



Sixty-three medals, one mission

Bahrain athletes return home with a haul that rewrites the record books

TDT | Manama

Bahrain delivered one of its most impressive performances in GCC Games history yesterday as the 4th edition concluded in Doha, finishing third overall on the medal table with 63 medals — 25 gold, 22

silver, and 16 bronze — across 15 of the 17 sporting disciplines on offer. The Kingdom's athletes returned medal after medal over 12 days of competition, cementing Bahrain's status as one of the Gulf's most consistent sporting forces. The games, hosted by Qatar



from 11 to 22 May and featuring all six GCC nations, closed at venues across Doha yesterday with the final standings confirming Qatar as overall champions with 134 medals, Saudi Arabia second with 82, and Bahrain third with 63. (Read more on page 12)

Manama condemns deadly Damascus terror blast

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Bahrain strongly condemned the terrorist explosion near a Syrian Ministry of Defence building in the Bab Sharqi area of Damascus, which killed a soldier and injured several civilians.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs denounced the attack as a terrorist act aimed at undermining security and stability and terrorising innocent civilians.

The Ministry reaffirmed Bahrain's solidarity with Syria and reiterated the Kingdom's firm rejection of all forms of violence and terrorism.

Bahrain also extended condolences to the family of the slain soldier and to the Syrian government and people, while wishing those injured a speedy recovery.

The Kingdom further called for stronger international efforts to combat terrorism and protect civilians and public institutions.

Pakistan military chief in Tehran

Tehran, Iran

Pakistan's powerful army chief arrived in Tehran yesterday, with Islamabad mediating as the Islamic republic examines a new US proposal to end the Middle East war. Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei, however, said the visit did not necessarily mean "we have reached a turning point or a decisive situation".



220 fils (includes VAT)



Bahrain defended itself: British envoy

Alastair Long hails Bahrain's crisis response during Iranian attacks

British Embassy did not advise UK nationals to leave Bahrain during the attacks

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The United Kingdom's Ambassador to Bahrain Alastair Long has praised the Kingdom's handling of the recent Iranian attacks, saying Bahrain's defence forces and authorities managed the crisis with "extraordinary" efficiency while giving confidence to both citizens and expatriates during one of the region's most tense periods.

Speaking during a question-and-answer session with Al Ayam, the envoy revealed that the British Embassy did not advise UK nationals to leave Bahrain during the attacks, unlike some Western missions elsewhere in the region. Instead, British citizens were encouraged to follow official Bahraini guidance and remain calm.

"Absolutely. It completely reflected the confidence that we

I felt able to tell British people in Bahrain to remain calm and confident because Bahrain was doing an incredible job in the face of an extraordinary and shocking attack



had in the Bahraini authorities," the ambassador said.

He explained that the embassy advised residents to shelter in place if necessary and follow local instructions, while also reminding them that the King Fahd Causeway remained open for those wishing to leave the Kingdom.

The ambassador said Bahrain's response reassured not only diplomats but also the many British nationals living on the island.

"I felt able to tell British people in Bahrain to remain calm and confident because Bahrain was doing an incredible job in the face of an extraordinary and shocking attack," he said.

UK has never faced that sort of aggression."

The ambassador stressed that Bahrain itself carried the overwhelming responsibility for defending the Kingdom, while allies such as the UK played a supporting role.

"The absolute lion's share of Bahrain's defence was done by its own Defence Forces," he said. "The Bahraini people should be enormously proud."

According to the envoy, British support included RAF Typhoon patrols over Bahrain and assistance with counter-projectile operations.

"We tried to be there for our friend in their time of need," he said, while underlining that "Bahrain defended Bahrain".

On wider regional security, the ambassador reaffirmed Britain's commitment to Bahrain and the Gulf, saying the UK would always stand by its allies in the region. He also warned against threats to freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, describing free passage through international waters as a fundamental global principle that "cannot be damaged".

Gulf Air adds new Airbus A320neo to expanding fleet

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Gulf Air has welcomed a new Airbus A320neo to its fleet at Bahrain International Airport as part of the airline's ongoing fleet expansion programme.

The delivery increases the national carrier's fleet to 45 aircraft and reflects Gulf Air's continued focus on modernising its operations with more fuel-efficient aircraft.

The A320neo features one of the widest single-aisle cabins in the market and is equipped with Sharklets — advanced wingtip devices designed to improve aerodynamic performance and reduce fuel consumption. The aircraft delivers around 15 per cent lower fuel burn per seat compared with previous-generation models.

The airline said the aircraft also supports sustainability goals by reducing carbon emissions and cutting noise levels by nearly 50 per cent.

Gulf Air expects additional A320neo deliveries later this year as part of its fleet growth plans.



Rubio praises Kingdom's role in opposing Hormuz toll threat

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US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has highlighted Bahrain's leading role in international efforts opposing any attempt to impose tolls or restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz.

Speaking on on-

going diplomatic efforts with Iran, Rubio said the international community hoped to secure an agreement that would keep the strategic waterway open and ensure freedom of navigation.

He warned, however, that contingency plans would be necessary if Iran refused to reopen

the Strait or attempted to control maritime passage.

At the centre of global opposition to such proposals, Rubio said, is a United Nations resolution sponsored by Bahrain rejecting any tolling system in the Strait of Hormuz.

"We have a resolution right now in the United Nations. It's sponsored by Bahrain," Rubio said. "It has the highest number of co-sponsors

in the history of the Security Council."

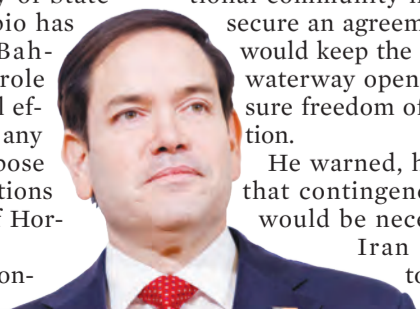
Rubio added that opposition to the proposal extended across the international community, including major powers such as China.

"No one in the world is in favour of a tolling system," he said.

He stressed that any attempt to impose tolls or restrictions in the Strait would be "unaccept-

able", illegal under international law and damaging to global trade and regional stability.

The Strait of Hormuz remains one of the world's most important shipping routes, carrying a major share of global energy supplies and commercial trade. Bahrain and other Gulf states are among the countries most directly affected by any disruption to navigation through the waterway.



Bahrain ramps up **anti-theft drive** with tougher surveillance and patrols

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Bahrain has stepped up efforts to combat theft and burglary through intensified police patrols, advanced surveillance technology and stricter enforcement measures, while warning offenders of severe legal penalties under the law.

Security authorities said police directorates across all governorates are continuing round-the-clock patrol operations aimed at tracking suspects, preventing theft-related crimes and strengthening public safety.

Officials stressed that modern technology has become a key weapon in crime detection, helping authorities identify suspects, analyse criminal methods and solve cases more efficiently. Community cooperation has also played a major role in supporting security efforts, they said.

Authorities highlighted that Bahraini law imposes harsh

Strict Legal Penalties Under Bahraini Law

The legal penalties for theft vary depending on the circumstances, according to Decree-Law No. (15) of 1976 and its amendments.

In aggravated cases, Article (374) stipulates life imprisonment for theft committed under certain conditions, including:

Occurring at night by two or more persons

Involving an armed offender

Breaking into inhabited or prepared-to-be-inhabited premises using force, break-in, false keys, impersonation, or deception

Use of force or threats involving weapons

Article (377) provides for imprisonment in cases such as theft committed at night by one or more persons where one is armed, or theft committed at night in a residence by a single armed offender.

Article (380) stipulates imprisonment of not less than three months if theft occurs in places of worship, inhabited houses, or their annexes.

punishments in aggravated theft cases. Under Decree-Law No. (15) of 1976 and its amendments, offenders can face life imprisonment in cases involving armed robbery, break-ins, threats, violence or crimes committed at night by multiple individuals.

Other offences involving theft from homes, places of worship or residential properties can also lead to prison terms.

Security officials said theft complaints are reviewed according to the circumstances of each case before being referred to the

Judicial Process

Security authorities classify theft cases according to their circumstances and applicable legal articles. Complaints are then referred to the Public Prosecution, which is responsible for conducting investigations, pressing charges, and completing legal procedures, including referring cases to the competent courts.

Public Prosecution for investigation and legal action. Cases are later transferred to the competent courts.

At the same time, authorities urged residents to strengthen home security measures to reduce the risk of theft.

Practical Tips for Home Security and Prevention

Authorities also issued a set of preventive guidelines to help residents safeguard their homes from theft, including:

Installing protective measures for windows, especially on lower floors

Using security surveillance cameras

Ensuring adequate outdoor lighting around the home

Avoiding leaving doors open or unsecured access points

Being discreet about travel plans and avoiding posting travel photos on social media

Avoiding storing valuables in small, easily opened safes

Not keeping spare keys near entrances or above door frames

Recommendations included installing surveillance cameras, securing windows and doors, improving outdoor lighting and avoiding public disclosure of travel plans on social media. Residents were also advised not to leave spare keys near entrances

or store valuables in easily accessible locations.

Officials said the measures form part of wider efforts to raise public awareness, strengthen community participation and maintain security and stability across the Kingdom.

Kingdom explores AI partnerships at Asia Tech x Singapore



Meeting between Mr. Mohammed Ali Al Qaed, Chief Executive of the Information & eGovernment Authority, and Mr. Karan Bhatia, Vice-President, Global Head, Government Affairs and Public Policy, Google.



Mr. Al Qaed during talks with Mr. Lu Song Ming, Director General of Science and Technology, Sichuan Province, in China.



Mr. Al Qaed during a discussion with Dr. He Ruiming, Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer at the Ministry of Digital Development in Singapore.

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Bahrain strengthened discussions on artificial intelligence, digital transformation and future technologies during the participation

of Information & eGovernment Authority (IGA) Chief Executive Mohammed Ali Al Qaed in Asia Tech x Singapore 2026.

Al Qaed held a series of bilateral meetings with senior international officials and global ICT

experts focused on expanding cooperation in advanced technologies and digital innovation.

During a meeting with Dr He Ruiming, Chief AI Officer at Singapore's Ministry of Digital Development and Information,

both sides exchanged expertise on AI governance and discussed Singapore's National AI Strategy. Al Qaed highlighted Bahrain's efforts in developing its own National AI Strategy and adopting AI-driven initiatives to build

national capabilities.

Discussions also covered Bahrain's innovation hub, AI-powered government solutions and opportunities for collaboration in Large Language Models.

Al Qaed also met officials

from Google, Salesforce and China's Sichuan Province to discuss cooperation in digital infrastructure, customer service technologies, digital twinning, research and advanced AI solutions.

South Korea reaffirms support for Bahrain



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H.E. Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Chairman of the Shura Council, received Choi Byung Sun following his appointment as ambassador of South Korea to Bahrain.

Al Saleh highlighted the strong and growing relations between Bahrain and South Korea, stressing the importance of enhancing parliamentary cooperation and exchanging legislative expertise between the two friendly nations.

The ambassador also reiterated South Korea's solidarity with Bahrain in confronting "Iranian attacks" targeting the Kingdom's security and stability, stressing his country's rejection of any actions that undermine Bahrain's sovereignty and security.

Both sides noted that this year marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Bahrain and South Korea, reflecting the strength of ties and continued cooperation between the two countries.

BACA to celebrate Bahraini folk heritage with 'Al-Hayya Biya' event

● The event will be held on May 25 at Qal'at Bu Mahir beach in Muharraq

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The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) has announced a new cultural event titled Al-Hayya Biya, aimed at celebrating Bahrain's folk heritage and preserving its intangible cultural traditions.

The event will be held on May 25 at Qal'at Bu Mahir beach in Muharraq, featuring a family-friendly programme combining traditional music, storytelling and heritage-inspired environmental activities.

BACA said the initiative seeks to revive collective memories linked to Bahraini social traditions and strengthen connec-



tions with the Kingdom's cultural identity.

The programme will include a cultural evening showcasing folk customs and traditions passed down through generations, alongside storytelling sessions led by traditional narrator Baba Yaseen. His performances will focus on tales connected to Bahrain's maritime heritage,

local identity and the historic relationship between the community and the sea.

Traditional songs inspired by Al-Hayya Biya will also be presented, along with segments promoting cultural preservation and environmental awareness.

The event will further feature reflections linked to the

Day of Arafah and Eid Al-Adha, highlighting spiritual and social values deeply rooted in Bahraini society.

According to BACA, the programme forms part of wider national efforts to preserve Bahrain's living heritage and promote cultural identity through community engagement and traditional art

Bahrain Hotel: A forgotten icon waiting for rebirth

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain Hotel has a cult following.

For many, it is not merely a hotel tucked away in the heart of Manama, but a living fragment of Bahrain's past.

Long before glass towers and luxury resorts transformed the skyline, Bahrain Hotel stood as one of the Kingdom's earliest symbols of modern hospitality — a landmark that welcomed the world to Bahrain.

Its corridors once echoed with the footsteps of merchants, sailors, diplomats and travellers arriving by sea and aboard the first aircraft routes connecting the Gulf to distant shores.

The building witnessed an era when Bahrain's fortunes revolved around pearling, bustling trade routes and the first wave of the oil boom that reshaped the Kingdom forever.

But beyond its history, it is the nostalgia that gives Bahrain Hotel its enduring soul.

Private sector-led revival

After years of uncertainty, Bahrain Hotel now appears to be standing on the edge of a new chapter.

Confirming this to The Daily Tribune, Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Director-General of Heritage at Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, said the building had been formally listed as a historic site because of both its architectural importance and its place in Bahrain's history as the Kingdom's first hotel.

"It is the first hotel in Bahrain and has particular architectural and historical value for Manama," he said.

According to Shaikh Mohammed, the authority acquired



“Bahrain Hotel is part of Manama's identity and deserves to return as a living landmark

SHAIKH MOHAMMED BIN KHALIFA AL KHALIFA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HERITAGE AT BACA



“Restoring Bahrain Hotel will help revive the cultural heart of old Manama

AHMED QARATA, PARLIAMENT'S SECOND DEPUTY SPEAKER



“This is not just a building, but a memory shared by generations across the Gulf

DR MUNEER SEROOR, MP

the property several years ago specifically to preserve it and prepare it for redevelopment.

"Work is now taking place with the relevant government bodies to draw up plans for its restoration and future operation, in partnership with the private sector," he said.

Who owned it?

Behind the now-iconic landmark was Abdul-Noor Al Bastaki, the businessman credited with establishing what would later become one of Manama's most recognisable buildings.

The property remained with the family until it was eventually acquired by BACA as part of efforts to preserve the historic structure.

Restoration plans

Since 2022, BACA has been attempting to attract investors capable of restoring the ageing property to its former glory.

The original proposal in-

involved private investors appointing engineers and interior designers to prepare restoration plans before contractors were brought in to begin the transformation.

Once completed, the vision was to hand the restored property over to either a local or international operator capable of turning the landmark into a functioning destination once again.

Shaikh Mohammed said Bahrain Hotel could not be treated as an isolated restoration project, stressing that the surrounding streets and neighbouring properties would also need to be integrated into the wider redevelopment vision for old Manama.

'Not neglected'

Shaikh Mohammed strongly rejected suggestions that the landmark had been abandoned or ignored.

"The building was not ne-

glected," he said firmly.

"In fact, we acquired it precisely to secure and preserve it."

He explained that the delay was tied to broader redevelopment plans for the surrounding district.

"The success of the project is linked to the wider development of the area," he said.

Comprehensive development

According to Shaikh Mohammed, authorities are now preparing a broader vision aimed at reshaping part of old Manama into a connected cultural and tourism district.

"We are looking forward to announcing, soon, a fuller plan for the area," he said.

"It will include several projects designed to work together and create an integrated urban, tourism and cultural destination in the heart of Manama."

Assessment completed

Authorities have already con-

ducted structural assessments on the ageing building.

Based on those findings, stabilisation work and safety measures were carried out to ensure the structure remained secure while future plans were prepared.

However, Shaikh Mohammed declined to reveal further details about the assessments or restoration work already undertaken.

"They are tied to the next plans and potential private-sector partnership," he said.

Qarata warns of 'danger'

Not everyone, however, believes enough has been done.

Ahmed Qarata, Second Deputy Speaker, painted a far grimmer picture of the area surrounding the historic hotel.

He warned that the neighbourhood had fallen into serious decline and cautioned that the deteriorating building itself could eventually become a danger to the public.

"Dirt has consumed the area, which is now plagued by rodents and poor sanitation," he said.

While acknowledging that the authority had acquired the property, Qarata argued that the project had effectively stalled.

Heritage value

Yet even Qarata insists the building remains too important to lose.

"It carries immense heritage value, and its façade still retains a distinctive classical character," he said.

Manama's memory

For MP Dr Muneer Seroor, Bahrain Hotel represents something far greater than ageing concrete and fading walls.

To him, it is part of Manama's

collective memory.

"This landmark, which once overlooked the sea in one of the city's busiest districts, was never merely a hotel," Dr Seroor told TDT.

"Many people across the Gulf still remember the place. It also remains in the memory of foreign visitors who knew Bahrain as one of the region's earliest commercial and cultural centres."

Not just another project

Dr Seroor said the restoration should ultimately transform Bahrain Hotel into a modern heritage destination while preserving its original soul.

"Modern facilities should be introduced to attract visitors, tourists and those interested in the history of the Gulf and the wider region."

All options open

For now, officials say every possibility remains on the table.

According to Shaikh Mohammed, the site could eventually return as a heritage hotel, a cultural centre, or another form of public destination tied to the revival of old Manama.



In its heyday, Bahrain Hotel was one of the few places in Manama where travellers could experience air-conditioning, modern rooms and international-style hospitality — luxuries that were rare in the Gulf at the time.

Bahrain showcases housing success at World Urban Forum

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Bahrain highlighted its experience in housing development and urban planning during the 13th World Urban Forum, where global experts, policymakers and institutions gathered to discuss sustainable cities and housing solutions.

Representing the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, Ahmed Kamel Ahmed Al Sharaf, Director of Developer Affairs Relations, presented Bahrain's Government Land Development Programme (GLDP) during a session organised by the Gulf Cooperation Council Secretariat General.

He said the programme



strengthens partnerships with the private sector to accelerate housing delivery through the development of government-owned land.

Al Sharaf revealed that seven projects are being launched to provide more than 4,000 housing units between 2024 and 2027. He also announced the completion of Suhail in Al Lawzi, Hay Al Naseem in Salman City and Al Wadi in Al Buhair, alongside the launch of reservations for Danat Sanad units in the Southern Gov-

ernorate through the off-plan sales programme. Three more projects are currently under way in Salman City.

During another panel discussion titled Innovating the Housing Market, Al Sharaf highlighted Bahrain's efforts to link urban planning with sustainable financing solutions to create more inclusive and sustainable cities.

The session also reviewed Bahrain's off-plan sales programme, which allows citizens to reserve housing units early

through approved and transparent plans while benefiting from financing and procedural support.

Meanwhile, Amina Majed, Head of Institutional Excellence and Innovation at the ministry, presented Bahrain's housing experience during a workshop titled From Policy to Practice: Delivering Housing Solutions. Bahrain was among 29 countries selected from over 800 submissions to showcase successful housing



Ahmed Kamel Ahmed Al Sharaf, Director of Developer Affairs Relations at the Ministry.



Amina Majed, Head of Institutional Excellence and Innovation at the Ministry

initiatives.

She said more than 21,000 Bahraini families have benefited from financing programmes such as Tasheel, Tasheel+, Mazaya and Mazaya for the Newly Introduced Category, helping reduce waiting lists and injecting more than BD1.9 billion into the economy.

On the sidelines of the forum, the ministry also showcased the Khalifa City Master Plan and Evolution of Housing Policy in Bahrain on the United Nations Human Settlements Programme's digital Best Practices Platform, where both projects received praise from participating delegations.



Hope After Hardship

Pradeep Puravankara
TDT | Manama

A 54-year-old Indian expatriate injured in a serious road accident in Bahrain has finally returned home to India after months of medical treatment and uncertainty.

Subba Lakshmmamma, from Andhra Pradesh, flew

from Bahrain to Chennai on Friday as part of a humanitarian repatriation effort involving community activists, volunteers, hospitals, and diplomatic support. She was accompanied by a volunteer and is being transferred by ambulance to Andhra Pradesh for further treatment and rehabilitation.

Lakshmmamma had been hospitalised since October 2025 following a major accident that left her with severe neurological complications and unable to communicate properly.

The repatriation was coordinated by the Pravasi Legal Cell along with volunteers and social organisations.

Support also came from the Embassy of India in Bahrain, Salmaniya Medical Complex, and Muharraq Geriatric Hospital.

Throughout this challenging process, the Pravasi Legal Cell (PLC) Bahrain Chapter, led by Sudhir Thirunilath, provided relentless logistical and emotional support,

coordinating documentation and repatriation procedures. The PLC extended its heartfelt gratitude to Governing Council member Mrs. Spandana Kishore and Working Committee members Mr. Faisal Pattandi, Mr. Sabu Chirammal, and Mr. Gangadhar Rao for their tireless, round-the-clock efforts.

Salmaniya set for smoother traffic flow with new road works

TDI | Manama

The Ministry of Works has begun implementing a road development project on Street 2904 in Block 329 of Salmaniya in the Capital Governorate.

According to Engineer Hamad Ibrahim Bado, Director of Roads Projects and Maintenance at the Ministry of Works, the project covers a 600-metre stretch from the intersection with Salmaniya Street in the north to King Abdulaziz Street in the south. The road runs adjacent to the Salmaniya Medical Complex and Gulf University on its western side. He said the project will improve traffic flow, regulate vehicle movement, increase and organise parking spaces,



and reduce random and illegal parking, thereby easing congestion and improving overall road safety. The scope of work includes reconstruction of road infrastructure, relocation and

protection of underground utilities, installation of a drainage network, and the construction of sidewalks and parking bays. The project will also include the installation of road signs and



Engineer Hamad Ibrahim Bado, Director of Roads Projects and Maintenance at Works Ministry

traffic guidance systems.

The Ministry urged motorists to follow traffic signs and on-site instructions to ensure safety during the construction period.



Prominent businessman Mr. Khalid Al Amin met senior Thai officials and business leaders in Bangkok as part of efforts to strengthen trade cooperation, expand market access, and diversify import sources. The discussions focused on enhancing economic partnerships, supporting private sector growth, and ensuring stable supply chains amid global geopolitical and economic challenges. Al Amin highlighted Bahrain's vision under the leadership of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, noting that the Kingdom has built a resilient and adaptive economic system. He emphasised the importance of sustainable trade networks, food security, and investment diversification to reinforce Bahrain's position as a competitive regional hub and ensure long-term economic stability.

Royal Medical Services enhances ties with Turkish healthcare sector



Manama

Bahrain's Royal Medical Services reviewed advanced rehabilitation, prosthetics and emergency medical technologies during an official visit to the Republic of Türkiye led by Brigadier General Dr Shaikh Fahad bin Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Commander of the Royal Medical Services and Chairman of the Supreme Committee for Overseas Treatment.

During the visit to Medipol University Hospital, Brig. Gen.



Brig. Gen. Dr. Shaikh Fahad visits a company specializing in mobile clinics and field ambulance solutions in Türkiye.

Dr Shaikh Fahad was briefed on the latest technologies in prosthetic design and manufacturing, as well as specialised rehabilitation programmes and patient care systems aimed at improving recovery outcomes and quality of life.

The visit also included a field tour of a specialised company focused on mobile medical clinics and field ambulance solutions, where modern operational systems and emergency medical equipment were showcased to support rapid response and healthcare delivery in field conditions.



Bahrain has submitted a copy of the Host Country Agreement signed with the Permanent Court of Arbitration to the Court's Secretariat in The Hague, marking a significant step in strengthening the Kingdom's position in international legal cooperation and arbitration. The agreement was submitted by Dr Mohammed Ali Behzad, Bahrain's Ambassador to Belgium and Head of its Mission to the European Union and NATO, during a meeting with Dr Marcin Czepelak, Secretary General of the Court. Dr Behzad said the move reflects Bahrain's commitment to supporting the rule of law, promoting peaceful dispute resolution and strengthening the international legal system.

BIS Celebrates Francophonie



Bhavans Bahrain Indian School (BIS) celebrated International French Speaking Countries Day with competitions and cultural presentations showcasing the richness of the French language and Francophone culture under the theme Le Diversite Notre Fierté (Diversity Our Pride). Students participated in poetry recitation, French songs, cultural presentations, literature writing and fashion shows featuring traditional Francophone attire and performances inspired by the French Revolution. Directors Himanshu Verma and Ritu Verma praised the students' enthusiasm and cultural awareness, while Principal Saji Jacob commended students and teachers for their efforts. The event highlighted BIS's commitment to linguistic learning, cultural understanding and creative expression.



Science & Computer Science Week celebrated at NMS Bahrain



New Millennium School, Bahrain organised Quantum Quest - Science & Computer Science Week 2026 from May 10 to 14, with participation from students of Grades KG to XII. The event featured science experiments, coding challenges, AI projects, model-making and sustainability activities aimed at promoting creativity, critical thinking and digital literacy. Students showcased innovations ranging from simple science models to advanced AI and Python-based projects. A key highlight was the exhibition of student projects and scientific displays. Principal Dr Arun Kumar Sharma praised the students' creativity and innovation, while Chairman Dr Ravi Pillai and Managing Director Mrs Geetha Pillai commended the school community for the successful event.

Stocks gain, oil higher as investors weigh Mideast peace prospects

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Stocks pushed higher yesterday while oil prices rose as traders tracked headlines on the chances for peace in the Middle East, against a backdrop of corporate earnings optimism and AI enthusiasm that have pushed indexes to record highs.

Wall Street moved broadly higher after the Dow Jones reached an all-time high Thursday, despite concerns that soaring energy prices will stoke inflation and lead central banks to hike interest rates.

US Federal Reserve Governor Chris Waller added his voice to a growing bloc of policymakers calling for the US central bank to indicate that its next move could be an interest rate hike.

Fears about inflation and higher interest rates earlier this

Key figures at around 1530 GMT

Brent North Sea Crude:	▲ 1.5% at \$104.15 a barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ 1.4% at \$97.67 a barrel
New York - DOW:	▲ 0.8% at 50,710.40 points
New York - S&P 500:	▲ 0.7% at 7,495.54
New York - Nasdaq:	▲ 0.7% at 26,473.25
London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.2% at 10,466.26 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.4% at 8,115.75 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▲ 1.2% at 24,888.56 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 2.7% at 63,339.07 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▲ 0.9% at 25,606.03 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 0.9% at 4,112.90 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▼ at 1.1603 from \$1.1622 on Thursday
Pound/dollar: UNCHANGED	at \$1.3439
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 159.13 from 158.91 yen
Euro/pound:	▼ at 86.35 from 86.48 pence

week sent the yield on the 30-year Treasury to its highest level since 2007, with long-term

debt yields in Britain and Japan hitting rates not seen since last century.

The rise in debt costs could force governments to cut back spending, just as economic activity is slowing due to higher energy costs.

European markets also posted gains after Asia closed out the week with a rally, with sentiment boosted by AI chip giant Nvidia's latest earnings report that blew past analyst forecasts.

"Nobody really knows where these (US-Iran) negotiations are heading, but for now, markets are doing what they often do when a potential geopolitical off-ramp appears -- tentatively moving as if the good news could be around the corner," said Matt Britzman, senior equity analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown.

The US and Iran have a "50-50" chance of reaching an agreement that would free up the Strait of Hormuz, according to

a senior UAE official.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio meanwhile said talks to end the war could progress, with help from Pakistani mediators to help strike an agreement.

President Donald Trump warned this week that negotiations were on the "borderline" between a deal and renewed strikes.

A key sticking point remains the Strait of Hormuz, which is effectively closed to around one-fifth of global energy supplies.

The head of the International Energy Agency, Fatih Birol, warned Friday that oil markets risk entering a "red zone" by July or August if there is no progress on ending the war and getting Gulf oil shipments back flowing.

"The market continues to

think that a deal between the US and Iran is likely, even if we have had mixed messages from both sides," said Kathleen Brooks, research director at XTB trading group.

In Europe, German business morale unexpectedly increased in May, a survey showed Friday, raising hopes that Europe's biggest economy is weathering the Iran war energy shock better than feared.

The Ifo institute's confidence barometer rose to 84.9 points from 84.5 in April, the first time it has gone up since the start of the Mideast conflict, and confounding analyst expectations for a slight decrease.

Financial markets will be closed on Monday in London and the United States for holidays, while continental Europe markets will be open.

Who killed Trump's AI order? Musk says it wasn't him

● A draft of the shelved order leaked to US media shows the White House had prepared new AI cybersecurity measures

AFP | Washington, United States

Speculation swirled yesterday over the last-minute collapse of President Donald Trump's planned executive order on powerful AI models, with fingers pointing at the president's allies in Silicon Valley who oppose government oversight of the technology.

A draft of the shelved order leaked to US media shows the White House had prepared new AI cybersecurity measures before Trump pulled the plug Thursday. His former AI czar had reportedly called Trump directly to raise objections.

The collapse is the latest sign that Washington remains unable to agree on even modest guardrails for the technology



-- leaving the United States well behind Europe and Asia and far short of what many safety advocates say is needed.

If enacted, the dropped executive order would have given the federal government up to 90 days of access to the most powerful AI models before their public release, and it would

have established a coordinated response to AI-enabled threats to banks, hospitals and other critical infrastructure.

Politico and other media reported that David Sacks, the Silicon Valley venture capitalist who served as Trump's AI and crypto czar, called the president Thursday morning -- blindsid-

ing White House staff -- to warn that the measure would slow innovation and hurt the US in its AI race with China.

Officials believed Sacks supported the order, but the night before the planned signing he began raising concerns that the voluntary review process could one day be made mandatory.

The Washington Post reported a broader account: Last-minute calls from Sacks, Elon Musk -- CEO of SpaceX and Tesla -- and Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Meta, convinced the president not to sign.

Musk denied the claim on his social media platform X.

"This is false. I still don't know what was in that executive order and the President only spoke to me after declining to sign," he wrote. Meta also disputed the report, saying Zuckerberg had spoken to Trump only after the order was rescinded.

Fear of Mythos

To assuage concerns of government overreach, the draft explicitly stated that nothing in the order should be read as creating a mandatory licensing or approval requirement for AI models.

According to The Information and other media, tech companies also pushed to cut the pre-release access window from 90 days to just 14.

The order was triggered in part by concerns over An-

throp's Mythos model, which the AI startup has refused to release publicly over safety fears.

The collapse of Thursday's effort leaves the administration with no formal plan for managing the security risks posed by the most powerful AI systems -- and no timeline for producing one.

Trump scrapped an AI oversight order signed by his predecessor Joe Biden on his first day back in the White House.

Biden's 2023 order required AI companies to share safety test results with the government and leaned heavily on voluntary commitments -- already a light-touch approach that fell well short of what many experts had called for.

By contrast, the European Union's AI Act -- which entered into force in 2024 -- sets binding rules for high-risk AI systems, including mandatory transparency requirements and, for the most powerful models, obligations around safety testing and incident reporting.

India central bank to transfer \$29.9 bn to government amid war shock

AFP | Mumbai, India

India's central bank said yesterday it approved a record 2.86 trillion rupee (\$29.9 bil-

lion) payout to the government to help bolster New Delhi's coffers at a time when public finances are strained due to high global oil prices.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said its board had greenlit the "transfer of surplus" after taking into account current macroeconomic factors, its own financial performance and the "maintenance of appropriate risk buffers".

The RBI makes annual transfers to the government that are based on surplus income it generates from its own investments and activities like the printing of banknotes and minting of coins. The payout

for the 2025-26 financial year is higher than the 2.69 trillion rupees transferred last year, but missed the average analyst estimate of around 3 trillion rupees.

As the world's third-largest buyer of oil, New Delhi normally sources about half of its crude through the Strait of Hormuz, which has been effectively blocked by Iran since the beginning of the Middle East conflict on February 28. Rising fertiliser prices -- a portion of global urea exports pass through Hormuz -- could also add to New Delhi's farmer subsidy bill, throwing a wrench into the budget calculations of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

US consumer confidence fell even further than estimated in May: survey

Washington, United States

Record-low US consumer confidence in May was even worse than initially reported, according to fresh data released by the University of Michigan yesterday, with Americans battered by the economic fallout of the Iran war.

According to final figures, the university's consumer sentiment index came in at 44.8 points, down from 48.2 points in its preliminary estimate released on May 8.

The reading is the

lowest level since data collection began in 1952, according to the survey's website.

"The cost of living continues to be a first-order concern, with 57% of consumers spontaneously mentioning that high prices were eroding their personal finances, up from 50 percent last month," said Joanne Hsu, director of the survey.

The US-Israel war on Iran has engulfed the Middle East in violence and sent global energy prices skyrocket-

ing over Tehran's retaliatory actions.

Members of US President Donald Trump's Republican Party reported a decrease in sentiment, hitting their lowest level in the current administration's term.

"Critically, consumers appear worried that inflation will increase and proliferate beyond fuel prices, even in the long run," Hsu said.

Respondents to the survey expected consumer inflation to hit 4.8% in the year ahead, up significantly from before the war.

Long-run inflation expectations rose to 3.9%, significantly above the US Federal Reserve's target of two percent.



Nearly one-fifth of the world's oil passes through the Strait of Hormuz every day, making crude prices highly sensitive to tensions in the Gulf.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

TODAY YOU ARE YOU! THAT IS TRUER THAN TRUE! THERE IS NO ONE ALIVE WHO IS YOU-ER THAN YOU!
DR. SEUSS



Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli strike that targeted the Nabatieh village in southern Lebanon

Israeli strike kills 2 in south Lebanon: military

AFP | Jerusalem

The Israeli military carried out an air strike in south Lebanon, killing two people it said yesterday had been armed and "moving in a suspicious manner" in an area where it is fighting Hezbollah.

Israel and the Iran-backed group have been regularly trading fire in the country's south despite a ceasefire, which was extended by the Israeli and Lebanese authorities last week.

"A short while ago, IDF surveillance identified two armed individuals moving in a suspicious manner hundreds of metres from Israeli territory, in southern Lebanon," the Israeli military posted on Telegram.



TOP 4 TWEETS

01



Humanitarian aid is never the end goal. This week, UNHCR and @UNDP updated our partnership to advance self-reliance and lasting solutions for people forced to flee. Together, we can help displaced people and host communities build a more stable future.

@BarhamSalih

02



Protecting nature starts close to home. This #BiodiversityDay, we are reminded that living in harmony with nature begins in our communities—and that local action is key to halting biodiversity loss and securing a sustainable future for all.

@AminaJMohammed

03



We need to get ahead of this Ebola outbreak. I am allocating up to \$60 million from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund to accelerate the response in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the wider region.

@UNReliefChief

04



Another deadly strike on a crowded market in West Kordofan, Sudan, with more than 20 killed and injured civilians. Civilians must never be targets. Attacks on markets, hospitals and other civilian infrastructure in Sudan must stop. #IHL must be respected.

@hadjalahbib

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

Rubio tells NATO allies to face up to troop cuts in Europe

Alliance partners attempt to calm tensions with Donald Trump ahead of Ankara summit

- NATO allies seek clarity from Marco Rubio
- Trump announces Poland deployment plan
- Europe fears coordination breakdown
- Rubio denies punitive troop moves

AFP | Washington

NATO's European members scrambled yesterday to get clarity from US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on troop shifts by Washington, as they sought to placate President Donald Trump's ire on Iran ahead of a July summit.

Trump left heads spinning as NATO foreign ministers gathered in the Swedish city of Helsingborg by announcing he would send 5,000 troops to Poland, in an apparent reversal of Washington earlier calling off the planned deployment.

The shift was welcomed by NATO chief Mark Rutte and Poland's foreign minister, but it fuelled concerns about a lack of coordination between the United States and its allies.

"It is confusing indeed, and not always easy to navigate," said Swedish foreign minister Maria Malmer Stenergard.

Trump's seeming U-turn came after Washington earlier this month abruptly announced it was withdrawing 5,000 troops from Germany following a spat



Paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade of the US Army in Europe take part in the military exercise, "Swift Response 2025" in the military base in Rukla, Lithuania

between Trump and Chancellor Friedrich Merz.

Rubio insisted that the US decisions on troops were "not punitive", and were due to Washington constantly needing to "re-examine" deployments to meet its global needs.

A string of NATO ministers said that US drawdowns on the continent were widely expected as Washington focuses on other threats and Europe ramps up its defences.

"What is important is that it happens in a structured manner, so that Europe is able to build up when the US reduces its presence," Norwegian foreign minister



ter Espen Barth Eide said.

The meeting in Sweden comes after Trump has lashed out at Europe over its response to his war on Iran -- and threatened he could consider quitting NATO.

Diplomats said the aim was to turn the page ahead of the alliance summit in Ankara so that they could focus on showcasing increased spending by Europe.

"The president's views, frankly disappointment, at some of our NATO allies and their response to our operations in the Middle East -- they're well documented -- that will have to be addressed," Rubio said.

He added that the Ankara summit would be "probably one of the more important leaders' summits in the history of NATO".

In a bid to calm the storm, some European allies have dis-

YOU KNOW WHAT

NATO diplomats are reportedly lining up major European arms deals ahead of the Ankara summit to demonstrate commitment to Donald Trump's defence spending demands

patched vessels closer to the region to help in the Strait of Hormuz when the war ends.

"Europeans have heard the message," Rutte said.

German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl said he did not expect NATO to send its own mission to the region.

Since Trump's return to power last year, NATO has weathered a series of crises including talking him down from trying to seize Greenland.

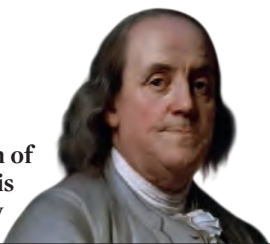
Now the fallout from the Iran war threatens to overshadow the summit in the Turkish capital Ankara.

NATO had been hoping to focus on showing Trump that allies were making good on their promise to him at last year's summit to ramp up defence-related spending to five percent of GDP.

Diplomats say a spate of arms deals are being lined up to show the US leader that Europe is putting its money where its mouth is.

1785

Benjamin Franklin describes his invention of bifocals in a letter to his friend George Whatley



1934

American outlaws Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow are killed by police in an ambush near Sailes, Louisiana

1949

Federal Republic of (West) Germany is created from the American, British, and French occupation zones

1958

Mao Zedong starts the "Great Leap Forward" movement in China, kills between 23 and 55 million Chinese citizens due to famine and forced labor

Italy, France, UK, Germany urge Israel to **end** settlement expansion

Four nations say expansion undermines two-state solution and stability



New prefabricated Jewish outpost homes are placed in position along a road that heads toward the Palestinian village of Umm al-Khair, wedged between the new outpost of Karmel (foreground Left) and the Israeli settlement of Karmel (hilltop), south of the town of Yatta in the southern area of the Israeli-occupied Palestinian West Bank

● West Bank violence sharply worsens

● E1 project faces international criticism

● EU sanctions calls grow louder

● Activist treatment fuels tensions

AFP | Rome

Italy, France, Britain and Germany urged Israel yesterday to stop expanding its settlements in the West Bank, saying the government was "undermin-

ing stability" and prospects for a two-state solution.

"We call on the government of Israel to end its expansion of settlements and administrative powers, ensure accountability for settler violence and investigate allegations against Israeli forces," said the countries in a joint statement.

Noting that the situation in the West Bank had "deteriorated significantly" in the past few months, the countries said settler violence towards Palestinians was at "unprecedented levels".

"The policies and practices of the Israeli government, including a further entrenchment of Israeli control, are undermining stability and prospects for a two-state solution," read the statement.

The countries condemned Is-

3,400

housing units are planned under Israel's controversial E1 settlement expansion project

rael's E1 settlement plan -- a new construction project expected to build some 3,400 housing units in the occupied West Bank over 12 square kilometres (4.6 square miles) -- saying it would be a "serious breach of international law".

"Businesses should not bid for construction tenders for E1 or other settlement developments.

They should be aware of legal and reputational consequences of participating in settlement construction including the risk of involving themselves in serious breaches of international law," the countries said.

The statement also called on Israel to lift its financial restrictions on the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian economy.

The four countries also noted that they "strongly oppose those, including members of the Israeli government, who argue for annexation and forcible displacement of the Palestinian population".

Since the war in Gaza broke out in October 2023, near-daily violence has also rocked the West Bank, which Israel has occupied since 1967.

Bahrain's e-Waste Management Needs Impetus



KOTA SRIRAJ

Bahrain has a proactive approach towards e-waste management. The Supreme Council for Environment (SCE) classifies electronic waste as hazardous and has partnered with telecom operators to roll out IoT-based electronic waste collection, transportation and monitoring systems. Bahrain's initiative to rally e-waste collection has paid off very well as a result of this corporations like Zain Bahrain run highly successful annual national e-waste competitions targeting schools, collecting up to 8.6 tonnes of electronics during individual drives. However, inspite of these commendable measures and efforts, the rate of e-waste generation has been picking steadily. Currently the per capita e-waste generation is at 17.8 kg. This is an indicator that needs immediate attention and requires ramped up corporate disposal and rejuvenated public collection drives.

The e-waste output in Bahrain also shows that the nation is firmly tech-savvy and the turnover of tech equipment relates to the fact that updation and upgradation is happening at a rapid pace. This is a positive sign for a fast moving economy that is building its momentum on technology, but it is equally important to ensure that the pace of recycling catches up with that of consumption. The concept of circular economy that is AI-driven coupled with stricter extended producer responsibility (EPR) can bring outstanding results in e-waste management for Bahrain. The EPR can mandate manufacturers to use QR codes to trace electronic components through their collection pipelines to prove they met the required recycling quotas. Bahrain can also deploy AI and smart robotics to power automated disassembly lines that identify and sort hazardous reusable components safely and accurately.

Similarly, bioleaching and hydrometallurgy are yet another options for clean metal recovery from e-waste. These methods supersede polluting traditional smelting processes by utilising bacteria and precise chemical liquids to extract precious metals and rare earth elements safely. In addition to these measures, Bahrain can also explore utilising blockchain to track electronics from manufacture to disposal. This transparent tracking ensures responsible recycling and adherence to applicable compliances. To add more power to e-waste management drive, Bahrain can ensure that the electronic manufacturers design only those products that have modular hardware with longer lifespans, prioritising upgradeability, therefore making devices easier to repair or dismantle. Additionally, e-commerce platforms must also be encouraged to implement programs that allow consumers to conveniently return old devices directly upon delivery of new ones.

Finally, for any initiative to succeed larger public participation is a must. So for a revived e-waste management strategy to gain momentum, Bahrain can encourage manufacturers to place interactive recycling kiosks inside shopping hubs and residential clusters. These systems gamify waste management, offering consumers direct financial incentives or store rewards, boosting baseline public participation and thereby make the project successful.

Efficient e-waste management is critical to ensure responsible growth of economy, Bahrain can ensure the same by ramping up the e-waste management strategy..

(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)

India to host 'Quad' security alliance meeting on Tuesday

AFP | New Delhi

India will host a meeting of foreign ministers of the "Quad" group that includes Australia, Japan and the United States on Tuesday, New Delhi's foreign ministry said.

The so-called Quad security alliance is seen as a counterweight to Beijing's presence in the Indian Ocean and wider Asia-Pacific region.

The May 26 meeting comes during a visit by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who arrives on an India tour on Saturday, hosted by India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, with Australia's Penny Wong and Japan's Toshimitsu Motegi also to attend.

The four-way partnership was first conceived by late Japanese prime minister Shinzo



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio (2R) stands alongside Indo-Pacific Quad ministers, L-R, Japanese Foreign Minister Iwaya Takeshi, Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, during a photo opportunity before meetings at the State Department in Washington, DC (file photo)

Abe, who foresaw an alliance of democracies surrounding China -- which has repeatedly alleged that the Quad is a way to contain it.

"In keeping with the Quad

vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific, the ministers will... exchange views on advancing Quad cooperation across priority areas," New Delhi's foreign ministry said yesterday.

Indian duo dies on Everest as record breaker warns of overcrowding

AFP | Kathmandu

Two Indian climbers have died on Mount Everest during a record-breaking period of ascents via Nepal's southern route, as experts warn of overcrowding on the world's highest peak.

"They fell ill while descending at high altitude. We are working out how to retrieve the bodies," Nivesh Karki, director at Pioneer Adventures, said.

He named them as Sandeep Are, who he said summited on May 20, and Arun Kumar Tiwari, who reached the peak on May 21.

Nepal is home to eight of the world's 10 highest peaks and welcomes hundreds of adventurers each spring.

Ebola risk now at highest level in DR Congo, says WHO

AFP | Geneva

The risk from the deadly Ebola outbreak has been raised to the highest level for the Democratic Republic of Congo, the World Health Organization said yesterday, as the toll continues to rise.

The WHO upgraded its risk assessment level from high to very high for the DR Congo, while keeping the region-

al risk level at high and the global risk level at low.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the situation was "deeply worrisome".

He said there were now nearly 750 suspected cases in the DR Congo and 177 suspected deaths, as health workers scramble to track down contacts of everyone thought to be infected with the virus.

DCO Warns of Rising Digital Threats During Crises

New framework focuses on protecting digital infrastructure and ensuring service continuity.

The Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) has launched a new report urging coordinated international action to strengthen the security and resilience of civilian digital ecosystems amid growing global digital threats during crises.

The report, titled "Civilian Digital Ecosystems at the Core: Safeguarding During Crisis," was released as part of the organization's efforts to promote international digital cooperation and support the development of trusted, resilient, and people-centered digital systems.

The report highlights increasing risks facing civilian digital ecosystems during emergencies, including the spread of misleading and AI-generated content, impersonation of official communication channels, cyberattacks targeting digital infrastructure, and manipulation of emergency-related information.



According to the DCO, the report provides a practical framework aimed at strengthening the resilience, continuity, and trustworthiness of civilian digital systems and services relied upon daily by millions of people worldwide.

The organization stressed that protecting civilians has long been a key responsibility under

international law and that this obligation must now extend into the digital sphere due to the increasing dependence on digital infrastructure and services.

The report was designed as a reference for governments, international organizations, businesses, academic institutions, digital platforms, and civil society groups, encouraging collec-

ive action and stronger international cooperation to safeguard civilian digital ecosystems.

Commenting on the launch, Deemah AlYahya said crises today extend beyond physical borders into digital systems that support everyday civilian life.

She noted that protecting civilian digital ecosystems is no longer only a technical issue but

has become a societal and developmental necessity requiring urgent and coordinated action.

AlYahya added that the report offers governments and stakeholders a practical roadmap to move from fragmented responses toward coordinated efforts aimed at protecting the continuity, integrity, and trustworthiness of digital systems.



The report identified four major areas

- Strengthening the resilience of civilian digital infrastructure
- Protecting and enhancing public trust
- Sharing emerging knowledge and information
- Ensuring continuity and resilience of digital services

Navigation Security Clampdown

EU expands sanctions framework over threats to maritime navigation linked to Iran

The European Union has expanded its legal sanctions framework to include individuals and entities involved in actions attributed to Iran that are seen as undermining lawful transit and freedom of navigation in key Middle East waterways, including the Strait of Hormuz.

The Council of the EU announced the decision, extending existing restrictive measures initially introduced in response to Tehran's military support for Russia's war in Ukraine, as well as its backing of armed groups in the Middle East and the Red Sea region.

Under the revised framework, the EU will now be able to impose sanctions on those involved in policies or actions that threaten maritime security and disrupt

the free movement of vessels in international waters.

The Council stated that actions targeting commercial and other vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz are inconsistent with international law and violate established rights of transit and innocent passage through international straits.

The updated legal basis allows the EU to introduce additional restrictive measures, including travel bans on listed individuals and entities, asset freezes, and prohibitions on EU citizens and companies from making funds or economic resources available to designated targets.

The decision follows a political agreement reached by EU foreign ministers at the Foreign Affairs Council meeting on 21 April 2026.



Background

The EU first established a dedicated sanctions framework in July 2023 in response to Iran's military support for Russia's war in Ukraine. The scope was later expanded in May 2024 to include Iran's support for armed groups in the Middle East and the Red Sea region, as well as missile and drone attacks carried

out against Israel in April 2024.

In its conclusions in March 2026, the European Council stressed the importance of maritime security and full compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 2817 (2026), calling for respect for freedom of navigation and condemning any actions that disrupt shipping or access to the Strait of Hormuz.

Africa's Future Built on Resilience

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres praised Africa's resilience, potential and growing global influence in his message marking Africa Day on May 25, 2026.

He said the continent had overcome the lasting effects of slavery and colonialism through unity, determination and shared purpose, while continuing to make progress in trade, renewable energy, innovation and sustainable development.

The Secretary-General noted that this year's Africa Day theme focuses on water and sanitation, describing them as essential for public health, human dignity and economic opportunity.

He highlighted that millions across Africa, particularly women and young people, still lack access to safe water and sanitation services due to limited investment, weak infrastructure and the growing



impact of climate change.

Guterres called for stronger domestic investment, improved governance and greater international solidarity to support African nations through funding, debt relief and public-private partnerships.

He also stressed the need for major investment in electrification and renewable energy to improve water and sanitation access, reduce dependence on volatile global oil supplies and support the global transition away from fossil fuels.

The UN chief reaffirmed the United Nations' commitment to working with African countries to build a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future for the continent and the world.

Qatar Calls for Stronger Mediation in Global Conflict Resolution

The Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al Khulaifi, took part in the "GLOBSEC Forum 2026" held in the Czech capital, Prague, where he emphasized Qatar's long-standing commitment to mediation and peaceful conflict resolution.

Speaking during a main session titled "Pursuing Peace in the Middle East and Beyond," Al Khulaifi warned that modern conflicts are no longer geo-

graphically contained, stressing that wars generate wide-ranging humanitarian, economic, political, security, and social consequences that extend far beyond their immediate regions.

He reaffirmed that mediation is a fundamental component of the foreign policy of the State of Qatar, rooted in its constitutional principles. He noted that Qatar has consistently engaged in dialogue and mediation efforts across multiple crises, including in Gaza, Afghanistan, Iran, Lebanon, Sudan, Chad, Venezuela,



and Ukraine, among others.

Humanitarian and Global Impacts of Conflict

Outlining the consequences of ongoing wars, he said the first and most immediate impact is

humanitarian collapse, including displacement, hunger, trauma, hostage situations, family separation, and destruction of civilian infrastructure.

He cited Gaza as an example, stressing that the humanitarian dimension is central rather than secondary, and called for parallel international efforts to ensure humanitarian access and civilian protection.

He also highlighted the risk of regional escalation, noting that conflicts rarely remain local and can quickly spread across wider

regions such as the Gulf, Red Sea, and Levant.

A third concern, he said, is the erosion of trust in diplomacy itself, where prolonged wars may lead to skepticism about dialogue and mediation.

The fourth impact is global economic pressure, with conflicts affecting energy and food supplies, investment flows, aviation, maritime security, and migration patterns. He stressed that peacebuilding is therefore not only a moral responsibility but also a strategic necessity.

Kuwait India Talks



Kuwait Army Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Khaled Draj Saad Al-Shuraian, received the Ambassador of India to Kuwait, Promita Tripathi. They exchanged cordial talks and discussed matters of mutual interest.

UAE, Uzbekistan Strengthen Government Modernisation Partnership

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, received a government delegation from the United Arab Emirates in the capital, Tashkent, where both sides discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation in government modernisation.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the latest developments in the strategic partnership between the governments of the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan, particularly in areas related to improving government operational readiness, institutional efficiency, and public sector



innovation.

The discussions also explored prospects for expanding the partnership to support sustainable development goals in both countries, emphasizing modern governance practices and enhanced administrative capabilities.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to continuing close cooperation under the existing strategic framework, aiming to deepen ties and accelerate development-oriented initiatives across key government sectors.

Classifieds



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Carrick given permanent deal as Man Utd manager



Manchester United's Interim head coach Michael Carrick (C) and midfielder #08 Bruno Fernandes (R) on the pitch

- Carrick signs contract until 2028
- United finished third in league
- Champions League qualification secured early
- Ineos targets championship for anniversary milestone

AFP | London

Michael Carrick said he wanted to make Manchester United challengers for major trophies again after the club confirmed him as their new permanent head coach on a two-year contract yesterday.

The former United midfielder and captain has overseen a dramatic improvement in form at Old Trafford since taking over following Ruben Amorim's acrimonious exit in January.

Carrick secured Champions League football with three matches to spare and United wrapped up third spot with Sunday's 3-2 Premier League victory against Nottingham Forest -- his 11th win in 16 games.

The 44-year-old had been backed for the job by a number of players and has now been rewarded with a new deal.

"Manchester United is delighted to announce that Michael Carrick will continue as head coach of the men's first team, having signed a new contract which will run to 2028,"

the club said in a statement on their website.

Carrick won five Premier League titles and the Champions League among a cascade of trophies as a player at United under Alex Ferguson.

But the club have not mounted a realistic challenge for the Premier League since Ferguson retired as a champion in 2013, eclipsed as the dominant force in English football by neighbours Manchester City.

Carrick said ever since he first arrived at United as a player 20 years ago he had felt the "magic" of the club.

Now the former Middlesbrough boss, who has had previous coaching stints at United, wants to build on his achievements since January.

"It's good to make steps, good to get in the Champions League, good to finish third, but (I want) to make this place better," the ex-England international told club media.

"I must admit on Sunday in the stadium it felt a little bit different. There was a real to-

getherness and kind of enjoyment from everyone and that was powerful for me.

"Supporting Manchester United and looking forward to what can happen should always be like that. That's the drive (to win trophies) and for us to reward the fans would be pretty special."

Carrick's deal takes him through to 2028, when United co-owners Ineos want to celebrate the club's 150th anniversary with the league title.

The midfielder has the chance to become the first man to win the Premier League as both player and manager.

"I'd take that right now," Carrick said. "That's the goal and I've got to believe it. That's where we want to be as a club."

Director of football Jason Wilcox said the new permanent boss had impressed since taking the helm at Old Trafford.

"Michael's achievements in leading the club back to the Champions League should not be understated," he said.

"He has forged a strong bond with the players and can be proud of the winning culture at Carrington (training ground) and in the dressing room, which we are continuing to build."

11

victories were secured by Michael Carrick in his first 16 matches as Manchester United manager

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Michael Carrick has the historic opportunity to become the very first person to win the Premier League title as both a player and a manager for Manchester United

Spurs must play with 'blood, character, and spirit': De Zerbi

AFP | London

Roberto De Zerbi has urged his Tottenham team to play with "blood, character and spirit" as they battle to avoid a first relegation in 49 years on Sunday.

A draw against Everton on the final day of the Premier League season will all but certainly save Spurs as 18th-placed West Ham, two points behind, have a significantly inferior goal difference.

Nuno Espirito Santo's Hammers host Leeds at the London Stadium on the same day, with



Roberto De Zerbi

all 10 games kicking off at 1500 GMT.

"We have to play with blood, with character, with spirit be-

cause it's a final," De Zerbi said at his pre-match press conference yesterday.

"They played a great final last season (in the Europa League) and they won a trophy," he added. "Maybe there was a bonus. (On Sunday) there is not a trophy, there is not a bonus."

"There is something more important than the trophy and the bonus. There is the history of the club, there is the pride of the players, there is the pride of the families of the players."

"There is the dignity of every one of us."

Sinner stands between Djokovic and record 25th major crown at French Open

Djokovic believes he can still challenge despite injury setbacks and limited preparation

● Djokovic praises dominant Sinner

● Italian chasing career Grand Slam

● Djokovic targets 25th Slam title

AFP | Paris

Novak Djokovic yesterday admitted world number one Jannik Sinner was the man to beat at Roland Garros as the imperious Italian stands on the brink of completing his career Grand Slam.

Djokovic, 39, is chasing a 25th major title, which would put him outright first for the most Grand Slam victories in the history of the sport.

However, Sinner, who is on a 29-match winning streak and has won the last six Masters events, casts a long shadow over the sole remaining Grand Slam tournament he has not yet won.

"It's an incredible feat for him and his team. We've talked a lot about how impressive he is on all surfaces," Djokovic said of Sinner, who with victory at the



Serbia's Novak Djokovic greets Italy's Jannik Sinner after a match (file photo)

three clay-court Masters this season became just the second man after the Serb to win all nine 1000-level titles.

"Being one of the two guys that have managed in the history to be the only ones to win the Golden Masters, I know how challenging that is and how difficult it is.

"So I want to congratulate him for that because it's quite an achievement and he's really

young, he still has a lot of time ahead of him."

After falling on opposite sides of the draw, third-seeded Djokovic and Sinner, 24, cannot meet until the final on June 7.

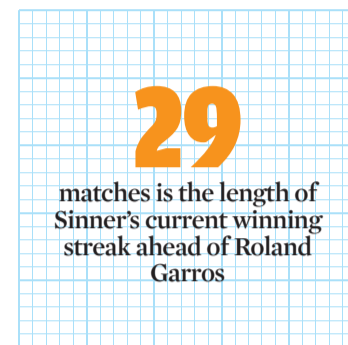
In the absence through injury of double-defending champion Carlos Alcaraz, Djokovic, who has reached at least the semi-

finals at each of the past five Grand Slams, appears the most

likely man to be able to put a stop to Sinner's run.

"He's going for his Golden Slam as well here if I'm not mistaken. He's maybe in the form of his life, and without Carlos being here also increases his chances even more of claiming more Grand Slam titles," Djokovic said.

"So we're all here to try to win against him and prevent him from taking more titles."



29 matches is the length of Sinner's current winning streak ahead of Roland Garros

'Always have that belief'

Djokovic, who lost the Australian Open final to Alcaraz in January, added the Spaniard's withdrawal is a "big blow for the tournament", but that it did not change his approach.

"I don't think it does significantly change, to be honest, because I have been through challenging times with my body in the last, you know, six to eight months," he said.

"If I'm able to somehow maintain that level of freshness and progress, then I feel like I have always a very good chance.

"I have proven that in Australia this year where I was close to winning another Slam... I always have that belief in me when I'm on the court."

But the three-time champion enters his 22nd Roland Gar-

ros with very little clay-court playing time under his belt this season.

After exiting Indian Wells at the round-of-16 stage to Jack Draper in March, Djokovic has only played one warm-up match on the red dirt -- crashing out in his opening match in Rome to Croatian qualifier Dino Prizmic.

Djokovic admitted his reduced time on court was not of his own choosing.

"I wanted to play more, but my body was not allowing me," he said. "I was going through rehabilitation process for my (shoulder) injury. So after Indian Wells, it was just not possible for me to compete for several months."

He added that he entered the Italian Open just to get some match experience before his latest tilt at a 25th major crown.

"Really wanted to go to Rome to give it a shot and try and, you know, see how I feel," he explained.

"I was far from being ready to compete, but still, I needed at least that one match just to have the score called by a chair umpire and have experience of the nerves before I eventually come to Roland Garros, which at that point I didn't know if I was going to be able to play or not."

Tennis players 'ignored' but 'united' in Grand Slam pay dispute

AFP | Paris

World number eight Taylor Fritz said yesterday that tennis players' concerns about prize money have been "ignored" by Grand Slam tournament organisers, leading to their planned protest at the French Open.

The bulk of the world's top 10 stars will limit their media duties at the clay-court major, which starts at Roland Garros on Sunday, due to perceived low prize money.

Players have claimed they are currently only paid 15 percent of the revenue from the Slams, asking for 22 percent instead.

"It's not about wanting more money. It's about just wanting what's fair," Fritz told reporters in Paris.

"We have been pretty patient and mild with, I'd say, our re-



Taylor Fritz in action (file photo)

quests, and I think all of us feel it's a bit disrespectful to just be ignored when the sport is the healthiest, when I think there is a very fair partnership and open dialogue between the play-

ers and the tournaments," said Fritz.

Jannik Sinner, the top-ranked men's player, earlier this month called for the Slam events to show "respect" to players.

Women's world number one Aryna Sabalenka also said at the Italian Open that players might have to boycott the sport's four biggest tournaments -- the Australian, French and US Opens and Wimbledon -- to "defend our rights".

Fritz says a boycott has not been seriously discussed by the players, but did not rule out it becoming a future option.

"Something does have to change if we are ignored, so that's a conversation to have, I think," said the American when asked about a potential boycott.

"Right now I'm not ready to start tossing that around, because I want to really mean it if I'm going to say it."

Sabalenka said her decision to protest was in order to help players lower down the rankings.

Latest Neuer injury 'no danger' for World Cup, say Bayern

AFP | Munich

Manuel Neuer's latest injury setback will not impact his participation at this summer's World Cup, Bayern Munich sporting director Max Eberl insisted yesterday.

The veteran goalkeeper is not among Bayern's 21-man squad making the trip to Berlin for Saturday's German Cup final clash



Manuel Neuer

with Stuttgart, having failed to recover from a recurring left

calf injury.

The 40-year-old made a surprise return to Germany's World Cup squad on Thursday, coming back two years after announcing his international retirement.

And Eberl believes the latest injury will not derail his hopes of playing in a fifth World Cup.

"The World Cup is not in danger, but he cannot play tomorrow," Eberl said at an event in

Berlin yesterday. "It is simply too soon after the injury."

"We made this decision together, however difficult it is for Manu to agree to sit out the final," Eberl continued.

At the same event, Joachim Loew, who coached Germany and Neuer to World Cup glory in Brazil in 2014, backed the decision to bring the veteran back into the fold.

Sabalenka poised to 'go for it' at Roland Garros



Aryna Sabalenka reacts during a match (file photo)

AFP | Paris

Aryna Sabalenka said yesterday she is ready, in body and mind, to conquer clay and take a first Roland Garros title.

"I know how to play on clay, and it's all about being physically and mentally healthy, to go for it, and to be ready to fight," she said at the media day ahead of the tournament's start on Sunday.

Sabalenka, the top-ranked woman for approaching two years, has only won three titles on clay, all in Madrid. Her best showing in the clay-court Grand Slam was last year when she lost the final in three sets to Coco Gauff.

"All I can say is that I'm ready to fight, and, of course, I hope to do a little bit better than I did last year," said the Belarusian, who turned 28 earlier in May.

Earlier this spring, Sabalen-

ka completed a victorious 'sunshine double' on the hard courts at Indian Wells and Miami, before losing momentum on clay.

At Madrid, she lost in the quarter-finals to Hailey Baptiste. In Rome, she only won one match before falling to Sorana Cirstea.

"I struggled the beginning of the clay season physically, to be honest," she said yesterday. "Right now I feel 100 percent."

"I'm healed everywhere and I'm ready to go."

Asked if she would be satisfied if she did not win, Sabalenka's answer showed a No. 1's mindset.

"I think all of us are here just for one reason, you know?"

Sabalenka said that her improved consistency is not only the product of physical health but also of overcoming her tendency to melt down mentally on court when things didn't go her way.

Bahrain's golden Doha chapter

Handball crowns Bahrain

The tournament's most celebrated Bahraini moment came on the handball court, where the national men's team topped the standings with eight points and claimed gold, finishing above hosts Qatar (silver, six points) and Saudi Arabia (bronze, four points). Qatar's closing 32-24 victory over Saudi Arabia at the Duhail Sports Hall, watched by senior Gulf sports officials, settled the silver-medal.

Player Hussain Al Sayyad reflected on the achievement with characteristic humility.

"These achievements did not happen by chance. They were the result of planned work by everyone involved," he said. "I do not want to make this about myself — all the players are ready to give everything for Bahrain."

With the Asian Games in Japan approaching, Al Sayyad left the question of his future open. "If the team needs me, I will definitely be there," he said.

Athletics powers the tally

The track was Bahrain's most productive arena. The women's 4x400m relay team of Zenab Mahamat, Aisha Abdullah, Sufian Abdulghani, and Kemi Adekoya claimed gold, while Raihanah Garoubah took the 200m, edging out teammate Aisha Abdullah for silver. Nelly Korir won the women's 1,500m in 4:22.56, with Tigest Meko-

Bahrain: games by numbers		
Total medals	Figure	
Gold	25	
Silver	22	
Bronze	16	
Total	63	

Rank		Gold	Silver	Bronze	TOTAL
1	Qatar	48	50	36	134
2	KSA	32	27	23	82
3	Bahrain	25	22	16	63
4	Kuwait	14	17	29	60
5	UAE	13	19	34	66
6	Oman	10	4	15	29

nen taking silver before adding a second gold in the 3,000m steeplechase. Noora Jasim rounded out the track dominance with gold in the women's shot put at 15.29m, delivering multiple 1-2 finishes that drove Bahrain's gold count.

Courts and arenas deliver

Beyond the track, Bahrain's breadth was evident. The men's volleyball squad beat Oman in straight sets (25-22, 25-21, 25-18), the basketball side reached the 5x5 finals, and both the men's and women's 3x3 squads competed actively



throughout. In precision sports, mixed shooting pair Tamer Ali and Maryam Alasam claimed bronze in the Mixed Team Skeet. Bahraini cueists added further bronze medals in snooker, and table tennis saw Ryan Emad secure bronze in women's singles.

Qatar tops overall table

As hosts, Qatar was the dominant force of the entire games, topping the medal table with 134 medals (48 gold, 50 silver, and 36 bronze), well clear of Saudi Arabia's 82. Kuwait (60 total) finished fourth, while the



UAE's gold-heavy tally of 13 golds placed them fifth overall with 66 medals despite a strong bronze count of 34. Oman rounded out the six-nation table with 29 medals.

Guardiola to step down after glittering decade at Man City

Catalan coach will transition into a global ambassador role for City Football Group

● **Pep Guardiola announces his upcoming departure**

● **20 trophies won in 10 years**

● **Six Premier League titles secured**

● **Maresca tipped to take over**

AFP | London

Pep Guardiola announced yesterday that he will leave Manchester City at the end of the season after a trophy-laden decade that transformed English football.

Guardiola guided City to 20 trophies, including six Premier League titles, and won the Champions League for the first time in the club's history.

Aston Villa's visit to the Etihad

Stadium on Sunday will be his final match in charge, although he is set to continue working for the City Football Group as a global ambassador.

"What a time we have had together," Guardiola said in an emotional video released by City.

"Don't ask me the reasons I'm leaving. There is no reason, but deep inside, I know it's my time.

"Nothing is eternal -- if it was, I would be here. Eternal will be the feeling, the people, the memories, the love I have for my Manchester City."

The Catalan's impending departure was first reported on Monday, two days after he won his third FA Cup at the club.

At that point, the former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss was tight-lipped on his future, with City missing out on the Premier League title to Arsenal 24 hours later.

Former Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca, who previously worked on Guardiola's staff at City, has been widely reported as the man set to take over at



Pep Guardiola kisses the Premier League trophy (file photo)

the Etihad.

"He has made an indelible imprint on the DNA of the club. One that is borne more from how he won than from the many trophies he lifted," said club owner Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, referring to Guardiola.

"He has the unending gratitude of myself and the entire

City family, a family of which he will always be part."

Sheikh Mansour is vice president of the United Arab Emirates, whose investment vehicle bought a controlling stake in City in 2008, transforming the finances of the club.

'One of a kind'

Guardiola arrived in England as one of Europe's most decorated coaches.

His four-year spell at boyhood club Barcelona between 2008 and 2012, which included two Champions League triumphs and three La Liga titles, won admirers across the globe.

He added three more league titles in three seasons at Bayern but missed out on further European success.

Guardiola was not expected to stay in the Premier League for the long term but he put down roots and his influence has transformed the English game at all levels.

"The club has a decade of memories and success to be forever grateful for, and much more than that, an evolution that cannot be undone," said City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak.

A statue of Guardiola has been commissioned to stand outside the Etihad's newly expanded north stand, which will be named in his honour.

Backed by the deep pockets of Abu Dhabi royalty, City have stepped out of the shadow of local rivals Manchester United to become the dominant force in the Premier League.

Guardiola's brand of passing football has been copied from grassroots through to the elite level.

"The impact he had on every league where he trained, it's just one of a kind," said England manager Thomas Tuchel. "One of the very, very, very best."

Even City's competitors have turned to his disciples to catch up.

Arsenal's 22-year wait to win the Premier League was ended by another of his former assistants, Mikel Arteta.

Liverpool boss Arne Slot has said his coaching philosophy was shaped by watching Guardiola's Barcelona team, while new Chelsea manager Xabi Alonso moved to Bayern in the final years of his playing career to gain experience of working under Guardiola.