

Hajj Mission

Over 1.5 million pilgrims have arrived in Saudi Arabia from outside the kingdom for the upcoming hajj, according to a Saudi official, exceeding last year's number of international visitors. | **P6**



Fernandes becomes the first Manchester United player since Nemanja Vidic in 2011 to win the award

11 **SPORT**

BUSINESS 5

Zain Bahrain the first Starlink Authorized Enterprise Reseller in Bahrain

A golden chapter

Bahrain celebrates record GCC Games medal haul

Shura Chief Hails Bahrain Success

TDT | Manama

Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh hailed the kingdom's performance at the fourth Gulf Games in Doha after Bahrain won 63 medals, describing the achievement as evidence of the country's advanced sporting standing and sustained royal support for the sector.

He said the achievement demonstrated the progress and development of Bahraini sport at Gulf, continental and international levels, attributing the success to long-term support and efforts to strengthen sporting excellence.



TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received a cable of congratulations from His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS), President of the General Sports Authority (GSA), and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC), on the Kingdom of Bahrain's achievement at the 4th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Games recently concluded in Doha, Qatar.

In the cable, HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad congratulated His Majesty the King on Bahrain's achievement of 63 medals, including 25 gold, 22 silver, and 16 bronze, marking the Kingdom's highest gold medal tally in the history of its participation in the GCC Games.

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad attributed the achievement to the continued royal support for



Bahrain's sports sector, which has enabled Bahraini athletes to achieve distinguished results at Gulf, regional, and international competitions.

His Highness noted that the result reflects the progress of Bahraini sport under His Majesty's vision to empower youth and athletes, as well as the efforts of the players, technical and administrative teams, the BOC, and sports federations.

In response, His Majesty the King sent a cable of thanks to

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad, commending Bahrain's athletes for their performance and determination throughout the competition.

His Majesty also lauded the efforts of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the SCYS, and HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad in supporting Bahraini sport, which has contributed to continued distinguished sporting achievements.

His Majesty commended Qatar's organisation of the 4th GCC Games, which reflected its capa-

bilities in hosting major sporting events, and wished Bahraini athletes continued success in upcoming competitions.

"We are close to a peace agreement."

Trump Announces Multinational Talks on Iran Peace Framework

Speaking from the Oval Office, U.S. President Donald Trump said he held a "very good call" with several regional leaders as discussions advance on a proposed memorandum of understanding aimed at establishing peace related to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The call included Saudi Crown



Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and Qatar's Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani along with Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani and Qatari Minister Ali al-Thawadi.

Also participating were Pakistan's Field Marshal Asim Munir, Türkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan,

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Jordan's King Abdullah II of Jordan, and His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

According to the statement, the leaders discussed a draft peace framework involving Iran and multiple international stakeholders. Trump said an agreement has been "largely negotiated," though it remains subject to final approval between the United States, Iran, and other participating countries.

In a separate conversation, Trump also spoke with the Is-

raeli Prime Minister, stating that the exchange "went very well," as parallel diplomatic channels continue alongside the broader regional discussions.

One key element referenced in the emerging agreement is the proposed reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global energy shipping route.

The U.S. administration said final aspects of the deal are still being worked out and that an official announcement is expected once negotiations conclude.



H.E. Al Saleh also praised Bahraini athletes for their performances across various disciplines, commending their determination and competitive spirit in representing the kingdom during the regional tournament.

Deadliest viruses known to humanity

A Race Against A Virus With No Cure

The World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern—making this the first time in history a WHO Director-General declared a PHEIC before even convening an Emergency Committee. He acted after consulting the Ministers of Health of the DRC and Uganda, concluding that the situation was too urgent to wait.

The Committee met again on May 22, issuing formal temporary recommendations to all member states. It assessed the risk as "Very High" for the DRC and "High" for Uganda.

The Committee confirmed the outbreak is a global health emergency—but stopped short of calling it a pandemic. "WHO assesses the risk as high at the national and regional levels, and low at the global level," Tedros said.

To mobilise the response, Tedros approved an additional \$3.4 million from the WHO Con-



Medical staff wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) carry a patient at a hospital in Rwampara on May 23, 2026

tingency Fund for Emergencies, bringing the total committed to \$3.9 million.

What Is Ebola – And Why This Strain Is Different

Ebola is one of the deadliest viruses known to humanity. It spreads through direct contact with blood or bodily fluids, causes severe bleeding and organ

vaccine named Ervebo, manufactured by Merck, works against the more common Zaire strain and has shown some protection against Bundibugyo in animal studies—but it is not approved for human use against this strain. Containment is the only weapon health workers have.

How It Started

In early May, a hospital in Bunia Health Zone in northeastern DRC identified a cluster of severe illnesses among healthcare workers. Initial samples tested negative for Ebola. By May 15, however, eight out of thirteen samples came back positive.

Experts believe the virus had actually been circulating for months before detection, with the first suspected death traced back to April 20. A super-spreader event—likely at a funeral or a

healthcare facility—is believed to have accelerated transmission, though investigations are ongoing.

The Numbers: Rapidly Escalating

As of May 22, the DRC Ministry of Health reports over 650 suspected cases and 160 suspected deaths. Of those, 64 are confirmed cases with six confirmed deaths—reported across Ituri and Nord-Kivu provinces, with a new confirmed case now reaching Sud-Kivu Province, marking a further geographic spread.

In Uganda, two confirmed cases and one death have been recorded, both linked to travel from the DRC, with no further local transmission reported.

An American aid worker who contracted the virus while caring for patients in the DRC has been transported to Germany for treatment.

What decisive actions has Bahrain taken?

(Read more on page 03)

Bahrain Egypt Cooperation

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Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Foreign Minister received a phone call from Dr. Badr Abdelatty, Egypt's Foreign Minister and Minister of Immigration. During the call, the two ministers reviewed the close fraternal relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and



the Arab Republic of Egypt. The discussions also focused on ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation across various fields, in line with the shared interests and aspirations of the two countries and their peoples.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to continued coordination and consultation on issues of mutual concern.

Strong Winds



Strong winds are blowing across the country throughout the day, the weather department says conditions will continue until 6pm today.

Authorities say the winds are affecting several areas and are expected to gradual-



Key Interchange Project Reviewed

Ministry Reviews Progress on Strategic Road Development Aimed at Cutting Urban Congestion



TDT | Manama

Minister of Works, Ibrahim bin Hassan Al Hawaj, conducted a site inspection to assess progress on the Isa Town Northern Interchange Bridge development project—one of the kingdom's flagship road infrastructure initiatives designed to ease congestion and improve traffic flow across major urban corridors.

The inspection was carried out in the presence of Shaikh Mishaal bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Works, and Ahmed Sami Al Tajar, Assistant Undersecretary for Roads. Both officials were briefed on the latest construction milestones and ongoing site works.

The project has been designated as strategically significant, engineered to enhance the efficiency of Bahrain's road network and strengthen connectivity between several key areas, including Riffa, Isa Town, A'ali, Sanad, and Salmabad.

work and strengthen connectivity between several key areas, including Riffa, Isa Town, A'ali, Sanad, and Salmabad.

Capacity to Exceed 160,000 Vehicles Per Day

During the inspection, Minister Al Hawaj confirmed that the upgraded interchange is expected to significantly increase road capacity to more than 160,000 vehicles per day upon completion. The development is set to deliver notable relief to Sheikh Salman Highway — a critical artery connecting Bahrain's southern, northern, and capital governorates — where congestion has long posed challenges for commuters.

Minister stressed the importance of accelerating construction without compromising on quality or safety standards. He also urged contractors to take active measures to minimise traffic disruption during construction and called for continued coordination with relevant authorities to ensure smooth traffic management throughout the project's duration.

The minister reviewed ongoing works on site, including the casting of the main bridge deck and other structural components. The scope of the project encompasses:

A three-lane flyover in each direction to ensure free-flow traffic along Sheikh Salman Highway

Upgrades to the ground-level intersection with traffic signals at the Salmabad and Oman Streets junctions

Associated infrastructure works including drainage systems, road paving, sidewalks, landscaping, beautification, and road safety installations.

Lawyer Jailed Over Alleged BD 14,000 Fraud in Client Case

TDT | Manama Rehab Mohammad

The Lower Criminal Court sentenced a lawyer to one year in prison after convicting him of fraudulently obtaining 14,000 Bahraini dinars from his client. The court also set bail at 100 dinars for a sentence suspension and referred the civil claim to the competent court without fees.

The case dates back to a verbal agreement between the defendant and the complainant for him to represent her son in a criminal case for agreed legal fees of 3,500 dinars, which she paid. However, according to case documents, the defendant later requested additional payments, including 8,000 dinars allegedly for bail to secure the son's release, of which the complainant transferred 4,000 dinars in two installments.

He also sent a voice message via WhatsApp requesting an additional 6,000 dinars, claiming it was for travel abroad to obtain legal consultations and

prepare case memoranda, which the complainant also transferred in two payments.

The complainant's daughter stated during Public Prosecution investigations that she contacted the defendant regarding the transferred amounts. He admitted his mistake and promised to return the money, later issuing three cheques totaling 8,000 dinars, which she returned, informing him that the total amount paid was 17,500 dinars. The defendant insisted his legal fees were only 3,500 dinars and claimed he lacked the remaining amount.

Lawyer Manar Al Tamimi, legal representative of the civil claimant, presented details of the agreement and financial transactions as part of the case file.

Investigations revealed that the defendant left Bahrain after the scheduled court hearing date, contrary to his earlier statements. The investigator also noted that the lawyer had similar previous cases allegedly involving the same pattern of conduct.

BD 17000 Burglary Arrest

Police say suspect stole valuables from multiple waterfront apartments. Ministry of Interior said police in the Capital Governorate arrested a 34-year-old man accused of stealing property worth more than 17,000 Bahraini dinars from several residential apartments in the waterfront area. The Capital Governorate Police Director-

ate said it received a report of the thefts and immediately launched an investigation, including searches and information-gathering operations.

Authorities said these efforts led to the suspect's identification, and he was subsequently arrested. Police added that legal procedures were completed and the case has been referred to the Public Prosecution.

Bahrain imports 35,000 livestock ahead of Eid

Government plan ensures stable meat supply and strict health controls during festive season

Bahrain's authorities have imported more than 35,000 head of livestock and over 6,000 tonnes of meat as part of preparations to ensure market supply during Eid al-Adha, a senior official said.

The Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture's livestock and agriculture undersecretary, Eng. Asem Abdul Latif Abdullah, said the government has implemented a comprehensive plan to guarantee sufficient availability of livestock and meat in local markets during the festive season, while also tightening veterinary and health inspections across the supply chain.

He said the imports included 32,642 sheep, 2,429 cattle, and 130 camels, in addition to 2,014 tonnes of chilled and frozen red meat and 4,226 tonnes of chilled and frozen poultry. Additional shipments are expected in the coming days to



Eng. Asem Abdul Latif Abdullah, The Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture's livestock and agriculture undersecretary

meet rising seasonal demand for sacrificial animals and meat products.

Abdullah said authorities, in coordination with approved traders and importers, have diversified import sources to ensure stable supply chains from multiple countries, in line with approved veterinary and health standards.

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Eid al-Adha Food Safety Checks

- 24/7 inspections at ports, airport, and King Fahd Causeway
- Laboratory testing and quarantine checks
- Ensure food safety and protect public health
- Use only licensed slaughterhouses; avoid random slaughtering

He added that veterinary and technical teams had begun early field preparations, with operational plans in place to cover licensed slaughterhouses during Eid days. This includes the deployment of veterinarians and specialists to inspect animals before and after slaughter to ensure food safety and suitability for human consumption.

Slaughtering, he said, will take place at approved facilities including Al Hammah slaughterhouse and Bahrain Livestock Company's facility in Sitra, all operating under direct veterinary supervision and strict health protocols.



Chamber assures sufficient food supply, price stability during Eid season

Supply chains remain stable despite global disruptions and shipping cost pressures

TDT | Manama

Khalid Ali Al-Ameen, Chairman of the Food Sector Committee in the 30th session of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, affirmed that the local market is witnessing an abundance in the supply of livestock, meat, vegetables, fruits, and various food commodities in preparation for Eid Al-Adha, reflecting stable supply chains and sufficient stock availability. He explained that market activity is proceeding at a regular pace without notable shortages in essential commodities, implementing the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to take all necessary measures to ensure the sustainability of supply chains and enhance the efficiency of food commodity flows to markets.

He pointed out that large quantities of sheep, cattle, and camels have been imported, in addition to various shipments of chilled and frozen red meat,



Available quantities of food commodities and livestock are sufficient to meet the needs of citizens and residents

KHALID ALI AL-AMEEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE FOOD SECTOR COMMITTEE

poultry meat, and vegetables, as part of efforts to support market stability and meet increased demand during the Eid Al-Adha season.

Al-Ameen reassured that the available quantities of food commodities and livestock are sufficient to meet the needs of consumers, both citizens and residents of the Kingdom of Bahrain. He stressed that the local market remains stable despite regional geopolitical challenges

and disruptions affecting global supply chains, particularly amid rising shipping costs, delays in some shipments from exporting countries, and changes in maritime and air transport markets.

He explained that the Chamber's Food Sector Committee is keen each year to further develop the operational framework during the Eid Al-Adha season in a manner that ensures smooth supply flows, enhances operational efficiency, and strengthens supply chain integration through coordination among all stakeholders in the food supply chain, including livestock breeders, butchers, and companies importing and marketing live, chilled, and frozen meat.

Al-Ameen also revealed that he held a series of meetings with Central Market traders and rice merchants, which concluded with confirmation of price stability during the current period, supported by increased supply in local markets. This contributes to the abundance of commodities and meeting rising demand during the Eid Al-Adha season.

Skills and labour market needs



Minister of Labour and Legal Affairs Yusuf bin Abdullhussain Khalaf received Arabian Gulf University President Dr. Saad bin Saud Al Fahd on Saturday to discuss strengthening cooperation in education and workforce development. The two sides highlighted the importance of enhancing national skills and aligning training programmes with the evolving needs of Bahrain's labour market, while praising the university's role in preparing qualified national talent.

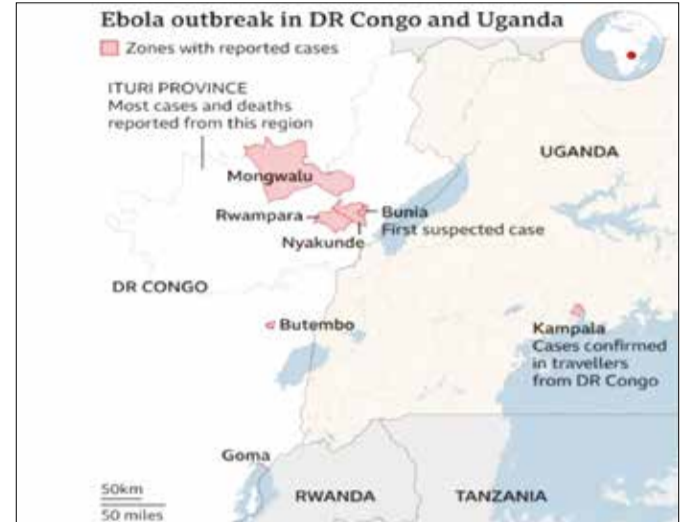
Bahrain moves early to contain Ebola risk with travel curbs

- 10 African countries are at risk due to mobility and insecurity
- US tightens screening and entry rules
- EU issues coordinated precautionary health measures

TDI | Manama
Ashen Tharaka



Medical staff wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) carry disinfectant at the hospital in Rwampara



Source: WHO, DRC Health Ministry

The African Union's health chief Jean Kaseya has warned that ten additional countries are at risk of the virus spreading to them: Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia. He cited "high mobility and insecurity" as the main drivers.

Bahrain was among the first Gulf nations to act, suspending entry for non-Bahraini travellers arriving from South Sudan, the DRC, and Uganda from May 19, for 30 days. Bahraini nationals returning from those countries face mandatory health protocols.

WHO Recommended Measures

- Exit screening in affected countries (temperature checks and symptom monitoring)
- Entry screening for travellers from affected regions
- Strengthened contact tracing for incoming passengers
- No blanket flight bans, to avoid disrupting aid and response efforts
- 21-day monitoring for anyone potentially exposed to the virus
- Health declaration forms and symptom checks for travellers
- Passenger observation and onboard crew monitoring
- Isolation and referral of suspected cases to health authorities



"The risk in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been raised to very high, as the outbreak is likely much larger than confirmed figures suggest."

- TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS, WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

The United States, on May 18, announced enhanced travel screening and entry restrictions jointly with the Department of Homeland Security to prevent Ebola from reaching American soil.

The European Union held a senior-level Health Security Committee meeting on May 20, and on May 22 issued a common EU approach including precautionary measures and exit screening recommendations. European Commission

Uganda suspended all public transport links to the DRC upon confirming its first cases. It also

postponed its annual Martyrs' Day celebrations — an event that can attract up to two million people — specifically because of the epidemic risk.

This is the DRC's 17th Ebola outbreak since the virus was first discovered — and it is moving faster and wider than any in recent memory. A deadly strain with no cure, a conflict-shattered region, and a highly mobile population are a dangerous combination. The world has stopped Ebola before through swift, coordinated action. That same urgency is now needed again. The clock is ticking.

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Calls for Turning Stability Into Investment Gains

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Bahrain should use the calm that followed recent tensions to push growth, quicken development projects and keep support flowing to the sectors hit hardest, Khalid Al Maskati has said.

The head of the Shura Council's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee said government measures to provide liquidity, aid affected sectors and cover the wages of Bahrainis in the private sector during exceptional circumstances showed that citizens remained first among state priorities.

He said those steps helped protect living standards and social stability, while giving firms room to keep operating through a difficult spell.

Mr Al Maskati said the next phase should be treated as a chance to draw more investment, move faster on projects and deepen links between the public and private sectors.

'Countries are not measured only by their ability to get through challenges, but also by their ability to turn those challenges into chances for growth and to build on what



"Bahrain has shown it can face economic pressure calmly while keeping development and services moving forward."

KHALID AL MASKATI, HEAD OF THE SHURA COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

has been achieved,' he said.

Bahrain, he added, had shown under His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and with the follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, that its institutions could keep

the economy on firm ground during periods of pressure.

The kingdom now needed to build on that base by moving faster on development projects, aiding growth sectors and giving investors, citizens and the private sector greater confidence in the course of the economy, he said.

Mr Al Maskati said reforms in finance and the wider economy, fiscal discipline, digital change and an improved legal framework had helped Bahrain keep services and business activity running despite shifting conditions.

He said those steps were no longer optional reforms, but part of the economy's ability to absorb pressure and adapt.

He said the past period also showed the need for closer work between state bodies and the private sector, with economic activity and services relying on joint planning rather than short-term remedies alone.

Economic confidence, Mr Al Maskati said, is now one of the main drivers of investment. Investors are more likely to expand when they see stability and a clear course ahead, while reassurance among citizens feeds into spending, demand and wider market activity.

A Glimpse of Dilmun, the Ancient 'Last Paradise'

TDT | Manama
Neethu V

As part of International Museum Day celebrations, the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities invited visitors into the world of the ancient Dilmun Civilization through special tours and exhibitions. Among the highlights was the Hall of Graves, where centuries-old burial traditions, artefacts and beliefs surrounding the afterlife offered a vivid glimpse into one of the world's oldest civilizations.

Inside the Hall of Graves at the Bahrain National Museum, visitors explored one of Bahrain's most remarkable archaeological treasures — burial mounds dating back more than 4,000 years, all recognized under UNESCO World Heritage Status.

Museum guide Yusuf Al-saeed explained that civilizations across the ancient world believed Dilmun was the "last paradise," drawing people from distant lands and ancient trading



Ancient burial chambers at the Hall of Graves in the Bahrain National Museum showcase Dilmun-era funerary traditions.

civilizations to bury their loved ones in Bahrain in hopes of rebirth after death.

The exhibition traced Bahrain's historical identities through the ages. The island was known by different names throughout history, including Dilmun, Tylos and Awal, before the modern name Bahrain became established — meaning "two seas," referring to the salt-water sea surrounding the island and the freshwater springs once abundant beneath the ground.

Artefacts discovered inside the graves revealed details of daily life and beliefs surrounding the afterlife. Warriors were buried with weapons, craftsmen with tools, and women with jewellery and cosmetics. One display featured green eye shadow preserved inside a shell container, showing how makeup was used thousands of years ago.

Among the highlights was the "Butterfly Gold Piece," an intricately crafted ornament dating back nearly 4,800 years, reflecting Bahrain's long history of craftsmanship and trade.

Visitors also learned how archaeologists study bones and pottery to uncover the origins of those buried. Bahrain's ancient spring water contained high fluoride levels, leaving distinct marks on bones and helping researchers determine whether individuals had lived on the island or arrived from abroad.



Museum guide explaining the ancient Dilmun trade system to visitors

One Creative Stage

A Celebration of Bahrain's Visual Arts

TDT | Manama
Ghadeer Alkumaish

The 52nd Bahrain Annual Fine Arts Exhibition brought together 75 visual artists presenting diverse artistic experiences and varied visual approaches at the Bahrain National Museum, reflecting a wide range of perspectives and styles across different forms of visual expression. Organised by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), the exhibition stands as one of the Kingdom's most significant and enduring cultural events.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, deputised His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa to inaugurate the official opening — a ceremony that began with the recognition of award winners in celebration of their creativity and meaningful contributions to the local art scene.

The Awards

Abduljabbar Al Ghadhban received the prestigious Al Dana Prize for his work Suffering — four interconnected works combining graphic and painting techniques that reflect the humanitarian crisis in Gaza through a symbolic visual language, conveying human pain through the faces of women and children. Khalid Al Abbas was awarded the Nexus Program Prize, presented by Al Riwaq Art Space, while Hussain Ali received the Art Station Prize, presented by RAK Art Foundation.

The Jury Committee also honoured artist Camille Zakharia in recognition of his outstand-



Al Dana Prize winner: Painting by Artist Abduljabbar Al-Ghadhban

ing contributions to documenting architecture in the Gulf region, resulting in a significant visual archive reflecting the identity and cultural character of place, and for his continued support of the cultural scene in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Three artists were additionally selected for solo exhibition opportunities: Dr. Mayasa Al Sowaidi was granted an opportunity by Folk Art Space, Ahmed Al Asad by Gallery56, and Sh. Rasha bint Salman Al Khalifa by Albareh Art Space.

The Jury

These results followed a thorough and carefully considered evaluation based on precise artistic criteria, carried out by a Jury Committee comprising Dr. Effat Fadag, curator and Director of Naqsh Art Studio; Suheyla Takesh, Director of Barjeel Art Foundation; and Hayfa Al Jishi, curator and founder of Albareh Art Space. Curator Bader Al Saad oversaw the overall artistic coordination of the exhibition.

Al Dana Prize recipient Ab-



A diverse collection of artistic voices

duljabbar Al Ghadhban expressed his pride in winning the award for the second time, describing it as a reflection of BACA's commitment to supporting artists and encouraging them to present their best work. He noted that the burdened expressions in his work were not merely visual elements but formed the emotional core of the jury's response, highlighting the expressive strength and human dimension of the piece. Unlike many exhibitions built around a prescribed theme, the Bahrain Annual Fine Arts Exhibition allows artists the freedom to determine the direction of each edition through the works they submit.

The Hidden Side of Learning Challenges



TDT | Manama
Ghadeer Alkumaish

In many homes, it starts with small but worrying signs. A child takes longer than expected to complete homework, forgets instructions quickly, or struggles to stay focused on simple tasks. Over time, these moments can be misunderstood as carelessness, lack of effort, or even defiance. But in reality, the issue is often far more complex.

At Brain Wave, located in Salmaniya Pearl Building, Fawzieh Kiwan, brings over 18 years of experience as a Behavior Consultant and Certified ADHD Coach. She explains that what parents observe on the surface is often linked to deeper cognitive and behavioral challenges. "We often see difficulties with attention, memory for instructions, and processing information quickly," she says. "On the behavioral side, many children show frustration, inconsistent motivation, impulsivity, or emotional reactions when tasks feel challenging."

One of the most common misunderstandings, she notes, is the assumption that motivation alone is the problem. "Motivation issues usually look like: 'They can do it, but they won't.' Learning difficulties look more like: 'They want to do it, but it's hard in a way that doesn't match their effort.'"

This distinction becomes essential when deciding how to support a



Fawzieh Kiwan

child. Without it, parents may respond with more pressure, repetition, or punishment strategies that often worsen frustration rather than improve performance.

Attention challenges, for example, are not always a cause for concern in younger children. However, they become significant when they are persistent and disruptive. "It becomes a concern when attention issues are frequent, persistent, and interfere with daily learning or relationships across different settings," Kiwan explains.

Another important misconception is that academic struggle reflects low intelligence. In many cases, children who struggle are actually highly capable but face difficulties in how they process information. "A child can be very bright but still struggle if the challenge is in how information is processed," she says. "So intelligence can be present, but school tasks don't fit the child's cognitive profile."

Emotions also play a powerful role in learning. When children feel stressed, anxious, or frustrated, their ability to process information decreases significantly. With early understanding and the right support, children can move beyond frustration and begin to rebuild confidence not just in school, but in their ability to learn and grow.

ILA Bahrain Launches 'Nightingales of Bahrain Service Award 2026'

TDT | Manama
Pradeep Puravankara

Marking a remarkable milestone of 70 years of community service, the Indian Ladies Association (ILA) Bahrain has announced the prestigious "Nightingales of Bahrain Service Award 2026." The initiative aims to honor and pay tribute to the dedication of the nursing community serving across the Kingdom.

As part of the landmark celebrations, ILA Bahrain will honor 70 dedicated nurses of various nationalities who have completed more than 25 years of exceptional service in the profession. Held under the theme "A Tribute of Gratitude. A Legacy of Care.", the award recognises these silent heroes whose compassion and unwavering commitment continue to inspire society every day.

Organized in collaboration with the American Mission Hospital (AMH), the grand award ceremony is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 6:30 PM at the King Hamad American Mission Hospital in A'Ali.

For enquiries and further details, the public can contact Smitha Jensen at 3933 3089, Gibi John at 3904 3910, or Sunanda Gaikwad

Zain Bahrain the first Starlink authorised enterprise reseller in Bahrain

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● Enabling enterprises to integrate Starlink Enterprise Services with Zain’s advanced ICT and smart solutions portfolio, delivering fully integrated, resilient digital ecosystems.

● Service aligns with Bahrain’s Economic Vision 2030, advancing digital transformation and strengthening a more connected, resilient economy.

Manama

As the first operator in the Kingdom to offer Starlink Enterprise Services as an authorized reseller, Zain Bahrain is bringing



“Being an approved authorized reseller of Starlink Enterprise Services reflects our commitment to bringing practical, high-impact solutions to the market. Aligned with Zain Group’s ‘4WARD – Progress with Purpose’ strategy and Bahrain’s Economic Vision 2030, we remain committed to advancing sustainable development and technological leadership, while accelerating the Kingdom’s digital transformation and strengthening a more connected, resilient economy.”

Ali Mustafa
Chief Business and Wholesale Officer
Zain Bahrain



low-Earth orbit (LEO) satellite technology to organizations seeking more resilient, agile, and future-ready digital operations. The service that is available through several flexible commercial options extends beyond high-speed internet access to enable business continuity, operational flexibility, and seamless connectivity in environments where uptime and performance are critical.

This milestone reinforces Zain Bahrain’s leadership in delivering advanced digital solutions for the enterprise market, enabling organizations to benefit from globally trusted satellite services backed by strong local expertise, operational resilience, and end-to-end managed services.

Zain Bahrain will offer Starlink Enterprise Services

through flexible commercial models tailored to the needs of key sectors including government, oil and gas, logistics, maritime, aviation, education, and emergency services. The solution is designed to deliver resilient, high-performance satellite capabilities that support mission-critical operations, enable business continuity, and extend dependable coverage to remote and hard-to-reach environments where traditional terrestrial networks may be limited. In addition, Zain Bahrain enables enterprises to integrate Starlink solutions with its advanced ICT and smart solutions portfolio, delivering fully integrated, resilient digital ecosystems tailored to evolving business requirements.

Zain Bahrain’s Chief Busi-

ness and Wholesale Officer, Ali Mustafa said: “Offering Starlink Enterprise Services reflects our commitment to bringing practical, high-impact solutions to the market. Aligned with Zain Group’s ‘4WARD – Progress with Purpose’ strategy and Bahrain’s Economic Vision 2030, we remain committed to advancing sustainable development and technological leadership, while accelerating the Kingdom’s digital transformation and strengthening a more connected, resilient economy.”

Through continued investment in advanced technologies and strategic partnerships, Zain Bahrain is strengthening its role as a trusted ICT partner for organizations seeking greater resilience, innovation, and long-term digital transformation.

As a Starlink authorized enterprise reseller, Zain Bahrain supports both pilot deployments and full commercial rollouts through end-to-end services including site assessment, professional installation, network optimization, enterprise integration, managed services, and 24/7 customer support. This approach helps ensure predictable performance in real-world environments while remaining aligned with local regulatory and operational requirements.

Digital transformation is key to Bahrain’s competitiveness

Manama

Senior official at the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry has said the kingdom’s private sector must strengthen its readiness for the demands of the digital economy, warning that global competitiveness is now increasingly defined by technological capability, data-driven operations and operational resilience.

Mr. Hasan Bader Kaikso, an executive board member at the chamber, said rapid economic and technological shifts have fundamentally reshaped the benchmarks of economic competitiveness, making digital infrastructure and risk management central to modern growth strategies.

He said the ability of businesses to maintain operational flexibility has become a key pillar of economic security, particularly amid ongoing disruptions in global supply chains, the expansion of digital commerce and accelerating technological change.

“Operational resilience is today a fundamental component of economic

security,” Kaikso said, adding that enterprises must be able to adapt quickly to evolving market conditions and external shocks.

He stressed that digital transformation is now a major driver of efficiency, faster service delivery and improved decision-making across industries. He noted that using modern technologies and data analytics helps organisations boost productivity and unlock new growth opportunities.

The chamber’s board, chaired by Nabeel Khaled Kanoo, is prioritising efforts to prepare the private sector for the digital economy. They are supporting initiatives that enhance the business environment and enable national companies to keep pace with rapid economic and technological changes, he added.

He also highlighted that the future of economic services is moving towards deeper digital integration, with smart technologies playing a greater role in improving access to services, information and economic opportunities.



Mr. Hasan Bader Kaikso - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

LuLu Hypermarket showcases Global Mango Harvest in Bahrain

‘Mango Mania’ Festival Features 60+ Varieties of the King of Fruits from 11 Countries



Manama

The irresistible aroma of ripe mangoes from around the world is taking over LuLu Hypermarket as the much-awaited LuLu Mango Mania Festival officially begins across Bahrain. Featuring over 60 varieties of mangoes sourced from 11 countries, the festival brings together one of the region’s largest celebrations of the “King of Fruits.”

The grand inauguration was held at LuLu Hypermarket – The Avenues, in the presence of ambassadors from India, Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka,



Brazil, Indonesia and Malaysia – countries renowned for producing some of the world’s finest mangoes. India leads the showcase with 45 unique mango varieties, while other participating countries include Uganda, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Malaysia, Colombia, Brazil, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Kenya and the Philippines.

The festival was inaugurated by officials from Gulf Air, LuLu’s strategic logistics partner, alongside the ambassadors. The collaboration between LuLu and Bahrain’s national carrier Gulf Air, continues to play a vital role

in bringing fresh global produce and food supplies into the Kingdom.

Commenting on the partnership, Mr. Juzer Rupawala, Director – LuLu Group, said:

“Our partnership with Gulf Air reflects a shared commitment to serving the community and supporting Bahrain’s food security. During recent global supply chain disruptions, LuLu and Gulf Air worked together to airlift more than 3,000 tonnes of fresh produce and essential groceries into the Kingdom. Today, that same strong network allows us to bring the freshest

global harvest directly to our customers.”

Beyond fresh mangoes, shoppers can also explore a vibrant range of mango-inspired delicacies specially curated by LuLu’s Bakery and Hot Foods teams – including cakes, desserts, salads, pickles, chutneys, beverages and other tropical treats.

LuLu’s Mango Mania Festival will run across all branches, until June 1, offering customers exclusive promotions, tasting experiences and a chance to discover some of the world’s most loved mango varieties under one roof.

China coal mine blast kills at least 82

247 workers were underground at the time of the blast

AFP | Beijing, China

A gas explosion at a coal mine in northern China has killed at least 82 people, state media reported on Saturday, the country's biggest mining disaster in 17 years.

A total of 247 workers were underground at the time of the blast, which occurred at 7:29 pm (1129 GMT) on Friday at the Liushenyu coal mine in Shanxi province, according to state news agency Xinhua.

At least 82 people had died and 123 others were sent to hospital for treatment, four of whom were in critical or severe condition, state broadcaster CCTV said. Of those sent for treatment, 33



A general view of rescue team members and emergency vehicles arriving at the Liushenyu coal mine after a gas explosion in Changzhi, in northern China's Shanxi province

had returned home as of 2:00 pm on Saturday, it added.

A total of 755 emergency and medical personnel were dispatched to the site, with rescue efforts still ongoing Saturday afternoon, CCTV said.

Friday's explosion was the worst mining disaster in China since 2009, when 108 people were killed in a mine blast in northeast Heilongjiang province.

Sulphur smell

Survivor and injured miner Wang Yong told CCTV there was a "puff of smoke" and he smelled sulphur.

He recalled seeing people choked by the smoke before he fainted. "I lay down for about

an hour and woke up by myself. I called the people next to me and got out of the mine together," Wang said, according to CCTV.

Helmeted rescuers were carrying stretchers at the site, with ambulances visible in the background, video by CCTV showed.

President Xi Jinping urged "all-out efforts" to treat the injured and called for thorough investigations into the incident, according to Xinhua.

China's government launched an "uncompromising" investigation into the explosion, vowing to severely punish those responsible, and ordered a nationwide crackdown on illegal mining activities, Xinhua said Saturday evening.



TOP 3 TWEETS

01



According to international humanitarian law, parties to conflict must distinguish between civilians & combatants at all times. Attacks against civilians & civilian objects are prohibited. No more disregard for the law. No more disregard for humanity.

@antonioguterres

02



My deepest condolences to @ifrc family for the loss of their three volunteers in the #DRC. They paid the ultimate price on the line of duty. IFRC colleagues and all humanitarian and health workers are essential in the #Ebola response. Early identification of cases and timely treatment save lives and are key to bringing this outbreak under control. Safe and dignified burials are also critical to stop Ebola transmission. Enhanced awareness are essential to protect all the responders and populations.

@DrTedros

03



Happy to receive the US Secretary of State, Mr. Marco Rubio. We discussed sustained progress in the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and issues related to regional and global peace and security. India and the United States will continue to work closely for the global good.

@narendramodi

Endgame nears

Iran signals convergence of views with US, says gaps remain

● Since a fragile ceasefire took effect on April 8, the two sides have held a round of talks and exchanged proposals aimed at ending the conflict.

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran said on Saturday it was finalising a 14-point framework for a deal with the United

Within a reasonable period of 30 to 60 days, the details of these points will be discussed and a final agreement will ultimately be concluded. We are currently in the process of finalising these memoranda of understanding

IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ESMAEL BAQAEI

States, signalling what officials described as growing convergence between the two sides after weeks of indirect negoti-

ations. "Our intention was first to draft a memorandum of under-

standing, a kind of framework agreement composed of 14 clauses," foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said on state television.

Baqaei pointed to what he described as "a trend towards rapprochement" with Washington and said Iran hoped the details of a final agreement could be worked out "within a reasonable timeframe between 30 to 60 days" after the framework is completed.

The remarks came following a visit to Iran by Pakistani army

chief Asim Munir, who has been acting as a mediator between Tehran and Washington in efforts aimed at ending the war.

Since a fragile ceasefire took effect on April 8, the two sides have held a round of talks and exchanged proposals aimed at ending the conflict.

Baqaei said the framework under discussion focused on "ending the war on all fronts including Lebanon" as well as ending what Iran describes as a US naval blockade imposed on Iranian ports since April 13.

"The issue of the Strait of Hormuz is among the subjects addressed in this 14-point memorandum of understanding," said foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei.

Taiwan says China deployed more than 100 vessels in regional waters

AFP | Taipei, Taiwan

Taipei - Taiwan security officials said Saturday that China has deployed more than 100 navy, coast guard and other vessels in regional waters stretching from the Yellow Sea to the South China Sea and Western Pacific.

The deployment began before US President Donald Trump's meeting with his Chi-

nese counterpart Xi Jinping in Beijing and increased to more than 100 after the summit ended, a security official told AFP on the condition of anonymity.

Trump has caused jitters in Taipei after suggesting US arms sales to Taiwan could be used as a bargaining chip with China, which claims the island is part of its territory and has threatened to seize it by force.

Rubio invites India PM Modi to White House: US ambassador

New Delhi, India

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit the White House in the "near future", US ambassador to India Sergio Gor said on Saturday. "Secretary Marco Rubio

extended an invite on behalf of President Donald Trump, for Prime Minister Modi to visit the White House in the near future!" Gor said in a social media post after Rubio met Modi in New Delhi during his first visit to India.

Hajj pilgrim numbers surpass 2025 arrivals despite Middle East war

AFP | Mecca, Saudi Arabia

Over 1.5 million pilgrims have arrived in Saudi Arabia from outside the kingdom for the upcoming hajj, according to a Saudi official, exceeding the number of international visitors last year despite the war in the Middle East.

Major Gulf airlines in the UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain have worked to quickly restore much of their operational capacity after weeks



1.5m

Over 1.5 million pilgrims have arrived in Saudi Arabia from outside the kingdom for the upcoming hajj

of airspace closures and flight cancellations.

Despite the complications, pilgrims have continued to flock to Saudi Arabia to participate in this year's hajj.

"The total number of pilgrims arriving from abroad has reached 1,518,153," Saleh Al-Murabba, the commander of Saudi

Arabia's Hajj Passport Forces, told a press conference late Friday.

These figures are expected to rise further over the next two days.

Last year, the total number of pilgrims at the hajj reached 1,673,320, including 1,506,576 from outside Saudi Arabia.

1595

Nomenclator of Leiden University Library appears, the first printed catalog of an institutional library

1738

John Wesley is converted, launching the Methodist movement, celebrated annually by Methodists as Aldersgate Day



1844

Samuel Morse taps out "What hath God wrought" in the world's first telegraph message

1883

Brooklyn Bridge is opened by President Chester A. Arthur and NY Governor Grover Cleveland

France bans Israeli security minister Ben Gvir

AFP | Paris, France

France announced yesterday it has banned Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir from entry for mocking bound activists seized by Israeli soldiers on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla.

"From today, Itamar Ben Gvir is banned from entering French territory" after "his reprehensible actions towards French and European citizens" who were part of the humanitarian flotilla, French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said on X.

He added that, with Italy, he was also calling for European Union-level sanctions against the far-right Israeli minister.

The ban follows a global outcry after Ben Gvir published a video on Wednesday showing the heavy-handed treatment in Israeli custody of foreign activists from the flotilla.



Ben Gvir (C) caused international outcry by publishing a video of aid activists from the Global Sumud Flotilla being mistreated

ists from the flotilla.

They were detained by Israel after its soldiers seized them in international waters.

In the video, dozens of activists are seen forced to kneel with their foreheads to the ground and their hands tied.

The clip, which was captioned "Welcome to Israel", showed Ben Gvir heckling the activists while waving an Israeli flag.

After the outcry, Israel said it was deporting the activists.

'Intimidated, brutalised'

Thirty-six French nationals were on board the flotilla, the latest attempt by activists to breach Israel's blockade of Gaza after Israeli forces intercepted a previous convoy last month.

While Barrot said France disapproved of the flotilla's actions, arguing they served "no useful purpose", he added that "we cannot tolerate French nationals being threatened, intimidated or brutalised in this way, especially by a public official."

Spain has also urged the EU to sanction Ben Gvir while the United Kingdom summoned Israel's most senior diplomat in Britain following "the inflammatory video".

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Ben Gvir's treatment of the activists was "not in line with Israel's values and norms", but he kept the security minister in his post.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

A call for collective survival

CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD



Shura Council Deputy Chairman, Jamal Fakhro has proposed a "beehive" national economic forum to shift Bahrain from state dependency to collective survival, crucial amid supply chain crises. While the Shura is rightfully the place where the most intellectually awakened minds of Bahrain will discuss and come up with solutions for matters of national import, it is only the beginning of the corrective action. This requires a dedicated steering committee to convert collaboration into actionable emergency directives.

While this model offers immediate risk mitigation, shared responsibility, and creative problem-solving by breaking down institutional silos, it faces risks of bureaucratic paralysis, enforcement challenges, and a misalignment between long-term academic planning and the urgent liquidity needs of businesses. The proposed model calls for a partnership involving key, but unlinked, entities like the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry to manage these trade-offs effectively.

The proposed "Beehive" economic forum seeks to pivot Bahrain from state handouts to a resilient, collaborative model driven by a steering committee of public and private stakeholders. To ensure long-term sustainability, this initiative must focus on equipping youth with specialized skills for a fast-changing workplace, including logistics analytics, digital supply chain management, and agile financial technologies, in partnership with local universities and Tamkeen. On that note, I was surprised during the recent business crisis due to the conflict with Iran, when business owners immediately chose to compare their condition with the pandemic salary and ask for Tamkeen handouts for rent, utilities and staff salary but not one request to enable skills upgrade for their Bahraini team members.

When the going gets tough...the tough pick up a new skill-set. That is what makes them stronger for a changing marketplace.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

The proposed "Beehive" economic forum seeks to pivot Bahrain from state handouts to a resilient, collaborative model driven by a steering committee of public and private stakeholders.

But **gaps** remain

Framework omits details on Iran's nuclear programme

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Despite signs of progress, Iran acknowledged that major disagreements with Washington remain unresolved, warning that a breakthrough is far from guaranteed.

"It does not necessarily mean that we and the United States will reach an agreement on the

important issues," foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said.

He said the draft framework did not include details on Iran's nuclear programme — one of the key sticking points in negotiations with Washington — adding that the matter would be "subject to separate discussions" at a later stage.

Baqaei also said Iran's longstanding demand for sanctions relief was included in the framework text, but stressed that the issue had not yet been discussed in detail because nuclear matters were still outside the current negotiations.

"It is also one of the points that we will need to examine in detail in the near future," he

said. He added that arrangements concerning the strategic Strait of Hormuz were also part of the proposed framework, without elaborating.

"The Strait of Hormuz has nothing to do with the United States. A mechanism for the strait should be defined between Iran and Oman as coastal states," Baqaei said.



Before becoming bitter rivals, the United States actually helped launch Iran's nuclear programme in the 1950s under President Dwight Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" initiative. Washington supplied Iran with its first nuclear reactor and enriched uranium decades before the 1979 Islamic Revolution transformed the relationship into one of the world's fiercest



SpaceX carries out mostly successful Starship test flight

AFP | South Padre Island, United States

SpaceX's Starship spacecraft splashed down into the Indian Ocean on Friday after the company performed a mostly successful test flight of the latest version of its enormous rocket.

The voyage was not without a few glitches, but SpaceX employees shown on a livestream roared in delight following the trial flight that comes as the firm owned by Elon Musk prepares a potentially record initial public offering.

The mammoth rocket blasted off into space at just after 5:30pm local time (2230 GMT).

The company did not intend to recover the booster or the upper stage, and the final splashdown was fiery but controlled, as planned.

"Splashdown confirmed!" the company wrote on X.

SpaceX primarily aimed to demonstrate its redesigns in flight.



SpaceX's Starship 39 rocket launches from Starbase during the 12th test flight as seen from South Padre Island, Texas

The third-generation Starship spacecraft carried out a maneuver that saw it flip upright and reignite its engines for control, despite one being out of commission.

It also deployed its 22 mock satellites, including two that attempted to photograph the spacecraft's heat shield for anal-

ysis. The vehicle had coasted through space but was not in exactly the correct orbit after one of its engines malfunctioned during an initial burn.

"I wouldn't call it nominal orbital insertion," company spokesperson Dan Huot said, adding however, that it was

"within bounds" of a previously analyzed trajectory.

After the Super Heavy booster separated from the upper stage as expected, Huot said on the livestream that the booster failed to complete its so-called boost-back burn.

The booster fell swiftly back to Earth, uncontrolled, into the Gulf of Mexico. SpaceX wasn't planning to retrieve the booster anyway, but was still hoping for a precision return.

Musk applauded his team on X, calling the flight "epic".

"You scored a goal for humanity," he said.

Friday's flight followed an aborted trial one day prior.

The countdown clock stopped and started until it was determined that the last-minute red flags could not be addressed in time.

Musk quickly posted on X that "the hydraulic pin holding the tower arm in place did not retract". SpaceX said that issue was corrected overnight.

Measles outbreak kills more than 500 children in Bangladesh

AFP | Dhaka, Bangladesh

A measles outbreak in Bangladesh has killed more than 500 children, government data showed yesterday, marking the country's deadliest surge in decades of the preventable disease.

Hospitals in the capital Dhaka have been overwhelmed with cases and set up dedicated wards to take patients, but are scrambling with a shortage of intensive care beds.

Deaths are still rising, with 13 children dying in the past 24 hours alone, taking the toll from the disaster to 512, according to health department figures since March 15.

The South Asian nation has rolled out a mass vaccination drive to combat the outbreak, and Unicef country chief Rana Flowers said this week that the campaign has now reached 18

million children. But the health department said the full impact of the vaccinations would take months to be felt.

Unicef said on Wednesday that gaps in immunisation worsened during and after the chaos of a 2024 uprising that toppled the country's autocratic government, leaving large numbers of children unprotected.

Measles is highly contagious, spreading through coughs and sneezes, and has no specific treatment once caught.

Complications can include brain swelling and severe breathing problems. While the disease can affect anyone, it is most common among children.

Health workers say the worst-hit children are often malnourished and from low-income families.

Gulf Stability Now an International Interest, Says GCC Chief

GCC secretary-general says upcoming Gulf-European summit could expand cooperation across multiple sectors

Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary-General Jassim Mohammed Al Budaiwi said on Saturday that Gulf states were continuing efforts to promote security, stability and prosperity through cooperation with regional and international partners amid rapidly changing geopolitical conditions and mounting economic and security challenges.

Speaking during a session on Gulf-European strategic relations at the Globsec Forum 2026 in Prague, Al Budaiwi said the strategic partnership between the GCC and the European Union had contributed to strengthening regional and international stability.

He said the participation of the GCC General Secretariat in the forum reflected its commitment to maintaining an active presence at regional and international platforms and enhancing dialogue with global partners, policymakers and experts.

Al Budaiwi said the region had witnessed several developments in recent months that significantly affected security and stability. He added that GCC states had continued diplomatic

efforts aimed at reducing escalation, containing tensions and advancing dialogue to safeguard regional security and protect populations across the region.

He stressed the importance of protecting air and maritime routes, ensuring freedom of navigation, safeguarding global supply chains and maintaining stability in international energy markets.

Al Budaiwi added that recent developments had demonstrated an unprecedented link between the security of Europe and the Middle East, noting that any disruption in the Gulf region and surrounding maritime corridors directly impacts the European economy, global energy security and international supply chains.

He said Gulf stability was no longer solely a regional matter but had become "a shared international interest".

On future Gulf-European relations, Al Budaiwi said both sides were seeking to broaden cooperation and expand ties into new areas, expressing hope that the upcoming Gulf-European summit would produce tangible outcomes serving the mutual interests of both parties and strengthening existing cooperation.



"The stability of the Gulf region represents a fundamental pillar for the stability of the global economy and the security of international navigation."

- JASSIM MOHAMMED AL BUDAIWI, GCC SECRETARY-GENERAL

UAE Says Strait of Hormuz Must Stay Open to All



The global trading system is facing a "real test" amid ongoing geopolitical tensions, with the closure of the Strait of Hormuz posing a major challenge to international supply chains, a senior UAE official said during a dialogue session in Prague.

Speaking in the Czech capital, the official said the current situation highlighted the need for countries to draw lessons from recent disruptions to global trade and logistics networks.

The discussion focused on the impact of Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the resulting pressure on the resilience of global supply chains, particularly for energy exports and maritime trade routes.

The official said the United Arab Emirates responded swiftly and efficiently by activating alternative trade corridors, ensuring business continuity and accelerating the development of existing infrastructure.

"Our message to the world is clear: the Strait of Hormuz must remain open to all," the official said.

The UAE also reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining open trade and investment flows despite regional challenges.

"Whatever happens, the UAE will remain open to the world and a key gateway facilitating trade and investment flows across global markets," the official added.

Qatar, Egypt discuss Iran mediation efforts

Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, held a phone call on Saturday with Badr Abdelaty, Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Egyptians Abroad, to discuss bilateral relations and ongoing regional mediation efforts.

According to a statement issued by Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the two officials reviewed cooperation ties between Doha and Egypt and explored ways to further strengthen coordination between the two countries.

The discussions also focused on mediation efforts involving the United States and Iran, including diplomatic initiatives



being pursued through Pakistani mediation channels amid rising regional tensions.

The two ministers discussed coordination aimed at supporting mediation efforts designed to reduce tensions and reinforce security and stability across the region.

During the call, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al

Thani stressed the importance of all parties responding positively to ongoing diplomatic initiatives and mediation efforts.

He emphasized the need to address the root causes of the crisis through dialogue and peaceful means, aiming for a sustainable agreement that would prevent renewed escalation in the region.

Kuwaiti Relief Efforts Support Vulnerable Families

Ambassador says charitable work reflects Kuwait's global humanitarian image

Kuwait's humanitarian work is a national legacy and a responsibility that must be preserved, Kuwait's ambassador to Tunisia, Mansour Al-Omar, said on Saturday, praising charitable institutions for reflecting the country's "honourable image and deep-rooted humanitarian role."

Al-Omar made the remarks while receiving Khaled Al-Shamri, the head of the Development and Relief Sector at Nama Charity (part of the Social Reform Society), following a field visit by a Nama delegation that implemented a series of humanitarian and development projects across several regions in Tunisia targeting underprivileged families and vulnerable groups.

The ambassador stressed that Kuwaiti charitable work is not a temporary activity but a long-standing approach inherited across generations, built on values of generosity and giving embedded in Kuwaiti society.

He added that preserving this humanitarian legacy is a "major national responsibility shared by all," stressing the importance of continued coordination between official bodies and Kuwaiti charities to

ensure humanitarian efforts are properly represented in a way that benefits Kuwait's global standing.

Al-Omar also praised Nama Charity's work in Tunisia, describing it as a model of structured and impactful humanitarian action, while underlining the need to adhere to legal and regulatory frameworks that safeguard credibility and enhance international impact.

For his part, Al-Shamri said Kuwaiti humanitarian work continues to serve vulnerable communities worldwide, reflecting Kuwait's leading global role in charitable and development work.

He said the delegation implemented several relief and development initiatives during its Tunisia visit, including dis-



UAE, Luxembourg deepen cooperation across sectors

Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates met with Xavier Bettel, Deputy Prime Minister of Luxembourg to discuss strengthening relations between the United Arab Emirates and Luxembourg across multiple sectors, officials said.

The two sides also witnessed the signing of an agreement between the two countries during the meeting, aimed at further enhancing bilateral cooperation.

Discussions focused on expanding ties in several areas of



mutual interest, while both ministers also reviewed the latest regional developments.

According to the UAE side, the talks addressed the reper-

comes amid heightened regional tensions and growing concerns over the security of key shipping routes and the stability of global energy markets.

ussions of "unprovoked Iranian terrorist attacks" targeting the UAE, and their potential impact on international maritime security, global energy supplies and economic stability.

Classifieds



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BRAVE Hearts and Dira Bahrain unite

To Fortify community strength and digital resilience across the kingdom

Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation™ (BRAVE CF), the world's fastest-growing and most global mixed martial arts organization, announces a meaningful advancement in its humanitarian and community development efforts through BRAVE Hearts. The program has officially entered into a strategic partnership with Dira Bahrain, integrating an innovative public-safety ecosystem under the initiative's "Build Resilience" framework.

The agreement was formally executed by Jabran Zakariya, Director of BRAVE Hearts, together with Dira Bahrain's founding team, comprising Dhyan Ishwar Shaji, Merwyn D'Souza, Ahmed Riyaan, and Avinash Bejesh Nambiar.

This collaboration marks a coordinated effort to elevate community preparedness and reinforce responsive systems designed for real-world emergencies.

Through this alliance, Dira Bahrain will integrate its technological capabilities into the BRAVE Hearts ecosystem, enabling the scaling of community-level crisis readiness. The



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partnership directly strengthens the initiative's foundational mission of Empowerment, Resilience, and Community by connecting localized safety requirements with adaptive digital infrastructure and specialized technical resources.

BRAVE Hearts operates as a corporate social responsibility platform dedicated to delivering practical and actionable assistance across essential structural domains, including Technology, Marketing, Finance, and Business Development. It functions as a conduit between organizational challenges and high-impact solutions, ensuring that community stakeholders

and partner entities can progress with continuity, stability, and confidence in dynamic environments.

Dira Bahrain is an independent, non-profit digital crisis-response platform focused on enhancing public safety and national resilience within the Kingdom of Bahrain. Developed as a privacy-first Progressive Web App, it provides immediate access to verified emergency navigation, official directories, and custom-engineered emergency SOS signaling technology designed to support citizens and residents during critical situations.

Hull City Promoted to Premier League

Manama

Hull City were promoted to the Premier League in dramatic fashion as Oli McBurnie's last-gasp strike sealed a 1-0 win over Middlesbrough in Saturday's Championship play-off final, bringing an end to the 'spygate' controversy that overshadowed world football's richest match.

McBurnie punished a mistake by Middlesbrough goalkeeper Sol Brynn to bag the lucrative winner in the final moments of the second half at Wembley.

Hull will return to the Premier League for the first time since 2016-17, completing an incredible revival just 12 months after avoiding relegation to the third tier on goal difference.

McBurnie's late goal hit the jackpot for Hull, football finance experts Deloitte estimate the play-off final winners will earn at least £205 million (\$275 million) over the next three seasons due to increased matchday, broadcast and commercial revenues.

That could rise to around £365 million if the club survives their first season in the Premier League.

Football League chiefs will hope Hull's victory brings an end to the scandal that marred the second tier play-offs after Southampton was expelled for filming a Middlesbrough training session before their semi-final first leg.

Southampton had beaten Middlesbrough 2-1 on aggregate to earn a final showdown with Hull.

But the Saints were expelled on Tuesday, with an independent commission ruling their boss Tonda Eckert had "specifically authorised" the spying.



Oli McBurnie celebrates his stoppage-time winner against Middlesbrough yesterday

The English Football League said Southampton admitted to "multiple breaches of EFL regulations related to the unauthorised filming of other clubs' training".

Southampton chief executive Phil Parsons said the sanctions imposed were "manifestly disproportionate".

The row had presented Middlesbrough with a second chance to win promotion, but they were unable to seize the lifeline as Hull ground out a hard-fought victory in scorching heat.

That will be a relief to many at Football League headquarters after Hull owner Acun Ilkcali vowed to take legal action if the Tigers did not beat Middlesbrough.

Sergej Jakirovic's side are the first sixth-placed team to win promotion via the second tier play-offs since Blackpool in 2010.

The Tigers, who beat third-placed Millwall to secure their place in the final, have been the division's surprise package all season.

They were hit with a

three-window transfer embargo last year, later reduced to two after a successful appeal, but confounded expectations to snatch a play-off place on the last day of the season.

In keeping with their unexpected renaissance under Bosnian boss Jakirovic, Hull were perfectly suited to the underdog role at Wembley.

They spent much of the first half of the back foot as Middlesbrough dominated with over 70 percent of the possession.

But the Tigers' counter-attacking game-plan ensured they were a constant threat.

Liam Millar's cross reached Lewie Coyle for a header that Brynn pushed over.

For all their territorial dominance, Middlesbrough were toothless for long spells and Hull's Mohamed Belloumi almost made them pay with a long-range curler that flashed just wide.

The burly McBurnie went even closer, rising to meet Ryan Giles' cross with a header that hit the crossbar.

Okafor Israel scores lightning-fast KO in Dubai



Israel celebrates his victory with teammates Abdulrahman Mohamed (left) and Mohsen Zayer (right)

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Okafor Israel delivered a statement victory on Friday night at the Elite Boxing Promotion event in Dubai, UAE, staged by the Cuban Boxing Club. The Nigerian-born fighter, who represents Bahrain, stopped Egypt's Medhat AlHusiny in just 57 seconds of the first round to secure his second professional win.

Fighting out of Underground Gym Bahrain, the cruiserweight wasted no time asserting control. From the opening bell, Okafor Israel pressed forward aggressively, immediately closing distance and denying his opponent any chance to settle into rhythm or mount an offense. The early pressure proved overwhelming, as he scored a knockdown before the referee stepped in to halt the contest.

The emphatic finish further strengthened his growing reputation on the regional boxing scene.

Speaking exclusively to The Daily Tribune, Israel reflected on the swift ending and the preparation behind it.

"In boxing, you prepare for every possible scenario, so I was ready for a long and difficult fight. I didn't necessarily expect it to end that quickly, but I trusted my preparation, my timing, and the work my team at Underground Gym, my manager Mr. Miller Pounds, and Spartan put into camp. Once I saw the opening, I stayed composed and took it. Credit to Medhat Al Husiny for stepping into the ring and competing."

Israel also emphasized the intent behind such a dominant performance.

"It was very important for me to make a strong statement, put-

ting the cruiserweight division in the GCC on notice, but always with discipline and respect. My goal was to show my growth as a professional boxer — sharpness, control, composure, and intelligence under pressure. I wanted people to see that I'm improving with every fight and representing Bahrain and my team in the best way possible."

Beyond the result, the victory carried personal significance as Israel continues to develop his career while representing the Kingdom and Underground Gym Bahrain on the professional stage.

"This win means a lot to me personally because the journey hasn't been easy. Representing Bahrain and Underground Gym Bahrain is something I carry with pride. The support, belief, and sacrifices from my coaches, teammates, friends, and sup-

porters every day. This victory is not just for me, it's for everyone who stood by me and believed in the vision."

Looking ahead, the rising cruiserweight made it clear this is only the beginning of his professional journey, with a focus on staying active and continuing to improve.

"I will hit the gym immediately and start from where I stopped. I want to stay active, keep learning, and continue building my professional career step by step. Performances like this give me confidence, but I know there is still a lot of work ahead. I would like to get back in the ring as soon as the right opportunity comes, and I'm ready to represent Bahrain on even bigger stages in the future."

Al Najma brace for tough Asian challenge

TDT | Manama
Hussain Almaskati

Photo caption: Al Najma's Mohamed Habib in action during their second Asian title win in Iran last year

Bahrain's Al Najma now know their full path in the Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship 2026 after the official match schedule was announced yesterday.

The 28th edition of the tournament will be staged in Kuwait City from June 6 to 15, bringing together eight of Asia's leading clubs in a battle for the continental title and a coveted



Al Najma's Mohamed Habib in action during their second Asian title win in Iran last year

place at the 2026 IHF Men's Club World Championship in Egypt.

Al Najma have been drawn in Group B alongside hosts Kuwait Sports Club, Saudi Arabia's Al

Khaleej Club, and Qatar's Al Arabi SC, setting up a demanding preliminary round campaign.

Their campaign begins on June 6 against Al Khaleej at 4pm, followed quickly by a clash with Al Arabi on June 7 at 2pm. After a rest day on June 8, Najma return to face Kuwait SC on June 9 at 6pm.

Group A features Burhan SC of Kuwait, Sharjah SC of the UAE, Al Duhail of Qatar, and a Chinese representative team, with matches running in parallel throughout the opening phase.

Only the top two teams from each group will advance to the semi-finals after a single

round-robin stage, with winners moving on to the final and a shot at continental supremacy.

Al Najma enter the competition as reigning Bahraini champions, having lifted the 2024-25 Khalid Bin Hamad Bahrain Handball League title. The club also carries strong continental pedigree, with two Asian titles in 2017 and 2023, plus multiple podium finishes across previous editions.

Al Najma Group B Fixtures

Date	Time	Opponent
Sat, 6 June	16:00	Al Khaleej
Sun, 7 June	14:00	Al Arabi
Tue, 9 June	18:00	Al Kuwait SC

Fernandes named Premier League Player of the Season



Bruno Fernandes with the award after his standout Premier League campaign

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Manchester United captain Bruno Fernandes has been named Premier League Player of the Season after an outstanding campaign, adding another major individual honour to his collection following earlier recognition as the Football Writers' Association Men's Player of the Year.

The 31-year-old Portuguese midfielder was central to United's strong league finish, helping the club secure third place and qualification for next season's UEFA Champions League. Across 37 league appearances, Fernandes recorded eight goals and 20 assists, underlining his consistent output in both scoring and creation.

His latest assist of the campaign against Nottingham Forest saw him equal the Premier League record for most assists in a single season, further reinforcing one of the most productive creative years in the competition's history.

Beyond his direct goal contributions, Fernandes also led the league in chance creation with 132 chances over the course of the season. That total placed him comfortably ahead of Liverpool midfielder Dominik Szoboszlai in the standings and highlighted his role as the league's primary creative force.

With this award, Fernandes becomes the first Manchester United player to win the Premier League Player of the Season since Nemanja Vidic in 2011. The honour was decided through a combination of public voting and input from a panel of football experts.

The shortlist featured several high-profile nominees including David Raya, Gabriel Magalhães, Declan Rice, Erling Haaland, Antoine Semenyo, Igor Thiago, and Morgan Gibbs-White.

Elsewhere, the Young Player of the Season award went to 20-year-old Manchester City academy graduate Nico O'Reilly.

Barcelona win Women's Champions League, thrashing Lyon 4-0 in final



FC Barcelona players celebrate winning the UEFA Women's Champions League final football match between FC Barcelona and Olympique Lyonnais (OL) at the Ullevaal Stadium in Oslo, Norway

AFP | Oslo, Norway

Ewa Pajor and Salma Paralluelo both scored twice as Barcelona thrashed Lyon 4-0 in Saturday's Women's Champions League final to win the title for the fourth time.

Polish striker Pajor opened the scoring on 55 minutes and netted again in the 69th minute, with Paralluelo's superb

late strike ending the contest before she completed the rout of a stunned Lyon in stoppage time.

Barca's four titles have all been won in the last six seasons and their overall tally is bettered only by Lyon, who are the record eight-time European champions. The French club's last title came in 2022.

Morocco king pardons jailed Senegal football fans

AFP | Rabat, Morocco

Morocco's King Mohammed VI has pardoned the Senegalese football supporters jailed after violence at the 2025 AFCON final in Rabat for "humanitarian reasons", a royal court statement said on Saturday.

It said that in view "of the age-old fraternal ties" between the two countries "and on the occasion of the advent of Eid al-Adha", the king has "granted, on humanitarian grounds, his royal pardon to the Senegalese supporters". The Muslim holiday will be celebrated on Wednesday in Morocco.

Yavi shines in Xiamen thriller



Kenya's Faith Cherotich edges Bahrain's Winfred Yavi in the women's 3,000m steeplechase

A Whisker Away

Olympic champion opens 2026 campaign with season-best run in tightly contested Diamond League steeplechase

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Winfred Yavi made her season debut on the international athletics circuit yesterday at the Wanda Diamond League meeting in Xiamen, China, finishing second in a high-quality women's 3,000m steeplechase decided by just 0.48 seconds.

The Olympic champion lined up in an elite 18-athlete field featuring reigning world champion Faith Cherotich and Tokyo 2021 Olympic champion Peruth Chemutai, in what developed into one of the most closely contested races of the early 2026 season.

Chemutai claimed victory in a meeting record and world lead of 8:51.06, narrowly holding off Yavi, who produced a season's best of 8:51.54. Cherotich completed the podium in 8:52.53, just under a second further back, highlighting how tightly matched the trio were

throughout.

From the opening stages, the leading group set a controlled but aggressive rhythm, passing 400m in around 1:07 and 800m in just over 2:18 while remaining tightly packed at the front. The pace stayed consistent through the middle laps, with splits holding in the mid-35 to low-36 second range, signalling a high-quality but tactical race rather than an early burn-up.

Through 2000m, Chemutai, Yavi, and Cherotich remained inseparable as they gradually increased pressure heading into the closing stages. The decisive phase came over the final 600m, where all three responded to each other's surges in a sustained kick for the line.

Chemutai ultimately proved strongest in the final stretch, edging clear to take the win in 8:51.06, with Yavi second in 8:51.54 and Cherotich third in 8:52.53.

"I am pleased with second"

After the race, Yavi said she was satisfied with her performance and emphasized her focus on improving her finishing strength.

"I am pleased with second. I'm very proud of my performance. Coming into this race, I really wanted to execute well in the last hundred meters. I'll review and check how I did," Yavi said. "Winning the silver medal last year in Tokyo shows that I had a great season, and it helped me realize that if I can keep my consistency, there will be chances for greater results. I'm looking forward to running an amazing season this year."

The race marked the first time Yavi, Chemutai, and Cherotich have competed together since last season's World Championships final, where Cherotich narrowly beat Yavi for gold. The Xiamen showdown again highlighted how evenly matched the

trio remain heading into the 2026 campaign, with all three separated by just over a second at the finish.

Yavi enters the season with a personal best of 8:44.39, the second-fastest time in history, underlining her status as one of the leading contenders in the women's steeplechase.

Birhanu Balew

Meanwhile, Bahrain's Birhanu Balew also competed in Xiamen yesterday, finishing seventh in the men's 5,000m in a strong field of 21 athletes.

The race was won by Ethiopia's Addisu Yihune in 12:57.32, with Balew crossing the line in 13:07.75 after a competitive but challenging outing. Looking ahead, Yavi and Balew are also expected to spearhead Bahrain's medal challenge at the Asian Games in Aichi and Nagoya, Japan, from September 19 to October 4.

Russell resists Antonelli in Canadian GP F1 sprint race

AFP | Montreal

Pre-season title favourite George Russell delivered a consummate lights-to-flag drive to win Saturday's sprint race at the Canadian Grand Prix and trim his angry team-mate Kimi Antonelli's championship lead.

The 28-year-old Briton came home 1.272 seconds clear of world champion Lando Norris of McLaren after resisting a spirited attack by the teenage Italian, who finished third, in the early part of the 23-lap race.

Norris's McLaren team-mate Oscar Piastri came home fourth ahead of both Ferraris with Charles Leclerc finishing fifth ahead of seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton.

Four-time champion Max Verstappen finished seventh for Red Bull ahead of Racing Bulls rookie Arvid Lindblad.

It was the first sprint race held at the Circuit Gilles Vil-



First place Mercedes' British driver George Russell (R), second place McLaren's British driver Lando Norris (C) and third place Mercedes' Italian driver Kimi Antonelli receive their plaques after the Sprint race ahead of the 2026 Formula 1 Grand Prix du Canada at Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve in Montreal, Canada

leneuve and was a memorable one, with the scrap between Russell and Antonelli requiring an intervention from Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff, telling the precocious Italian to cool off and stop talking on the team radio.

The incident came on lap six when Antonelli, 19, tried a move

around the outside of Turn One, but Russell defended stoutly forcing the Italian to run off with a muscular defence of his leading position.

"That was very naughty," said Antonelli, who accused Russell of pushing him off. "That should be a penalty. I was alongside the mirror."

Handball Heroes Return Home with Gold

Manama

Bahrain's national handball team returned home to a hero's welcome after a flawless campaign at the fourth GCC Games in Doha, Qatar, where they secured the gold medal with a perfect record — adding another proud chapter to the kingdom's sporting achievements.

The champions opened their campaign with a strong victory over Kuwait, before following up with another win against Saudi Arabia. They then sealed the gold medal in style with a brilliant performance against Qatar, confirming their place at the top of the standings with a match to spare.

With the title already secured, head coach Robert Hedin rotated the squad in the final fixture against the United Arab Emirates, giving younger players valuable minutes at international level.

The team were officially crowned champions on the final night at Duhaill Handball Hall, where they received their



Captain Hussain Al Sayyad is warmly welcomed by officials from the Bahrain Olympic Committee and the Bahrain Handball Association

gold medals alongside silver medallists Qatar and bronze medallists Saudi Arabia.

Back in Bahrain, the victorious squad received a warm welcome upon arrival yesterday. The delegation was received by Lounes Madene, Projects Director and Technical Director at the Bahrain Olympic Committee, and Majdi Mirza, Secretary-General of the Bahrain Handball Association. Both officials congratulated the players, coaching staff, and man-

agement on their achievement.

The triumph also contributed to Bahrain's strong overall performance at the Games, with the kingdom securing an impressive 63 medals across multiple sports. Looking ahead, the national team will turn its focus to the Asian Championship in India next June. The players are set to resume training at Isa bin Rashid Hall following the Eid holidays, as preparations begin for their next major challenge.