

MPs Propose Boycott of Iranian Goods

Mohammed Darwish
 TDT | Manama



Mohammed Al Olaiwi, MP

An urgent call to cut Bahrain's links with Iran was proposed in Parliament on Tuesday, with MPs urging the government to impose a full trade boycott by stopping the entry of all Iranian products and end political, diplomatic, economic, sporting and other ties with Tehran.

The proposal, put forward by MP Mohammed Al Olaiwi and four other MPs, asks the government to impose a full trade boycott by stopping the entry of all Iranian products and end political, diplomatic, economic, sporting and other ties with Tehran.

It also calls for a grace period for private firms to clear existing Iranian stock from the local market or re-export it, while all air and sea links between the two countries, direct and indirect, would also be stopped under the proposal.

In their explanatory note, the MPs said the move followed recent Iranian attacks on Bahrain, other Arab Gulf states and Jordan.

They said those events posed a direct threat to the country's sovereignty, security and stability.

The note said the proposal was driven by the need to protect internal security, answer what it called hostile Iranian policies and interference, and stand with Gulf states and Jordan after the attacks they faced.

Committee Reviews Plans



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, chaired the 529th Government Executive Committee meeting. Key issues reviewed included measures to address the impact of Iranian aggression, traffic developments, and proposals to enhance education and training quality.

Unified Response to Iranian Aggression

Arab Ministers Condemn Iran Over Escalating Attacks

Arab foreign ministers called for a firm and unified to ensure Iran's compliance with international resolutions and to address the damage caused to civilians and critical infrastructure, following an extraordinary meeting chaired by Bahrain.

The virtual session, led by Bahrain's Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, was held under Bahrain's presidency of the Arab League Council at the ministerial level, with participation from Arab foreign ministers and Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit.

The meeting focused on unlawful Iranian attacks against Arab countries and stressed the need for accountability and full compensation for damages in line with international law.

In his remarks, Al Zayani said the attacks—carried out using ballistic and cruise missiles as well as drones over 40 days—rep-



H.E. Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani chairs the online meeting

resent a serious violation of international law and a direct threat to regional and global security.

He noted that the continued strikes come despite multiple international resolutions condemning the actions and calling for their immediate halt.

Ministers underscored the importance of taking effective measures to stop the attacks and uphold the principles of sovereignty, security, and good



neighborly relations throughout the region.

Meanwhile, Bahrain strongly condemned Iran during a high-level session at UNESCO, placing regional security concerns at the center of international discussions.

Speaking at the 224th Executive Board meeting in Paris, Issa

Abdulaziz Al Jassim accused Iran of carrying out attacks targeting Gulf countries and Jordan, which resulted in civilian casualties and damage to key infrastructure, including schools and universities.

The ambassador also warned that repeated Iranian attacks are putting education systems, me-

dia infrastructure, and cultural heritage at increasing risk—concerns echoed globally as conflict-related damage spreads across the region.

Bahrain outlined steps taken to maintain continuity in education despite the tensions, while reaffirming its commitment to international cooperation.

BAHRAIN ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

Economic Strength Paves Way for Growth Confidence

Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, participated in a high-level discussion hosted by the Atlantic Council on the sidelines of the IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington.



Addressing the forum, the minister noted that Bahrain has effectively navigated economic challenges while advancing policies aimed at expanding international partnerships, increasing trade flows, attracting investment,

and supporting more secure supply chains.

He expressed confidence that GCC states are on track to emerge stronger, more diversified, and better positioned for sustainable growth and opportunity creation.

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Green Bahrain Momentum Builds

Bahrain reaches 67% of its 3.6 million tree target as sustainability projects accelerate

- 2.4 million trees planted so far
- Mangrove target exceeded with 2.2 million seedlings
- 300 recycling centres established nationwide.

TDT | Manama
Neethu V



As Earth Day 2026 is marked globally under the theme “Our Power, Our Planet,” Bahrain is placing growing emphasis on environmental sustainability as a key pillar of its national development and long-term planning.

With rising temperatures, limited freshwater resources, rapid urbanisation, and vulnerable coastal ecosystems, environmental protection has become an increasingly urgent local priority alongside global climate concerns.

Bahrain is continuing to strengthen its environmental sustainability efforts and expand afforestation projects, according to Eng. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, The Minister of Municipalities and Agriculture.



“Environmental protection is a national priority, not an option.”

ENG. WAEL BIN NASSER AL MUBARAK



“Actively take part in protecting the environment, not just observe it from a distance”

AJITH BANGERA



“Protecting the planet is a year-round responsibility, not just a one-day effort.”

KAI MEITHIG, SUSTAINABILITY ADVOCATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT

Marking World Earth Day, observed annually on April 22, the minister said that under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Bahrain is advancing key environmental initiatives, including the National Carbon Neutrality Plan.

He highlighted major progress in the Kingdom’s afforestation strategy, noting that around 2.4 million trees have already been planted, achieving 67 per cent of the target to plant 3.6 million trees by 2035.

Al Mubarak also pointed

to the success of the “Bahrain Mangroves” initiative, which has exceeded expectations with 2.2 million mangrove seedlings planted, reaching 138 per cent of its original goal and significantly supporting marine biodiversity.

Community Efforts

Across the Kingdom, community participation continues to play a key role in environmental action, with beach clean-ups and conservation drives held in areas such as Karbabad, Malkiya, Amwaj, and Nurana Island.

Expat communities have joined Earth Day initiatives as well. Kannada Sangha Bahrain has organised a programme including a two-minute lights-off at 8:00 PM, followed by a beach clean-up drive, tree planting, and awareness activities on reducing plastic use.

Ajith Bangera, President of Kannada Sangha Bahrain, told The Daily Tribune that the initiative aims to encourage practical participation in environmental protection.

Sustainability advocate Kai Meithig added, “Protecting the planet is a year-round responsibility, not just a one-day effort. Small, consistent actions—from saving water and reducing energy use to cutting plastic waste and supporting green spaces—can make a real difference for future generations.”

Man on Trial for Alleged Attempted Murder of Wife

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

The First Major Criminal Court is hearing the case of a man in his forties accused of attempting to murder his wife by stabbing her multiple times on a public road.

The court has adjourned proceedings until April 26 to allow the defence lawyer to review the case file, while the victim’s legal representative prepares to submit a civil claim.

The defendant denied the attempted murder charge in court, admitting only to damaging the victim’s vehicle window.

According to the Public Prosecution, the accused allegedly planned the attack in advance, armed himself with a knife, and stabbed his wife in the chest with intent to kill. The attempt was reportedly stopped after bystanders intervened and the victim received urgent medical care. She also suffered additional injuries, with damage reported to her vehicle.

The victim stated that the incident began when her husband blocked her vehicle, demanded she take their son, and later escalated the confrontation by damaging her car and chasing her while shouting threats. She alleged he stabbed her twice before she escaped to a nearby house for shelter.

Witnesses reported seeing a bloodied woman fleeing and a man holding a knife being restrained by bystanders, before emergency services arrived. A forensic report confirmed stab wounds to the chest and shoulder caused by a sharp object, requiring surgery and more than three weeks of treatment.

Fake TikTok Friendship Ends in Court

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

It began with simple likes and exchanged comments in the virtual world of TikTok, weaving the threads of what seemed to be an innocent friendship between a young Bahraini woman and an Egyptian expatriate working as a barber. However, behind those colorful screens, a starkly different reality was taking shape one that would soon shift from social media feeds to the halls of criminal courts.



The friendship was nothing more than a facade for financial exploitation. The defendant took advantage of the woman’s trust to secure a “loan” of 750 Dinars. As days passed, stalling and evasion became his tactics, prompting the victim to use her wits and record a voice clip of him confessing to the debt. That recording sparked a bitter conflict between them, turning their friendly bond sour.

In the Juffair area, inside the victim’s car, the defendant’s final mask fell. He was no longer the “friend” she knew behind the screen; he transformed into a

fierce aggressor the moment he learned of the voice recording. He snatched her phone and when she refused to give him the passcode, he struck her across the face twice. He didn’t stop there; he drew a knife and stabbed her in the thigh, forcing her to reveal her passcode to erase the evidence of his debt before fleeing the scene.

The case has now reached the High Criminal Court of Appeal after the defendant was initially sentenced to one year in prison and ordered to be deported. The court has scheduled May 18 for the final verdict.

Human Trafficking Trial

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court has started hearing a human trafficking case against a woman in her forties accused of exploiting a 22-year-old Asian woman.

Prosecutors allege she recruited and harboured the victim, forcing her into prostitution and taking her earnings.

The defendant denied trafficking charges but admitted to benefiting financially from the victim’s activities.

The victim told the court she came to Bahrain after a Facebook job offer for nightclub work, but was later coerced into prostitution to repay a fake debt and moved between locations where she was detained and exploited.

An Anti-Human Trafficking officer said investigations indicated the victim was effectively “purchased” under an oral agreement, with the defendant allegedly admitting she received and profited from her exploitation.

The court has adjourned the case until April 27, 2026, to appoint a defence lawyer.

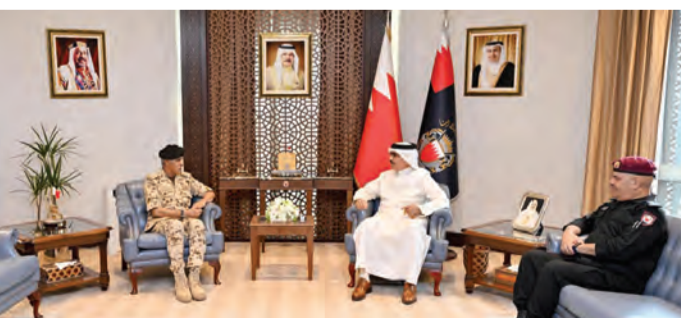
Woman Arrested for Exploiting 17-Year-Old

Bahrain’s Anti-Human Trafficking Unit, under the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science, arrested an Asian woman in connection with a human trafficking case involving a 17-year-old girl. Authorities said the suspect

is accused of bringing the minor from outside the country and forcing her into exploitative and illegal activities.

Following receipt of information, police launched immediate investigations, which led to the identification and arrest of the woman.

Defence Alignment



The Interior Minister, Lieutenant General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, met the Chief of Staff of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), Lieutenant General Dhiyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, in the presence of Police Chief Lieutenant General Tariq bin Hassan Al Hassan. The minister praised the BDF’s

readiness and operational efficiency in carrying out its national duties, highlighting its role in safeguarding the Kingdom during recent Iranian aggression. The meeting also focused on enhancing coordination between the Interior Ministry and the BDF to maintain national security and stability.

New Conditions for Expats

Reforms aim to strengthen traffic management

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Bahrain’s Parliament passed two amendments to the Traffic Law that introduce stricter conditions for issuing driving licences to expatriates, including linking licence validity to residency permits and expanding regulatory powers over foreign applicants.

The first amendment limits the validity of a non-Bahraini driving licence to the duration of the holder’s legal residency in the Kingdom. The second allows the executive authority to set additional conditions for expatriates applying for licences.

Lawmakers backing the changes said the reforms aim to ease pressure on Bahrain’s roads, as the number of expatriate workers and private vehicles continues to rise.

During discussions, MPs argued that the measures would help better organise traffic management and align licensing rules with broader residency regula-



“We could look at Kuwait’s minimum salary rule for driving licences as a model.”

ABDULWAHID QARATA, MP

tions. Some also pointed to international practices where income and residency criteria are used in transport-related decisions.

The government, however, opposed both amendments, stating that existing regulations already require valid residency for obtaining and renewing driving licences. Officials warned the changes could create administrative challenges, particularly regarding renewal systems and long-term residency categories.

The Interior Ministry also said



- MPs say the move aims to ease road congestion.
- Government warned the changes may be difficult to implement.

the proposed framework would be difficult to implement consistently because it does not follow a unified system. It further noted that current laws already allow the executive authority to issue additional conditions through regulations.

Despite the objections, Parliament approved both bills, moving them forward in the legislative process.

Breaking Time Rules

Khalid Eid Adam Redefines Watch Design

Ghadeer Alkumaish
TDT | Manama

Bahraini watch designer Khalid Eid Adam is gaining international attention with the launch of his signature timepiece, "Al Khalida," a limited-edition luxury watch that has begun attracting interest from watch enthusiasts in London and across Europe.

The design combines bold aesthetics, mechanical precision, and a strong creative identity rooted in his personal journey.

"Al Khalida" reflects a new approach in luxury watchmaking, where storytelling, symbolism, and exclusivity are as important as technical performance.

In a highly competitive global industry, the watch represents a rising creative voice from Bahrain aiming to position itself on the international luxury stage.

Khalid Eid Adam's passion for watches began at the age of five when his father gifted him his first timepiece. That early moment developed into a lifelong fascination that evolved into a deeper appreciation for watch



Some luxury watches can take up to 20 years of refinement before reaching the market

KHALID EID ADAM

design as both an art form and a technical discipline.

One of his early challenges was introducing a square-shaped watch design into a market dominated by traditional round styles. Although initially met with hesitation, the design eventually gained strong acceptance and positive response.

The process behind each watch design is complex and multi-layered, starting from in-



"Al Khalida"- Two designs, limited to just 50 pieces worldwide

spiration and concept development to storytelling, engineering, and final production. Adam notes that some global luxury brands may take up to 20 years to refine a single watch before release.

His latest creation, "Al Khalida," has received notable at-

tention from watch collectors and enthusiasts in London and Europe, generating strong discussion within niche luxury communities.

The watch is produced in a strictly limited edition of 50 pieces worldwide, enhancing



A limited-edition luxury watch with only 50 pieces worldwide, attracts collectors in London and Europe.

its exclusivity. It is priced at approximately 200 Bahraini Dinars, placing it within the accessible luxury segment.

The timepiece is crafted from

polished stainless steel, finished with a surface inspired by baguette-cut diamonds, giving it a refined luxury appearance. It is powered by an automatic movement, reflecting traditional watchmaking heritage.

Its crystal glass features a curved, diamond-inspired contour, while the dial is made of natural mother-of-pearl (nacre), giving each piece a unique reflective texture that changes with light.

The name "Al Khalida" was chosen for two reasons: first, its connection to the designer's identity and brand vision, and second, to symbolize timelessness and permanence reflecting a watch meant to go beyond time itself and become a lasting legacy.

Is Modern Work Culture Damaging Your Spine?

Neethu V
TDT | Manama

Interestingly, most people reading this piece would be sitting down - some at home, others at work in front of a laptop or desktop screen. Many would have their backs slouched, with only a few maintaining proper posture.

Addressing the question, "Is sitting really the new smoking?", Dr Faizan Abdullah Salam Ahmed Abdullah Mohsin, Orthopedic Surgeon, Al Hilal Medical Center, Sitra reflects on the silent spinal damage caused by long hours of sitting with improper posture, which can lead to early degenerative changes in the spine.

He adds that back pain among young people is becoming increasingly common due to ex-



More than 50 percent of patients with low back pain report poor workplace posture

DR FAIZAN ABDULLAH, ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON

cessive screen use, limited physical activity, and obesity, with even teenagers now presenting



A Journal of the American College of Cardiology study links sitting over 10.6 hours a day to higher risks of heart failure and cardiovascular death, even in active individuals.



with posture-related issues.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, he says, "More than 50 percent of patients with low back pain report poor workplace posture, making the issue highly relevant, as many jobs involve prolonged sitting."

"The most common condi-

tions related to prolonged sitting that I see are neck strain, upper and lower back strain, and cervical and lumbar disc issues. "Long-term poor posture may lead to lumbar and cervical disc disorders with or without radiculopathy and/or myelopathy, abnormal pelvic tilt, and early

It's Preventable

Addressing preventability, Dr. Faizan stresses that proper desk

ergonomics are essential: the screen should be at eye level and hips positioned higher than the knees to avoid abnormal spinal stress.

"Ideally, one should seek medical help for postural advice well before the pain starts. Patients should be educated about correct posture while sitting and working, which is part of ergonomics. If detected early, posture-related damage is fully reversible," he added.

He further recommended early education on ergonomics, especially for school students and young graduates, to help prevent long-term spinal problems.

So, is sitting really the new smoking? Yes, it is - only the latter is much more hyped and talked about.

Devji BKS GCC Kalotsavam 2026 Kicks Off



Chief Guest Mr. Jaydeep Bharatji with Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam officials and distinguished guests

Pradeep Puravankara
TDT | Manama

The Devji BKS GCC Kalotsavam 2026, a major cultural festival celebrating the artistic talents of the Malayali diaspora, began with a colorful opening ceremony at the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS) in Bahrain.

The event opened with a traditional 'Pooja Dance', setting a cultural and spiritual tone.

The festival was officially inaugurated by Chief Guest Mr. Jaydeep Bharatji, Joint Managing Director of the Devji Group, who lit the ceremonial lamp and praised the initiative for preserving cultural heritage and promoting social harmony.

BKS President Mr. P.V. Radhakrishna Pillai presided over the ceremony, stressing the importance of cultural unity.

Earlier, General Secretary Mr.

Varghese Karakkal delivered the welcome address, while Vice President Mr. Devadas Kunnath appreciated the efforts of organisers and volunteers. General Convener Ms. Renu Unnikrishnan concluded the ceremony with a vote of thanks.

The festival will feature participants from across the GCC competing in various cultural categories over the coming days.

Nostalgic Reunion

Gulf Polytechnic and University of Bahrain Alumni Reunite After Four Decades



Alumni of the Gulf Polytechnic College and the University of Bahrain from the classes of 1975 to 1990 came together for their fourth annual reunion, at Ajoor Family Majlis, reconnecting after more than four decades.

BD94 Million Support for 105,000 Workers

Economic Support, Loan Relief and Service Reform Approved by MPs

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

● Household Debt Relief

● Labour Market Oversight

Bahrain's parliament approved a government bill allowing the use of the unemployment insurance fund to pay April wages for insured Bahraini workers in the private sector, as a temporary measure to ease economic pressure caused by the regional crisis.

The amendment adds a new clause to Article 8(c) of the unemployment insurance law, permitting salaries to be paid from the fund's surplus for one month, within existing legal safeguards and up to each worker's insured wage.

Parliamentary estimates suggest that over 105,000 Bahrainis working in the private sector could benefit, with the total monthly wage bill reaching around BD94 million.

Lawmakers largely supported the move, describing it as necessary to help companies facing cash flow challenges meet salary obligations and avoid layoffs.

MP Ahmed Al Salloom said the measure would ease pressure on businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, while protecting workers' incomes.

However, concerns were raised about how the support would be distributed.

MP Basema Mubarak questioned the lack of clear criteria for defining affected companies and warned against repeatedly relying on the unemployment fund without a long-term solution.

Officials said the fund holds approximately BD600 million in assets, with the expected cost of covering April wages estimated between BD80 million and BD100 million.

The law will take effect after its publication in the Official Gazette.



“These are live records, not a static count”
H.E. YOUSIF KHALAF,
MINISTER OF LABOUR



“Has the decision been issued or not? This cannot remain unresolved for years”
MOHAMMED AL MARAFI, MP



“This measure will help businesses manage cash flow pressure”
AHMED AL SALLOOM, MP



“We cannot keep relying on the unemployment fund”
BASEMA MUBARAK, MP



Hanan Fardan, MP

Loan Payment Freeze Without Fees

An urgent proposal to delay citizens' loan and debt instalments without extra interest or fees was approved by Parliament, with MPs urging the government to act in coordination with the Central Bank of Bahrain during what they described as an exceptional period.

The proposal asks the government to take the necessary steps to postpone repayments due from citizens for the time being, in light of the security and economic effects linked to recent regional tensions.

MPs behind the measure said the aim was to ease the strain on households hit by a slowdown in economic activity and pressure on incomes.

They said a temporary pause in repayments would help citizens keep more cash on hand, support spending and help the market remain steady.



Parliament holds session

According to the explanatory note, the move would also ease the social burden on families by reducing the risk of financial distress, default and the legal and personal trouble that may follow.

The note said delaying instalments without extra charges would also help protect banking stability by limiting the risk of widespread missed payments and giving borrowers time to rearrange their obligations in an orderly way, while allowing lending activity to continue.

It added that the exceptional circumstances justified tempo-

rary state action to protect borrowers and support economic and social stability as part of the wider public interest.

The proposal was submitted by MPs Hanan Fardan, Basema Mubarak, Lulwa Al Rumaihi, Hassan Bukhammas and Hisham Al Ashiri.

Minister Defends Job Data and Disability Hiring Role

Yousef Khalaf, Labour Minister defended ministry's unemployment data and role in hiring people with disabilities during a parliamentary session on Tuesday, responding to questions

from MPs Abdulhakim Al Sheno and Mohammed Al Marafi.

Khalaf said fluctuations in job-seeker numbers reflect a “dynamic labour market,” not inconsistencies in official records.

He noted that the Ministry of Labour initially recorded 17,831 jobseekers when implementing a directive issued on 28 September 2025 by the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, to provide three job opportunities per registered individual.

Since then, 4,746 people have been employed, though overall figures have not dropped pro-

portionally due to new registrations.

“These are live records, not a static count,” Khalaf said.

Addressing criticism over disability employment, Khalaf clarified that most responsibilities under the relevant law fall to the Ministry of Social Development.

He said that his ministry's role is limited to issuing decisions—subject to Cabinet approval—on government roles where people with disabilities are prioritised.

He added that a list of public sector jobs suitable for people with disabilities has already been prepared in coordination with relevant authorities and is being implemented.

Khalaf also rejected claims of weak enforcement against non-compliant companies, stating that legal authority to record violations and refer cases lies with the Ministry of Social Development, not the Labour Ministry.

However, MP Al Marafi criticised the ministry's response, questioning why a key ministerial decision under the law has not been formally issued since 2006.

He also raised concerns over gaps between available job vacancies and registered jobseekers, as well as low compliance rates among companies.

New System for Citizen Voice

Meanwhile, Parliament approved an urgent proposal requiring government entities to hold regular meetings with citizens to address service complaints and improve public services.

The plan sets up a formal system for direct citizen engagement, including in-person and online meetings, an online complaints platform, and quarterly ministerial reviews to track progress.

Submitted by MPs Basema Mubarak, Jalal Kadhem, Abdulhakim Al Sheno, Bader Al Tamimi, and Ali Al Doseri, the initiative aims to improve transparency, speed up decision-making, and better align government services with public needs.

Electricity Subsidy for Sports Clubs



Mohsen Al Asboul, MP

The parliament approved a proposal to include sports facilities operated by clubs under the government's electricity subsidy scheme, a move aimed at easing financial pressure on community and village-based sports organisations.

MPs said many clubs with limited income are currently being charged utility rates similar to commercial entities, leaving them struggling with high electricity and water bills.

The proposal, submitted by MP Mohsen Al Asboul along-

side several lawmakers, urges a review of tariff classifications for national, village, and low-income sports clubs.

It calls for reclassifying these facilities under subsidised categories.

Al Asboul said many clubs operate purely as community and youth service hubs rather than profit-making ventures, yet face heavy utility costs that strain their budgets.

He added that sports facilities are widely used for training and youth activities, making them essential social spaces.

Priority Hiring for Crisis Volunteers

Jobseekers registered on Bahrain's national volunteering platform may soon receive priority consideration for employment under a new proposal linked to the “Bahrain is Well... Because You Are Its People” campaign.

The initiative also calls for issuing official certificates recognising volunteer contributions made during the current crisis following Iranian attacks.

The proposal, submitted by MPs Iman Shuwaiter, Mohammed Al Olaiwi, Abdulhakim Al Sheno, Abdulwahid Qarata and



Iman Shuwaiter, MP

Mohsen Al Asboul, urges both government bodies and private companies to give precedence to unemployed volunteers, especially within the same fields

where they previously served.

Lawmakers said the plan builds on lessons from Bahrain's COVID-19 response, aiming to transform crisis volunteering into structured employment opportunities while formally acknowledging service carried out under pressure.

Under the proposal, records from the national volunteering platform would evaluate participants based on attendance, skills and performance in frontline roles. This information would then support hiring decisions.

TRACCS Bahrain and Conserving Bounties Society Partner

To Advance Food Conservation Awareness in the Kingdom

● **Aims to drive informed consumption, support national sustainability priorities, and rally national action on food conservation**

TDT | Manama

TRACCS Bahrain and Conserving Bounties Society have entered into a strategic partnership aimed at raising public awareness on the scale and impact of food waste, while encouraging more informed and conscious consumption across the Kingdom.

According to the latest United Nations Environment Program's Food Waste Index Report, more than one billion meals are wasted around the world every day. Closer to home, the picture is equally stark: Bahrain generates over 400 tons of food waste daily, a figure that rises sharply during special occasions such as Ramadan. An estimated 132



The deal signing

kilograms of food per person is discarded each year in the Kingdom, costing the national economy tens of millions of dinars annually.

Through this partnership, TRACCS Bahrain will utilize its strategic communications expertise and extensive partner network to support Conserving Bounties Society's mission of promoting responsible consumption, shaping long-term behavioral change, embedding social values of collective ac-

countability, and contributing to broader national sustainability priorities.

Irene Karamitsou, Managing Director of TRACCS Bahrain, stated, "Food sustainability is one of today's increasingly complex challenges, closely linked to systemic food waste, consumption patterns, and resource efficiency. Meaningful progress requires sustained efforts to drive awareness, instill accountability, and encourage collective action. Through this partnership, we are leveraging our strategic communications capabilities to amplify this message in line with our responsibility to contribute to initiatives that deliver lasting societal value."

Founded in 2014, Conserving Bounties Society operates Bahrain's first specialized food bank. The non-profit organization's work spans surplus food collection and direct distribution to beneficiary families, public awareness campaigns, and advocacy for stronger food waste legislation. The Society's efforts since inception have helped

more than 3,000 families and 5,000 individuals, with around 230 tons of food surplus conserved in the last year alone.

According to Thawra Al Dhaen, Chief Executive Officer of Conserving Bounties, "Food wastage represents a key structural inefficiency with lasting implications on environmental sustainability and food accessibility. Addressing it requires more integrated approaches that strengthen coordination between stakeholders and improve how surplus is managed across the value chain. Our collaboration with TRACCS enhances our ability to communicate this mission with the wider stakeholder ecosystem as we continue to scale solutions that drive measurable impact and support more sustainable consumption across communities."

Both entities aim to help reinforce national endeavors toward food sustainability and security by encouraging individuals, businesses, and communities to adopt a culture of more responsible consumption.

General Assembly and DOO Sign MoU to Solidify Strategic Partnership

Transforming the Tech Landscape in Bahrain

Manama

General Assembly – Bahrain (GA), a leading provider of transformative tech and digital skills training, has recently formalized its collaboration with DOO, a cutting-edge culturally aware AI solutions provider, through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This milestone cements an already thriving partnership aimed at bridging the gap between industry demands and local talent, fostering economic growth, and positioning Bahrain as a leader in innovative technology.

Delivered in strategic partnership with Bahrain's Labour Fund (Tamkeen), General Assembly's programs ensure accessibility and alignment with Bahrain's labor market needs. This agreement establishes a framework that supports the development of Bahraini professionals in high-demand fields, strengthening the bridge between academic learning and industry application while fostering a knowledge-based economy in line with Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030.

The partnership follows the tail of two impactful sessions led by DOO's leadership team. Ali Mohsen, CEO of DOO, delivered an inspiring talk on "Vibe Coding" demonstrating how design-

"Our collaboration with DOO is a shared mission to elevate Bahraini talent to the highest level. We've already seen the impact of this synergy, with multiple GA graduates joining the DOO team and thriving in their fast-paced environment. What DOO has achieved as a startup is remarkable, and by aligning GA's training with their innovative approach to AI, we are ensuring Bahrainis don't just join the tech sector—they lead it."



Ahlam Oun
Director of Middle East Academies at
General Assembly

"Partnering with General Assembly Bahrain is a strategic investment in the future of Bahrain's digital landscape. At DOO, we know that successful digital transformation relies on a workforce that is agile and technically proficient. By empowering Bahraini professionals through training directly connected to industry needs, we are ensuring they are equipped to lead in the digital economy."



Hussain Haji
Chief Growth Officer of DOO

ers can transform into builders capable of prototyping visions without deep engineering backgrounds, while Yusuf AlHamad, DOO's Product Lead, shared insights on "The Engineering Evolution," providing a comprehensive blueprint for students seeking to advance from Junior roles to Lead positions within tech teams.

These sessions have yielded tangible returns, with DOO re-

cruiting two talented GA graduates into full-time roles within their software engineering team. This success underscores the effectiveness of GA's industry-driven training in preparing students for high-demand roles in Bahrain's fast-growing startup scene. It also highlights how deep industry engagement and real-world mentorship can translate swiftly into employment opportunities, reinforcing

GA's position as a vital talent pipeline for the region.

Commenting on the occasion, Ms. Ahlam Oun, Director of Middle East Academies at General Assembly, stated, "Our collaboration with DOO is a shared mission to elevate Bahraini talent to the highest level. We've already seen the impact of this synergy, with multiple GA graduates joining the DOO team and thriving in their fast-

paced environment. What DOO has achieved as a startup is remarkable, and by aligning GA's training with their innovative approach to AI, we are ensuring Bahrainis don't just join the tech sector—they lead it."

This collaboration extends beyond traditional talent placement by establishing a transformative relationship between specialized education and Bahrain's tech industry. By leverag-

ing GA Bahrain's global workforce development expertise and DOO's AI-driven customer experience leadership, the initiative offers Bahraini youth long-term career adaptability in high-growth tech sectors while supporting the country's shift to a digital economy. The MoU underscores a shared commitment to fostering innovation and driving sustainable economic growth through practical engagement, empowering Bahrain's youth to lead in the digital era.

On his part, Mr. Hussain Haji, Chief Growth Officer of DOO, commented, "Partnering with General Assembly Bahrain is a strategic investment in the future of Bahrain's digital landscape. At DOO, we know that successful digital transformation relies on a workforce that is agile and technically proficient. By empowering Bahraini professionals through training directly connected to industry needs, we are ensuring they are equipped to lead in the digital economy."

General Assembly Bahrain offers a variety of specialized programs in software engineering, data analytics, user experience design, and emerging technologies, supported by Tamkeen. Since 2022, the academy has graduated 2,500 Bahrainis equipped to compete on local, regional and global levels.

BENEFIT Introduces Advanced Payment Solution to Strengthen Fintech Ecosystem

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is witnessing a major transformation in its digital payments ecosystem, driven by strong growth in electronic transactions and continued financial innovation, according to Abdulwahed Al-Janah, CEO of BENEFIT.

Over the past decade, the Kingdom has steadily moved away from cash-based payments toward a fully integrated digital financial environment. This shift gained momentum following the launch of the Electronic Fund Transfer System (EFTS) in 2015, which significantly improved how money is transferred between individ-



Abdulwahed Al-Janah, CEO of BENEFIT.

uals and institutions.

In 2025, online transactions through the system reached 494 million, marking a 10.7% increase compared to 2024. The total value of transactions rose to BD 37.5 billion, up 12.6% from BD 33.3 billion the previous year, reflecting growing confidence in digital payment solutions.

AlJanah noted that the COVID-19 pandemic played a key role in accelerating digital adoption, reshaping consumer behavior and increasing reliance on secure, efficient financial technologies.

As part of its ongoing innovation strategy, BENEFIT has launched a digital direct debit

service through the "Fawateer" platform on the BENEFITPay app. The service marks a new phase in Bahrain's financial digital transformation and supports the Central Bank of Bahrain's vision to position the Kingdom as a regional fintech hub.

The new service improves operational efficiency by automating authorization and collection processes, reducing manual work, lowering administrative costs, and minimizing human error. It also enhances cash flow management through automated and scheduled payments.

Replacing traditional paper-based procedures, the sys-

tem enables instant digital approvals with enhanced security measures and verified customer data, helping reduce fraud risks while promoting sustainability through a paperless approach.

Technically, the solution is built on API-based integration and complies with ISO 20022 standards, enabling seamless connectivity between billing systems, ERP platforms, and financial institutions.

BENEFIT reaffirmed its commitment to advancing Bahrain's digital payments infrastructure and strengthening the Kingdom's position as a leading regional center for fintech innovation and the digital economy.



Bahrain eyes stronger economic cooperation with France

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has become a key gateway for trade and investment flows to and from regional markets, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, Nabeel Khalid Kanoo stated on Monday, highlighting the kingdom's economic resilience amid regional tensions.

The chairman made the remarks during a meeting with French Ambassador to Bahrain Eric Giraud-Telme, noting that the private sector's dynamism



and its alignment with government policies had strengthened the national economy's ability to absorb external shocks.

Kanoo stated that the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa has played a central role in empowering the private sector and enhancing its resilience in the face of current challenges.

He added that the integration of government policies with private sector initiatives, along with the role of financial institutions, had contributed to maintaining

market stability despite geopolitical pressures.

Kanoo said recent Iranian attacks targeting Bahrain had demonstrated the strength and cohesion of the national economy, underscoring its capacity to adapt to external pressures.

He also highlighted growing economic ties with France, saying bilateral trade reached \$757.9 million in 2025, marking a 76.7% increase compared with the previous year.

Kanoo called for expanding

joint projects between Bahraini and French private sectors, particularly in high-value industries, finance and priority economic sectors, to deepen investment partnerships and support sustainable growth.

For his part, the French ambassador congratulated the chamber's newly elected board and expressed optimism about further strengthening bilateral ties, citing opportunities to expand investment cooperation and explore new areas of economic integration.

Apple's Tim Cook to step down as CEO after 15-year run

San Francisco, United States

Apple's Tim Cook will step down as the California tech giant's chief executive this year, handing the top job to a company veteran as it navigates a technology landscape being upended by AI.

The 65-year-old Cook, who ran Apple for 15 years after taking the reins from its visionary



co-founder Steve Jobs, will be succeeded by John Ternus, a senior vice president of hardware engineering.

The an-

nouncement on Monday answered long-simmering questions about who would replace Cook, who said he will step down in September to become the board's executive chairman.

"It has been the greatest privilege of my life to be the CEO of Apple and to have been trusted to lead such an extraordinary company," Cook said in a statement.

Early Tuesday, the outgoing chief executive received a tribute of sorts from Donald Trump, a self-professed "big fan" of

Cook, as the tech leader built a pragmatic relationship with the US president.

"I was very impressed with myself to have the head of Apple calling to 'kiss my ass,'" Trump said.

Last year, Cook gifted Trump a gold and glass sculpture during a meeting in the Oval Office and announced an additional \$100 billion investment in American manufacturing, and in October Apple agreed to remove an app that could track US immigration agents.

"Tim Cook had an AMAZING career, almost incomparable," Trump added.

- \$4 trillion company

Cook joined Apple in 1998, rising through the ranks and helping drive its success as chief operating officer coordinating the iPhone maker's complex supply chain.

He became chief executive in 2011 after Jobs left because of health issues.

Cook is credited with expanding Apple's product line

and ramping up the company's value to around \$4 trillion based on current share prices.

He was the mastermind of the strategy that made China the primary manufacturing base for Apple devices, with the vast majority of iPhones assembled by Foxconn and other contract suppliers in Chinese factories.

"Tim's unprecedented and outstanding leadership has transformed Apple into the world's best company," outgoing board chairman Arthur Levinson said in the statement.

U-TURN WITH UK

Tough Times in the Two Straits



JOEL INDRUPATI

The Islamabad talks of April 11–12 made no headway towards a viable solution to the West Asia war. And, the U.S. naval blockade of the Strait of Hormuz since April 13 has only tightened the geopolitical knot.

While the world waited for the unravelling of the knot, during the ceasefire, a new and troubling dimension emerged. Days before the talks, former Iranian foreign minister and veteran diplomat Ali Akbar Velayati warned, "Today, the unified command of the Resistance front views Bab al-Mandeb as it does Hormuz."

This veiled threat—implying that Iran's Houthi allies in Yemen could disrupt traffic through another critical shipping corridor—has caused widespread concern. So far, little reassurance has followed.

History underscores the significance of these waterways. The Strait of Hormuz—just 39 kilometers wide at its narrowest point between Iran and Oman—derives its name from a Middle Persian rendering of Ahura Mazda, the Zoroastrian deity of wisdom and light. Others link it to the Kingdom of Hormuz, which emerged in the 11th century under the Kerman Seljuk Sultanate. It later became a client state of the 16th-century Portuguese Empire, whose eastern holdings stretched across ports such as Diu, Surat, Goa, and Cochin.

The Bab al-Mandeb Strait, only 26 kilometers wide at its narrowest, lies between Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula and Djibouti and Eritrea in the Horn of Africa. Its name—

"Gate of Tears"—reflects its treacherous currents, reefs, and long history of maritime peril. Legend even speaks of an earthquake that once separated the landmasses, claiming many lives.

Today, these straits are not merely geographic features but lifelines of the global economy. The Strait of Hormuz carries about 20% of the world's oil supply, making it the most critical energy chokepoint on the planet. Bab al-Mandeb, through which roughly 12% of global trade flows, is a vital link between the Red Sea and the Suez Canal, serving as a key artery for commerce between Asia and Europe.

One is already choking the global economy, and let us hope the world leaders do not let the other follow the same path.

These routes are indispensable not only for major energy consumers like China and India but also for dozens of other countries. Countries in the Bab al-Mandeb region, including Sudan, Eritrea, and Yemen, play a role in sustaining its vast energy needs.

Yet these same channels of global sustenance are now under threat. Rising tensions risk turning them into flashpoints capable of disrupting entire economies.

Oil prices are already climbing, shipping insurance costs are surging, and supply chains are straining under uncertainty—pressures that inevitably fuel inflation and instability worldwide.

The two straits no longer merely divide land; they are beginning to divide a fragile global order.

If these waterways are choked by conflict, the consequences will not remain regional—they will ripple across continents, economies, and everyday lives.

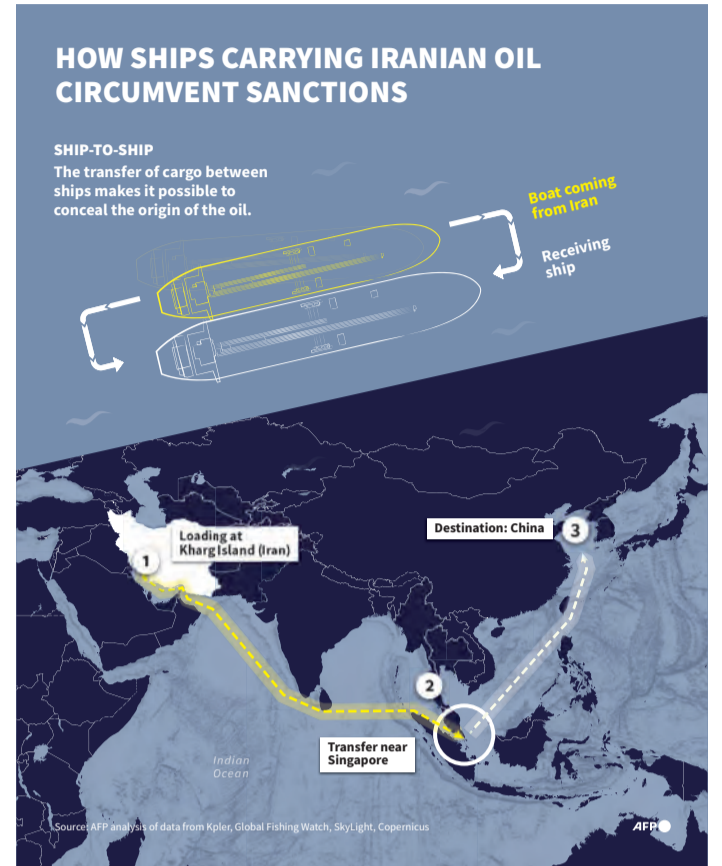
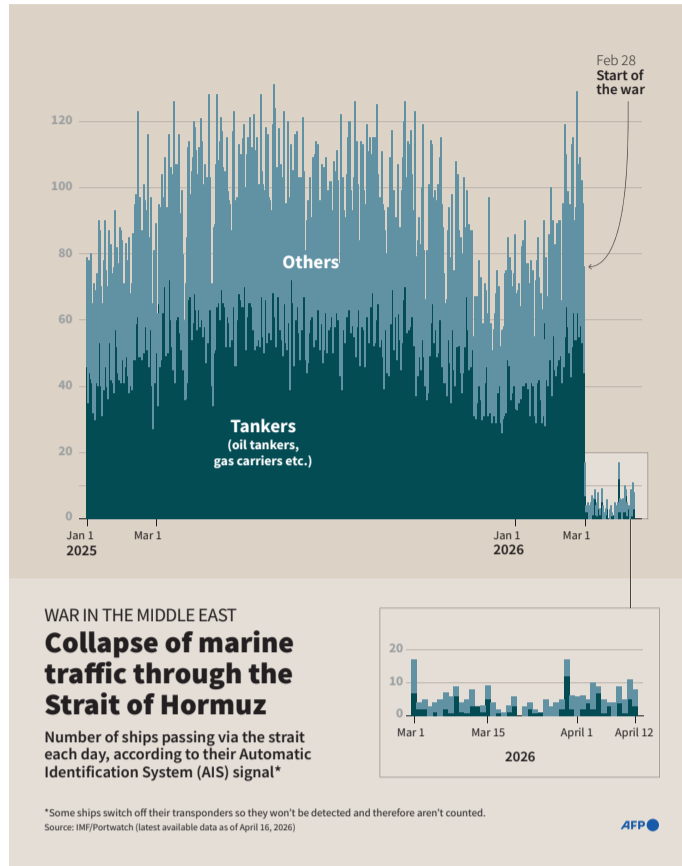
The choice before the world is stark: allow strategic corridors to become instruments of coercion, or preserve them as shared lifelines for humanity.

Reason must prevail over brinkmanship. Cooperation over confrontation. For if these narrow passages close, the world may find that the cost of conflict is far wider than the straits themselves.

(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)

The two straits no longer merely divide land; they are beginning to divide a fragile global order.

If these waterways are choked by conflict, the consequences will not remain regional—they will ripple across continents, economies, and everyday lives.



Trump accuses Iran of violating ceasefire 'numerous times'

US and Iran warn they are ready for war

War cries loom large

Pakistan says ceasefire ends at 2350 GMT Tuesday

Trump said would only expire a day later

A two-week ceasefire between the United States and Iran would expire at 2350 GMT on Tuesday, mediator Pakistan said.

"Ceasefire ends at 4:50 am PST, 22 April," Information

Minister Attaullah Tarar posted on X, referring to Pakistan Standard Time.

The truce has been expected to end overnight Tuesday, though in comments to Bloomberg, US President Don-

ald Trump said it would only expire a day later, on Wednesday evening Washington time.

Trump said it was "highly unlikely" he would agree to extend it.

No Iranian delegation has departed for Pakistan yet: state TV

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iranian state television said yesterday that no Iranian delegation had yet departed for talks with the United States in Pakistan.

"So far, no delegation from Iran has departed for Islamabad, Pakistan; whether it is the main or subsidiary delegation, primary or secondary," state TV said, dismissing reports suggesting otherwise.

It quoted unnamed Iranian officials as saying that taking part of the negotiations "depends on the change in the behaviour and positions of the Americans."

US-Iran 'mistake'

French President Emmanuel Macron called the Iranian and US blockades of the Strait of Hormuz "a mistake on both sides".

'Agreed' to attend talks

Trump told PBS News that Iran was "supposed to be there" at the talks in Pakistan.

"We agreed to be there," he said, warning that if the ceasefire expired "then lots of bombs start going off".

He separately told Bloomberg News it was

"highly unlikely" he would extend the two-week truce.

Based on its start time, the truce theoretically expires overnight on Tuesday, Tehran time, although Trump said in his comments to Bloomberg the end was

a day later, on Wednesday evening Washington time.

Hormuz blockade stays until deal: Trump

President Donald Trump said the United States would not lift its blockade of Iranian ports until Tehran had agreed a peace deal to end the war. "THE BLOCKADE, which we will not take

off until there is a 'DEAL,' is absolutely destroying Iran," Trump said on social media. "They are losing \$500 Million Dollars a day, an unsustainable number, even in the short run."

1500

Pedro Álvares Cabral is the first European to discover Brazil, landing near Monte Pascoal and claiming it for Portugal

1993

Holocaust Memorial Museum dedicated in Washington, D.C.



1994

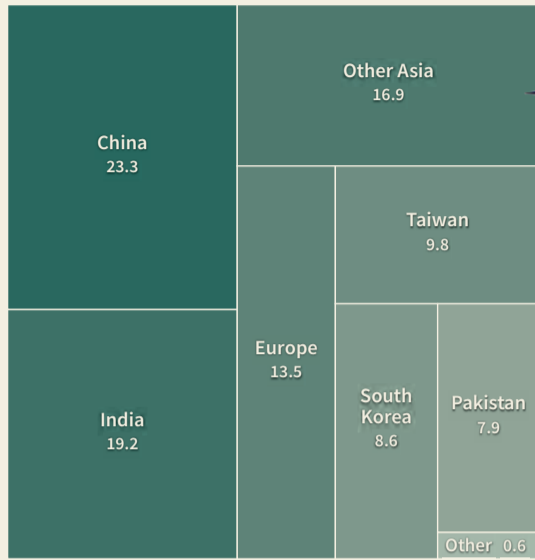
7,000 Tutsi are slaughtered by Hutus in the stadium at Kibuye, Rwanda

Paris Agreement on climate change is signed in New York, binding 195 nations to limit the increase in the global average temperature to less than 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C

2016

Countries importing gas via the Strait of Hormuz

In % of LNG* exports passing through the strait in the first quarter 2025



Source: US Energy Information Administration *Liquefied natural gas

AFP



AH-64 Apaches flying above the Strait of Hormuz during a patrol

Lebanon raises Israel-Hezbollah war death toll to 2,454

Truce clock ticks down

The White House said Vice President JD Vance was ready to fly back to Islamabad, which was preparing for a second round of talks on ending the war that has engulfed the Middle East and shaken global markets. However, Tehran's government declined to confirm that it would participate and accused the United States of violating the truce through its blockade of Iranian ports and seizure of a ship.

Iran state TV says ceasefire to expire at midnight GMTw

Iranian state TV said a ceasefire with the United States in force since April 8 would expire at 3:30 am today, Tehran time (0000 GMT Tuesday). The timing is consistent with when the 14-day truce went into effect, though US President Donald Trump recently said it would end a day later, on Wednesday evening Washington time. Mediator Pakistan, meanwhile, has said the ceasefire will end at 2350 GMT Tuesday.

US says it intercepted sanctioned oil vessel in Asia-Pacific

AFP | Washington, United States

The US Defense Department said yesterday that its forces intercepted and boarded a "stateless sanctioned" vessel as part of Washington's efforts against networks that provide support to Iran.

"Overnight, US forces conducted a right-of-visit, maritime interdiction and boarding of the stateless sanctioned M/T Tifani without incident in the INDO-PACOM area of responsibility," the department posted on its X page.

The statement said the United States was determined "to disrupt illicit networks and interdict sanctioned vessels providing material support to Iran -- any-

where they operate."

The exact location of the operation was not made clear. INDO-PACOM is the US Indo-Pacific Command, which oversees a broad region that includes the Pacific and Indian oceans.

The Tifani is a "Botswana-flagged tanker," according to the intelligence firm Vanguard Tech, which said the vessel was intercepted in the Indian Ocean.

Its last signal was detected on Tuesday halfway between Sri Lanka and the Strait of Malacca, according to the maritime tracking website Marine Traffic.

"International waters are not a refuge for sanctioned vessels," the Pentagon said in its post, which included video footage showing

helicopters hovering just above a large, bright orange tanker.

According to energy intelligence firm Kpler, the vessel had loaded approximately two million barrels of crude on Iran's Kharg Island on April 5 and passed through the Strait of Hormuz on April 9. Its tracking signal indicated it was heading toward Singapore.



Uncertainty lingers over talks President Trump said would resume in Pakistan

"Gift" to Iran from China

United States said had intercepted a ship carrying a "gift" to Iran from China as Tehran tries to restock its military during the ceasefire.

The ship had "a gift from China" which "wasn't very nice," Trump told CNBC. "I was a little surprised," he added, saying he thought he had an "understanding" with China's President Xi Jinping.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Indigenous Peoples are bearers of cultures, knowledge & ways of life that have sustained humanity for thousands of years.

Their individual & collective rights must be respected.

Lets work to realize Indigenous Peoples' rights everywhere & build a better future of all humanity.

@antonioguterres

02



You are the master of your own destiny. Never give up on yourself and never believe that you're a victim of circumstances...no matter what hand you were dealt, you have the responsibility to play as well as you can.

@VP

03



Heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Rumen Radev and his party "Progressive Bulgaria" for their victory in the recently concluded parliamentary elections in Bulgaria. I look forward with anticipation to working together to further strengthen the friendly and multifaceted ties between India and Bulgaria, as well as our broader cooperation in the region.

@narendramodi

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

Rape retrial hears Weinstein 'preyed' on aspiring US actress

He is being retried on a count of third-degree rape against Mann

● Weinstein, 74, is already imprisoned for other sex offenses

● Mann's childhood background of abuse and a sexual assault made her the "perfect target" for Weinstein

AFP | New York, United States

Prosecutors in the rape retrial of disgraced US movie mogul Harvey Weinstein told Tuesday how he wielded his power to prey on then-aspiring actress Jessica Mann.

Weinstein, a central figure of abuse allegations that spurred the MeToo movement, appeared at the New York City courtroom wheelchair-bound due to ill health.

He is being retried on a count of third-degree rape against Mann that allegedly happened in 2013 in a Manhattan hotel room.

Last June, a judge declared a mistrial on the charge after the jury foreperson refused to return to deliberate the case amid a jury-room feud.

Weinstein, 74, is already imprisoned for other sex offenses, so he will remain behind bars regardless of the retrial verdict.

"This case will come down to power, to control and manipu-



Former Hollywood film producer Harvey Weinstein appears in Manhattan Supreme Court during his retrial in New York City

lation," said Assistant District Attorney Candace White.

She told how Weinstein used his Hollywood clout to take advantage of Mann -- then a 27-year-old "barely scraping by" -- including by enticing her with a role in a movie that she had no chance of getting.

Mann's childhood background of abuse and a sexual assault made her the "perfect target" for Weinstein, the prosecutor told the jury.

"The defendant preyed upon

a fragile and sheltered young woman," White said.

Weinstein, who wore a suit, appeared engaged through the proceedings and watched along as lawyers delivered their opening statements.

His attorney Jacob Kaplan sought to dismiss Mann's rape allegation by pointing to four years of contact between her and Weinstein, ending after other actresses came forward with claims against him in 2017.

He countered that the case is

actually "about consent, about choice and about regret."

Kaplan said the pair had a consensual sexual relationship and pointed to "loving and supportive" messages they exchanged by email.

"This case will be her word against her own word," he said, arguing that Mann masked her ties with Weinstein as "she didn't want others to think that she was sleeping her way to success."

Avalanche of allegations

The trial is set to demonstrate the power dynamics of the movie industry, particularly for young women, as well as the complexities of rape trials.

In a bid to clarify Mann's relationship with Weinstein, the prosecution said it will call a forensic psychologist to explain the sometimes "counterintuitive behavior" of sexual assault victims.

Weinstein is already serving a 16-year prison term in a California case for the rape of a European actress more than a decade ago.

He is appealing that conviction, and another from the trial in June.

Before their foreperson quit, the jury convicted Weinstein of sexual assault against movie producer Miriam Haley and acquitted him of the same alleged crime against Polish-born actress Kaja Sokola.

Weinstein has hired a new legal team including Marc Agnifilo, who represents high profile figures including rapper Sean "Diddy" Combs.

The Oscar-winning Weinstein has claimed to be under threat at the notorious Rikers Island jail complex in the Bronx where he is being held, leaving him mostly in solitary confinement.

"I'm constantly threatened and derided. I wouldn't last long out there," he told the Hollywood Reporter at the start of the year.



Harvey Weinstein was once one of Hollywood's most powerful producers, co-founding Miramax and helping bring films like Pulp Fiction and Shakespeare in Love to global success. However, his career collapsed after multiple allegations of sexual misconduct surfaced in 2017, leading to criminal convictions and a major catalyst for the #MeToo movement.

Weinstein was known for his fiery temper, and the industry had long been rife with suggestions that he took advantage of his power to sexually exploit women.

In 2017, blockbuster investigations by the New Yorker and the New York Times laid bare a series of claims by young women that triggered an avalanche of allegations from more than 80 complainants and prompted the global MeToo movement.

Ukraine ready to restart Russian oil supplies to Europe

● Kyiv can restart pumping Russian oil to the two EU countries as soon as it gets a formal request

● Zelensky has made no secret of his staunch opposition to the fact that some EU members still buy Russian oil and gas

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Ukraine has repaired the damaged Druzhba pipeline that carries Russian oil to Europe and is ready to resume supplies -- unblocking what Kyiv hopes was the last hurdle to securing tens of billions of euros in support from Brussels.

The pipeline has been at the centre of a standoff between Hungary and Slovakia, which still import Russian oil via the pipeline, Ukraine, and the European Union.

Kyiv can restart pumping Russian oil to the two EU countries as soon as it gets a formal request, a source in Kyiv told AFP.

Hungary's outgoing nation-



Firefighters extinguish a fire following a Russian UAVs attack in the city of Sumy amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine

alist leader Viktor Orban had held up a much needed 90-million-euro (\$105 million) loan for Ukraine as leverage to pressure Kyiv to resume deliveries, accusing it of stalling repairs.

His defeat in elections earlier this month was seen as paving the way for the money to be unlocked.

"Ukraine has completed repair work on the section of the Druzhba oil pipeline that was

damaged by a Russian strike," Zelensky wrote in a statement published on social media.

"The pipeline can resume operation," he added.

Ukraine said the pipeline was damaged late January by Russian strikes.

Kyiv had vowed to repair it, but Zelensky warned on Tuesday that Moscow's forces could attack the pipeline again.

Hungary and Slovakia --

among the most Kremlin-sympathetic EU member states -- had accused Kyiv of dragging its feet over the repairs.

Zelensky has made no secret of his staunch opposition to the fact that some EU members still buy Russian oil and gas -- a key source of revenue for Moscow to fund its invasion launched more than four years ago.

Zelensky urges more Russia sanctions

Shortly after confirming repairs had been complete, Zelensky spoke with EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen over the fate of the long-delayed 90-billion-euro loan.

"It is important that we begin receiving them soon. All necessary steps on Ukraine's side have been taken," he said on social media after the call.

Talking to reporters in Luxembourg, EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said: "We expect an agreement in 24 hours. So I don't want to jinx it. I hope that everything goes well."

"Hopefully all the obstacles are removed," she added.

A source in Zelensky's office told AFP Kyiv could start pumping oil immediately.

"It's a technical matter -- once there is a request for pumping, it will start working," they said.

Kyiv has also stepped up its aerial attacks on Russian energy sites in recent months with the aim of bleeding Russian exports -- an effort Kyiv refers to as its own "long-range sanctions."

Kyiv needs the EU funds to plug looming holes in its budget, but has managed to secure enough money from other backers while Budapest stalled the loan.

The bloc's 27 members need to

unanimously approve an amendment to its budget to get the loan going.

EU chief Antonio Costa welcomed Zelensky's announcement.

"Thank you President (Zelensky) for delivering, as agreed: repairing the Druzhba pipeline and restoring its operation," he said on social media.

Despite announcing the reopening of the pipeline, Zelensky called on Ukraine's allies to step up sanctions on Moscow and to source new energy suppliers.

"We must continue systematic sanctions pressure on Russia over this war and work on further diversifying energy supplies to Europe," Zelensky said in the statement.

"Europe must be independent from those who seek to destroy or weaken it," he added.

90

Hungary's outgoing nationalist leader Viktor Orban had held up a much needed 90-million-euro (\$105 million) loan for Ukraine

Germany, Italy reject suspending EU-Israel cooperation deal

EU last year already put on the table a raft of potential measures to punish Israel

● So far none of the steps laid out by Brussels has garnered enough support from member states to be put into action.

AFP | Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Germany and Italy yesterday rebuffed calls to suspend an EU cooperation deal with Israel, despite rising anger over the war in Lebanon and the situation in the West Bank.

Spain and Ireland had put the issue of halting the June 2000 agreement back on the table at a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Luxembourg.

German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl called the proposal "inappropriate".

"We have to talk with Israel about the critical issues," he said, adding: "That has to be done in a critical, constructive dialogue with Israel."

Italian counterpart Antonio Tajani pushed back as well, saying that "no decision will be taken today".

Attitudes towards Israel among EU member states, already hardened over its conduct in the war in Gaza, have stiffened further after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and a new law on the death penalty for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

"We need to act. We need to make sure that our fundamental values are protected," Irish Foreign Minister Helen McEntee said.



Palestinian women walk past Israeli soldiers standing guard as a bulldozer uproots olive trees in a field belonging to Palestinians on the outskirts of the village of Al-Lubban ash-Sharqiya, south of Nablus in the occupied west bank

Reticence

Facing alarm at the civilian toll exacted in the Gaza war, the EU last year already put on the table a raft of potential measures to punish Israel, including cutting trade ties or sanctioning government ministers.

But so far none of the steps laid out by Brussels has garnered enough support from member states to be put into action.

Suspending the entirety of the EU's cooperation agreement requires unanimity among the bloc's 27 countries and would almost certainly be blocked by allies of Israel.

More feasible could be sus-

pending the part of the deal facilitating closer trade ties, a move that only requires support from a weighted majority of EU countries.

But that would require a shift in position from EU heavyweights Germany or Italy.

Rome had appeared to signal it could be open for a tougher line on Israel after it suspended a defence agreement.

"The measures that we have already on the table that require qualified majority will require states shifting their position," Kallas said after the meeting.

"We didn't see that today, but these discussions will continue." Meanwhile, there were efforts

to advance smaller measures instead.

France and Sweden re-upped an earlier call from some other EU countries for the bloc to consider halting the import of goods from Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, which are considered illegal under international law.

A separate proposal for sanctions on "extremist" Israeli settlers in the West Bank had been vetoed by Hungary for months.

But the recent ouster of staunch Israel backer Viktor Orban in Hungarian elections has raised hopes among other EU countries that those could soon go into force.

Israeli settler gunfire kills two including teen: Palestinian Authority



Relatives mourn at a hospital in Ramallah, where their loved ones were taken after being killed in alleged Israeli settler gunfire in the village of Al-Mughayyir, east of Ramallah in the Israeli-occupied West Bank

AFP | Ramallah, Palestinian Territories

The Palestinian Authority said Israeli settler gunfire killed two Palestinians, including a 14-year-old boy, on Tuesday in the central occupied West Bank, while the Israeli military said it was reviewing the incident.

An AFP photographer saw the bodies at the morgue of the hospital in Ramallah where they were taken soon after the incident.

"Two martyrs were killed by settler gunfire in Al-Mughayyir, east of Ramallah... and three others were injured," the Palestinian health ministry said, confirming the deaths previously reported by the Red Crescent.

The health ministry identified the dead Palestinians as 14-year-old Aws Hamdi

Al-Naasan and 32-year-old Jihad Marzouq Abu Naim, both from Al-Mughayyir.

At the hospital, distraught and weeping relatives crowded around the bodies, which were draped in Palestinian flags.

The Israeli military said it was "aware of the claim regarding two Palestinians who were killed, and additional injuries" in Al-Mughayyir and added that the circumstances of the incident were under review. It said soldiers were dispatched to the area "following a report of rock hurling towards an Israeli vehicle carrying several civilians, including a reserve soldier, who exited the vehicle and opened fire at suspects in the area".

It said troops arrived at the scene and "acted to disperse the violent confrontation", without providing further details.

7,900 people died, disappeared on migration routes in 2025: UN

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

Around 7,900 people died or disappeared on migration routes in 2025, taking the total dead and missing since 2014 beyond 80,000, the United Nations' migration agency said Tuesday.

The UN's International Organization for Migration said people were being forced into dangerous, irregular journeys when safe pathways were out of reach, and urged countries to find the political will to save more lives on migration routes.

The deaths or disappearance of around "7,900 people were documented on global migration routes worldwide in 2025", the IOM said.

The IOM's Missing Migrants Project "has documented more than 80,000 deaths and disappearances during migration since 2014," the agency said.

"While these figures represent only the lowest boundary of the true number of affected people, they nonetheless underscore the need for urgent action to end migrant deaths and address the complex needs of families left behind," said the IOM.

The 7,904 deaths and disappearances documented in 2025 was lower than the 9,200 figure given for 2024 -- the highest annual total on record.

Nonetheless, the IOM said the deaths and disappearances "mark a continuation and

escalation of a global failure to end these preventable deaths".

"2025 was marked by an unprecedented level of aid cuts and restriction of information on dangerous irregular routes, rendering more and more missing migrants invisible," it said.

US border changes

In the Americas, northbound movements along the Central American route fell sharply compared to 2024.

The primary reason is "the great change in migration policies by the US administration and the closure of the southern border", said Maria Moita, the IOM's humanitarian response and recovery director.



Global migration is a major demographic force: according to the United Nations, there were about 281 million international migrants worldwide in 2020, meaning roughly 1 in every 30 people lives outside their country of birth.

UK king pays tribute to 'darling mama' on late queen's 100th birthday



AFP | London, United Kingdom

Britain's King Charles on Tuesday paid a heartfelt tribute to his mother, the late queen Elizabeth II in a video message on what would have been her 100th birthday.

The king's moving homage came as the final plans for a memorial for the nation's longest serving monarch were unveiled.

Referring to Elizabeth as "darling mama", Charles, 77, said she



Artist Martin Jennings (R) talks with Britain's King Charles III (L) and Britain's Queen Camilla (2R) about his scaled sculpture of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II depicting her in her 20s, and dressed in the robes of the Order of the Garter, during a presentation for the final design recommendation for the Queen Elizabeth Memorial, at the British Museum in central London

had "remained constant, steadfast and wholly devoted to the people she served" throughout her long life.

The monarch died aged 96 in September 2022, after a 70-year reign.

"Much about the times we now live in, I suspect, may have troubled her deeply, but I take heart from her belief that goodness will always prevail and that a brighter dawn is never far from the horizon," the king

said in his message.

"For as a young Princess Elizabeth put it in her first ever public broadcast, aged just 14, we can each play our part 'to make the world of tomorrow a better and happier place'.

"It is a belief which I share, with all my heart," he added.

The memorial to the queen will feature a statue by sculptor Martin Jennings of her as a young woman dressed in ceremonial robes.

The bronze likeness will take inspiration from a celebrated 1955 portrait of her by Italian artist Pietro Annigoni.

The combined statue and plinth will stand 7.3 metres (24 feet) high at the entrance to the memorial in London's St James's Park, close to Buckingham Palace.

The king told architect Norman Foster during a viewing at the British Museum that the design was "fantastic".

Lebanon Crisis Deepens

GCC Urges International Action to Support Crisis-Hit Lebanon

The Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Jassem Mohammed Al Budaiwi, reaffirmed the “historical and strong” ties between GCC countries and Lebanon, stressing continued support for Lebanon’s security, stability, sovereignty, and development aspirations.

Speaking at a seminar titled “GCC–Lebanon Relations: Challenges and Incentives” held at the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh, Al Budaiwi said the Gulf views Lebanon as an integral part of the Arab world and a key pillar of regional stability.

He reiterated the GCC’s consistent position in backing Lebanese state institutions and supporting full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution



“We view Lebanon as an integral part of the Arab world and a key pillar of regional stability.”

JASEM MOHAMMED AL BUDAIWI

1701, as well as efforts to extend state authority across all Lebanese territory and restrict weapons to official forces.

Al Budaiwi noted that Lebanon faces multiple challenges, including economic crisis, infrastructure damage, and humanitarian pressures following

recent escalations that caused large-scale displacement and casualties. He stressed the need for urgent international support to stabilize the country and promote recovery.

He added that GCC support for Lebanon is part of a shared international responsibility, empha-

sizing that long-term stability depends on strengthening state institutions, securing borders, and combating illegal activities.

The GCC chief concluded that the Gulf will remain a committed partner to Lebanon, expressing hope that the seminar will produce practical recommendations to support Lebanon politically, economically, and humanitarily.



Diplomacy Only Path to End Regional Crises



Qatar has reaffirmed its commitment to diplomatic engagement and regional stability, stressing continued coordination with international and regional partners amid rising geopolitical tensions.

Advisor to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr. Majed bin Mohammed Al Ansari said Qatar remains in regular contact with various parties, including the United States, to monitor developments and support efforts aimed at achieving a peaceful resolution to ongoing crises.

Speaking at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs weekly briefing, Al Ansari expressed Qatar’s full backing for Pakistan’s

diplomatic efforts, noting that consultations are ongoing and that it is premature to judge the outcome of negotiations, which continue to receive broad international support.

He said Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states are maintaining close coordination given the direct impact of the situation on regional security and stability.

Addressing the Strait of Hormuz, Al Ansari warned that any disruption or closure would escalate the crisis into a global issue, affecting energy supplies, logistics chains, and global markets. He described keeping the waterway open as a shared international responsibility and reaffirmed Qatar’s role in supporting maritime security and market stability.

Syria’s President Begins Gulf Tour



Syria’s President Ahmad Al Shara began a Gulf tour with an official visit to Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, according to his office.

In Jeddah, Al Shara held talks with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, focusing on strengthening bilateral relations and discussing regional developments.

Syrian state media said the visit forms part of a wider Gulf tour, although other destinations have not yet been confirmed. Discussions reportedly included economic coopera-

tion, investment opportunities, and regional connectivity projects.

Prince Saud bin Mishal, Deputy Governor of the Makkah Region, received Al Shara in Jeddah, along with senior officials including the city’s mayor, the regional police chief, and representatives from the royal court.

Saudi Arabia has emerged as a key investor in post-2024 Syria following Al Shara’s rise to power after leading a rebel offensive that ousted former President Bashar Al Assad.

Blockade Action



U.S. forces patrol the Arabian Sea near the M/V Touska, as the Iranian-flagged vessel undergoes inspection following a boarding operation by U.S. Marines after an alleged attempt to breach a naval blockade.

Reopening of Hamad International Airport



Qatar has begun a phased reopening of Hamad International Airport (HIA) to foreign airlines, marking a major step toward restoring full aviation operations after nearly two months of disruption linked to the US–Iran conflict.

The Qatar Civil Aviation Authority (QCAA) said the decision follows a comprehensive safety and security review conducted with relevant national agencies. It confirmed that all flights will operate under strict international safety standards with enhanced precautionary measures for passengers and aviation staff.

Qatar closed its airspace

All flights will operate under strict international safety standards with enhanced precautionary measures for passengers and aviation staff.

on February 28, 2026, after regional tensions escalated, forcing the suspension of commercial flights. A limited reopening began in March, allowing evacuation, repatriation, and cargo operations. Qatar Airways later resumed transit services on March 18, restoring partial connectivity through Doha.

Dubai Nears Completion of Massive Beach Development Project



Dubai Ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum inspects ongoing development works

As part of Dubai’s ongoing plan to make the city the best place to live in the world by 2040, a AED 3 billion Dubai Beaches Development Plan was previously approved to increase the capacity of Dubai’s beaches for tourists and visitors by 170%.

Work on the project is already underway, with construction teams continuing their progress without delay or slowdown.

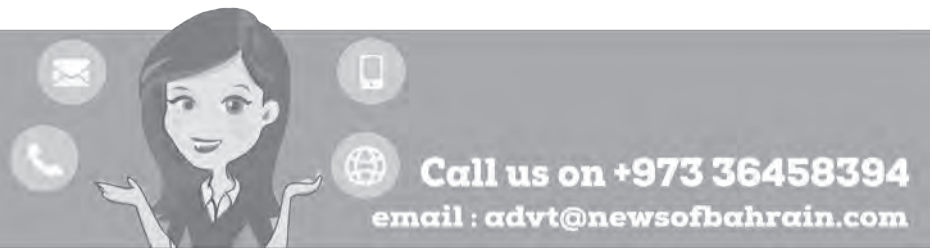
A key project under the strategy, the Mamzar Beach Development, was recently

inspected as it nears completion. It is set to become one of Dubai’s most attractive family beach destinations, capable of accommodating 7 million visitors annually across a 4 million square feet area.

Officials confirmed that development projects are ongoing, work will not stop, and the pace will continue to accelerate in line with Dubai’s development agenda.

They added that future phases will be even larger and more ambitious, reinforcing the city’s long-term vision.

Classifieds



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PSG and Luis Enrique sweat on Vitorinha ahead of Champions League semis

Midfield injury concern emerges before crucial Champions League semi-final

- Vitorinha misses Nantes match
- Injury concern before Bayern clash
- Ruiz returns from long layoff

AFP | Paris

Paris Saint-Germain coach Luis Enrique said yesterday he was unsure if midfield metronome Vitorinha would be fit to play against Bayern Munich in the Champions League semi-finals.

The Portuguese central midfielder will miss PSG's Ligue 1 clash against Nantes on Wednesday due to a heel inflammation.

"We'll take a calm and measured approach to see how the injured players can make a comeback. But I don't know," he told reporters when asked if Vitorinha would be back in time for next Tuesday's semi-final first leg at



Liverpool's German midfielder #07 Florian Wirtz battles for possession with Paris Saint-Germain's Portuguese midfielder #17 Vitorinha (file photo)

the Parc des Princes.

"We need to manage Vitorinha's

minor injury; some players are a bit tired or have a few niggles,"

the Spaniard also told PSGTV. Should the 26-year-old be un-

available, his place at the heart of the PSG midfield could be filled by the returning Fabian Ruiz.

Alongside Vitorinha and Joao Neves, Ruiz formed the midfield trio that anchored much of PSG's success last season as they won a maiden Champions League title and lifted the Ligue 1 trophy.

The Spaniard returned for the final 18 minutes of PSG's 2-1 league loss at home to Lyon last weekend as he continues his comeback from a knee injury.

Luis Enrique cooled expectations on the 30-year-old, however, as he said Ruiz would need "time to regain fitness" after spending three months on the sidelines.

"Fabian Ruiz needs more matches and minutes to recover," Luis Enrique insisted, before adding he was nonetheless "happy" with his return against Lyon.

The former Barcelona and Spain coach warned that even as PSG close in on a repeat of their double-winning season this term, he still demands "more"

3

months is the total amount of time Fabian Ruiz spent on the sidelines with a knee injury before his recent return to the squad

from all his charges.

Exciting Senegalese 18-year-old Ibrahim Mbeye was not included in the squad for Sunday's defeat to Lyon, with Luis Enrique explaining: "Every minute you get to play for PSG must be special."

"I have no regrets about Mbeye, but you have to be ready. He was ready, but I expect much more from all the players."

Victory in the French capital against Nantes on Wednesday would send PSG three points clear of surprise Ligue 1 title challengers Lens with five matches remaining in the campaign.

Alcaraz may skip French Open rather than rush injury comeback



Carlos Alcaraz reacts during a match (file photo)

AFP | Paris

French Open champion Carlos Alcaraz insisted Monday he would rather miss defending the Roland Garros title in May rather than rush treatment on a "serious" wrist injury.

The 22-year-old pulled out of the Barcelona clay-court tournament last week when he felt his wrist "give out on a return" and then revealed the injury to be "a more serious injury than any of us expected".

He then pulled out of the Madrid Open on Friday, casting doubt on his participation in Paris as of May 18.

On Monday that doubt deepened when he told press at an award ceremony he was taking a long term view.

"I'd rather come back a little later but in great shape than come back early, rushing around, and unwell."

"God willing, I have a very long career ahead of me, many years, and pushing myself too hard at this Roland Garros could seriously harm me in future tournaments," he said Monday.

"Things happen in the professional world. You have to accept them," he said. "I need to recover really well if I don't want it to affect me later on."

The world number two lost his top ranking following his defeat by Jannik Sinner in the Monte Carlo Masters final April 12.

Before that Alcaraz had won his past 17 matches on clay, dating back to last season when he lifted titles in Rome and at Roland Garros.

Sinner wants to use Madrid to boost career Grand Slam chances

AFP | Madrid

World number one Jannik Sinner said yesterday his principal aim as he prepares for the Madrid Open is to be in the "best possible shape" for Roland Garros next month as he seeks to complete a career Grand Slam.

The 24-year-old won his first major title on clay earlier this month as he downed rival Carlos Alcaraz in straight sets in the Monte Carlo Masters final.

Next he turns his attentions to the 1000-level event in Madrid as the clay-court season ramps up towards the only Grand Slam tournament Sinner has not yet won -- Roland Garros, which will run from May 24 to June 7.

"I never played very well here, so let's see how it goes this year," Sinner, who has never got past the quarter-final stage in the Spanish capital, told reporters the day before the Madrid Open begins.

"I'm trying to improve as a player and here might be one of the most challenging ones because of certain things (altitude and wind)."



Jannik Sinner reacts during a match (file photo)

Despite being heavily favoured to pick up a fifth consecutive Masters title, Sinner revealed that for him "the most important is Roland Garros".

"We try to maximise to be in

the best possible shape there, but I'm here trying to do my best and then we'll see how it goes," he added.

Sinner lost an all-time classic Roland Garros final last year to

"I'm trying to improve as a player and here might be one of the most challenging ones because of certain things (altitude and wind)

JANNIK SINNER

Alcaraz, despite holding three championship points.

But the Italian said he regretted the upcoming absences of the world number two, due to Alcaraz suffering a wrist injury, and 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic in Madrid.

"It's a very big pity to not have (Alcaraz) here and also Novak, the two biggest stars in tennis," Sinner said.

"We have shared since last year a lot of tournaments, but again, in my mind I also know if I want to play against Carlos it's in the final and the way to the final is very long."

Top seed Sinner will start his Madrid Open campaign in the second round against a yet to be determined opponent.

Man City, Inter, Chelsea and Juve to face off pre-season in Hong Kong

AFP | London

English and Italian football giants Manchester City, Chelsea, Inter Milan and Juventus will square up for pre-season friendlies in Hong Kong in August, the clubs announced.

Pep Guardiola's Manchester City, currently arm-wrestling Arsenal for the Premier League

title, will take on Inter Milan on Saturday, August 1, spearheaded by their Norwegian goal machine Erling Haaland.

The match will kick off the "Hong Kong Football Festival" at the city's futuristic 50,000-seat Kai Tak stadium.

The gleaming arena opened a year ago, featuring a roof that can be closed and air-condi-

tioning to combat the fierce summer heat and humidity in Hong Kong.

Chelsea will play Juventus on Wednesday August 5 to round off the mini-tournament.

Inter, under former Romanian international Cristian Chivu, are eight points clear at the top of Serie A as they look for a 21st title, second only to Juventus

who have won a record 36 Italian top-flight championships.

Juventus are fourth and looking to secure a Champions League spot under Luciano Spalletti.

Chelsea beat PSG to win the Club World Cup in the United States last year but have since parted company with then manager Enzo Maresca.

Top Horses to Clash in Bahrain's Season Finale Races

Race Card Overview:

Race 1: Arabian Horses Cup - 1400m (8 runners)
Race 2: Prestige Handicap (Bahrain-bred) - 1400m (16 runners)
Race 3: Accredited Committee Cup - 2400m (9 runners)
Race 4: Owners Cup (Bahrain-bred) - 2000m (9 runners)
Race 5: Bahrain Gold Cup - 2000m (6 runners)
Race 6: Champions Cup Sprint - 1200m straight (8 runners)
Race 7: Victory Sprint (Bahrain-bred) - 1200m straight (8 runners)
Race 8: Mile Cup (Imported) - 1600m (10 runners)
Race 9: Final Mile Cup (Bahrain-bred) - 1600m (8 runners)

TDT | Manama

The Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club will conclude the 2025/2026 horse racing season on Friday, April 24, with a highly anticipated final race meeting at its track, expected to draw strong interest from racing fans.

The season has reflected continued growth in Bahrain's horse racing sector, marked by the successful organization of domestic

and international events, alongside entertainment activities that enhanced the overall spectator experience and boosted public engagement.

A total of 82 horses, including top imported runners and Bahrain-bred contenders, will compete across nine races in a competitive closing card. The action will feature battles for several prestigious trophies, including the Rashid Equestrian Club Cups, the Champions Cup,



the Owners Cup, the Accredited Committee Cup, and the Bahrain Gold Cup.

Fans can expect an evening

filled with excitement and close finishes as the season reaches its climax, offering attendees a blend of sport and entertain-

ment. Tickets are available via the official website of the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club or at the gate on race days.

Di Matteo says 'vital' for faltering Chelsea to add experience

AFP | London

Chelsea great Roberto Di Matteo said yesterday it was "vital" that the faltering Premier League side add experienced players and backed Liam Rosenior to still be in charge next season.

The London club are in the midst of an alarming slump, sixth in the table after four defeats in a row and in serious danger of missing out on Champions League football.

Boos greeted the full-time whistle following Saturday's 1-0 defeat to Manchester United at Stamford Bridge after some supporters staged a street protest against owners BlueCo ahead of kick-off.

Former midfielder Di Matteo, who guided Chelsea to Champions League glory as manager in 2012, said "inconsistency" was understandable given the young age of the squad.

Mobility, motorsport focus at FIA meet

TDT | Manama

Motorsport and mobility leaders from the Middle East, Europe, and Africa have gathered in Budva for the FIA Region I Spring Meeting, a three-day forum focused on advancing safe, sustainable transport and strengthening global motorsport cooperation.

Hosted by the Auto-Moto Association of Montenegro (AMSCG), the meeting brings together representatives from 102 FIA Member Clubs. Discussions will focus on improving road safety, developing sustainable mobility systems, and enhancing the future of motorsport.

FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem is attending the event, where he highlighted the importance of collaboration in addressing current challenges in mobility and motorsport across regions.

"I look forward to engaging with colleagues on the key challenges and opportunities shaping mobility and motorsport today," he said, noting the need for safer, more sustainable, and more affordable transport solutions.

The agenda includes sessions from key FIA commis-



Mohammed Ben Sulayem, FIA President

"We are focused on delivering safer, more sustainable, and more accessible mobility solutions for all road users"

MOHAMMED BEN SULAYEM, FIA PRESIDENT

sions and working groups, covering heritage preservation, mobility innovation in Europe, and the ongoing rollout of the Safe Mobility 4 All and 4 Life programme.

Montenegro's transport sector, supported by recent infrastructure projects such as the Bar-Boljare motorway, is seen as a fitting backdrop for discussions on regional connectivity and sustainable growth. The country's growing grassroots motorsport scene, including rally and hill climb events, also reflects rising regional interest.

Tennis Federation celebrates youth contribution



TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Tennis Federation held a recognition ceremony to honor young players who served as ball boys during international and regional tournaments hosted throughout the current season. The initiative reflects the Federation's ongoing commitment to youth development and promoting values of discipline, responsibility, and engagement in sport.

The ceremony was attended by His Excellency Shaikh Abdulaziz bin Mubarak Al Khalifa,

President of the Bahrain Tennis Federation, along with Board Member Mohammed Salman, Jameela Al Nashaba, Head of the Women's Committee, and Ms. Naila Al Meer, Head of Marketing and Public Relations. Parents of the participating youths also attended the event.

Shaikh Abdulaziz praised the participants for their commitment and discipline, emphasizing their positive role in supporting tournament operations and the Federation's broader youth development strategy.

He stated: "Recognizing these

young participants aligns with the Federation's strategy to support youth and strengthen their connection to tennis. We are proud of their commitment, discipline, and positive spirit throughout their involvement in organizing the tournaments."

He further noted their contribution to the smooth running of events: "The young ball boys played an important role in the success of this season's tournaments. Their discipline and professionalism supported smooth match operations and reflected the high standards of

organization in the Kingdom of Bahrain."

He also highlighted the developmental value of the experience: "This exposure to a professional sporting environment helps instill values such as teamwork, responsibility, and discipline, contributing to their personal development."

The Federation concluded that the recognition is part of its continued efforts to acknowledge all contributors to its events and to invest in youth as a foundation for the future of tennis in Bahrain.

Barcelona need leaders to fulfil Flick's Champions League dream

AFP | Barcelona

Barcelona require leaders on the pitch if they are to achieve their coach Hansi Flick's dream of winning the Champions League, the German said yesterday.

The 61-year-old was speaking a week after his Champions League dream was dashed for a second successive season -- this time ousted in the quarter-finals by La Liga rivals Atletico Madrid.

Flick -- whose side went out



Hansi Flick

in the semi-finals last season to Inter Milan -- guided Barcelona

to the domestic double last term and his charges are on course for retaining their league title, they are nine points clear of Real Madrid with seven games to play.

"It is not an excuse but in the business end of the campaign in March and April, it is very important to have all the players available," he said at his press conference on the eve of their league match with Celta Vigo.

"Against Atletico we were missing Frenkie (de Jong) and

Raphinha.

"Last year we had Inigo (Martinez), who was a great leader.

"We need these type of players, capable of providing leadership on the pitch, to speak up during matches, in the quarter-finals or semi-finals of the Champions League, and to show the way."

Flick added the team, largely made up of players who came through the club's youth system, were "young" and must "learn" from each defeat in order to progress.

YOU

KNOW WHAT

The FIA unites around 245 member organisations across about 149 countries, representing more than 80 million members worldwide

Bahrain off to **winning** start at Asian Beach Games

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's beach handball national team made a strong start to their medal campaign with a straight-sets victory over hosts China in their opening match of the sixth Asian Beach Games in Sanya.

The contest, played yesterday at the

Tianya Haijiao Venue Cluster ahead of today's official opening ceremony, saw Bahrain secure a 2-0 win in their Group A preliminary round clash.

The Bahrainis took control early, claiming the first period 14-8 before edging a closely fought second period 15-14 to seal the match with out the need for a shoot-out.

Bilal Askani led the scoring effort with 11 points, while Mahdi Ali added nine. Ali Alhayki contributed five points, and Adam Isa Alnasheet chipped in with four during an attacking display.

Reflecting on the result, Alnasheet acknowledged the challenge of facing the hosts but praised his teammates' resilience. "Alhamdulillah for the win. The opening match is always difficult, especially against the host team with their home support," he said.

"They came back stronger in the second period, but we have warriors in this squad and we found a way to get the job done." Coached by Hussain Al Qaidoom, Bahrain delivered a disciplined performance as they took an early step toward a top-two finish in Group A and semi-final qualification.

The nationals were initially scheduled to face India later on the same day, but the fixture was cancelled following India's withdrawal from the competition.

Bahrain will now turn their attention to their next preliminary round match against the Philippines on Thursday, followed by Sri Lanka on Friday, Iran on Sunday, and Hong Kong on Monday to complete their group stage campaign.

The beach handball team is one of four Bahraini squads competing at the Games, alongside entries in 3x3 basketball, beach wrestling, and open water swimming.



Joy for Bahrain's players on the sand at full time

The Asian Beach Games mark the return of the multi-sport event after a decade-long absence; the previous edition was

held in 2016 in Da Nang, Vietnam. Bahrain will be aiming to add to their historical tally

of 11 medals at the Games, including seven gold, as they continue their campaign in Sanya.



Mahdi Ali goes for a shot against China at the Tianya Haijiao Venue Cluster

Guardiola hints that Rodri will make swift Man City return

AFP | London

Pep Guardiola has eased Manchester City's fears that Rodri could be ruled out for the remainder of the Premier League season, but the Spain midfielder is set to miss Wednesday's trip to Burnley.

The 2024 Ballon d'Or winner was instrumental to City's critical 2-1 win over title rivals Arsenal on Sunday before being forced off late on with a groin problem.

Rodri, 29, is unlikely to feature as City aim to go top of the table for the first time this year at Turf Moor.

But City then have 12 days until their next league game at Everton as they face Southampton in Saturday's FA Cup semi-final.

"I think for tomorrow he will not be ready," Guardiola said at his pre-match press conference yesterday. "We'll see for next games, the semi-final against Southampton or against Everton."

Rodri's return to form after an injury-disrupted 18 months has played a major role in City's surge back into the title race as he has formed a dominant



Manchester City's Spanish midfielder #16 Rodri (C-on ground) reacts after being injured

midfield partnership alongside Bernardo Silva.

"Both are experienced, they have a huge special personality," added Guardiola.

"They are not young guys anymore, experienced guys, but played a lot of this type of games and know how it must be played. They were exceptional."

Even if City win to condemn Burnley to relegation, they will still only be level on points with Arsenal with five games to go.

Momentum is with Guar-

diola's men, but he is wary of a tougher run-in for his side which includes visits to Everton and Bournemouth, who are both in the running to qualify for Europe next season.

"Both teams know we cannot lose or drop points," said Guardiola, who is aiming to win a seventh league title in nine seasons.

"It will be difficult to recover and our calendar is so demanding. The opponents are really tough."

BOC Conducts Field Visits to Boost Federation Development

The Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) has intensified its engagement with national sports bodies through a series of field visits aimed at strengthening coordination and supporting development across federations.

The visits were led by Hisham Al-Balushi, Director of Sports Federations Affairs, alongside Buallay, Head of the Sports Federations Section. The delegation met with officials from the Bahrain Athletics Association, Bahrain Basketball Association, Bahrain Handball Federation, and Bahrain Fencing Association.

During the tour, Al-Balushi conveyed the greetings of Faris Mustafa Al-Kooheji, reaffirming the BOC's commitment to supporting all federations and enhancing their operational performance.



At the Bahrain Fencing Association, discussions with Shaikh Ibrahim bin Salman Al Khalifa focused on development programmes, expanding participation, and addressing technical and administrative challenges, with particular emphasis on nurturing young talent. At the Bahrain Athletics Association, talks with Mohammed Abdul Latif bin Jalal reviewed progress, future plans, and strategies to improve ath-

lete performance and achieve stronger results in upcoming competitions.

Meetings with the Bahrain Basketball Association highlighted efforts to grow the sport locally, enhance competitiveness, and expand participation, while the visit to the Bahrain Handball Federation focused on building on recent successes and strengthening national teams for regional and international events.

