

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



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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-

A golden chapter

Bahrain celebrates record GCC Games medal haul

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.

Shura Chief Hails Bahrain Success

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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.



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.

"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.

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 \$34 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

failure, and kills roughly half of those infected—with fatality rates ranging from 25% to 90% in past outbreaks. It has claimed more than 15,000 lives across Africa since 1976.

The current outbreak is driven by the Bundibugyo strain—a rarer variety of the virus. The critical difference: no vaccine or treatment exists for this strain. A

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)

