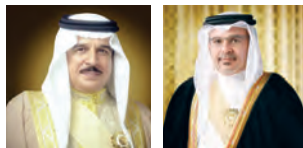




Leaders
congratulate
Tunisia on Republic
Day
TDT | Manama



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, have sent congratulatory messages to Tunisian President Kais Saied on the occasion of Tunisia's Republic Day.

HM King wished President Saied good health and happiness, and the people of Tunisia continued progress and prosperity, while highlighting the strong brotherly ties between the two nations and reaffirming Bahrain's commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister also sent a similar message to Tunisian Prime Minister Sarra Zaafrani Zenzri, extending congratulations.

Two arrested over
BD30,000 theft
TDT | Manama

Two men have been arrested for allegedly stealing an air-conditioning unit and electrical wires worth around BD30,000 from a company, the Interior Ministry said.

The Southern Governorate Police Directorate said the suspects, aged 41 and 44 and both Arab nationals, were identified following investigations launched after a complaint was received.

Police gathered information and evidence that led to the identification and arrest of the two suspects.

Legal procedures have been completed.

Netanyahu to meet
Trump at White
House
Jerusalem, Undefined

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will meet US President Donald Trump at the White House on Tuesday, the Israeli leader's office said.



Six-lane boost
for Isa Town

Works Minister opens flyover as road upgrade advances



Three lanes each
way along Shaikh
Salman Highway

Upgraded junction
to handle over 22,000
vehicles per hour

TDT | Manama

A faster drive through the heart of Bahrain's road network is taking shape, with a new six-lane flyover opening at the Northern Isa Town Intersection — a major milestone in an upgrade that will eventually accommodate more than 22,000 vehicles every hour.

The new flyover carries three lanes in each direction along

Shaikh Salman Highway, giving motorists a smoother route through one of the Kingdom's busiest corridors and improving connections between Riffa, A'ali, Sanad, Salmabad and Isa Town.

Works Minister Engineer Ibrahim bin Hassan Al Hawaj officially opened the flyover to traffic, marking the completion of the first phase of the strategic infrastructure project.

The scale of the improvement will become more apparent once the remaining phases are completed. The revamped intersection is designed to handle more than 22,000 vehicles per hour, substantially increasing capacity on the vital artery connecting the Capital, Northern and Southern Governorates.

The project forms part of

the Kingdom's strategic development initiatives overseen by the Ministerial Committee for Development and Infrastructure Projects, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa.

Attention will now turn to the remaining stages of the development, which covers the intersection of Shaikh Salman

Highway with Amman and Salmabad roads.

Signal-controlled junctions at ground level will work alongside the flyover to improve traffic movement along Amman and Salmabad roads.

The transformation extends beyond additional road capacity. The project includes a new stormwater drainage network, road resurfacing, pavement upgrades, landscaping and beautification, as well as enhanced road safety measures.

Work on the remaining phases will continue according to schedule.

Mr Al Hawaj thanked citizens, residents and road users for their patience and cooperation during the traffic diversions and urged motorists to continue following traffic guidance as work progresses.

22k

Once all phases are completed, the upgraded intersection will be capable of handling more than 22,000 vehicles per hour.

Shielding the Kingdom

BDF intercepts Iran strikes, stays on high alert

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's air defence systems intercepted and destroyed several Iranian aerial attacks targeting the Kingdom yesterday, as the Bahrain Defence

Force (BDF) maintained its highest level of readiness against further threats.

The BDF General Command said all services and units remain on full defensive alert to safeguard the Kingdom and pro-

tect citizens and residents.

The public has been urged to exercise caution and avoid approaching suspicious objects or debris that may have fallen following the intercepted attacks. Any such ob-

jects should be reported immediately.

The Royal Field Engineering Unit also remains on full alert to safely handle and neutralise remnants of the attacks, ensuring public safety.

AirAsia's Bahrain-London launch
delayed



TDT | agencies

AirAsia has reportedly pushed back its planned Kuala Lumpur-Bahrain-London Gatwick service once again, with the launch now believed to be delayed until March 2027.

The route had most recently been scheduled to begin on August 27 this year, but aviation schedule tracker AeroRoutes reported that the service has been removed from AirAsia's plans.

Reservations for the route are also no longer available.

Jordan intercepts 7
missiles, 6 drones

TDT | agencies

Jordan's air defences and fighter jets intercepted and destroyed seven missiles and six drones launched from Iran towards the Kingdom on Friday, with no casualties or damage reported.

A military source said Royal Engineering Corps teams were deployed to sites where debris fell and handled the remains under established security procedures. The Jordanian Armed Forces said they continue to monitor the Kingdom's airspace and remain at the highest level of operational readiness to counter threats to national security and public safety.

Trump warns
Russia and China
against arms sales
to Iran

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump warned China and Russia yesterday against selling weapons to Iran -- while saying he believed assurances from Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin that they were not yet doing so.

"Therefore, two major Countries that people speak of often in terms of Iran are, in my opinion, not participating," Trump said on his Truth Social network. "If they did, it would be very bad for them -- Certainly not in their best interests."



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Power from the bin

Parliament proposal seeks to turn Bahrain's waste into electricity

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Electricity from rubbish? A new proposal before Parliament envisages just that — turning Bahrain's discarded food, sewage sludge and other organic waste into electricity instead of sending it to landfill.

And the benefits could go beyond cleaner energy. The plan could reduce pressure on landfills, curb pollution and create skilled jobs for Bahrainis while producing useful by-products such as organic fertiliser.

MP Dr Muneer Seroor has called for solid waste to be treated as an

energy resource rather than simply buried.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, he said the proposal could help Bahrain reduce its reliance on traditional energy sources while transforming waste from an environmental burden into power, useful products and employment.

At the heart of the proposal is wider use of anaerobic digestion at waste treatment plants. The process breaks down food scraps, animal manure, sewage sludge and other bio-

degradable material in the absence of oxygen.

The resulting biogas can be burned to generate electricity or purified into biomethane for use as fuel. The process also produces material that can be used as organic fertiliser.

Dr Seroor pointed to the European Union, where anaerobic digestion forms part of wider waste management and renewable energy policies. European rules require

organic waste to be collected separately, making it easier to divert biodegradable material from landfills to treatment facilities.

A similar approach in Bahrain, he said, would require waste to be sorted at source, allowing food scraps and other organic material to be collected separately and sent for processing.

The potential is significant. An Arabian Gulf University study recommended anaerobic digestion as an option for treating Bahrain's biodegradable waste and sewage sludge.

It estimated that a proposed facility could generate

around 213.3 gigawatt-hours of electricity annually and produce organic fertiliser, while reducing emissions by the equivalent of approximately 536,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Dr Seroor said the development of such facilities could also open up employment opportunities for Bahrainis in engineering, plant operations, maintenance and waste management.

With waste-to-energy technologies already being deployed in several countries,

including Gulf states, he urged Bahrain to revive and advance earlier plans in the sector.

The goal, he said, is ultimately straightforward: turn rubbish from a costly burden into a source of electricity, useful products and jobs.

MP Dr Muneer Seroor

Iran attacks: Bahrain takes its case global

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain will use a human rights dossier documenting Iranian attacks to rally international parliamentary support for condemning strikes on civilians and holding those responsible to account, a Shura Council member has said.

Ali Al Shehabi, deputy

chairman of the Shura Council's Human Rights Committee, said the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) report gives Bahraini delegations firm legal ground to present the Kingdom's case internationally.

The report documents harm to civilians and civilian sites through field visits, interviews and evidence assessed under international standards.

"This report is a na-

tional document of great legal and human rights value because it does not merely recount the facts, but records them through a sound method based on international standards," Mr Al Shehabi said.

He said the findings could help Bahrain seek a unified stand among foreign parliaments, reinforce calls for compliance with international humanitarian law and press for accountability.

Mr Al Shehabi said parliamentary diplomacy could complement state diplomacy by

providing another platform to highlight the attacks and their human impact.

"When facts are recorded through evidence and sound methods, they give the Bahraini parliamentary delegation firm ground from which to explain the violations suffered by the Kingdom," he said.

He stressed that the issue extended beyond Bahrain to the international responsibility to protect civilians during conflicts.

"This message does not concern Bahrain alone, but up-



This message does not concern Bahrain alone, but upholds a universal principle: protecting civilians and preserving human rights in all circumstances

ALI AL SHEHABI, SHURA COUNCIL MEMBER

holding a universal principle: protecting civilians and pre-

serving human rights in all circumstances," he said. The report contains 12 sections covering its legal basis, evidence-gathering methods, state obligations, the human impact of the attacks, field visits and interviews.

It concludes with recommendations on human rights protection, crisis planning and follow-up measures.

Mr Al Shehabi said the dossier could also help shape Bahraini laws and policies while preserving a record of the attacks for future generations.

Heart attacks no longer a concern only for the elderly

Neethu V
TDT | Manama

Cardiologists are increasingly treating patients in their 30s and 40s, and in some cases even people in their late 20s, signalling a worrying shift in cardiovascular disease.

The recent passing of a 26-year-old Indian national in Bahrain due to a sudden cardiac event has left the community reeling. This tragic loss, reported by The Daily Tribune, serves as a stark reminder of the growing threat cardiovascular issues pose to younger populations.

As more instances of otherwise healthy individuals facing severe heart complications emerge, a critical question arises: What is driving this rise in heart attacks among the youth?

"The trend is undeniable; we are witnessing a significant increase in acute cardiac cases among younger adults, even though the elderly remain the primary demographic," explained Dr Mohammed Abdul Khadir, Consultant Cardiologist at Al Hilal Medical Center, Adliya, during a conversation with The Daily Tribune.

Dr Khadir points to mod-

Youngest patients: Heart attacks are being seen even in people in their late 20s.

Start screening: Around age 20.

Best daily habit: 30 minutes of exercise.

Biggest myth: "Looking healthy means your heart is healthy."

ern lifestyle choices as a primary culprit. Factors such as sedentary behavior, poor nutritional habits, obesity, and the prevalence of smoking or vaping are escalating the risk. Furthermore, conditions like hypertension, diabetes, elevated cholesterol, unmanaged stress, and lack of sleep are fueling this cardiovascular crisis.

He also noted that the intense heat in Bahrain often acts as a barrier to outdoor movement, highlighting the urgent need for individuals to find creative ways to stay active and adopt heart-healthy daily practices.

The symptoms many ignore

One of the biggest dangers is the belief that heart disease only affects older people.

Because of this misconcep-

tion, many younger adults dismiss early warning signs until it is too late. While crushing chest pain remains the hallmark of a heart attack, younger patients may instead experience pain in the jaw, neck, shoulder, arm or back, shortness of breath, unusual fatigue, dizziness, nausea, cold sweats or symptoms resembling indigestion.

"Any persistent or unexplained chest discomfort should never be ignored," Dr Khadir stressed. "Seeking medical attention immediately can save lives."

Why screening shouldn't wait

Heart health checks should begin much earlier than many people realise.

Dr Khadir recommends routine screening from around the age of 20, including blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, weight and body mass index assessments.

Those with diabetes, obesity, hypertension, a family history of heart disease or smoking habits should undergo more frequent evaluations.

"Identifying these risk factors early allows us to intervene before they develop into serious

cardiovascular disease," he said.

Work can affect your heart too

Modern workplaces are also influencing heart health.

Long hours at a desk, demanding schedules and chronic stress can all increase cardiovascular risk.

Dr Khadir encourages employers to invest in employee wellbeing through wellness programmes, healthier food choices, routine health screenings, mental health support and initiatives that encourage movement throughout the working day.

Even simple ideas such as walking meetings, ergonomic workstations and stress-management workshops can make a meaningful difference.

One habit that changes everything

If there is one recommendation Dr Khadir believes everyone should follow, it is remarkably simple: move more.

Just 30 minutes of moderate exercise, such as brisk walking, cycling or swimming on most days of the week, can dramatically lower the risk of heart disease.

Combined with quality sleep, a healthy diet, maintaining a healthy weight and avoiding tobacco, regular physical activity remains one of the most effective ways to protect the heart.

Eat smart

When it comes to diet, Dr Khadir advises choosing whole, minimally processed foods.

Fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, legumes, nuts, seeds, fish rich in omega-3 fatty acids, olive oil and lean proteins should form

Dr Mohammed Abdul Khadir, Consultant Cardiologist, Al Hilal Medical Center, Adliya

the foundation of everyday meals.

Equally important is cutting back on sugary drinks, processed foods, excessive salt, trans fats and saturated fats, while staying hydrated and practising portion control.

Fit doesn't always mean healthy

Perhaps the greatest myth surrounding heart disease is that only overweight or inactive people are at risk.

"Looking healthy does not always mean the heart is healthy," Dr Khadir said.

Inherited conditions, elevated cholesterol, high blood pressure and other silent risk factors often have no obvious symptoms. Smoking, vaping, unmanaged stress, poor sleep and family history can also increase risk, even among people who appear fit and exercise regularly.

His advice is clear: don't wait until symptoms appear.

Regular check-ups, healthier daily habits and early action remain the strongest defence against heart disease and they could save lives long before middle age.

Smart city push gathers pace

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is stepping up efforts to bring smart technology into municipal services through closer cooperation between the government and the Bahrain Smart Cities Association.

Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Minister Eng. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak said innovation, smart city applications and advanced technologies could improve service efficiency and support the Kingdom's sustainable development goals.

He was speaking during a meeting with Bahrain Smart



Cities Association Chairperson Dr Shaikha Fai bint Abdullah Al Khalifa and board members.

Municipal Affairs Undersecretary Eng. Shaikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa also attended.

Talks focused on cooperation in innovation, smart city applications and technology-driven municipal services.

Mr Al Mubarak reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to working with civil society and specialised organisations to improve municipal and agricultural services.

He also congratulated Dr Shaikha Fai on her appointment

and wished the newly elected board success.

Dr Shaikha Fai said closer partnership with the ministry would help launch innovative initiatives, promote knowledge exchange and accelerate Bahrain's smart transformation.

On the sidelines, the delegation toured the historic Manama Municipality building and the Municipal Exhibition, which traces the development of municipal work and key achievements in the Kingdom.



Elderly care at heart of Bahrain's health strategy



TDT | Manama

Comprehensive healthcare and rehabilitation for the elderly and patients requiring long-term care remain a key priority in Bahrain's health-care strategy, Supreme Council of Health Chairman Lieutenant General Doctor Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa has said.

He made the remarks during a visit to the Muharraq Specialised Healthcare Centre, where he reviewed services, operational readiness and facilities.

Shaikh Mohammed praised the centre's specialised, patient-centred services, saying they reflected the Kingdom's commitment to raising health-care standards.

He was accompanied by Health Minister Dr Jalila probint Al Sayed Jawad Hassan, Government Hospitals Board

of Trustees Chairman Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulaziz Al Khalifa, Government Hospitals Chief Executive Dr Mariam Athbi Al Jahalma and senior officials.

Dr Jalila said the centre strengthened Bahrain's healthcare network by improving continuity of care and supporting a more integrated and sustainable health system.

The facility provides long-term care and rehabilitation for elderly patients and others requiring continuous medical support.

Services include physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, occupational therapy, laboratory testing, radiology, pharmacy services and specialist outpatient clinics.

The delegation toured the centre's departments and reviewed its rehabilitation programmes and healthcare delivery model.

Bahrain, Saudi strengthen security front

Joint committee discusses shared initiatives and future coordination



TDT | Manama

Bahrain and Saudi Arabia are stepping up security cooperation to tackle emerging challenges and strengthen regional stability, as officials reviewed joint initiatives and future priorities at a key bilateral meeting.

Deputy Chief of Public Security Major General Dr Shaikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Khalifa led Bahrain's delegation at the seventh meeting of the Security Committee Working Group under the Saudi-Bahraini Coordination Council on Thursday.



The Saudi delegation was headed by Ahmed bin Suleiman Al Essa, Director-General of Legal Affairs and International Cooperation at the Saudi Ministry of Interior.

Major General Dr Shaikh Hamad stressed that closer coordination would strengthen

joint security efforts, facilitate the exchange of expertise and safeguard the shared interests of both kingdoms.

He said continued cooperation reflected the deep-rooted historical ties between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia and contributed to regional security and stability.

Officials reviewed progress and achievements under the Security Committee's initiatives and discussed measures to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

The meeting also addressed emerging security developments and challenges facing the two countries.

BD86,000 school funds case under appeal

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manamas

A three-member expert committee is preparing its report in the appeal of three industrial secondary school employees convicted of misappropriating more than BD86,000 in school funds through forged documents and records.

The Fifth High Criminal Appeals Court will resume hearing the case in August.

The First High Criminal Court sentenced the first defendant to 10 years in prison, the second to three years and the third to one year. They were also fined and ordered to repay the misappropriated amounts.

The case followed a Ministry of Education report on financial and administrative irregularities at a government school.

Investigations found that more than 200 school cheques had been received by the defendants, with some deposited into personal accounts or withdrawn as cash. Funds were allegedly spent on personal expenses, including restaurants, cafés, salons, cinemas, vehicles and clinics.

The offences were found to have taken place between 2019 and 2024, with defendants admitting during questioning to involvement in forged documents, blank signed cheques and transactions involving school funds.

Turkey loses ground as Bahrainis seek cheaper summer escapes

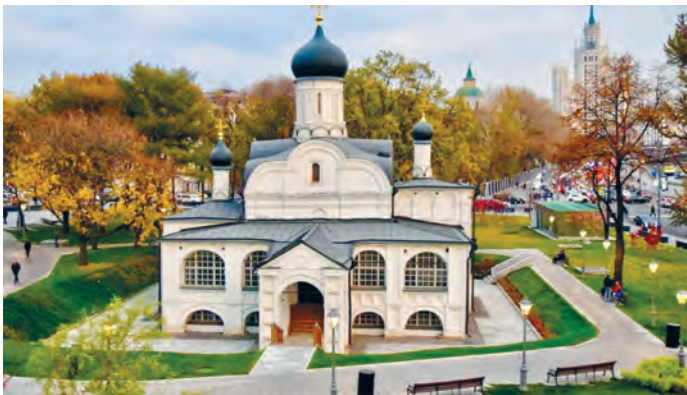
Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Turkey's long-standing appeal among Bahraini holidaymakers is fading this summer, with bookings down by as much as 60 per cent as higher airfares and rising holiday costs push families towards cheaper alternatives.

Cairo and Thailand are among the biggest beneficiaries, while Bosnia and nearby Gulf destinations are also attracting travellers who might previously have chosen Istanbul or Trabzon.

Jihad Amin, chief executive of House of Travel, said Turkey bookings had fallen by up to 60 per cent, with higher hotel, food and transport costs weighing on demand.

He said Bosnia and Herzego-



vina had recorded a sharp rise in bookings at his agency, with many groups switching from Turkey. Hot weather across parts of Europe had also discouraged some travellers.

Cairo, meanwhile, has emerged as a strong summer choice, helped by affordable prices, markets, restaurants and

family attractions.

Habil Al Khayat, general manager of New Atlantis Travel, also estimated a 60 per cent decline in Turkey bookings, blaming higher airfares and living costs. Local transport in some Turkish destinations could now cost more than in London, he said.

His agency had seen Thai-



land lead bookings, followed closely by Cairo, while demand for Bosnia and Indonesia was weaker, highlighting differences in booking patterns between agencies.

Dubai and Abu Dhabi are also benefiting as Bahrainis opt for shorter trips closer to home. Dubai's hotels, restaurants,

shopping and family attractions remain a draw despite the summer heat, while Abu Dhabi is attracting families with its theme

parks and leisure offerings.

Oman continues to receive Bahraini visitors, though in smaller numbers than some competing destinations.

Travel and tourism expert Waad Makki said summer travel had picked up following months of caution during regional unrest.

She said Gulf destinations remained attractive despite the heat because of their proximity to Bahrain and the ease of returning home quickly if necessary.

Thailand and Sri Lanka were also proving popular, supported by competitive package prices and a wide range of tours.

Waad Makki, Travel Expert



Trump says EU to pay ‘very big price’ for Google fine

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump yesterday threatened to hit the European Union with tariffs and a formal trade investigation over Brussels’ latest antitrust penalty against Google.

In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump said the bloc “will pay a very big price for this illegal and highly unethical conduct, which I have consistently warned them about.”

The United States of America is not a ‘PIGGYBANK’ for Europe, nor will we allow it to be

TRUMP

He said he would “immediately initiate a 301 Investigation” into what he called the EU’s practice of “ROBBING” American companies, and said he anticipated a “substantial TARIFF” on the bloc “at the ear-

liest possible moment.”

“The United States of America is not a ‘PIGGYBANK’ for Europe, nor will we allow it to be,” he wrote.

Section 301 of the 1974 Trade Act allows Washington to probe

foreign practices it deems discriminatory and retaliate with tariffs.

The European Commission on Thursday fined Google 890 million euros (\$1 billion) for breaching the Digital Markets Act (DMA), the bloc’s landmark law policing the conduct of dominant online platforms.

It was the first penalty imposed on the company under the legislation.

The Commission issued two

separate decisions: a 460-million-euro fine for favoring Google’s own shopping, hotel, transport and sports services in search results, and a 430-million-euro fine over restrictions that stopped app developers from steering users toward cheaper offers outside the Google Play store.

US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer had already criticized the decision on Thursday, saying the EU’s en-

forcement action undermined “constructive dialogue” and posed a “real risk” to transatlantic trade stability.

The conflict tests the trade framework agreed between Washington and Brussels last year, which lowered US duties on European cars in exchange for concessions from the bloc.

EU officials have repeatedly insisted that their digital rule-book is not aimed at American firms.

EU grants US request to delay satellite images’ release

AFP | Paris, France

The European Union has agreed to a US request to delay broadcasting its Copernicus satellite images over the Gulf by 24 hours, according to a decision published in its official journal.

US officials made the request for the delay on satellite to EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas on May 26. It covered data from the Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 satellites over the Gulf.

In a decision dated July 13, the EU Council ruled that it was “necessary” to do so, to ensure the images “are not used by any third State or non-State actor in such a way as to present a threat to the interests of the Union and its Member States in the region or to those of their allies”.

Houthi say they don’t seek to close key Bab al-Mandeb Strait

AFP | Sanaa, Yemen

A Houthi spokesman said yesterday that they were not blocking traffic through the strategic Bab al-Mandeb Strait, after they declared a maritime embargo this week on Saudi Arabia. The Iran-backed group attacked a Saudi ship in the nearby Red Sea after announcing the blockade.

“There is no closure of Bab al-Mandab as some are suggesting,” said Mohammed Abdusalam, who is also a top Houthi negotiator.

Stock markets recover as oil retreats

AFP | London, United Kingdom

The main international oil contract Brent North Sea fell back under \$100 yesterday after surging past the key milestone the previous day on escalating Middle East strikes, helping US and European stock markets stabilise.

Brent fell 5% to under \$96 a barrel, having soared 7% Thursday. The key US contract, West Texas Intermediate, declined more than 4% after having gained more than 6% on Thursday.

The sizeable jumps had come after Yemen’s Houthi rebels struck oil tankers in the Red Sea, potentially opening a new front in the Middle East war.

On Wall Street, both the Dow and S&P 500 rose, while the Nasdaq Composite was flat as tech stocks continued to struggle.

“This is not a robust response given the scope of yesterday’s losses, but it is something to build on for a market that had its foundation shaken yesterday,” said Briefing.com analyst Patrick O’Hare, referring to when the Nasdaq fell more than 2% as tech stocks took a beating while the Dow and S&P 500 both lost 1%.

With tech stocks not as predominant in Europe, that region’s main stock markets advanced.

Asian stock markets followed the sell-off Thursday on Wall Street as world markets were battered by a perfect storm of the resurgent Middle East war, the spike in oil prices and concerns about the artificial intelligence (AI) boom.

While traders in the past have been able to offset the bad news in one area by focusing on the positives elsewhere, analysts said they were now struggling to fire-fight on three fronts:

Key figures around 1530 GMT

Brent North Sea Crude:	▼ 5.1% at \$95.60 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▼ 4.4% at \$88.13 a barrel
New York - Dow:	▲ 0.7% at 52,065.68 points
New York - S&P 500:	▲ 0.5% at 7,447.76
Nasdaq Composite:	■ at 25,134.19
London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.9% at 10,736.23 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.9% at 8,372 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX:	▲ 1.4% at 25,099.00 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 2.7% at 64,611.15 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▼ 1.0% at 24,963.23 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 1.6% at 3,814.20 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1387 from \$1.1377 on Thursday
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.3341 from \$1.3315
Euro/pound:	▼ at 85.35 pence from 85.44 pence
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 163.70 yen from 163.85

high oil prices, high government borrowing costs and jitters over tech company valuations. Tech firms were once again bearing the brunt of the selling owing to growing concerns about the colossal sums ploughed into AI hardware, factories and research, with many now questioning when they will see returns.

The latest blows came Thursday as Google parent Alphabet and Tesla came under scrutiny for massive capital spending drives.

Alphabet shares dived almost seven% and Tesla plunged more than 14%.

Alphabet shares regained 0.6% but shares in Tesla fell another 3%.

Meta, Microsoft, and Amazon had already flagged that they would fork out more than \$700 billion this year on AI ambitions, and are due to report next week.

Meanwhile, government bond yields jumped with the yield on 10-year US Treasuries hitting an 18-month high, and



Brent crude is the key global oil benchmark, used to price roughly two-thirds of the world’s internationally traded crude oil supplies.

expectations of interest rate hikes have risen.

David Morrison at Trade Nation said expectations that the US Federal Reserve could hike interest rates at its meeting next week have risen from 13% last week to 30% currently.

“Perhaps more seriously, the CME’s FedWatch Tool shows a 90% probability of at least one 25-basis point rate hike before year-end,” he said.

China restricts exports to 14 EU entities

AFP | Beijing, China

China banned exports of products with the potential for dual civilian and military uses to 14 European Union companies on Friday, citing national security concerns.

The move comes a day after the EU imposed similar export restrictions against 51 new entities, including Chinese and Hong Kong companies, which it accused of supporting Russia’s war in Ukraine.

“In order to safeguard national security and national interests... China has decided to place 14 EU entities including Lafert Group on its export control list,” the Chinese commerce ministry said in a statement.

The ban, which takes effect

from Friday, will “prohibit exporters from exporting dual-use items to the above-mentioned entities”, it added.

A Chinese commerce ministry spokesperson said ban was “responding to egregious actions by the EU” a day earlier.

The 14 entities include Italian electric motor producer Lafert Group, and German arms manufacturer Rheinmetall AG.

Dutch shipbuilding company IHC, which produces offshore heavy equipment, and Czech firm Tatra Trucks, which makes military vehicles, were also listed.

The ban also prohibits overseas organisations and individuals from supplying dual-use items from China to the 14 European entities.

US imposes new tariffs on 60 partners as Trump rebuilds trade agenda

AFP | Washington, United States

A new wave of US tariffs targeting 60 trading partners took effect on Friday, replacing an expiring global duty rolled out by President Donald Trump earlier this year.

The levies, which range from 10 percent to 12.5 percent and impact major economies like China, India and the European Union, sparked protests from Beijing and other targets.

“The United States has had a forced labor import ban for nearly a century, and rigorously enforces it; it’s well past time for our trading partners to do the same,” said US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer.

He earlier said that the targeted economies represent the majority of US trade.

The Trump administration has moved swiftly

to rebuild the president’s tariff wall after the Supreme Court struck down a host of his duties in February -- dealing a blow to his ability to unleash steep levies at will.

After the setback, Trump tapped different authorities to reimpose a 10 percent tariff on imports. But this only lasted 150 days and expired on Friday. The volley of new duties, initially proposed in June, now takes its place.

The measures were planned after a months-long investigation and are considered more resistant to legal challenges than earlier moves.



Anthropic bets on cheaper AI with new model

AFP | San Francisco, United States

Anthropic yesterday released Claude Opus 5, a new artificial intelligence model the company says approaches the performance of its most powerful system at half the price.

The San Francisco-based startup, a chief rival to OpenAI, said the model tops industry benchmarks for coding and knowledge work while consum-

ing fewer computing resources than earlier versions.

The claim addressed the rising concerns of business customers who have balked at the expense of running advanced AI systems.

Claude competes with OpenAI’s ChatGPT and Google’s Gemini, and customers pay based on the amount of work performed, measured in units called tokens.

Opus 5 costs \$5 per million input tokens and \$25 per million output tokens, half the price of Fable 5, Anthropic’s most expensive publicly available offering.

The company said the new model performs close to Fable 5 across many tasks despite the lower cost.

Cost has become a major issue after Anthropic and its archrival OpenAI, the maker of

ChatGPT, both filed for stock market listings in June.

Wall Street is scrutinizing their business performance more closely than ever ahead of their market debuts.

On cybersecurity, Anthropic said it deliberately avoided training Opus 5 on cyber tasks, and that the model remains behind Mythos 5 -- its most capable and most tightly restricted system, available only to select

partners -- on both offensive cyber work and biological research capabilities that could be misused.

Mythos is Anthropic’s most advanced series of AI models, and their strength at finding weaknesses in computer systems -- and at turning those weaknesses into working attacks -- has caused controversy and pushed the company to build tight guardrails around

them. The company said Opus 5 finds software flaws about as well as Mythos 5 but lags far behind in turning those flaws into something that could be weaponized into an attack.

Citing the reduced risk, Anthropic said its automated safety filters will intervene roughly 85 percent less often on Opus 5 than on Fable 5, the Mythos-class model it released last month.

At least 21 killed in Russian and Ukrainian long-range strikes

Kyiv investigates deadly exhibition strike as Ukraine targets sites deep inside Russia

- Ukraine hits Russian factory
- Wildberries warehouses targeted

AFP | Kyiv

At least 21 people were killed yesterday in Russian and Ukrainian long-range strikes -- including at a gathering of Ukraine's defence industry just outside Kyiv and at a factory hundreds of miles east of Moscow.

Both sides have been intensifying drone and missile strikes with diplomacy on ending the four-and-a-half-year war at a standstill.

In the most deadly attack, a Russian missile strike outside the Ukrainian capital killed at least 10 people and wounded around 100, Ukraine's prosecutor general said.

Other officials and industry figures said the strike hit an arms exhibition.

Ukrainian prosecutors opened a criminal probe into the organisation of the event -- the latest Russian strike on a gathering of military and defence figures in the war.

A Russian aerial bomb also killed five people in the front-line city of Sloviansk and damaged Latvia's honorary consulate there.

"Russia has long abandoned any regard for international norms -- and for human values," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on social media.

"Their only interest is in con-



A passenger plane flies past smoke rising from a warehouse for a Russian e-commerce giant near Saint Petersburg

tinuing the killing."

Overnight, his army launched a wave of long-range drone and missile attacks on Russia.

Moscow said an attack on a factory more than 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) from the front in the city of Kirov killed six people.

Ukraine also attacked warehouses belonging to Russian online retail giant Wildberries outside Saint Petersburg -- targeting Russia's equivalent of Amazon for the third time in a week.

The strikes come as the war has seen more civilians dying this summer than in any period since the first months of Russia's invasion, according to the United Nations.

Zelensky said the "key mili-



tary enterprise" hit in Russia's Kirov "supplies components for the occupier's aircraft and missile systems, which are used in

the massive attacks against our cities".

Kirov governor Alexander Sokolov confirmed Kyiv targeted a "factory" and that the six victims were killed on the spot. Another 26 were wounded.

While Kyiv has hit Russian towns as far as the Urals and Siberia, it has mostly damaged energy infrastructure, with deaths so deep into Russia rare.

In Saint Petersburg -- Russian leader Vladimir Putin's hometown -- the attacks on Wildberries warehouses sent smoke pouring over the historic city.

Zelensky, who has accused the company of storing drone components and helping the Russian army, hailed yesterday's strikes as "successful".

India condemns attack on merchant vessel in Black Sea

TDT | Agencies

India said one of its nationals was killed in an attack on the commercial vessel MV OMORFI while it was transiting the Black Sea on July 18, and condemned attacks on merchant shipping that endanger civilian crews.

In a statement issued on Friday, the Ministry of External Affairs said the vessel was reportedly attacked in Russian territorial waters. Ten crew members were on board at the time, including three Indian nationals.

The ministry said one Indian citizen "tragically lost his life" in the attack, while the other two Indian nationals

aboard were reported safe. It expressed condolences to the deceased's family.

India said its mission in Russia had contacted the relevant authorities and was making efforts to provide all possible assistance to the affected family.

The ministry said India "unequivocally condemns" attacks targeting commercial shipping and civilian seafarers, warning that such incidents pose a serious threat to freedom of navigation and international commerce.

It called on all concerned parties to uphold their international obligations to ensure the safety and security of maritime navigation and the uninterrupted flow of global trade.

Israel PM orders new West Bank outposts after deadly clash



Israeli security forces patrolling a street in the occupied West Bank

AFP | Jerusalem

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the establishment of new settler outposts in the occupied West Bank yesterday, in a retaliatory move after a confrontation left two Israelis and four Palestinians dead.

Violence in the West Bank has surged since the Gaza war began with Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel.

Yesterday's violence erupted near the settlement of Havat Gilad and the neighbouring Palestinian village of Tell, in territory occupied by Israel since 1967.

Excluding east Jerusalem, more than 500,000 Israelis live in settlements in the West Bank alongside around three million Palestinians.

Following yesterday's incident, Netanyahu vowed to "act with full force against the terrorists and those who orchestrate and sponsor them".

He later announced a series of steps including raids in Palestinian villages suspected of hosting militants and "accelerating the legalisation of farm outposts and establishment of new ones" in the West Bank.

All Israeli settlements are illegal under international law, while outposts are small settlements established usually without government approval and therefore illegal under Israeli law.

They are usually on hilltops, often composed of a few mo-

bile homes set up overnight by small groups of settlers, with the aim of eventually being recognised as a proper settlement.

According to Walid Zidan, head of the Tell village council, yesterday's clashes began when a group of about 20 settlers entered the village.

"Villagers came out to defend their homes and property. Clashes and physical altercations broke out between the residents and the settlers," Zidan told AFP.

"Israeli soldiers were present and together with the settlers began opening fire ... it was the settlers who stormed the village, with the intention of killing, vandalising and setting property on fire."

Arrests

The Ramallah-based Palestinian health ministry reported four Palestinians killed and four others wounded in the incident.

Grieving Palestinian relatives gathered at two hospitals in the nearby city of Nablus, where the victims' bodies were taken, an AFP journalist reported.

Shortly after, Israeli troops came to a hospital to take away a man who had been injured during the clash, as well as his brother, a hospital official told AFP.

The AFP journalist at the scene saw troops taking at least one handcuffed man from the hospital.

UN urges evacuation of 6,000 sailors stranded in Hormuz strait

AFP | Geneva

The United Nations on Friday called for the safe evacuation and repatriation of some 6,000 sailors stuck in a "dire humanitarian and human rights crisis" in the Strait of Hormuz.

UN human rights chief Volker Turk called for urgent action to remedy the plight of thousands of seafarers caught up in the Middle East war, his spokeswoman Shabia Mantoo said.

The International Maritime Organization has said there are at least 6,000 seafarers on hundreds of vessels who are stranded in the strait, unable to evacuate during the ceasefire. Many others are unaccounted for.

Turk is urging states, ship owners and all other relevant actors to "urgently ensure the protection of stranded seafarers", including through con-



Vessels are seen anchored along the Strait of Hormuz

sular assistance and providing essential supplies, "and by facilitating evacuations and repatriations", Mantoo told a press conference in Geneva.

"Parties to the conflict should urgently work to facilitate safe passage for stranded seafar-

ers to safely evacuate and disembark, as well as ensure the delivery of critical supplies," Mantoo added.

The war, which erupted at the end of February, resumed this month after a ceasefire that had lasted just a few weeks,

throwing the region back into chaos as Iran and the United States battle for control of the Strait of Hormuz.

Attacks on civilian shipping

The US military insists that the strategic waterway -- through which one fifth of the world's oil passed before the war -- is "open for transit" after Iran pressed on with attacks on tankers using the route in a bid to strongarm them into paying for safe passage.

"Attacks against civilian vessels are unacceptable and must stop. They are protected under international humanitarian law," said Mantoo.

"Seafarers remain exposed to hostilities as deadly attacks in the strait continue -- facing imminent risks of death or harm," the spokeswoman said, adding that 17 seafarers had been reported killed since the conflict erupted at the end of February.

Constantine I is proclaimed Roman Emperor by his troops

English engineer George Stephenson introduces his first steam locomotive, a traveling engine designed for hauling coal on the Killingworth wagonway, named Blücher



Benito Mussolini is dismissed as Italian Prime Minister and arrested on the authority of King Victor Emmanuel III

World War II: Operation Spring is one of Canada's bloodiest days, with 1,444 casualties, including 441 killed in a single day

Wildfires grip Europe

More than 80,000 flee forest infernos in France and Spain



Firefighters move in a fire truck as a forest burns close to a residential area during a wildfire near Lege-Cap-Ferret, southwestern France

Wildfires spread across Europe

France requests EU assistance

Spain declares emergency

AFP | Washington

Europe's wildfire crisis forced more than 80,000 people to flee for safety yesterday, as holidaymakers boarded boats to escape fires on one French peninsula and Spanish officials ordered mass evacuations in towns near Madrid.

Both Spain and France called for European Union help as flames whipped up by strong winds and boosted by drought raced through tinder-dry forests.

France ordered the evacuation of 40,000 people on the upscale Cap Ferret peninsula south of Bordeaux. As 27 boats brought hundreds of people away from the fires, those with cars took

the only usable road off the peninsula, known for its millionaire residences.

Another 23,000 people have been ordered out of homes and campsites further south in the Landes region.

In Spain, more than 19,000 people have been evacuated or told to stay in their homes in towns in the Madrid region.

Two of the three major wildfires west of the city had merged into one, threatening one suburban town, said officials.

"We are living through a dramatic situation, not only in various Spanish provinces but also in regions of neighbouring countries," said Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, as smoke from the out-of-control fires drifted over the Spanish capital.

Speeding infernos

Some European regions have suffered at least two heatwaves since May.

And drought blamed on human-fueled climate change has heightened the threat from wildfires this year, the World Weather Attribution group said in a

study published this week.

Three firefighters have been killed in France and Italy this week battling wildfires.

French authorities stepped up evacuations as they struggled with the advancing flames on Cap Ferret. Regional fire chief, Marc Vermeulen, said that for several hours the flames were devouring between 800 and 1,000 hectares (2,000-2,500 acres) of forest an hour.

More than 50 houses have been destroyed and dozens damaged, say French officials. Many people who fled were left wondering what they would find on their return.

Emergency centres were set up in schools and gymnasiums for tourists and residents.

In the village of Andernos, Maria Lalanne, a 90-year-old from Lege Cap Ferret, sat on a camp bed in a gym having left behind her glasses and her hearing aid.

"I have heart disease, high blood pressure and problems with my eyes," she said. "I don't know how long all this will last. I don't know how my house is, whether it has burned."



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



European airspace has once again been violated by a drone incursion. I commend the Romanian military for their swift and effective response, safeguarding our shared security. Strengthening defence and deterrence along our Eastern border remains a top priority.

@vonderleyen

02



As wildfires continue to affect communities across Europe, EU is standing with Spain. Following the activation of the #EUCivilProtection Mechanism, 4 #resceU Canadair firefighting planes from Greece and Italy will be deployed to support the response.

@hadjalahbib

03



Merci beaucoup, @SwissDevCoop, for your additional contribution of CHF 1.6 million to @WHO's work on the #Ebola response. We appreciate your continued support and partnership.

@DrTedros

04



Real change begins with people closest to the communities we serve. Great exchange with our @UNDP Reps from around the world. Every day, they bridge global ambition with local realities, building trust, forging partnerships, turning development priorities into lasting impact.

@alexanderdecroo

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

Xeriscape Agroforestry Can Climate Proof Bahrain's Agriculture



KOTA SRIRAJ

Bahrain has extreme climatic conditions thanks to the arid desert climate that translate to hot summers and scanty rainfall. This naturally has a detrimental impact on agriculture which needs ample water resources in order to ensure a healthy crop yield. In this regard, Bahrain can explore the large scale commercial roll out of Xeriscape Agroforestry. Derived from the Greek word xeros meaning "dry", Xeriscape practices combine water-wise landscaping with tree-crop integration, offering key benefits like extreme water conservation, improved soil health, and higher climate resilience. Agroforestry on the other hand is a sustainable land management system that deliberately combines trees and shrubs with crop farming and/or livestock grazing on the same piece of land. Combining xeriscaping principles with agroforestry systems in desert nations can deliver vital advantages such as desertification control.

The concept relies on usage of drought-tolerant native trees and shrubs to reduce irrigation needs. Besides cutting down of heavy watering by 50 per cent, xeriscape agroforestry promotes slashing down the use of chemical fertilisers and encourages grouping plants with similar water needs together to maximise efficiency. The addition of organic matter and supported by drip irrigation not only improves soil moisture retention but also delivers the moisture directly to the roots. This is further helped by the usage of mulch or rocks to lock in soil moisture which in turn regulates temperature and suppresses weeds. These measures improve soil fertility and enable diversification of crops from a single dry plot of land.

Xeriscape Agroforestry also has a tremendous positive impact on environment as it helps water conservation and enable the tree root networks to lock arid soil in place and thereby prevent severe wind erosion and desertification. Additionally, the creation of dense multi-layered tree canopies lower ground temperatures, increase ambient humidity, and reduce crop heat stress. But perhaps the most important benefit of xeriscape agroforestry is the role played in carbon sequestration as the hardy desert trees act as permanent carbon sinks in areas previously devoid of substantial biomass. These environmental benefits help create self-sustaining resilient ecosystems that in turn prevent salt accumulation from over-exploited aquifers, a key driver behind Bahrain losing fertile agricultural land.

The large scale implementation of xeriscape agroforestry can alter the trajectory of climate change for Bahrain by mitigating severe heat pockets across the rapidly urbanising Kingdom. Additionally this form of agroforestry can lessen the national reliance on energy-intensive, vulnerable coastal desalination infrastructure and also offer alternative income streams for the farmers through resilient non-fodder products if primary seasonal crops fail.

Xeriscape agroforestry can future proof Bahrain's agricultural sector from climate change.

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

UK PM Burnham back in Manchester to kickstart English 'devolution'

AFP | London

UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham formally opened his newly created northern office yesterday, promising "a different way of running Britain" as he bids to reverse decades of centralising power over England in London.

Unveiling No 10 North in the northwestern city of Manchester, Burnham -- who replaced Keir Starmer as premier on Monday -- pledged power would "flow" away from London's Whitehall governing district to spur economic growth.

"It's not just a new office," he told staff at the city centre site, flanked by senior officials including new finance minister John Healey.

"This is the place where



Britain's Prime Minister Andy Burnham speaks to staff members during a visit to officially open No10 North in Manchester

Whitehall meets the rest of the country."

The former Greater Manchester mayor says the thriving city-region -- which has

outscored Britain's national performance in various areas, including economic growth -- provides a model for other parts of the country.

Classifieds



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region

OIC Condemns Escalating Violence Against Palestinians

Calls for Accountability and International Protection



The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) strongly condemned escalation of violence and attacks against Palestinian civilians by Israeli settlers, alleging that the incidents occurred with the protection and participation of Israeli occupation forces.

In a statement, the OIC cited recent incidents in the towns of Tell in the Nablus Governorate and Deir Jarir in the Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate, as well as ongoing events in the Gaza Strip, which it said resulted in numerous casualties. The organisation warned that the escalation reflects what it described as continued colonial aggression, organised terrorism, and crimes targeting the Palestinian people, their land, and resources. It said such actions constitute

violations of international humanitarian law, international legitimacy resolutions, and the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice.

The OIC called on the international community, particularly the United Nations Security Council and international judicial bodies, to fulfil their responsibilities by providing international protection for the Palestinian people and ensuring accountability for those responsible for crimes against unarmed civilians under international criminal law.

The organisation also urged all countries to continue efforts to confront the settlement and occupation system and what it described as illegal settlement entities in the occupied Palestinian territories.

UN Envoy Alarmed by Red Sea Escalation

Grundberg urges restraint, warns renewed attacks threaten Yemen peace efforts

United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg has expressed deep concern over the renewed attacks by Ansar Allah on commercial shipping and the disruption of maritime navigation in the Red Sea, warning that the escalation could derail efforts to maintain peace in Yemen.

In a statement issued on Thursday, Grundberg said he had been engaging intensively in recent weeks with Yemeni, regional and international stakeholders as tensions continue to rise. He stressed that his immediate priority remains safeguarding the gains achieved under the 2022 truce, preventing a return to large-scale conflict, and creating the conditions for an inclusive political process.

The UN envoy warned that continued escalation could push Yemen towards further confrontation, drawing the



country deeper into an already unstable regional environment while worsening the humanitarian suffering of the Yemeni people.

Grundberg said there was still an opportunity to reverse the current course through negotiations that address Yemen's political, economic and security challenges, while placing the interests of its people at the centre of any solution.

He added that reaching a negotiated political settlement in Yemen would not only benefit the country but also contribute to greater stability across the wider region.

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Subotic demands defence first for Bahrain



Slobodan Subotic

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Slobodan Subotic has vowed to drive Bahrain up the world rankings with hard defence, sharp discipline and a brand of basketball the country can be proud of.

The Slovenian, who has taken charge of the senior men's national team, said his first days with the squad had left him struck by the players' work rate and grasp of the game.

"They are very professional," Subotic said in an interview with the Bahrain Basketball Association. "They work hard, train hard and make my job much easier."

"They understand basketball and take in what we ask of them very quickly. I do not have to stop training many times to explain things. That tells me they have a high basketball IQ."

Subotic said defence would be the base of his work as he tries to lift Bahrain from 75th in the FIBA world rankings.

"Defence is the first thing I bring to every team," he said. "That way of working has brought me results and titles."

"I told the players from the

first day that, unless they accept this, we will not achieve anything big. They understood the message and showed straight away that they were ready to follow it."

The coach said he wanted Bahrain to climb well above their current place in the standings, but stopped short of making grand claims.

"I am not a coach who promises many things," he said. "I will bring my European philosophy to the players, the team and the fans, and try to give them a team they enjoy watching and can be proud of."

Subotic also said he welcomed the strain that came with the post.

"I like pressure," he said. "It is good for me, and I try to pass that feeling to the players. We will do our best."

Bahrain is already familiar ground for the Slovenian, who has visited the kingdom for matches against local clubs and for a friendly fixture.

"This is not my first time here," he said. "I know the country and the city. I am very excited to be in Bahrain, and I am happy that the federation has given me the chance to work in a country that loves basketball."

LeBron James says he will play for Philadelphia 76ers

AFP | Washington

LeBron James announced on Friday he will play for the Philadelphia 76ers next season, with the 41-year-old NBA superstar hoping to transform another franchise into a championship team.

James, a four-time NBA Most Valuable Player, has won four titles in a 23-year career, most recently with the Los Angeles Lakers.

But the 41-year-old superstar announced on June 30 that he would depart the Lakers as a free agent, sparking a frenzy of speculation as to his next team.

"I believe I can help make the Philadelphia 76ers a championship team and I am so excited to energize a new fan base and start this incredible journey one last time," James posted on X.

James, the all-time NBA scoring leader, sparked the Miami Heat to NBA crowns in 2013 and 2014, brought his hometown Cleveland Cavaliers a title in 2016 and delivered a championship for the Lakers in 2020.

He's looking to make the same magic happen in what Rich Paul, James's agent, tells



LeBron James

ESPN will be a two-year deal worth \$8 million.

The NBA legend was considering several clubs but will join a 76ers team that traded for Boston Jaylen Brown from Boston and boasts a lineup that will also include star center Joel Embiid and guards Tyrese Maxey and VJ Edgecombe.

James averaged 20.9 points a game for the Lakers last season and said he was considering retirement strongly when the campaign concluded.

"I thought I was done when the season ended. I wasn't ready to announce it, and I knew I needed some time to really decide, but I was pretty sure I played my last game," James posted on X.

"I was honest at that last press conference when I said I needed to look at myself and decide if I still love this game."

Bahrain down Iran to seal world championship spot



Action from the match

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's young handball stars powered past Iran 31-24 to reach the Asian semi-finals and book their place at the 2027 World Championship.

The national side took a 14-11 lead into half-time before scor-

ing 17 goals after the break to finish the job by seven.

Ahmed Ayyad was named player of the match after helping Bahrain seal the quarter-final win in Chuzhou, China.

The result placed Bahrain among Asia's last four and secured a ticket to next year's IHF Men's Junior World Championship in North Macedonia.



Ahmed Ayyad receives player of the match award

Bahrain will face South Korea on Saturday at 6pm in China, or 1pm Bahrain time, with a place in the final on the line.

South Korea beat Chinese Taipei 30-26 to earn their semi-final spot.

Bahrain entered the knockout rounds after finishing second in Group A with eight points from four wins and one loss, behind

Saudi Arabia.

The match was played at the Chuzhou International Handball Hall on Friday.

The 19th Asian Men's Junior Handball Championship runs from July 15 to 27 and includes 13 teams.

The World Championship will be held in North Macedonia from June 23 to July 4 next year.

IOC reject complaint against FIFA chief Infantino over 'political neutrality'

AFP | Paris

The International Olympic Committee has rejected a complaint filed by the human rights NGO FairSquare against FIFA president Gianni Infantino for alleged breaches of rules on political neutrality, an IOC



Gianni Infantino

spokesperson told AFP on Friday.

The FairSquare complaint alleges that Infantino has "repeatedly breached IOC's rules on political neutrality by offering his political support for US president Donald Trump".

"The IOC Ethics Commis-

sion thoroughly analysed the complaint by FairSquare," the spokesperson told AFP.

"The commission noticed that, pursuant to the Olympic Charter, each International Federation (IF) maintains its independence and autonomy in its governance."

Spain coach blasts 'unacceptable' behaviour of Argentina after World Cup final

AFP | Madrid

Spain head coach Luis De la Fuente has blasted the "unacceptable" behaviour of several Argentina players and their coaching staff after losing the World Cup final.

Some Argentina players and staff confronted their Spanish rivals after the final whistle of last Sunday's game in New York which Spain won 1-0 after extra time.

Argentina players including Atletico Madrid defender Nahuel Molina and former Paris Saint-Germain player Leandro Paredes were involved in the incidents.

"At the time, I didn't realise it. I was celebrating, hugging teammates," De La Fuente told Spanish television.

"But in any case, it is intolerable, unacceptable, it cannot be allowed. Players of that stature, whom I praised in the days leading up to the match and continue to praise, who are great players with a tremendous coach, surely they must have felt just as bad as we did seeing those reactions."

De La Fuente praised the ex-



Spain and Argentina players are involved in a scuffle after the Spanish won the World Cup

emplary behaviour of his own players faced with these "acts of aggression" and "provocations" which he believes could have escalated into more serious incidents.

Although the scenes were filmed and widely shared on social media, they have not yet resulted in any sanctions against the Argentina players.

FIFA has opened an investigation into the incidents to determine whether there may have been violations of the world football governing body's disciplinary code.

Klopp handed task of reviving Germany's football fortunes

Former Liverpool manager succeeds Julian Nagelsmann after another disappointing World Cup campaign

● **Contract runs until 2030 World Cup**

● **Red Bull agrees to release Klopp early**

● **Official duties begin on August 15**

AFP | Berlin

Jurgen Klopp has been named Germany coach, the former Liverpool manager given the task of rebuilding the struggling European giants, the national federation (DFB) announced yesterday.

Klopp's appointment was widely expected for weeks and his contract will see him through to the 2030 World Cup co-hosted by Spain, Portugal and Morocco, as well as the three centenary matches planned for that year in South America.

The 59-year-old spoke publicly of his desire to take on the role after predecessor Julian Nagelsmann's resignation earlier in July.

Nagelsmann fell on his sword after a disappointing last-32 defeat at the hands of Paraguay, Germany's third consecutive early World Cup exit since winning the tournament in 2014.

As the German FA's preferred candidate, Klopp's willingness to take the job accelerated Nagelsmann's departure.



German coach Jurgen Klopp reacts during the penalty shootout of the 2026 World Cup round of 32 football match between Germany and Paraguay at the Boston Stadium (file photo)

"It's a great honour for me to be sitting here today," Klopp told a press conference called by the DFB to announce his appointment in Frankfurt.

"This is ideally the high point of my career, of my life, my professional life. I will give it everything I have," he said.

However he warned the assembled reporters that "if you tomorrow you start saying: 'He's crap', then I'm off".

DFB President Bernd Neundorff said Klopp's contract would start on August 15 and run until

summer 2030.

Since 2025, Klopp has been under contract until 2029 with Austrian energy drink maker Red Bull as "Head of Global Soccer", where he oversaw the football clubs affiliated with the company such as RB Leipzig, Red Bull Salzburg and the New York Red Bulls.

Neundorff thanked Red Bull for their willingness to end the contract early as Klopp would need his "full concentration" for the new job.

The DFB did not have to pay

a fee but will instead make a donation of a million euros (\$1.1 million) to Red Bull's Wings for Life charity foundation, which supports research into spinal cord injuries.

World Cup failure

Having repeatedly said his time in the dugout was over, Klopp returns with the mammoth task of returning the struggling Germans to the top of the international game.

Germany have won four World Cups -- the equal most of



Klopp's contract starts on August 15 after Red Bull agreed to end his global soccer role early



It's a great honour for me to be sitting here today. This is ideally the high point of my career, of my life, my professional life. I will give it everything I have

JURGEN KLOPP

The DFB had long courted Klopp and believed he was the perfect candidate to take over from Nagelsmann.

Klopp will work alongside Rudi Voeller, the 1990 World Cup winning striker has been the team's sporting director since autumn 2023 and whose contract runs for another two years.

The challenges facing Klopp and his staff are numerous.

The new coach will look to build the team round the young talent of Florian Wirtz and Jamal Musiala, both 23.

Joshua Kimmich has worn the captain's armband since autumn 2024, but will be 33 by the time of Euro 2028.

In goal, Manuel Neuer came out of international retirement for one last stint at the World Cup at the age of 40.

Klopp's hotly anticipated first squad will come in mid-September for four Nations League matches, the first being against the Netherlands on September 24.

Maresca says it's a 'privilege' to succeed Guardiola, expects Rodri to stay

AFP | London

Enzo Maresca said yesterday it is a "privilege" to follow Pep Guardiola as manager of Manchester City.

The Italian also expects to begin his first season in charge of the Premier League giants with Rodri still in his squad, although the World Cup Golden Ball winner requires back surgery.

Former Chelsea and Leicester boss Maresca was named as Guardiola's successor after the Catalan stepped down at the end of last season, having won 20 trophies during a superbly successful 10-year spell at the Etihad Stadium.

"I've said many times that I consider Pep probably the best coach in the world in the last 20, 25 years," Maresca told reporters in his first press conference as City manager. "But again, it's a challenge. It's nice. It's a privilege."

Many clubs have struggled following the exit of serial trophy-winning managers, with both Manchester United and Arsenal experiencing a downturn following the departures of Alex Ferguson and Arsene



Enzo Maresca reacts during a training session

Wenger, respectively.

"The history of (following) the manager with many years in the same club always struggled a little bit -- after Sir Alex, after Arsene," said Maresca. "It's a challenge to try to do the right things immediately for this organisation, for the fans, for everyone."

Maresca, 46, is now in his third stint at City after coaching the club's elite development squad and serving as Guardiola's assistant during the 2022/23 treble-winning season.

And he believes the strong

I've said many times that I consider Pep probably the best coach in the world in the last 20, 25 years. But again, it's a challenge. It's nice. It's a privilege

ENZO MARESCA

foundations at the club will help him build on the success enjoyed under Guardiola.

"I think the organisation is the main thing," he added. "This club, this organisation, they had three managers in 17 years. This is not normal, it doesn't happen often."

"So this is probably one of the (reasons) that I'm confident we can do a great job," said Maresca, speaking a day after England midfielder Elliot Anderson completed his reported £116 million (\$154 million) move to City from Nottingham Forest.

'Every manager wants Rodri'

Spain midfielder Rodri, 30, meanwhile, has entered the final year of his City contract

and has been linked with Real Madrid.

"We have to say that around big players there is always speculation," said Maresca. "I'm not worried about that. I think it's normal."

"Because they won the World Cup, and he was the best player or one of the best players, I think every manager wants to have Rodri."

"But now surgery on Monday, and he needs holiday. He needs to rest. He needs to recover and then he will be back here with us."

Chelsea were unhappy with the manner of Maresca's New Year's Day departure from Stamford Bridge amid speculation linking him with City.

A smiling Maresca, however, said yesterday: "I feel quite lucky in terms of my former clubs -- Leicester, Chelsea -- I think we did a great job."

"In both clubs, the identity of the team was clear, the success of the team was clear, and I feel very lucky to be part of these clubs."

"But now we are here. That is the most important thing, just about City. Nothing to add."

Dutchman van Bommel appointed new Belgium football coach

AFP | Brussels

Mark van Bommel is the new coach of the Belgian national football team, the Royal Belgian Football Association (RBFA) announced yesterday.

The 49-year-old former Dutch international succeeds Frenchman Rudi Garcia, who stepped down having guided the 'Red Devils' to the World Cup quarter-finals.

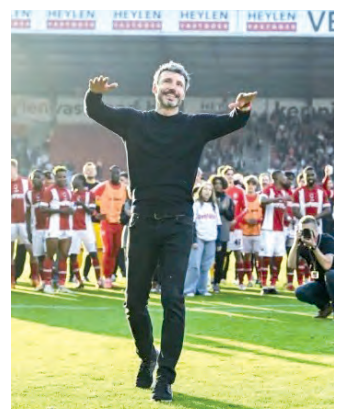
"Mark van Bommel has signed a contract that will see him lead Belgium's national team through UEFA EURO 2028," read an RBFA statement.

Van Bommel, who was an uncompromising midfielder and key member of the robust Netherlands side that lost to Spain in the 2010 World Cup final, said it was a "great honour" to have been appointed.

"I would like to thank the Royal Belgian Football Association for their confidence in me," he said.

"Belgium has outstanding players and enormous potential."

"Together with my coaching



Mark van Bommel

staff, we want to build a team that is disciplined, ambitious and brave enough to compete with the very best.

"Success is never guaranteed, but hard work, honesty and commitment are."

After hanging up his boots in 2013, Van Bommel has cut his teeth as coach of PSV Eindhoven, Wolfsburg and Antwerp.

Van Bommel has been without a team since departing Belgian top-flight club Antwerp in June 2024, a year after having guided them to a first league title in 66 years.

Hamilton tops times ahead of Leclerc in Ferrari 1-2 in Hungary

Kimi Antonelli struggles to 13th during challenging session for Mercedes

● Norris finishes third

● Verstappen fourth in Red Bull

● Colapinto crash causes red flag

AFP | Budapest

Lewis Hamilton topped the times ahead of teammate Charles Leclerc as Ferrari set the pace with a dominant 1-2 in yesterday's second free practice for the Hungarian Grand Prix.

The four-time champion, who could become the first driver to claim 10 pole positions at the same circuit, clocked a best lap time of one minute and 18.729 seconds to beat Leclerc by 0.148 seconds.

World champion Lando Norris, who won at the Hungaroring last year, was third for McLaren, but adrift by half a second, ahead of four-time champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull and George Russell in a Mercedes.

Hamilton has a career record



Ferrari's British driver Lewis Hamilton drives during the first practice session

104 poles and will hope on Saturday to repeat his last qualifying success which was in Hungary in 2023. He is second in the drivers' championship, 45 points behind Kimi Antonelli.

On a hot, dry day with a gust-

ing wind, Isack Hadjar was sixth in the second Red Bull ahead of Liam Lawson of Racing Bulls, Oscar Piastri in the second McLaren and Nico Hulkenberg of Audi.

Racing Bulls' rookie Arvid

Lindblad was 10th while Antonelli struggled to 13th in his Mercedes after sitting out opening practice earlier when the team gave his car to their test and reserve driver.

Struggling Aston Martin's



Hamilton could become the first driver to reach 10 pole positions at the Hungaroring, a circuit where he already has one of his strongest qualifying records

two-time champion Fernando Alonso was 19th in his heavily-updated car but his teammate Lance Stroll missed the session following a suspension failure in F1.

The team had introduced virtually new cars carrying 16 upgrades for Stroll and Alonso with an engine upgrade to follow after the summer break.

Franco Colapinto was first to clock a lap time, before Leclerc and then Hamilton took command for Ferrari, the Briton lapping in 1:19.648 as Antonel-

li completed his first lap to go eighth.

His teammate Russell reported poor balance, complaining that "it feels dreadful, like the car is out of balance" as he went fourth, before Antonelli said he had "almost spun twice -- what's going on?"

With 20 minutes gone, Hamilton had improved to 1:19.585 to lead Leclerc by a tenth with Verstappen third ahead of Russell and Antonelli. The Dutchman reported that he was troubled by his seat.

Norris took to softs after 25 minutes and went top in 1:19.228 followed by Verstappen, two-tenths adrift before Colapinto spun and crashed at the final corner to prompt a red flag. The Argentinian was unhurt.

Action resumed after six minutes with Antonelli struggling and running off at the chicane while Leclerc and Hamilton regained the initiative in 1:18.877 and 1:18.914 respectively -- 0.351 ahead of Norris in third.

Hamilton then improved to go top with 15 minutes remaining as a frustrated Antonelli floundered and locked up at turn two in a cloud of dust.

Modric extends contract with AC Milan



Luka Modric

AFP | Milan

Croatian veteran Luka Modric has extended his contract with AC Milan by one season, the Serie A club announced.

The midfielder will turn 41 in less than two months' time but has committed to Milan until June 30, 2027.

Modric joined the Italian heavyweights in 2025, scoring two goals in 37 matches last season.

"One of the finest and most iconic players in world football, the Croatian will continue his journey in the Rossoneri shirt," AC Milan said in a statement.

Modric was a finalist at the 2018 World Cup with Croatia, also picking up that year's Ballon d'Or, and won six Champions League titles while playing for Real Madrid between 2012 to 2025.

Pogacar extends lead with 'cool' Alpe d'Huez win

● Pogacar wins Tour de France stage 19

● Overall lead extends past seven minutes over Evenepoel

● Carapaz claims polkadot jersey by a single point

AFP | L'Alpe d'Huez

Tadej Pogacar took a decisive victory amidst a "crazy atmosphere" on Alpe d'Huez after a long and tense chase up the iconic final mountain climb of yesterday's 19th stage of the Tour de France.

Having launched his attack with 12km left, the reigning champion finally caught Richard Carapaz and Lenny Martinez inside the final two kilometres.

"It's very cool to win up here -- it was a crazy atmosphere, all the climbing," said Pogacar.

"It was thanks to all the team that I could pull it off in the end.

"I was riding for the team-mates today and it was a great victory," he said.

Several of Pogacar's UAE Emirates-XRG team-mates have been suffering with illness and Brandon McNulty abandoned the race on Thursday with flu-like symptoms.



Pogacar had made up close to three and a half minutes since the foot of the climb and he wasted little time in leaving the pair in his wake, dropping them with just 800m left.

"We were going full gas all day and then at the beginning, the first kilometre of Alpe d'Huez, I knew that it's cool, I have good legs and there's not many guys left that maybe can follow or try to go with me," said the race leader.

"So I tried and then I committed to the top."

It was a fifth stage victory this year for the 27-year-old Slovenian and a 26th in total since the four-time winner's Tour debut in 2020.

And, incredibly, it was Pogacar's first stage victory on Alpe d'Huez -- a remarkable statistic for a man who has dominated cycling for the last six years.

Martinez trailed home six seconds behind Pogacar, with Carapaz, who had won the 18th stage the day before, third at 9sec.

Pogacar increased his lead in



UAE Team Emirates - XRG's Slovenian rider Tadej Pogacar wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey chases down the leader breakdown in the Alpe d'Huez ascent

the overall standings to more than seven minutes to Olympic champion Remco Evenepoel, who finished the stage sixth, two and a half minutes down.

He is now within touching distance of a record-equalling fifth Tour victory.

Evenepoel managed to eke out a few more seconds in his advantage over third-placed Isaac Del Toro, who did likewise to Paul Seixas in fourth.

Del Toro is now at 9min 42sec with Seixas at 10:06, meaning

that their battle for the best young rider's white jersey will head to Saturday's decisive penultimate stage before Sunday's procession around Paris.

Martinez did enough to jump two places to fifth overall, just nine seconds ahead of Mattias Skjelmose, who finished the stage in eighth at 2min 45sec.

Carapaz takes polkadot jersey

It was another day of frenetic racing at the Tour as a break-away group containing more

than 40 riders went clear within the first few kilometres of the 127.9km stage from Gap.

Valentin Paret-Peintre and Carapaz continued their battle for King of the Mountains polkadot jersey points, with the Frenchman cresting both the Col Bayard and the Col du Noyer first ahead of the Ecuadorian.

But those were the last points the Frenchman would earn and Carapaz did enough to claim the jersey off Pogacar's shoulders by a single point, with Paret-Peintre seven points off the lead.

Once the leaders hit the Col d'Ornon in the final 35km, the group broke up with only 15 riders left at the top of the climb, and just 10 in the yellow jersey group four minutes down the road.

The leaders still had an advantage of three and a half minutes at the foot of Alpe d'Huez.

Thymen Arensman made the first move with 12.5km left but eventually it was Carapaz, Martinez and American Sepp Kuss who broke clear.

But three minutes further back, Pogacar made his move and immediately distanced his rivals for the overall victory.

The reigning champion had almost caught the leading trio with 3km left but Carapaz kicked on, while behind, Evenepoel attacked Seixas, Del Toro and Skjelmose.

Pogacar caught Carapaz with 1.8km left, but with Martinez clinging to his wheel.