, a Bahrain-based e-procurement platform, to accelerate the digital transformation of its procurement operations. By integrating Procural’s cloud-based sourcing and tendering solution, Batelco will improve operational efficiency, strengthen transparency and governance, and optimize the procurement process.

The partnership was signed by Batelco by Beyon Chief Financial Officer Haitham Albalooshi and Procural Co-Found-



er & Director Fahad Abdulrahman in the presence of Batelco by Beyon CEO Maitham Abdulla, during a meeting held at Be-

yon Headquarters in Hamala, Bahrain.

The platform will support a more efficient and trans-

parent procurement process, strengthen governance, and expand opportunities for suppliers, particularly small and

medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to participate in Batelco’s procurement activities.

Commenting on the partnership, Haitham Albalooshi, Chief Financial Officer at Batelco, said: “This partnership reflects our commitment to continuously enhancing the way we work. By adopting advanced e-procurement solutions, we are improving operational efficiency while creating a simple, smooth and transparent procurement experience for our suppliers.”

From his end, Fahad Abdulrahman, Co-Founder & Director at Procural, said: “We are delighted to partner with

Batelco. As a proud Bahraini entity, Procural is excited that integrating our technology into Batelco’s procurement operations will help simplify sourcing and tendering, strengthen supplier engagement and support more agile procurement decisions, while also giving local companies and suppliers broader access to grow their business and secure new opportunities. “

The collaboration reflects both companies’ commitment to using digital solutions to strengthen supplier participation and support a more accessible and efficient procurement ecosystem.

Al Baraka Group and Its Banking Units in Egypt, Jordan and Turkiye Sponsor AAOIFI’s 24th Annual Shari’ah Boards Conference

TDT | Manama

Al Baraka Group B.S.C. (C), together with its banking units in Egypt, Jordan and Turkiye has announced its Gold Sponsorship of AAOIFI’s 24th Annual Shari’ah Boards Conference. The conference is supported by the Central Bank of Bahrain and will take place on 11–12 October 2026 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain.

This sponsorship reflects the commitment of Al Baraka Group and its banking units to supporting AAOIFI’s efforts to develop the Shari’ah and professional standards governing the Islamic finance industry and enhance its ability to respond to evolving legal and regulatory requirements across different markets. This partnership also contributes to strengthening the regional and international



standing of the Islamic finance industry while promoting greater cooperation and innovation across the sector.

The conference will feature keynote speeches by prominent Shari’ah scholars, officials and experts, alongside a comprehensive program comprises five panel discussions

addressing the harmonization of the AAOIFI Shari’ah Standards with legal systems; estimating the actual direct cost of lending (Iqrad); the controls governing dual-tranche syndicated financings combining an Islamic tranche with a conventional tranche; the impact of newly arising circumstances

on contracts and financial obligations; and the ruling and applications of exchange of value against a binding commitment (Mu’awadah ‘ala al-Itizam). The discussions will bring together a distinguished group of Shari’ah scholars, researchers, academics and Islamic banking and finance professionals.

Markets Caught in a Tug-of-War

TDT | Agencies

Global markets ended a volatile week as investors weighed tighter monetary policy against shifting geopolitical developments in the Middle East. Wall Street closed mixed, while oil prices extended their decline.

The S&P 500 gained 0.17% to 7,650.50, while the Nasdaq Composite rose 0.39% to 26,522.55. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 95.40 points, or 0.18%, to 51,682.64, recording its weakest weekly performance since March.

The 10-year US Treasury yield moved toward 5%, adding pressure to rate-sensitive stocks. Investors also assessed expectations for another Federal Reserve rate hike later this year, while the Bank of Japan raised its policy rate to 1.25%.

In energy markets, Brent crude fell 0.93% to \$104.87 a barrel, while WTI dropped 1.58% to \$100.30.

Oil prices declined for a third consecutive session following reports of diplomatic efforts to curb Houthi attacks on regional energy infrastructure.



82-year-old dies after beach fight in Greece over sun lounger

Athens, Greece

An 82-year-old man died yesterday after he got into a fight over a sun lounger on a beach in Greece near Athens, local media reported.

The octogenarian had a dispute with a 76-year-old man and a 21-year-old woman over the sun lounger, with the argument degenerating into a scuffle between the two men, according to po-

lice, the ANA news agency and ERT state television channel reported. The 82-year-old, badly hurt, was transported to hospital from the Vouliagmeni beach resort area where the argument broke out. He was later declared dead at the hospital. Both the 76-year-old man and the 21-year-old woman were arrested, ANA said, with police investigating what happened.

Iran says conveyed conditions to US for reopening Hormuz



Participants attend a presentation on the Hormuz Strait during the Hili Forum 2026 in Abu Dhabi

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran's top negotiator said yesterday that Tehran had conveyed to Washington through mediators its conditions for reopening the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

"Our messages and the explanation of our conditions have been clearly conveyed to the other party through mediators," said Iranian parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who has acted as chief negotiator in talks to end the war.

Mohsen Rezaei, the head of Iran's supreme national security council, said on Saturday

that the Islamic republic had conveyed its conditions to the US via mediator Qatar.

"Our conditions are an end to the war on all fronts, the release of our frozen funds and an end to the naval blockade," he said in an interview with Al-Jazeera.

Iranian authorities have said that mediator Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi will travel to Tehran on Sunday for talks.

Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya central military command, meanwhile, issued a threat against the United States on Sunday, in a statement carried by state television.

Russia reports mass cyberattacks targeting elections

Moscow, Russia

Russia's electoral chief said Sunday that there had been over 1,000 waves of distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks targeting Russian election infrastructure in recent days.

Ella Pamfilova, chair of Russia's Central Election Commission, did not say who was responsible. The attacks appeared to have been carried out by "highly professional, well-coordinated groups using artificial intelligence tools," she said.

DDoS attacks involve overwhelming a system with internet traffic so that it is unable to function normally. "Over the past period, more than 1,000 waves of DDoS attacks have been recorded against infrastructure in Russia that is specifically involved in the electoral process," Pamfilova was quoted as saying by Russian news agencies.

Voting is currently under way in Russia to determine all 450 seats in the lower house State Duma.



A man votes at home during Russia's parliamentary election in Saint Petersburg

The ruling United Russia party, which backs President Vladimir Putin and has won every parliamentary election in Russia since 2003, is widely expected to secure another victory. All other parties cleared to run back Putin and the Ukraine offensive, while Russia's Supreme Court struck the anti-war Yabloko party off the ballot weeks before the vote.

Trump says his planned arch to double as military base

The proposed giant structure is along the Potomac River

● Trump administration has not sought congressional input

AFP | Washington, United States

A massive arch that Donald Trump wants to build on a historic location in Washington will double as a base for drones and snipers, the US president announced yesterday.

"I have agreed to convert the magnificent Triumphal Arch... into a top grade Military Complex/Triumphal Arch," Trump said in a post on Truth Social, "to house, store, and have the rapid ability to use large numbers of drones, plus Snipers, on both the roof and plaza areas, and additionally have and hold large quantities of sniper ammunition in storage."

"There will be no facility like this anywhere in the World. Out of the 59 top cities and Capitals, Washington, D.C., IS THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD THAT DOES NOT HAVE A TRIUMPHAL ARCH,



but it will now and, by far, the greatest of them all!" the US leader added.

The proposed giant structure is along the Potomac River near the Arlington National Cemetery.

The Trump administration has not sought congressional input for such a major change to the

US capital.

Given its massive size, it would obscure the sight lines between the Lincoln Memorial, one of Washington's iconic landmarks, and Arlington National Cemetery, the final resting place for hundreds of thousands of American servicemembers.

Since returning to power

in January 2025, Trump has launched a series of renovation projects, several of which have led to legal disputes.

They include a massive and costly ballroom that is being built at the White House, for which Trump had an entire wing of the presidential mansion demolished.

US warns of rapid escalation in Mideast war

● Fox News reported that Trump is in "deciding mode" on Iran

● The network's reporter Trey Yingst said Trump told him that "big things will be happening in the not so distant future" and that "Iranians better behave, and he is making this decision as to whether or not to blow up their nation."

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The United States warned that fighting between Saudi Arabia and Iran-backed Houthis could "escalate rapidly".

US President Donald Trump cut short a weekend at Camp David, a secluded presidential complex in rural Maryland, to return unexpectedly to the White House.

"This military conflict has the potential to escalate rapidly," the US State Department warned, adding American citizens outside the Middle East

Trump says Houthis agree not to fight US

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump said yesterday that Yemen's Houthis have agreed not to attack the United States, Fox News reported.

The network's reporter

Trey Yingst, who often talks to Trump, said, citing the president, the United States is "in constant communication with the Houthis and that they've agreed not to fight the United States."

CIA chief meets Egypt's Sisi in Cairo

AFP | Cairo, Egypt

US Central Intelligence Agency Director John Ratcliffe met Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi Sunday in a rare visit to Cairo, as the United States warned of rapid escalation in the Middle East war.

Sisi's office said the meeting, attended by Egypt's

spy chief Hassan Rashad, discussed the wars in Iran, the Gaza Strip and Sudan, as well as attacks on Gulf countries and threats to maritime security.

Sisi stressed "the paramount importance of settling regional crises through political and diplomatic tracks," according to a presidency statement.

"The Houthis called us and they don't want to fight with us," Trump said during a visit to Ireland on September 12. "They don't want us to go after them."

should "seriously reconsider travel to and through the region".

In recent weeks, the Houthis' lightning offensive seizing

swathes of Yemeni territory has left hundreds dead and, according to the UN refugee agency, displaced more than 110,000 people.

According to US news platform Axios, Washington has approved a longer term \$24.3 billion sale of 48 F-35 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia.

Condemning the Houthis' latest attacks, Turkey's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan told the broadcaster NTV that his country had had discussions with Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, partners in a mutual defence pact, about possible assistance.

"In this regard, military needs, especially in state technical matters, may happen. There would be no problem in meeting this demand either," he said.



Did you know the current US-Iran war is not the first time the two countries have fought directly? In April 1988, the US Navy launched Operation Praying Mantis against Iranian targets in the Persian Gulf after an Iranian mine seriously damaged the USS Samuel B. Roberts. In a single day, US forces sank two Iranian ships, damaged another and destroyed two surveillance platforms.

King James I of England gives Scottish courtier and poet William Alexander a royal charter to colonize Nova Scotia

French First Republic is formed by the National Convention, stripping the French king of his powers



French Revolution: The National Convention passes a proclamation announcing the formal abolition of the French monarchy

Empress Dowager Cixi seizes power and ends the Hundred Days' Reform in China, imprisoning the Guangxu Emperor



TOP
3
TWEETS

01



At sundown, Jewish communities in Canada and around the world will gather for Yom Kippur. Yom Kippur brings to a close the Ten Days of Repentance that began with Rosh Hashanah. It is a day set apart for seeking forgiveness, making amends, and reflecting on the year that has passed. G'mar chatima tova.

@MarkJCarney

02



Welcome to Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, dear neighbor @MarkJCarney! Historic moment. First official visit by a Canadian Prime Minister to this French territory in North America. In a world in crisis, our friendship is a strength. Together, we affirm our sovereignty, our freedom to decide, and our will to build a future of peace and prosperity.

@EmmanuelMacron

03



Many people think that the words "Artificial Intelligence" are inaccurate, and very ineloquent, relative to AI, or Artificial Intelligence. A far more elegant and accurate description of this new phenomena would be Superior Intelligence (SI) or, Extreme Intelligence (EI) or, Supreme Intelligence (SI). This is a Poll, and I would appreciate everybody voting! Which is the best name for this ever growing "Revolution?"

@realDonaldTrump

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

Princess Diana's brother says King Charles 'gaslit' him over memoir

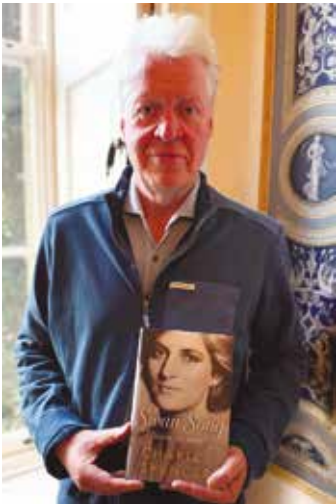
AFP | London, United Kingdom

The brother of princess Diana, Charles Spencer, on Sunday accused King Charles III of "gaslighting" him by querying his explosive account of events around her death in an upcoming memoir.

Spencer, whose book about his older sister, "Swan Song", comes out Tuesday, told the Mail on Sunday newspaper: "It is not every day you wake up to find you've been gaslit by the King", escalating a war of words after Buckingham Palace issued a rare statement.

A Palace spokesperson reacted to the memoir's claims Thursday, saying the 77-year-old king "is mindful that the pain of fraternal grief can cloud reason, affect judgement and colour memory in ways others do not recognise, even many years after such a loss".

This came after a sensational



claim in memoir excerpts serialised in the Daily Mail that Charles, then Prince of Wales, told Spencer in a phone call shortly after Diana's death in 1997: "Rest assured, we'll forget her soon enough."

Spencer claimed Charles "sounded dizzily elated -- like a lottery winner".

The 62-year-old aristocrat told the Mail on Sunday the royal statement "was astonishingly provocative and below the belt because it was essentially trying to say I'd lied without the King being able to deny what I'd said".

He also dubbed it a "rather poor imitation" of the Palace's response to Prince Harry and his wife Meghan's claims of royal racism in an interview with Oprah Winfrey five years ago -- which was that "recollections may vary".

Spencer formerly worked as a US television journalist and has written books about history and his school days. He inherited the family estate where Diana is buried.

After her death, he accused media of having "blood on their hands" and in a eulogy at her funeral, vowed always to look out for her two sons, William and Harry.

Singer Ed Sheeran says Gaza situation 'unjustifiable' following controversy

AFP | Philadelphia, United States

Pop star Ed Sheeran said Saturday the situation in Gaza is "unjustifiable," following a wave of criticism that he had failed to back his opening act who was booted from the tour after making pro-Palestinian comments.

The singer, who had previously maintained an apolitical stance, broke his silence on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in his first show since the controversy involving US rapper Macklemore.

"What is happening in Gaza is catastrophic and unjustifiable and disproportionate," Sheeran said in Philadelphia.

"Our hearts have been broken by the scale of devastation and loss of civilians' lives, children's lives, and the systemic injustice we're seeing unfold in the West Bank cannot be overlooked."

Macklemore had declared "Free Palestine" at a New Jersey



concert this month, drawing backlash from owners of US stadiums hosting future dates of Sheeran's Loop Tour.

The British artist, 35, has denied being behind the decision to remove the rapper, instead blaming the tour promoter.

Four supporting acts subsequently walked out on the "Shape of You" singer, issuing public statements citing their support for Palestinians.

"I've had to take and make difficult decisions, and I am making mistakes, and I'm so so sorry," an emotional Sheeran told his audience, who responded with cheers.

As the show was coming to an end, Sheeran said that this week had been the "hardest of my life" and that he had been afraid people would "throw things" at him.

Thanking the audience for their support, he called this show the "best night" of his life and shed some tears.

Sheeran had been accused by critics of failing to stand up to the stadium owners -- led by billionaire businessman Robert Kraft -- and was targeted by boycott calls.

The singer said he was "deeply worried" about the idea of venues pre-approving the content of performances.

"This happens in so many places that I perform around the world, but it should never happen in the free world."

Thousands march in France against 'licence to kill' draft law

AFP | Paris, France

Thousands of people marched in Paris Sunday against a proposed law on the legitimate use of violence that critics say would be a "licence to kill" for police and gendarmes.

In July, deputies in the National Assembly approved the bill, which says that any law-enforcement official who uses force is assumed to have acted legally in using their weapon. It now faces a vote in the Senate.

Politicians, rights groups and other activists joined others marching at the protest, among them Mathilde Panot of the hard-left France Unbowed (LFI) party.



A demonstrator holds a placard reading "This country is a sick body" during a march against the bill dubbed the "permis de tuer" (license to kill)

"The police kill already," Panot told the crowd, calling for the bill to be voted down in the Senate.

"In the Republic there can be

no organised police impunity," she said. "In the Republic, there cannot be a category of citizens who have the right of life or death over other citizens."

Protecting Privacy and Transparency in AI

DR. JASSIM HAJI



AI is rapidly transforming various sectors and specially the FinTech sector, helping institutions detect fraud, monitor transactions, analyze customer behavior, and assess creditworthiness. These advancements improve efficiency and decision-making, but they also raise important concerns about privacy, transparency, and ethical governance.

As AI evolves, regulatory bodies are stepping up their oversight. Financial institutions using AI face strict rules to prevent bias, protect personal data, and ensure human oversight of automated decisions. Compliance with these regulations is not just about avoiding fines—it's essential for maintaining trust and safeguarding reputations. These include regulatory adherence, continuous monitoring and Han oversight.

What Does AI Compliance Mean?

AI compliance involves following policies and standards that ensure AI systems are ethical, fair, and responsible. Regulators look for:

Algorithms that are clear and not misleading to users.

- Systems free from bias against any group.

- Accuracy in the information AI produces.

- Respect for personal data privacy.

- Transparency in how AI decisions are made.

In FinTech, compliance is even more critical due to sensitive data and strict rules like GDPR, CCPA, Know Your Customer (KYC), Anti-Money Laundering (AML), and AI-specific regulations focused on fairness and auditability.

Why Build AI Systems with Compliance in Mind?

Compliance is a strategic advantage. It strengthens security, reduces bias, and builds customer confidence. For example, IBM found that 62% of organizations with data breaches lacked proper AI governance, highlighting the need for strong security practices like encryption and access control. Regular reviews and human oversight also help prevent unfair decisions caused by biased data.

Moreover, customers expect ethical AI use. A KPMG study showed that 78% of consumers believe companies must be responsible in their AI practices. Failing to meet these expectations can harm a company's reputation and business.

Finally, as AI expands into new functions, solid governance and clear regulations become crucial for tracking performance and managing risks, enabling sustainable growth.

In summary, protecting privacy and transparency in AI isn't just about following rules—it's about building trust, fairness, and resilience in the future of financial technology.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)



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region Bahrain Drives New GCC Housing Cooperation



TDT | Manama

Bahrain chaired the 42nd meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials Responsible for Housing Affairs in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), held via videoconference as part of the Kingdom's presidency of the GCC's 46th session.

Fatima Ibrahim Al-Manaei, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, chaired the meeting, which brought together undersecretaries and senior housing officials from GCC member states.

Al-Manaei stressed the importance of continuing Gulf cooperation and coordination in the housing sector, building on joint initiatives and efforts to develop housing policies, programmes and solutions. She also highlighted the value of exchanging expertise and successful experiences among GCC countries.

She said Bahrain remains committed to supporting Gulf efforts to develop housing systems, improve the efficiency and quality of housing services and solutions, and benefit from leading practices across member states.

The meeting also highlighted the role of modern technologies and digital transformation in supporting sustainable housing services and responding to economic, social and urban developments.

Al-Manaei stressed the importance of strengthening partnerships with the private sector and financing institutions to develop a wider range of housing options and solutions. Such partnerships, she said, can also expand access to financing programmes and initiatives and provide citizens with options suited to their needs.

The meeting reviewed several items on the agenda, including unified rules governing owners of jointly owned properties in GCC countries, the GCC Joint Housing Action Plan for 2024-2030, and housing information databases.

Officials also discussed the GCC Housing Award in its current cycle and preparations for the fourth GCC Housing Week. The preparations include the second edition of the Conference and Exhibition on Innovation in Social Housing and the GCC Hackathon.

GCC Steps Up Standards Cooperation



Bahrain chaired the 63rd meeting of the GCC Standardization Organization's Technical Council in Riyadh, bringing together representatives and technical experts from GCC states. The meeting discussed harmonizing standards, product safety, consumer protection and facilitating intra-GCC trade. Members also reviewed market surveys, conformity certification, digital integration and technical cooperation, with Bahrain highlighting stronger coordination to boost Gulf industries and trade.



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TechZone

When AI Learns From Books It Didn't Own

Anthropic's \$1.5 billion copyright settlement exposes the hidden battle over what AI is allowed to learn from.

Artificial intelligence can write, summarise and create in seconds — but one question remains difficult: where does AI get the knowledge it learns from, and who owns it?

That question became the centre of a landmark case involving AI company Anthropic, the maker of Claude. Authors accused the company of using copyrighted books without permission to train its AI systems. Court proceedings revealed that Anthropic had obtained millions of books, including material from unauthorised sources, as it built its training datasets.

One of the most striking parts of the case was Project Panama, an effort in which physical books were purchased, their spines removed, and their pages scanned for digital use. The physical copies were then discarded or recycled.

In July 2026, a US federal judge gave final approval to a \$1.5 billion settlement be-



tween Anthropic and authors and publishers. It became the largest known US copyright settlement, with compensation calculated on eligible works.

The case is important because it separates two questions: can AI learn from copyrighted material, and can companies obtain that material illegally? A previous court ruling found that training on books could qualify as fair use, while Anthropic's storage of pirated copies created a separate copyright problem.

POCO's new flagship challengers F9 Pro & Ultra

POCO has launched the F9 Pro and F9 Ultra, bringing high-end performance and gaming-focused features to its latest F-series smartphones.

Both models feature 185Hz AMOLED displays, a 200MP main camera and dedicated VisionBoost D8 graphics hardware designed to improve gaming performance.

The F9 Pro comes with a 6.59-inch display, Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 V-series processor, 6,330mAh battery and 100W wired charging, alongside 50W wireless charging. The F9 Ultra steps up to a 6.9-inch display, an 8,050mAh battery, 100W charging and a 50MP periscope telephoto camera.

The phones are aimed particularly at gamers, with high refresh rates and dedicated graphics processing helping deliver smoother gameplay and



faster visuals. The Ultra also adds a Bose-tuned subwoofer for enhanced audio, making it a more immersive option for gaming and entertainment.

Beyond gaming, the F9 series combines large batteries, high-resolution cameras, and fast charging with powerful processors. POCO is clearly positioning both models to compete with more expensive premium smartphones while maintaining the performance-focused identity that has defined the F-series.

With the F9 Pro and F9 Ultra, POCO is expanding its ambitions beyond affordable performance phones and further into the flagship smartphone market.

Huawei accelerates AI chip race against Nvidia

Huawei is bringing its next-generation Ascend 960DT AI chip to market earlier than planned, with a launch now targeted for the first quarter of 2027. The chip was previously expected later in 2027, highlighting Huawei's push to strengthen its position in the fast-growing AI computing market.

Huawei also plans to launch the Ascend 960PR in the third quarter of 2027. The company says its new generation is designed to deliver significantly higher computing performance, while its

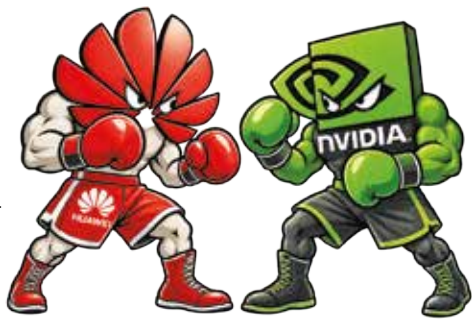
broader strategy focuses on connecting large numbers of processors into powerful AI computing systems.

Huawei is developing its Peerium computing architecture and UnifiedBus technology to link thousands of AI processors. Its planned systems could eventually connect hundreds of thousands of processors, helping compensate for the performance gap between individual chips.

Nvidia, however, retains a major advantage in AI soft-

ware, particularly through its widely used CUDA ecosystem. Huawei is therefore competing not only on chip performance, but also on the wider hardware-and-software infrastructure surrounding AI.

The race is no longer just about who makes the fastest chip — it is about who can build the complete AI computing platform.



Apple finally folds: Is the iPhone Duo too late?

Apple has finally entered the foldable smartphone race with the iPhone Duo, nearly a decade after the technology began moving from experimental concept to commercial product. The question now is not whether Apple can build a foldable phone, but whether it can make the format feel new again.

The iPhone Duo opens into a 7.6-inch OLED display and closes into a 5.4-inch phone. It uses a titanium foldable design, a precision hinge and Apple's new A20 Pro chip, with a dual-battery system and thermal management designed to support demanding workloads. Apple says the inner screen is 50% larger than the iPhone 18 Pro Max's display.



But Apple is entering a market others have already spent years developing. Samsung launched its first Galaxy Fold in 2019, and has since refined the design through multiple generations. Huawei and Xiaomi have also continued experimenting with different foldable formats, including tri-fold designs.

Apple's advantage may be its ecosystem. The company has redesigned iOS 27 for the two-screen experience, while features such as Apple In-

telligence, multitasking and new camera functions are designed around the larger display.

The biggest obstacle could be the price. The iPhone Duo starts at \$1,999 in the US, making it significantly more expensive than conventional

flagship phones. In the UAE, it starts at AED 8,499.

So, is Apple late? Technically, yes. But arriving later also allows Apple to learn from the industry's first generation of foldables. The real test will be whether the Duo can turn a technology that has existed for years into something mainstream.

Apple may be late to folding — but it could still change how the world sees foldable phones.

MediaTek unveils 2nm smartphone chip

MediaTek has unveiled its Dimensity 9600 Pro, a flagship smartphone processor built using TSMC's advanced 2nm process. The chip is designed to deliver higher

performance while reducing power consumption, with MediaTek reporting up to a 61% reduction in multi-core power consumption. Its dual-NPU architecture also boosts on-device generative

MEDIATEK

AI performance by 51%. The first smartphones powered by the new chip are expected to launch this quarter.



Meta's AI agent can now do the work for you

Meta has launched Muse, a new personal AI agent designed to move beyond answering questions and actually complete tasks on a user's behalf. Unlike a traditional chatbot, Muse can interact with other apps to handle activities such as sending emails, booking travel and managing online tasks.

Meta says Muse runs inside a dedicated secure virtual machine, separating the AI from a user's personal computer while allowing it to access approved apps and information. Users can control how much access the agent receives.

The launch highlights a major shift in consumer AI: assistants are becoming agents that act, rather than tools that sim-



ply respond. But the technology also raises questions about privacy, security and what happens when an AI is given permission to make decisions

or take actions independently. The big idea: Your next AI assistant may not just tell you what to do — it may do it for you.



The first computer hard drive weighed more than a tonne.



IBM's RAMAC 305, introduced in 1956, was the world's first commercial computer to use a hard disk drive. The system contained 50 magnetic disks, each measuring 24 inch-

es across, and could store around 5 megabytes of data.

The enormous machine required a dedicated room and was vastly different from the tiny storage devices we use today. A modern microSD

card, small enough to fit on a fingertip, can store hundreds of gigabytes of data — tens of thousands of times more than RAMAC's original capacity.

What makes the story even more remarkable is how quickly storage technology has evolved. From magnetic disks that filled an entire room to solid-state drives and tiny memory cards, engineers have dramatically increased storage capacity while shrinking physical size.

TechZone fact: Today, a single smartphone can carry more data than many early computers could store in their entire systems.

Shaikh Isa Crowns Asian Champions

● South Korea overcome hosts Japan to claim basketball gold

Hussain Almaskati

TDT | Manama

HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa presented South Korea with their gold medals after they defeated hosts Japan 67-57 in the men's five-on-five basketball final at the 20th Asian Games yesterday.

The Bahrain Olympic Committee vice-president and head



HH Shaikh Isa arrives courtside for the men's five-on-five basketball final

of the kingdom's delegation took part in the medal ceremony following a closely contested encounter between the two sides.

Also in attendance were Olym-

pic Council of Asia Executive Board member Prince Fahd bin Jalawi bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Aichi Governor and organising committee president Hideaki



The BOC vice-president presents a gold medal to a South Korean player

Omura, and Fiba Asia president Dr K Govindaraj.

He congratulated the champions on their success and praised both finalists for the high stand-

ard they displayed.

"We congratulate the Korean team on winning the gold medal and Japan on the level they showed in reaching the final,"

he said. "We witnessed strong competition and excellent performances that reflect the progress of basketball across Asia."

Bahrain also made their mark on the competition, recording their best finish in six Asian Games appearances by reaching the quarter-finals for the first time. The nationals opened their campaign with an 89-85 upset of defending champions the Philippines before suffering a 105-59 defeat to China. They responded by overcoming Kazakhstan 101-78 to progress from Group C, but their historic run ended with a narrow 79-74 loss to Iran.

Ali improves on Asiad Return: Strong closing run lifts Bahraini to 19th, three places higher than 2018

Hussain Almaskati

TDT | Manama

Omar Ali competes in the cycling leg of the men's individual triathlon

Bahrain's Omar Ali improved on his previous Asian

Games finish by placing 19th in the men's individual triathlon final at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, yesterday.

The Bahraini completed the sprint-distance race at Gama-gori City Triathlon Venue in 56 minutes 50 seconds, finishing inside the top 20 of a 33-strong field representing 20 nations.

He emerged from the opening

750-metre swim in 19th position after clocking 9:42 and completed the first transition in 40 seconds.

A time of 29:26 over the 20-kilometre cycling leg saw Ali enter the second transition in 22nd, but his strongest section was still to come.

He completed the five-kilometre run in 16:42, the 12th-fastest time of the field, to overtake

three competitors and climb back to 19th overall.

Japan's Takumi Hojo claimed gold on home soil in 52:56, finishing nine seconds ahead of China's Zhang Xirui. Kazakhstan's Arlan Zhanabay secured bronze in 53:11, while Ali crossed the line three minutes and 54 seconds behind the winner.

The result bettered his Asian Games debut in Jakar-

ta-Palembang, Indonesia, in 2018, when the then-teenager placed 22nd among 34 competitors. On that occasion, he completed a longer course comprising a 1.5km swim, 40km bike ride and 10km run in two hours, five minutes and 28 seconds. Yesterday's race was held over exactly half those distances, meaning the two finishing times cannot be directly compared.

Bahrain pair reach MMA semis

● Pogosian and Nabiev assured medals ahead of today's bouts

Hussain Almaskati

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Diana Pogosian and Mukhammad Nabiev booked places in today's mixed martial arts semi-finals following opening victories at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, yesterday.

Pogosian advanced by overcoming Japan's Tomoe Katayama in their women's modern under-54kg quarter-final at Nagoya City Inae Sports Center. Com-

peting from the blue corner, the Bahraini secured a unanimous decision after two rounds.

Nabiev also impressed in the men's traditional under-77kg preliminaries, defeating Vietnam's Quang Van Minh by unanimous decision over two rounds.

He then progressed to the last four without contesting his scheduled quarter-final after India's Varun Sanyal failed to make weight and was declared medically unfit. Sanyal reportedly suffered dehydration and muscle cramps during an attempted weight cut.

There was disappointment, however, for Kurban Idrisov following a closely fought men's modern under-71kg quarter-final against Kazakhstan's Kadyrbek Shinbayev.

The contest went to overtime before Shinbayev edged the Bahraini by majority decision at the end of the third round.

Mohamed Alsameea also bowed out in the men's traditional under-65kg preliminaries after suffering a unanimous-de-

cision defeat to Iran's Afshin Salimi Toupghara over two rounds.

With bronze medals awarded to both losing semi-finalists, Pogosian and Nabiev are already guaranteed places on the podium and now stand one victory away from tomorrow's gold-medal bouts.

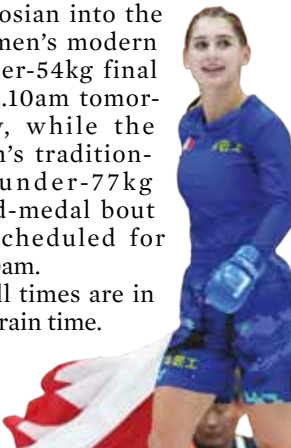
Pogosian faces South Korea's Lee Bomi at 5.10am today, before Nabiev meets Kyrgyzstan's Syimyk Zhanybek Uulu at 5.50am.

Victory would send Pogosian into the women's modern under-54kg final at 8.10am tomorrow, while the men's traditional under-77kg gold-medal bout is scheduled for 8.50am.

All times are in Bahrain time.



Mukhammad Nabiev



Diana Pogosian

Opening defeat for Bahrain paddlers

Hussain Almaskati

TDT | Manama

Bahrain began their campaign in the men's team table tennis competition at the 20th Asian Games with a 3-0 defeat to Chinese Taipei at Sky Hall Toyota in Japan yesterday.

Rashid Sanad provided the strongest resistance in the opening match against Hsu Hsien-chia. After dropping the first game 11-6, he pushed his opponent closer in the second before going down 11-9 and 11-4 to lose in straight games.

Lin Yun-ju then doubled Chinese Taipei's advantage with an 11-3, 11-4, 11-1 victory over Mohammed Alaali.

Sayed Mahfoodh needed to

win the third contest to keep Bahrain in the tie and briefly established a three-point lead against Kuo Guan-hong. However, the Taiwanese recovered to prevail 11-5, 11-7, 11-6 and complete the sweep in 54 minutes.

The result secured top spot in Group C for Chinese Taipei, who had earlier defeated Nepal by the same overall score.

Attention now turns to Bahrain's meeting with the Nepalese at the

same venue today, beginning at 6.30am on Table Nine.

Both teams enter their final group match seeking a first victory, with the winner securing second place and advancing to the round of 16.

The round of 16 will be played tomorrow at 6.30am, followed by the quarter-finals at 1.20pm.

The semi-finals are scheduled for Wednesday at 11am, while the gold-medal contest will take place at the same time on Thursday.

All times are in Bahrain time.



Sanad plays a return against his Chinese Taipei opponent

Strong showing in Asiad time trial

Hussain Almaskati

TDT | Manama

Bahrain cyclist Ahmed Naser finished 13th in the men's individual time trial at the 20th Asian Games in Japan yesterday.

Competing at Shinshiro Cycling Road Course, Naser completed the 32.1-kilometre event in 46 minutes 58.46 seconds, recording an average speed of 41.001km/h.

The Bahraini reached the opening 8.4km checkpoint in 13th place after clocking 11:31.51. He slipped to 15th at



Naser carries his bike through the finish area

the following two intermediate points but recovered two positions over the closing kilometres to finish 13th among the 16 riders who completed the race. Naser crossed the line five

minutes and 34.41sec behind Kazakhstan's Alexey Lutsenko, who dominated the contest to claim gold in 41:24.05.

Averaging 46.521km/h, Lutsenko finished more than a minute and a half clear of Japan's Shunsuke Imamura, who secured silver in 42:58.04.

Mongolia's Jambaljamts Sainbayar collected bronze in 42:58.06, just two-hundredths of a second behind.

Eighteen cyclists representing the same number of nations were entered, although Qatar's Younes Ali and Syria's Ibrahim Alrefai did not start.

Goncharov smashes Bahrain swim record

Hussain Almaskati

TDT | Manama

Bahrain swimmer Stepan Goncharov broke the national record twice on his way to eighth place in the men's 100 metres backstroke final at the 20th Asian Games in Japan yesterday. The 23-year-old from Tosno, Russia, was the only Bahraini to progress from the heats at Tokyo Aquatics Centre, qualifying 10th overall in 55.54 seconds.

That performance erased the previous national mark of 59.20 set by Omar Alrowaila in 2022, before Goncharov improved the record by a further 0.37sec in the final.

He touched the wall in 55.17 to finish eighth among the 10 contenders, completing the race 4.03sec faster than the former benchmark.

Xu Jiayu delivered gold for China in a Games-record 51.98, while Japan's Hidekazu

Takehara took silver in 53.93 and South Korea's Lee Juho secured bronze in 53.94.

Ahmed Helal also contested the backstroke heats, placing 25th overall in 1:01.26.

In the men's 100m freestyle, Abdulla Jamal clocked 53.55 to finish 33rd, while Goncharov did not start the event.

China's Pan Zhanle went on to capture gold, with South Koreans Kim Youngbeom and Hwang Sunwoo earning silver and bronze respectively.

The women's programme began with Sana Lefalher competing in the 1,500m freestyle timed final on her 19th birthday.

She recorded 17:57.23 to place third in her race and 10th overall, as Li Bingjie secured another gold for China in 15:53.52. Singapore's Gan Ching Hwee claimed silver in 16:00.45 and Japan's Ichika Kajimoto collected bronze in 16:06.83.

Noor Taha followed in the 50m breaststroke, finishing seventh in her heat and 21st overall in 35.87.

Tang Qianting added to China's medal haul by winning gold in a Games-record 29.45, ahead of Japanese silver medalist Satomi Suzuki in 29.91 and compatriot Yang Chang, who took bronze in 30.24.

The kingdom's opening day in the pool concluded with the women's 4x100m freestyle relay heats.

Asma Lefalher, Amani Al Obaidli, Taha and Sana combined for a time of 4:05.43, placing ninth overall and earning first-reserve status. They finished 8.60sec behind Macao, who secured the eighth and final qualifying berth.

China won relay gold in a Games-record 3:33.10, Hong Kong secured silver in 3:36.59 and Japan completed the podium with bronze in 3:39.09.



Stepan Goncharov launches into the men's 100m backstroke



‘Back with the Cup’: Champions arrive in Jeddah after final rallying call

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Gulf Cup holders Bahrain touched down in Jeddah yesterday with a clear objective ahead of the 27th edition of the regional tournament. Before departure, head coach Dragan Talajic delivered one final message during Saturday night’s training session in Riffa. “We’re not going to Saudi

Arabia to win the trophy. No, we’ve already won it,” he told the squad. “We’re going there to defend it and keep it in Bahrain for one more year.” The players responded in unison: “Insha’Allah.” The Croatian carried the same confidence to Bahrain International Airport. Pointing to a sign that read “See you in Bahrain soon”, he added: “But with the cup.” The 26-man squad joined

several other competing teams in Jeddah ahead of the eight-nation tournament, which begins on Wednesday and runs until October 6. The nationals are in Group B alongside Qatar, the UAE and Yemen. Their campaign begins against Qatar on Thursday at 9pm before they face the UAE at the same time on Sunday. Bahrain then complete the preliminary round against Yemen on September 30 at 8.30pm,

with all three matches taking place at Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Stadium. Hosts Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Oman and Kuwait make up Group A. The top two teams from each group will advance to the semi-finals on October 3. The final will be held three days later at King Abdullah Sports City Stadium. A successful defence would deliver the kingdom’s third Gulf Cup crown, drawing Bahrain



level with Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Their maiden triumph came in Doha in 2019 before a 2-1 victory over Oman in Kuwait City secured the trophy again in January 2025. Kuwait are the competition’s record champions with 10 titles, followed by Iraq with four. Saudi and Qatar have three apiece, while Bahrain, the UAE and Oman each have two. **Ali Aldoseri and his teammates receive a floral welcome on arrival**

GFH Bank partners with AlNassr Saudi Club for 2026–2027 Season

TDT | Riyadh

GFH Bank announced the signing of a partnership agreement with AlNassr Club Company, under which GFH will become a partner of the Club for the 2026–2027 season, bringing together two prominent regional brands with growing international reach. The partnership marks an important step in GFH’s strategy to strengthen its brand presence across key regional markets, while creating new opportunities to engage with AlNassr’s broad and passion-



ate fan community across the Kingdom and internationally. The signing ceremony took place in Riyadh in the presence of senior management representatives from both parties. Mr Hisham Alrayes, Chief Executive Officer and Board Member, signed on behalf of GFH, while Mr José Semedo, Chief Executive Officer of Al-

Nassr, signed on behalf of the Club. Commenting on the occasion, Mr Hisham Alrayes, Chief Executive Officer and Board Member of GFH Bank, stated: “This sponsorship reflects our commitment to building strategic partnerships that strengthen GFH’s presence and bring it closer to

the communities and markets that are central to its growth plans.” Mr José Semedo, Chief Executive Officer of AlNassr, said: “We are delighted to welcome GFH Bank as a partner of AlNassr for the 2026–2027 season. GFH is a highly regarded regional institution with a strong track record of success and excellence in investment and wealth management, making it an ideal partner for AlNassr as we continue to expand the Club’s reach and strengthen our relationships with leading organisations across the region.”

REHC renews Three-Season Partnership with Investcorp Ahead of 2026/2027 Golden Jubilee Season

TDT | Manama

The Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) has renewed its partnership with Investcorp, a leading global alternative investment firm, through a three-season sponsorship agreement, under which Investcorp will become a Gold Partner. The agreement was signed by Mr. Yusuf Buheji, Member of the High Committee of the REHC and Acting Chief Executive Officer, and Mr. Yusef Al Yusef, Global Head of Distribution at Investcorp. On the occasion, Mr. Yusuf Buheji welcomed the renewal of



the partnership with Investcorp for the next three seasons and its elevation to Gold Partner status, stressing the importance of strategic partnerships with leading national and global institutions in supporting the Club’s development and strengthening its international presence. \Mr. Buheji underscored the special significance of the

2026/2027 horseracing season for the Club, as it coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Club’s establishment. He explained that the partnership includes Investcorp’s sponsorship of the Club’s international programme. For his part, Mr. Yusef Al Yusef highlighted the international successes achieved by

the REHC and its continued development, which has contributed to strengthening the Kingdom of Bahrain’s position on the international horseracing map. He emphasised that the Kingdom of Bahrain is an integral part of Investcorp’s identity and journey. Mr. Al Yusef affirmed Investcorp’s commitment, through this three-season partnership, to continuing its support for the Club’s development and international programme, as well as contributing to strengthening the Kingdom’s position as a leading destination for sport, business and international engagement.

Boxers primed for Asiad campaign



Chef de mission Ahmed Abdulghaffar, right, visits Bahrain’s boxing training camp in Japan
Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s chef de mission Ahmed Abdulghaffar visited the kingdom’s boxing squad at their training camp in Japan as they completed preparations for the 20th Asian Games. During the visit, Abdulghaffar reviewed the training programme and met Irish head coach John Conlan to assess the boxers’ readiness. The five-member team begin their campaign today, with GCC Games champion Ali Abdalla facing Turkmenistan’s Bayramdurdy Nurmuhammedov in the men’s 70kg round of 32 at Nishio Gymnasium. Following Abdalla’s opener, Omar Budhahei and Hamsa Vogel enter the ring on Wednesday. Budhahei faces Iraq’s Mohammed Sattar Salih Shijlawi in the men’s 60kg round of 32, while Vogel meets India’s Ankush in the last 16 of the men’s 80kg division. Maryam Khamis, the kingdom’s only woman boxer, is entered in the

54kg category. The division’s last-16 bouts will be held on Friday, although her opponent has yet to be confirmed. Jorge Luis Lobaina completes the line-up and will face Kyrgyzstan’s Bakyt Toktosun Uulu in the men’s 90kg last 16 on Saturday. Should they advance, Khamis, Budhahei and Vogel will contest their quarter-finals on September 27, while Abdalla and Lobaina could reach the same stage the following day. The women’s 54kg, men’s 60kg and men’s 80kg semi-finals will be held on September 29, followed by the men’s 70kg and 90kg last-four bouts on September 30. All five weight classes featuring Bahraini fighters will conclude with their gold-medal bouts on October 2. Bahrain are seeking their first Asian Games boxing medal, having made their debut in the sport at Hangzhou 2022. Danis Latypov reached the men’s over-92kg quarter-finals at that edition, while Azat Makhmetov exited the 51kg competition in the round of 32.

Bahrain rout Kazakhstan in opener



Al Showaikh takes aim against Kazakhstan goalkeeper Assylkhan Nabiyev
Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain made an emphatic start to their men’s handball campaign at the 20th Asian Games, sweeping aside Kazakhstan 43-20 in their opening Group B match at ENTRIO, Toyoda Gosei Memorial Gymnasium, yesterday. Iran, South Korea and Kuwait complete the five-team group. Once play began, the Bahrainis quickly seized control and

raced into a 3-0 lead before the Kazakhs registered their first goal. Robert Hedin’s side were still only two ahead at 7-5 but dominated the remainder of the first half, outscoring their opponents 13-3 to establish a commanding 20-8 advantage at the interval. That momentum continued after the restart as the reigning Asian champions added another 23 goals while conceding 12 to complete a comprehensive victory. Salman Al Showaikh led the scoring with nine goals from 11 attempts, while Ahmed Fadhul struck six and Ahmed Kadhem added five. Further support came from Ahmed Eid, Jassim Khamis and

Hasan Ali, who contributed four apiece, while Mohammed Rabeea and Abdulla Abdulkarim each scored three. Goalkeeper Ali Mohamed proved equally influential at the other end, saving 12 of the 20 shots he faced for an impressive 60 per cent success rate. Beyond the scoreline, the performance continued a remarkable period for the Warriors, who secured three major titles in the space of seven months. Their run began with Islamic Solidarity Games gold in Riyadh last November. Bahrain then captured their maiden Asian Men’s Handball Championship crown in Kuwait in January before triumphing at the GCC

Games in Doha in May. With the opening hurdle cleared, attention now turns to a considerably tougher test against Iran at 8.30am today. South Korea and Kuwait begin their campaigns against each other at 11am in the group’s other fixture. The nationals return to action against South Korea on Wednesday at 11.30am before completing the preliminary round against Kuwait on Friday at 7.30am. Four teams will progress from Group B to the quarter-finals on September 26, leaving only the bottom side eliminated. The four last-eight matches will be played at Kasugai City Gymnasium, with throw-off times scheduled

for 6am, 8am, 10am and noon. Over in Group A, three-time defending champions Qatar opened with a 40-17 victory over Hong Kong, while hosts Japan defeated China 31-27. With only four teams in the group, all are guaranteed places in the knockout stage. The semi-finals will be held at ENTRIO on September 28 at 9am and 11.30am. The bronze-medal match follows the next day at 11am, before the gold-medal contest begins at 1.30pm. Bronze in 2014 and successive silver medals in 2018 and 2022 have left Bahrain chasing the first Asian Games handball title in their history. All times are in Bahrain time.