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New Islamic Endowments Body

HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued Decree (31) of 2026 establishing and regulating the Council of Islamic Endowments Affairs.

This decree establishes the Islamic Endowments Affairs Council, a new body attached to the minister responsible for Islamic affairs and endowments. It gives the council the independence needed to manage endowments, invest their assets, distribute their income, preserve their properties, and oversee them according to Islamic law.

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Cabinet extends Eid Al-Adha greetings

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, chaired the weekly Cabinet Meeting at Gudaibiya Palace today. The Cabinet began by extending Eid Al-Adha greetings to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Bahrain's citizens and residents, and the wider Arab and Islamic world.

The Cabinet noted His Majesty's telephone calls with US President Donald Trump and other regional and international leaders, commending President Trump's efforts to strengthen stability and advance dialogue. The Cabinet also praised Pakistan's role in brokering a memorandum of understanding among relevant parties.

The Cabinet congratulated His Majesty on the Royal Bahraini Air Force's 50th anniversary, recognising the King's strategic vision in establishing the force and its vital role in safeguarding the Kingdom.

Bahrain's strong showing at the 4th GCC Games in Doha was praised, with recognition extended to HH Shaikh Nasser and HH Shaikh Khalid for their leadership of the sports sector. The Cabinet also highlighted significant progress in the GCC-UK Free Trade Agreement, following the signing of a Joint Statement.



Key Decisions Approved

The Cabinet reviewed and approved matters including FATF evaluation preparations, the Unemployment Insurance Fund's 2025 financial statements, a draft law on government implementation responsibilities, and a partnership between the Ministry of Education and INJAZ Bahrain.



Our warmest greetings and congratulations to

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

The King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

The Crown Prince & Prime Minister

The Government and People of the Kingdom of Bahrain

on the occasion of Eid Al Adha



The Chairman and Members of the Board of Directors, Executive Management and Staff at Gulf Air

Coexistence Milestone Recognised Globally

Achievement underscores Bahrain's standing as a global model for religious coexistence

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, met with the Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications and Chairman of the King Hamad Global Centre for Coexistence and Tolerance, HE Dr Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, at Gudaibiya Palace.

The Minister presented HRH with Bahrain's official Guinness World Records certificate, recognising the Kingdom as having the highest density of places of worship for different religions — a historic global first that further cements Bahrain's reputation as a beacon of religious tolerance and freedom.

HRH reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to coexistence, tolerance, and pluralism—values championed by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. He praised Bahrainis' openness to diverse cultures and beliefs, crediting this spirit with elevating the Kingdom's global standing.



HRH highlighted the King Hamad Global Centre for Coexistence and Tolerance as instrumental in advancing Bahrain's model, extending his best wishes for its continued success.

The meeting was also attended by Minister of Finance HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa and Minister of Cabinet Affairs HE Hamad bin Faisal Al Maliki.

HRH Crown Prince praises Furlan Marri's global success

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, received Hamad Al Marri, co-founder of luxury watch brand Furlan Marri, at Gudaibiya Palace.

During the meeting, HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister highlighted the innovation and competitiveness of young entrepreneurs, noting their growing success across various sectors.

His Royal Highness emphasised the importance of supporting creative industries that provide opportunities for Arab youth to showcase their talents and innovations internationally.

HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad congratulated the watch-



making company on its global achievements and expanding international presence, wishing the brand continued success. For his part, Al Marri expressed appreciation for Bahrain's support for entrepreneurs and the private sector, and wished the Kingdom further progress and prosperity.

Bahrain, UAE Strengthen Security Ties

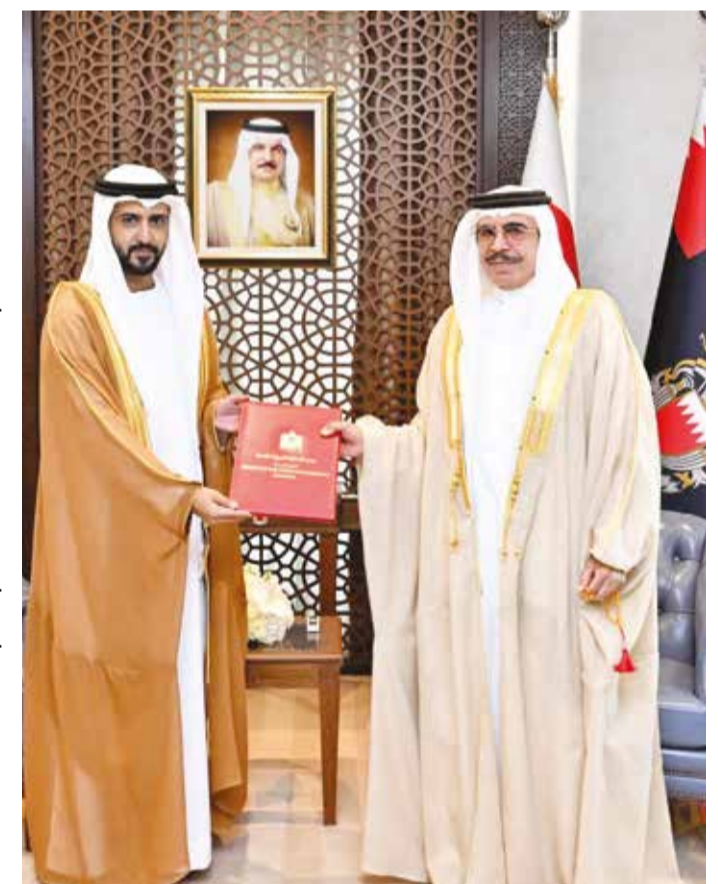
Interior Minister receives UAE counterpart's letter praising joint security operations

TDT | Manama

Minister of Interior, General His Excellency Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, received the UAE Ambassador to Bahrain, His Excellency Fahad Mohammed Kurdos Al Ameri in the presence of Major General Abdullah Mohammed Al Zayed, Inspector General of the Ministry of Interior.

During the meeting, the Minister received a written letter from his counterpart, His Highness Lieutenant General Shaikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the UAE. In the letter, Shaikh Saif praised the outstanding security efforts of Bahrain's Ministry of Interior, which led to the uncovering of a major network linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guard and the ideology of Wilayat al-Faqih — and the arrest of several individuals involved in the criminal plot.

The UAE expressed its full solidarity with Bahrain and complete support for all measures taken to preserve the Kingdom's sovereignty, security,



and stability. The letter also commended the professionalism and high performance of Bahrain's security services in confronting terrorist schemes.

More Than a Model, a Mission

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

In a kingdom that has long positioned itself at the crossroads of East and West, a new institution is set to leave a mark far beyond its borders. Bahrain has established the King Hamad Global Justice Institute — not merely as a government body, but as a statement of values, a declaration that justice is not just a domestic concern, but a universal one.

The institute was born from the highest office in the land. A Royal Order issued by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa gave it life — a deliberate act that ties the institution's founding directly to the monarchy's reform legacy and its long-standing pledge to transparency, legal integrity, and the dignity of every citizen.

Few words capture the ambition better than those of Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, who described the institute as a "pioneering civilisational step" — language that reaches beyond politics into identity. He framed it as a natural extension of Bahrain's development vision, one rooted



H.E. Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh



H.E. Ahmed bin Salman Al-Musallam

not only in economic metrics but also in the human and Islamic values that have shaped this nation for centuries. For Al Saleh, the institute proves that Bahrain does not simply talk about justice — it builds for it.

Meanwhile, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ahmed bin Salman Al-Musallam, said the establishment of the institute marks a "qualitative addition" to Bahrain's development path and reinforces the country's commitment to the rule of law and institutional governance.

He said the institute would help strengthen Bahrain's position as a regional and international centre for legal thought,

justice and human rights, adding that it reflects the leadership's vision of embedding legal and judicial advancement within structured academic and research frameworks.

The Speaker added that naming the institute after the King underscores Bahrain's commitment to justice and fairness, noting that the protection of rights and freedoms is "a daily practice and a firm foundation" rather than a slogan.

He also said the initiative would support knowledge transfer, capacity-building for national cadres, and the expansion of legal dialogue with academic and judicial institutions internationally.

Bilateral Cooperation



Information Minister Dr. Ramzan bin Abdullah Al Noaimi received US Ambassador Stephanie Hallett in Manama, where they discussed bilateral cooperation and areas of mutual interest.



Hiya Biya brings Eid traditions to life at Bu Maher Fort

The shores of Bu Maher Fort came alive during Eid Al Adha as families gathered to celebrate the traditional "Hiya Biya" ritual. Children participated by placing decorated baskets into the sea, accompanied by traditional Bahraini songs in a festive atmosphere filled with joy and excitement. The event attracted residents and visitors, many of whom emphasized the importance of preserving such traditions and passing them on to younger generations. Organisers said the activity reflects Bahrain's rich cultural heritage and strengthens community bonds during the Eid season. (By Hasan Barakat)

Japanese Cloth Shortage Narrows Thobe Choices

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Japanese cloth used for tailored thobes has grown scarce in Bahrain and across the Gulf after fabric mills in Tokyo cut output by an estimated 70 pc, traders said.

The drop has slowed exports to Gulf consumer markets amid regional disruptions, leaving agents and distributors in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the UAE with fewer supplies and reducing options for tailors and customers in Bahrain.

Sadiq Al Durazi, a trader in men's fabrics, said wholesale shops and thobe tailors had begun importing Indonesian and Chinese cloth as substitutes for Japanese fabrics, which remain among the most sought-after in the Gulf.

Indian linen has also been brought into the market as supplies of Japanese summer fabrics, including 'Semiramis', have thinned. Its price has doubled, both by the bolt and by the metre, he said.

Al Durazi said Bahraini importers, through contact with distributors in Kuwait, were looking at Gulf specifications for Indonesian fabrics so they would better suit hot weather and serve as a replacement for Japanese cloth.

He said Bahrain relies heavily on Japanese fabric brought in



through Kuwaiti companies.

Some tailors have also turned to the UAE in search of cloth better suited to Bahrain's summer, he added.

The average price of a thobe made from 3.5 metres of Indonesian or Japanese fabric, including tailoring, is BD22, while a linen thobe costs about BD17.

Prices are likely to rise in the coming days, he said, pointing to global shipping costs. Shipping a box holding 12 or 16 fabric bolts now costs around BD80.

Al Durazi said a black market in fabrics was unlikely, as traders were already seeking substitutes from several sources in Asia and Europe.

Yasser Shaaban, owner of a thobe tailoring company, said Bahrain was short of several well-known Japanese fabrics, which had affected the range of choices available to customers.

He said most fabrics now found

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Demand for thobe tailoring before Eid Al Adha is currently around 40% of the levels usually seen before Ramadan and Eid Al Fitr.

in shops were older stock imported before Ramadan.

Shaaban said customers seeking higher-grade cloth would find alternatives from England, Germany and Italy, though at higher prices. Fabrics imported from parts of Asia, he added, would help keep average prices within reach as a substitute for Japanese cloth.

Exclusive

Pilgrims Arrive, Mission Delivers

Seamless systems, spiritual support, and strong coordination define this year's pilgrimage season

TDT | Manama
Ghadeer Alkumaish

As Bahraini pilgrims arrive at the holy sites this Hajj season, the efforts behind their journey are drawing well-deserved praise. Bahrain's Hajj Mission, working in close coordination with Hajj operators, has ensured a smooth, comfortable, and spiritually enriching experience from the start.

Shaikh Nabil Mohammed Saleh, Chairman of Al Fateh Hajj and Umrah Mission, told the Daily Tribune that Saudi Arabia's continued investment in digital services has been a game-changer. "The remarkable progress in automating services has facilitated many transactions, enabling faster completion of tasks and more accurate follow-up," he

said. Electronic platforms have simplified procedures for both pilgrims and operators alike.

Shaikh Nabil praised Bahrain's Hajj Mission for its outstanding cooperation and commitment. Regular inspection visits by the mission's leadership, he noted, have played a key role in identifying improvements and resolving challenges on the ground.

Beyond logistics, Al Fateh Campaign has prioritised spiritual readiness—distrib-



Shaikh Nabil Mohammed Saleh

ing four dedicated guidebooks, hosting daily Qur'an sessions, and launching the Khatmatuka fi Al Hajj initiative, encouraging pilgrims to complete a full recitation of the Holy Qur'an during the sacred days.

With over 900 emergency response vehicles and thousands of healthcare personnel deployed across the holy sites, pilgrims can focus entirely on their worship with confidence and peace of mind.

Ensures Eid Supplies



Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, met livestock breeders and traders to discuss preparations for supplying local markets ahead of Eid Al-Adha.

The meeting focused on ensuring the availability of livestock and meat products during the holiday season, when demand traditionally rises across the kingdom.

Eid Al Adha Mubarak

May Allah accept your sacrifices and worship, forgive your sins, and bless you and your family with happiness, peace and abundant blessings.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful and blessed

Eid Al-Adha

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World's biggest inflatable attraction, The Big Bounce, arrives at EWB for Eid

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Tourism & Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), in partnership with Beyon Al Dana Amphitheatre, is bringing action-packed Eid celebrations to Bahrain with The Big Bounce Arabia, the first entertainment event under its current tourism campaign. The event is set to take place at Exhibition World Bahrain (EWB) from 28th May to 5th June 2026.

Widely recognized as the world's largest touring inflatable attraction, The Big Bounce Arabia will deliver an immersive entertainment experience, including giant inflatable playgrounds, interactive zones, and a range of activities for families and children of all ages. Guests can look forward to a vibrant atmosphere and visitor-friendly facilities that ensure a safe, comfortable, and memorable day out for everyone.

BTEA CEO Sara Ahmed Buhiji said the event reflects BTEA's commitment to delivering a diverse calendar of entertainment and tourism experiences for citizens, residents, and visitors from across the GCC during the Eid season. "The collaboration with Beyon Al Dana Amphitheatre highlights efforts to expand Bahrain's entertainment offerings through high-quality events for all age groups, fur-



ther reinforcing the Kingdom's position as a leading family destination in the region."

Beyon Al Dana Amphitheatre CEO, Damian Bush added that the event reflects the venue's commitment to bringing world-class entertainment experiences to Bahrain and further boosting the Kingdom's live entertain-

ment scene.

"The Big Bounce Arabia builds on the success of the strategic partnership between Beyon Al Dana Amphitheatre and the BTEA, which continues to bring internationally recognized events and family-focused experiences to Bahrain, contributing to a vibrant atmosphere

and a diverse program of activities during the Eid period."

Tickets for The Big Bounce Arabia are available via manama.platinumlist.net. More information and event updates can be found via @bahraincalendar, Bahrain.com, and the BTEA official mobile application.

One-day turnaround for university certificate checks introduced



TDT | Manama

The University of Bahrain has enhanced its service for verifying externally issued documents as part of wider government efforts to improve and streamline public services, officials said.

The upgraded digital service allows local and international entities—including embassies, institutions and private companies—to verify the authenticity, validity and accuracy of university-issued certificates, transcripts and academic records through the national portal bahrain.bh.

Under the improved system, processing time for verification requests has been reduced from two working

days to just one, while service level agreement timelines have been cut by at least 25 percent. Information related to the service has also been standardised across all official channels, aimed at improving efficiency and speeding up response times.

University of Bahrain President Dr Fouad Mohammed Al Ansari said the development reflects the institution's broader strategy to advance digital services and strengthen trust in its official documents.

He added that the initiative also supports efforts to facilitate faster and more accurate verification processes for external organisations, while reinforcing cooperation with both local and international partners.

RHF Strengthens Partnership



Eng. Ebrahim Dalhan Al-Doseri, Acting Secretary-General of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF), paid an official visit to Mr. Mark Thomas, Group Chief Executive Officer of Bapco Energies, as part of ongoing efforts to further strengthen collaboration and deepen the strategic community partnership between RHF and the Group in advancing humanitarian and charitable initiatives.

Education Vision Praised



Al Nusaiim International School celebrated the graduation of its 29th cohort for the academic year 2025/2026 on May 25 at the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre, in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Governor of the Southern Governorate.

In his address, His Highness the Governor expressed pride in Bahrain's education system

and its role in advancing national development, in line with the wise directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the continuous support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister. He affirmed that this reflects the Kingdom's unwavering commitment to building a knowledgeable and capable Bahraini generation.

Six Bids Open for Bahrain Stray Dog Control Tender

TDT | Manama

Six bids have been opened for a Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture tender to manage Bahrain's stray dog population across the four governorates, with offers running from BD249,810 to BD936,375.

The Tender Board opened the bids on Monday for a public local and GCC request for proposals covering a catch-neuter-vaccinate-return scheme, known as CNVR.

All Care Veterinary Clinic WLL put in the lowest offer at BD249,810, followed by Tasneem Development Agriculture at BD414,810 and Blue Cross Veterinary Clinic WLL at BD424,290.547.

Black Gold Equipment Hiring bid BD489,060, while Vitamin Veterinary Clinic offered BD675,675. Tails Veterinary

Centre WLL submitted the highest bid at BD936,375, which was accepted on condition.

The tender covers the catching, sterilising, vaccinating and marking of stray dogs, along with sheltering and rehabilitation. Dogs would then be rehomed, returned, or handled according to their case.

The ministry said the scheme is meant to bring stray dog numbers under control, improve public safety and cut health and environmental risks, while following recognised animal welfare standards.

Five bids were accepted, while Tails Veterinary Centre's offer carried a condition. The Tender Board notice said bids remain subject to technical and financial checks, with price used as the main measure only after other requirements are met.



From The Court

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

Minors Trafficking Charges

First High Criminal Court has begun the trial of a 32-year-old Asian man and a 40-year-old Asian woman accused of human trafficking and exploiting two underage sisters in prostitution.

Prosecutors alleged the defendants used coercion, threats and deception to force the two Asian victims, aged 16 and 17, into prostitution for financial gain.

According to court documents, police launched an investigation after receiving reports about a trafficking network exploiting minors

in Bahrain. Investigators later confirmed the allegations.

The victims had reportedly travelled to Bahrain from another Gulf country after being promised work opportunities by an unidentified person.

Authorities said the defendants arranged clients and collected the money earned from the activities, while the victims allegedly received nothing. Prosecutors also said the suspects were aware that both girls were under the age of 18 and exploited their difficult financial circumstances.

Son Torchers Home

First High Criminal Court has begun hearing the case of a man accused of deliberately setting fire to his mother's home following a family dispute.

Prosecutors charged the defendant, a man in his forties, with intentionally starting a fire in a residential property and endangering lives and property.

According to investigators, authorities received reports of a house fire on April 9. Civil Defense teams later determined that the blaze in the ground-floor living room had been deliberately set.

The defendant's 79-year-old mother told prosecutors that

her son became angry after she advised him to stay out of trouble and look for work. She said he had previously threatened to burn down the house, prompting her to file a police complaint.

While at the police station, she received news that the house had caught fire. Civil Defense teams later brought the blaze under control.

Officials said the fire caused smoke and burn damage inside the living room, including losses estimated at 500 Bahraini dinars.

The mother also told investigators that the defendant struggled with drug addiction and had shown unstable be-

Supervisor handed suspended sentence over fatal workplace fall

The court sentenced a labour supervisor to six months in prison, suspended upon payment of a BD100 bail, after a 77-year-old Bangladeshi worker died in a fall from a fourth-floor rooftop.

The First High Criminal Court found the supervisor guilty of causing the worker's death through negligence and failure to comply with occupational safety requirements.

According to court documents, the victim, who worked for a welding and fabrication company, was collecting equipment from the roof of a restaurant after completing work when he lost balance and fell from an unsecured side of the building from a height of about 20 metres.

He suffered severe head and brain injuries and later died from his wounds.

A technical report by the Labour Ministry's Occupational Safety and Inspection Department classified the incident as a workplace accident caused by unsafe conditions at the site.

Investigators said the supervisor failed to provide adequate safety measures, protective equipment and proper site security to ensure the worker's safety while carrying out his duties.

The court said the charges were closely linked and applied the maximum penalty under Article 66 of Bahrain's Penal Code.

Far From Home, Close In Spirit

Families and friends across Bahrain keep Eid traditions alive far from their homelands

TDT | Manama
Neethu V

Across Bahrain, expatriate communities are pouring in Eid Al-Adha wishes filled with unity, gratitude and togetherness, turning distance from home into moments of shared celebration. Away from their families and long-standing traditions, many recreate the spirit of Eid through friendships, neighbourhood bonds and community gatherings that mirror the warmth of home.

the festival is also expressed through deeply rooted cultural practices.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune about the Tamil Muslim community's Eid traditions in Bahrain, Muhamed Hussain Mualim, Managing Director of Al-Sarraj Jewellers and advisor to the Bahrain Jewellers Association, said families mark the occasion with open-ground prayers and elaborate homemade breakfasts featuring baked sweets, savouries and mutton curry. "The Eid break-



A flashback to last year's Eid celebrations by the Indian Cultural Foundation

across Bahrain prepare for the occasion through gatherings, henna competitions, Takbeer chants, wearing new clothes, Eid prayers, and spending time calling loved ones back home.



Shameer Pannur, Indian Cultural Foundation General Secretary

Shamsudheen Vellikulangara, General Secretary of KMCC Bahrain

Muhamed Hussain Mualim, Managing Director of Al-Sarraj Jewellers and advisor to the Bahrain Jewellers Association

Extending Eid wishes, Indian Cultural Foundation General Secretary Shameer Pannur said the occasion should inspire peace, compassion, mutual respect and support for those in need. His message reflects a wider sentiment among expatriate groups, where Eid is seen not only as a celebration but also as an opportunity to reinforce social values.

fast will be a huge spread," he said, adding that the day is also spent exchanging food and visiting friends and relatives across the Kingdom.

Adding to these reflections, Shamsudheen Vellikulangara, General Secretary of KMCC Bahrain, echoed the same sentiment, noting that "Eid Al-Adha is a remembrance of one of history's greatest acts of sacrifice," as expatriate communities

For many communities,

Youth Drive Medical Innovation

Ten schools compete with real-world health prototypes



TDT | Manama
Pradeep Puravankara

School, Quality Education School, and New Horizon School.

Students from across Bahrain presented artificial intelligence-driven healthcare solutions at an entrepreneurship challenge hosted by Al Hilal Healthcare Group, highlighting youth engagement in public health innovation.

The inaugural Inter-School Social Entrepreneurship Challenge was held at the group's Muharraq branch, coinciding with World Hypertension Day, and focused on developing practical solutions to address hypertension, a major global health concern.

Ten schools participated: Bahrain Indian School, New Millennium School, Creativity Private School, Pakistan School, The Indian School, The Asian School, The New Indian School, Bangladesh

The Asian School, Bahrain won first place, receiving a BD 100 prize, a trophy, and gift hampers. Its student team developed an AI-powered platform using large language models, featuring modules for patient self-management, remote health monitoring and physician dashboards.

New Horizon School, Bahrain secured second place and received a BD 50 prize along with a trophy and gifts.

Al Hilal Healthcare Group CEO Dr Sharath Chandran said the standard of innovation demonstrated by students was "exemplary," adding that the organisation aims to integrate advanced AI systems into its healthcare delivery model. He also said the competition would become a permanent annual event.



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Japan plans \$19 bn extra budget as costs rise with Iran war



Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi

Tokyo, Japan

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said yesterday the government will compile a \$19 billion supplementary budget to support households grappling with soaring everyday costs driven by the Iran war.

Takaichi said the budget, which is about 3 trillion yen, will be used to ease the rising cost of petrol, electricity and gas, explaining that "the situation in the Middle East remains uncertain".

"With a view to minimising risk, we have drawn up a supplementary budget to ensure we're fully prepared financially," she told reporters, adding the draft would be submitted to parliament possibly next week.

Early this month, leading potato chip maker Calbee unveiled a new grey packaging for 14 product lines, swapping its signature orange-and-yellow packets, with local media attributing the move to an ink shortage linked to the Iran war.

Huawei touts new chipmaking technology to sidestep US restrictions

● **Sanctions since 2019 have cut Huawei's access to components and technologies made by the United States and some of its allies**

AFP | Shanghai, China



Chinese tech giant Huawei said yesterday it had developed a new way of making semiconductors that could get around its US-enforced lack of access to the most advanced chipmaking equipment.

Huawei has been at the centre of a geopolitical standoff in

recent years after Washington warned its equipment could be used by the Chinese government for espionage, an allegation the firm denies.

Sanctions since 2019 have cut Huawei's access to components and technologies made by the United States and some of its allies -- including the lithography machines used to make the world's most advanced chips.

However, the head of Huawei's semiconductor division He Tingbo said on Monday that the company will be able to produce chips equivalent to next-generation 1.4-nanometre (1.4nm) ones by 2031.

Taiwan's TSMC, the industry leader, has projected it will be able to do the same by 2028.

Cutting-edge chips that can train and power artificial intelligence systems are a crucial and highly sensitive element of the technology rivalry between the United States and China.

The computing power of chips has increased dramati-

cally over the decades as makers cram them with more microscopic electronic components.

Huawei's announcement suggests it might have sidestepped the need for extreme ultraviolet lithography (EUV) machines, which have been considered crucial for mass manufacturing chips of 5nm or under.

"Over the past six years, I have often been asked... how did you survive and come back on top?" He said in a presentation to the International Symposium on Circuits and Systems (ISCAS) in Shanghai.

She said the new technique came about through a shift in how chipmaking has been conceptualised historically.

"Moore's Law", a principle developed by Intel co-founder Gordon Moore, states that the number of transistors -- devices regulating the flow of electricity -- on a chip doubles every two years.

A higher density of transistors results in a smaller chip or one

the same size with faster processing power.

He proposed on Monday "the Tau Scaling Law", or "Her's Law", by which instead of optimising for space, designers optimise for the time taken for the various elements making up a chip to communicate.

This overcomes a key challenge facing Moore's Law that Intel sums up as: "You can make something smaller and smaller and smaller... until you can't".

US sanctions have meant that "these challenges arrived earlier and are tougher" for Huawei, He said. "Our solution is feasible and affordable. The performance of the new chip can fully compete with that of the other path," she said.

Huawei's next iteration of its Kirin chip, set to launch in the autumn, will be the first to fully adopt an architecture called "LogicFolding" based on the new principle, the company said.

'No way out'

"Over the past six years, there was a period when I felt quite frustrated, as if there was really no way out," He told reporters after the ISCAS presentation.

But she said she had been inspired by "a masterpiece of engineering", southwestern China's Duijiangyan irrigation system that was originally constructed around 256 BC.

She said she realised she was just facing problems others would come across 10 years later.

India hikes fuel prices again

AFP | New Delhi, India

India's state-run fuel companies raised petrol and diesel prices for the fourth time in 10 days yesterday.

Automobile fuel prices have increased by five per cent since the war broke out in February.

Fuel rates vary across the country but prices have broadly been increased by a little over two rupees (\$0.02) after the latest adjustment.

In New Delhi, petrol prices rose to 102.12 rupees from 99.5 rupees, while diesel is now at 95.20 rupees.

The hike comes days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi said restrictions on fuel use were necessary to save foreign currency spent on imports.

India has ramped up imports of Russian crude to plug gaps in supplies from the Middle East, ship-tracking and import data show, following a temporary US waiver on sanctions.

Earlier this month, minister for petroleum and natural gas Hardeep Singh Puri said oil marketing companies had taken a hit on their revenues -- losses of up to \$120 million per day -- but assured "uninterrupted energy imports and supply".

YOU KNOW WHAT

Huawei began as a tiny telecom reseller in a small apartment in Shenzhen in 1987 with just a few thousand dollars in capital. Today, it is one of the world's largest telecom equipment makers and has built more than half of the world's 5G networks outside the United States.

Medgulf Takaful B.S.C. (c)			
Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2025		Statement of comprehensive income For the year ended 31 December 2025	
	31 December 2025 BHD	31 December 2024 BHD (Restated)	1 January 2024 BHD (Restated)
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2,406,855	1,779,109	2,153,421
Islamic placements with financial institutions	2,185,599	2,189,081	2,123,191
Takaful contract assets	11,716,051	12,859,904	14,095,755
Retakaful contract assets	5,086,541	5,930,727	5,824,305
Other receivables	222,666	233,818	314,615
Prepayments and other assets	356,102	494,938	520,129
Statutory deposit	193,302	183,951	152,290
Property and equipment	24,548	50,428	75,327
Intangible assets	96,439	114,849	105,013
Total assets	22,288,203	23,837,201	25,366,638
Liabilities, policyholders' fund and shareholders' equity			
Liabilities			
Takaful contract liabilities	19,140,140	17,843,444	18,095,666
Retakaful contract liabilities	425,492	280,861	75,666
Payables and other liabilities	1,888,269	1,642,624	1,724,045
Provision for employees' leave and end-of-service benefits	106,091	222,898	210,996
Total liabilities	21,559,992	19,989,827	20,106,373
Policyholders' fund			
Deficit in General Takaful fund	(5,762,329)	(2,863,545)	(1,704,741)
Investments fair value reserve	40,312	4,875	131,250
Total deficit in Policyholders' Fund - General Takaful	(5,762,329)	(2,858,670)	(1,573,491)
Deficit in Family Takaful fund	(1,022,320)	(726,257)	(510,566)
Takaful finance reserve	40,312	194,318	253,659
Investments fair value reserve	(183,656)	(87,140)	226,875
Total deficit in Policyholders' Fund - Family Takaful	(1,165,664)	(619,079)	(30,032)
Total policyholders' fund	(6,927,993)	(3,477,749)	(1,603,523)
Shareholders' equity			
Share capital	6,667,000	6,667,000	6,667,000
Retained earnings	865,477	561,767	326,116
Reserve	91,852	58,106	31,923
Investments fair value reserve	31,875	38,250	(161,250)
Total shareholders' equity	7,656,204	7,325,123	6,863,789
Total liabilities, policyholders' fund and shareholders' equity	22,288,203	23,837,201	25,366,638
Statement of policyholders' revenue and expenses For the year ended 31 December 2025			
	31 December 2025 BHD		31 December 2024 BHD (Restated)
	General Takaful	Family Takaful	General Takaful
Takaful contributions	7,534,604	1,921,948	6,866,952
Takaful service expense	(9,374,004)	(1,399,130)	(6,363,386)
Takaful results before retakaful contracts held	(1,839,400)	522,818	503,566
Net (expense) / income from retakaful contracts held	(1,002,869)	(212,905)	(1,751,472)
Takaful service results	(2,842,269)	309,913	(1,247,906)
Net finance expense from takaful contracts	(151,102)	(803,024)	(143,110)
Net finance income from retakaful contracts	-	221,721	-
Net takaful operations results	(2,993,371)	(271,390)	(1,391,016)
Investment income	83,221	-	196,296
Other income / (operating expenses)	11,366	(24,673)	35,916
Deficit of takaful revenue over expenses for the year	(2,898,784)	(296,063)	(1,158,804)
Other comprehensive loss			
Items that may be reclassified to income in subsequent period			
Change in fair value of FVOCI investments	(4,875)	(96,516)	(126,375)
Takaful finance income / (expense)	-	(86,209)	-
Total other comprehensive loss for the year	(4,875)	(182,725)	(126,375)
Total comprehensive loss for the year	(2,903,659)	(478,788)	(1,285,179)

Toshifumi Suzuki, 'father' of Japan convenience stores, dies at 93

● **Suzuki -- known as the "father of the convenience store" in Japan -- died due to heart failure**

AFP | Tokyo, Japan



Former chairman of Seven & i Holdings Toshifumi Suzuki, credited for the global success of 7-Eleven convenience stores, has died at the age of 93, the company said Monday.

Suzuki -- known as the "father of the convenience store" in Japan -- died due to heart failure on May 18, the company said in a statement.

"We would like to express our deepest gratitude for the kindness shown to him during his lifetime and respectfully inform you of his passing," the statement said.

Suzuki is known for opening the first 7-Eleven in Japan in 1974 and growing the business into the world's largest convenience store chain, including through turning the struggling US headquarters into a subsidiary of the Japanese company and rebuilding it.

He told the Asahi newspaper in an interview that he personally came up with the idea of selling rice balls, or onigiri in Japanese, at 7-Eleven stores.

More than 2 billion of the snacks are now sold annually in their branches around Japan, the Asahi said.

After joining major supermarket chain operator Ito-Yokado in 1963, Suzuki brought the convenience store format to Japan from the US through 7-Eleven.

He introduced 24-hour operations, as well as a wide range of other services including ATMs and utility bill payments.

In 1978, he became president of Seven-Eleven Japan, and in 2005, when the holding company Seven & i Holdings was established to integrate the group's supermarket and family restaurant businesses, he took over as chairman and CEO.

Suzuki quit the company in 2016 after losing a boardroom battle that critics said was aimed at putting his son in charge.

The personnel shake-up he proposed was fiercely opposed by US billionaire investor Daniel Loeb, who accused the company of slipping toward nepotism.

YOU KNOW WHAT

After the US parent company of 7-Eleven went bankrupt in the early 1990s, Suzuki helped the Japanese side rescue and eventually take control of the iconic American brand -- a rare case of a Japanese franchisee effectively buying back its US parent.

NBB introduces Yalla Eidiya Pocket through its Yalla Family Banking proposition

Turning Eid Gifting into a Digital Saving Experience

● Customers can create a dedicated Yalla Eidiya Pocket within the NBB app and save BHD 20 to qualify for the raffle

Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has launched the Yalla Eidiya Campaign, introduced under its broader Yalla Family Banking proposition. The initiative aims to encourage digital engagement and promote positive saving behaviour among the youth by connecting one of Eid's most cherished traditions, Eidiya, with practical money management through the NBB App.

Customers can create a dedicated Yalla Eidiya Pocket within the NBB app and save BHD 20 to qualify for the raffle. A total of 20 winners will



The Yalla Eidiya Campaign builds on the objectives of Yalla Family Banking, which aims to give young users a more accessible introduction to banking while providing parents with digital tools that support financial education at home.

each receive BHD 50, giving families an engaging way to introduce children to the value of saving while adding a rewarding element to the Eid experience. The campaign will run from 25th May to 22nd June 2026, with the raffle draw scheduled to take place on 5th July 2026.

Pockets is a digital savings wallet that enables children to clearly set their savings goals, easily track their progress, and strengthen their financial understanding, all within a safe and user-friendly digital environment.

Commenting on the occasion, Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani, Chief Executive – Retail Banking at NBB, said, "Saving can start with something as

simple as Eidiya. By going digital, our children can now easily develop financial awareness from an early age, boosting their confidence in managing their money in a fun and engaging way."

The Yalla Eidiya Campaign builds on the objectives of Yalla Family Banking, which aims to give young users a more accessible introduction to banking while providing parents with digital tools that support financial education at home.

By making saving more interactive and rewarding, the Bank continues to support customers with solutions that combine convenience with long-term benefits.

Al Salam Bank launches an exclusive offer with Keeta featuring discounts of up to 50% in celebration of Eid Al Adha

Manama

Al Salam Bank has announced the launch of its exclusive offer in collaboration with Keeta, in celebration of Eid Al Adha, enabling its Credit and Prepaid cardholders to benefit from up to 50% discount daily during the offer when paying through the app using their cards.

Al Salam Bank clients will be able to benefit from the limited-time offer during the period, running from 27 to 31 May 2026. Credit and Prepaid cardholders will receive up to 50% discount, capped at BD 2 daily, when registering on the Keeta app, adding their Al Salam Bank card to the wallet, and using it to complete the payment, with a minimum order value of BD 4. Each client can redeem the discount once daily throughout the offer period. The offer is valid for a limited number of clients and terms and conditions apply.

Commenting on the occa-



Mr. Mohammed Buhijji- Chief Retail Banking Officer at Al Salam Bank



Mr. Aiden Qiao, General Manager of Keeta Bahrain

sion, Mr. Mohammed Buhijji- Chief Retail Banking Officer at Al Salam Bank, said: "We are pleased to announce our collaboration with Keeta to launch this exclusive offer in celebration of Eid Al Adha, providing our clients with additional reward-

ing benefits that cater to their everyday needs and enhance the value of using Al Salam Bank cards across various digital platforms and services. We encourage our valued clients to take advantage of this limited-time offer during the offer period by adding their Al Salam Bank Credit or Prepaid cards to the



Keeta app and using them for payment, enabling them to enjoy a seamless and rewarding experience throughout the Eid holiday."

On his part, Mr. Aiden Qiao, General Manager of Keeta Bahrain, said: "We are pleased to collaborate with Al Salam Bank to launch this exclusive offer in celebration of Eid Al Adha, reflecting our commitment to delivering greater value and convenience to users in Bahrain. Through this collaboration, Al Salam Bank Credit and Prepaid cardholders will be able to enjoy rewarding daily discounts when using the Keeta app, further enhancing their digital ordering and payment experience during the Eid period."

For more information about Al Salam Bank's products and services, please visit the website www.alsalambank.com, contact the Bank via WhatsApp on 17005500, or book an appointment at the virtual branch via the Skiplino app.

Oil drops below \$100 on hopes of US-Iran deal to open Hormuz

AFP | Paris, France

Oil prices plunged below \$100 a barrel on Monday and stock markets rallied as investors raised their expectations of a reopening of the Strait of Hormuz following signs that Washington and Iran were edging closer to a deal.

Both North Sea Brent, the international benchmark, and West Texas Intermediate crude futures contracts were down more than 5% after headlines over the weekend suggested progress on talks to end the Middle East war.

A deal could be announced "today", US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Monday during a visit to New Delhi.

His comment came after President Donald Trump said nego-

Key figures at around 1540 GMT

Brent North Sea Crude:	▼ 5.5% at \$94.73 a barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▼ 5.9% at \$90.88 a barrel
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 2.9% at 65,158.19 points (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 1.0% at 4152.57 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng Index:	Closed for a holiday
London - FTSE 100:	Closed for a holiday
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 1.8% at 8,258.26 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▲ 2.0% at 25,389.10 (close)
New York - DOW:	Closed for a holiday
Euro/dollar:	▲ at 1.1646 from 1.1608 on Friday
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.3502 from \$1.3441
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 158.90 from 159.13 yen
Euro/pound:	▼ at 86.25 from 86.36 pence

tiations were being conducted in an "orderly and constructive manner", even while cautioning

that US negotiators had been advised "not to rush into a deal". But many investors are betting

Trump is eager to declare an accord that would see Gulf tanker traffic resume through the Strait of Hormuz -- and help ease fuel prices ahead of the northern hemisphere's summer tourism season.

"According to reports from Donald Trump, a memorandum of understanding has been 'largely negotiated', with details to be announced at some stage soon," said Chris Weston, head of research at Pepperstone.

The prospect sent stock markets higher across the board in Asia, with Tokyo jumping 2.9% and topping 65,000 points for the first time.

In Europe, Paris and Frankfurt saw strong buying though trading volumes were light due to Whit Monday market closures

in several countries on the continent, while London was closed for the Spring Bank holiday.

Wall Street was also closed Monday for Memorial Day.

Later this week, investors will be keeping an eye on how the US Federal Reserve and its new chief Kevin Warsh react to key consumer inflation data and its potential effect on interest rates.

Many economists have warned that sustained price increases from the US and Israeli war against Iran will limit the likelihood of interest rate cuts by the Fed to boost US growth -- something Trump has repeatedly called for in recent months.

"The inflation story remains central to the entire setup," said Stephen Innes at SPI Asset Management.

"After several hotter-than-expected consumer and producer inflation reports earlier this month, markets are increasingly concerned that elevated oil prices and supply disruptions tied to the Middle East conflict are beginning to seep into the broader inflation pipeline," he said.

In Europe, higher inflation is widely expected to lead the European Central Bank to increase rates in the coming weeks, increasing borrowing costs even as economic growth remains subdued. But lofty corporate earnings and AI-driven tech enthusiasm have encouraged investors to look past the inflation risks, with bellwether US indexes trading at record highs despite the economic fallout from the Mideast war.

Self-driving bus crashes on first day carrying passengers in Sweden

AFP | Sweden

A self-driving bus was involved in a collision with a tram on its first day of carrying passengers in the Swedish city of Gothenburg on Monday, raising questions about the safety of autonomous public transport systems.

The automated bus braked suddenly and was struck from behind by a tram in central Gothenburg. No injuries were reported among passengers or other individuals involved in the incident.

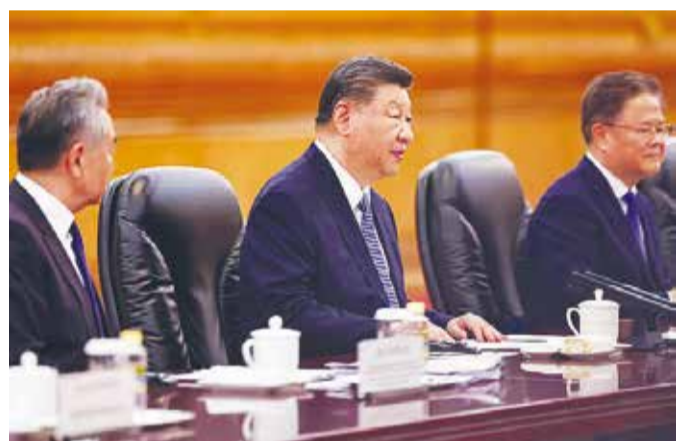
Vasttrafik, the public transport company operating the service, immediately removed



the bus from service for inspection following the 25 May crash.

The bus had been circulating in the Swedish city since the end of March, but Monday marked its first day transporting members of the public. A human driver was present on the vehicle with the ability to take control if necessary.

China's Xi meets Pakistan PM Sharif as Iran war mediation drags on



AFP | Beijing

China's leader Xi Jinping met with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Beijing yesterday, state media reported, as diplomatic efforts by several countries to formally end the Iran war drag on.

The high-level meeting, reported by state news agency Xinhua, followed Sharif's talks earlier in the day with Premier Li Qiang, China's number two leader.

Sharif was accompanied on his trip by army chief Asim Munir, Islamabad's key negotiator between the United States and Iran, Pakistan television showed on Monday.

Xi praised Pakistan for "taking the initiative to play a mediating role in restoring peace in the Middle East", according to a Chinese readout of the

talks between the two leaders. "Both sides should continue to maintain close communication and coordination (and jointly oppose unilateralism and Cold War mentality," Xi said.

Sharif, speaking to Chinese leaders alongside Munir, said "the world is passing through a critical moment", Pakistan's state-run PTV channel showed.

"Pakistan has played a sincere role to mediate between US and Iran. Field marshal (Munir) was in Tehran and did not want to miss this great visit," Sharif said.

"Things are moving in the right direction. I would like to thank China's support to promote peace," he said.

Sharif kicked off his four-day official visit in Hangzhou in eastern Zhejiang province on Saturday.

Iran health official says supreme leader suffered only 'superficial' wounds in US-Israel strike

AFP | Tehran, Iran

An Iranian health ministry official said yesterday the injuries suffered by supreme leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei in US-Israeli strikes in late February were only "superficial", offering a rare account of the day he was wounded.

The 56-year-old has not appeared publicly since he was named as Iran's supreme leader on March 8, issuing only written statements, fuelling speculation about his health.

In March, US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Mojtaba was "believed to be alive, wounded and disfigured". Mojtaba succeeded his father, Ali Khamenei, who was killed in US-Israeli strikes on February 28 that triggered retaliatory Iranian attacks across the region.

On Monday, health ministry spokesman Hossein Kermanpour described the day Mojtaba was wounded and his arrival at a hospital, which he did not identify.

Pope calls idea of 'just war' put forward by US 'outdated'

AFP | Vatican City, Holy See

Pope Leo XIV yesterday labelled "outdated" the concept of a "just war" put forward by U.S. President Donald Trump's administration, warning that "humanity is slipping into a violent culture of power".

In his first encyclical, a sort of manifesto, U.S.-born Leo focused mainly on the rise of artificial intelligence but also returned to an anti-war message that has caused tensions with Washington.

"Today, more than ever, without prejudice to the right to self-defense in the strictest sense, it is important to reaffirm that the 'just war' theory, which has all too often been used to justify any kind of war, is now outdated," he wrote in Magnifica Humanitas (Magnificent Humanity).

"Humanity possesses far more effective and capable tools for promoting human life and resolving conflicts, such as dialogue, diplomacy and forgiveness," he wrote.

The Pope has been a high-profile critic of the West Asia war which started with U.S. and Israeli air strikes on Iran in February. He condemned Trump's threat to destroy Iran as "truly



The Vatican Media shows Pope Leo XIV signing his first Encyclical Letter "Magnifica Humanitas", focused on the rise of artificial intelligence, in The Vatican

unacceptable" and urged Americans to demand that U.S. lawmakers "work for peace".

Mr. Trump slammed the pontiff as "WEAK on Crime, and terrible for Foreign Policy" — to which Pope Leo replied that he had a "moral duty to speak out".

The Trump administration has repeatedly justified its attack on Iran as a way to prevent the country from developing a nuclear weapons capability.

U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance, a Catholic convert, has used the "just war" argument and has urged the pope to be "careful"

on theological matters.

In an interview earlier this month, Mr. Trump again criticised the pope, alleging that Leo believes it is "OK for Iran to have a nuclear weapon".

"I think he's endangering a lot of Catholics and a lot of people," Mr. Trump said.

Asked about the comments, Pope Leo said that the Catholic Church's mission was to "preach peace" and the Gospel.

"If anyone wishes to criticise me for proclaiming the Gospel, let them do so truthfully," he told reporters.

Trump took to his social media platform Truth Social to declare: "The deal with Iran will either be a great and meaningful one, or there will be no deal."

Trump throws Tehran Abraham lifeline

Demands widespread sign-up to Abraham Accords

- Iran's top negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf arrived in Qatar on Monday as part of the "diplomatic process" to end the war
- Trump listed countries whose leaders he spoke with in a conference call

AFP | Washington, United States

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday urged Muslim-majority nations across the Middle East and beyond to normalise relations with Israel as part of the emerging Iran peace deal.

In a lengthy social media post, Trump listed countries whose leaders he spoke with in a conference call on Saturday about efforts to end the war with Iran.

"After all the work done by the United States to try and pull this very complex puzzle together, it



should be mandatory that all of these Countries, at a minimum, simultaneously, sign onto the Abraham Accords."

"Those Countries discussed are Saudi Arabia, The United Arab Emirates (already a Member!), Qatar, Pakistan, Turkiye, Egypt, Jordan, and Bahrain (already a Member!)"

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman told Trump in November 2025 that the kingdom was open to joining the Abraham Accords, as long as there was "a clear path" toward a two-state solution.

"It may be possible that one or

two have a reason for not doing so, and that will be accepted, but most should be ready, willing, and able to make this Settlement with Iran a far more Historic Event than it would, otherwise, be," Trump wrote in his Truth Social post.

"It should start with the immediate signing by Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and everybody else should follow suit. If they don't, they should not be part of this Deal in that it shows bad intention," he wrote.

Trump even implied that Israel's bitter enemy -- Iran -- should sign on to the accords.

"If Iran signs its Agreement with me, as President of the United States of America, it would be an Honor to have them also be part of this unparalleled World Coalition," Trump wrote.

Over the three-day US holiday weekend, Trump and his top diplomat Marco Rubio have offered varying assessments of the timing of a deal to end the war, at times suggesting it was imminent.

In his latest post, while introducing what appears to be a completely new element to the peace talks, Trump said that "Negotiations with the Islamic Republic of Iran are proceeding nicely!"

Iran warned Monday that, while some progress had been made, it was not yet close to an agreement, while Trump declared: "The deal with Iran will either be a great and meaningful one, or there will be no deal."

Iran's top negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf arrived in Qatar on Monday as part of the "diplomatic process" to end the war with the United States, state media reported.

Suspected Ebola cases top 900 in DR Congo: WHO chief

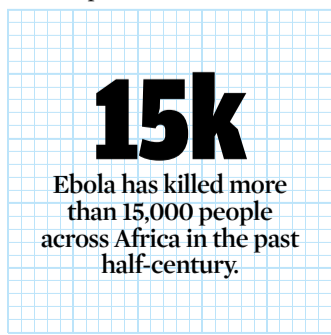
AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

More than 900 suspected Ebola cases have been identified in the conflict-hit Democratic Republic of Congo, the World Health Organization (WHO) chief has said.

"As surveillance efforts have been scaled up in the #DRC #Ebola response, more than 900 suspected cases have been identified so far, including 101 confirmed cases," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a Sunday social media post that gave no update on the death toll.

Ebola is a deadly viral disease that spreads through direct contact with bodily fluids. It can cause severe bleeding and organ failure.

The country declared an outbreak on May 15 caused by the Bundibugyo strain, which has no approved vaccine or treatments. In a previous update released on Saturday, the DR Congo health ministry said 204 deaths had been recorded in three provinces of the vast central African country, from 867 suspected cases.



1896

Dow Jones Industrial Average begins with an average of 12 industrial stocks, the daily closing value is 40.9

1927

Henry Ford and the Ford Motor Company produce the last (and 15 millionth) Model T Ford / Tin Lizzie



1948

South Africa elects a nationalist government under D. F. Malan with an apartheid policy

2004

US Army veteran Terry Nichols is found guilty of 161 state murder charges for helping carry out the Oklahoma City bombing

Lebanon president says Israeli withdrawal 'non-negotiable'

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun yesterday said Israel's withdrawal from the country's south was a "non-negotiable" demand that authorities would pursue through negotiations, days ahead of a new round of talks in Washington.

In a statement commemorating Israel's previous withdrawal from south Lebanon in 2000 after some two decades of occupation, Mr. Aoun said that "this year, the anniversary of the liberation comes as Lebanon is weighed down by a painful reality." "Israeli attacks have not stopped and our dear southern villages are still suffering under a renewed occupation," he said.

Israeli troops who invaded Lebanon during the latest war with Hezbollah began on March 2 are operating inside a self-declared "yellow line" running around 10 kilometres (six miles) deep inside Lebanese territory.

Heat dome over Europe scorches UK, France, Spain

AFP | London

Temperatures hit record highs for May in the United Kingdom and France on Monday, as forecasters warned of a prolonged period of extreme heat across Europe throughout the week.

A so-called "heat dome" of warm air from northern Africa trapped under a high-pressure system over western Europe is behind the high temperatures not usually seen until high summer.

Temperatures in Spain were expected to peak later this week at 38C, while parts of Italy imposed restrictions on working outdoors.

"The weather here, it's like a mini version of hell. It's boiling. It's like really hot," said 10-year-old Liza Nizari on a visit to London, where temperatures normally average about 17C or 18C at this time of year.

Lindy Brand-Daloz, a 66-year-old Australian administrator who has been living in London for 12 years, said: "It's warm, but it's climate change, isn't it? So, you know, (we have) probably got to get used to this."

The Met Office weather agency said Monday was the hottest May day on record, with the mercury rising to 33.5C at Heathrow, west of the capital, at 1:00 pm (1200 GMT) -- 1.3C more than the previous benchmark



People relax in the sunshine on Durdle Door beach, east of Weymouth on the south coast of England



A "heat dome" forms when a strong high-pressure system traps hot air beneath it, like a lid on a pot. In Europe, heat domes are often fuelled by scorching air masses moving north from the Sahara and northern Africa, pushing temperatures far above seasonal averages.

recorded in 1922 and 1944.

"Records are usually only broken by tenths of a degree -- making this heatwave unprecedented for the time of year," the agency said in a social media

post.

Scientists say human-induced climate change is making extreme weather events like heatwaves, droughts and floods more intense, resulting in tem-

perature records being broken more frequently.

Met Office meteorologist Greg Dewhurst told AFP the increase in extreme temperatures was "a good indication of climate change in action" and more likely to become "the new norm".

Climate advisers last week warned the UK government that the country was "built for a climate that no longer exists" and urged it to adapt infrastructure like schools and hospitals for a warming planet.

The white-robed pilgrims on buses or on foot arrived at the sprawling encampment in Mina after performing the "tawaf" -- walking seven times around the Kaaba

Pilgrims kick off hajj as peace deal hangs in the balance

AFP | Mecca, Saudi Arabia

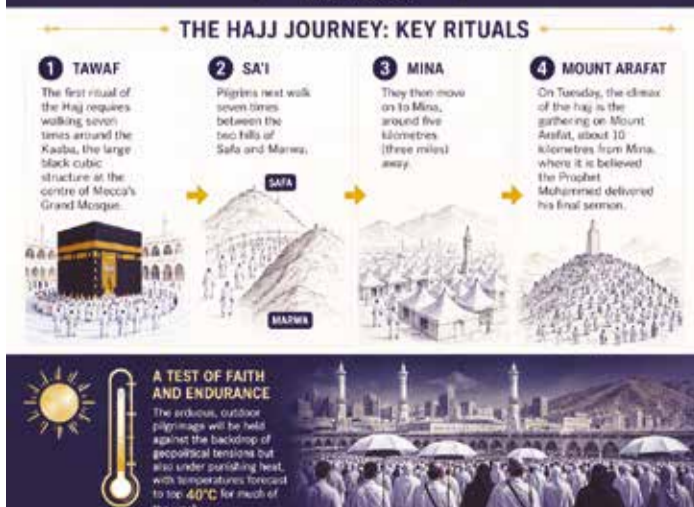
Over 1.5 million Muslims began filling a vast tent city in the holy city of Mecca yesterday for an annual hajj pilgrimage carried out against the backdrop of hopes for an end to the war in the Middle East.

The white-robed pilgrims on buses or on foot arrived at the sprawling encampment in Mina after performing the "tawaf" -- walking seven times around the Kaaba, the giant black cube at Mecca's Grand Mosque.

As pilgrims arrived in Mina in waves, temperatures hit 45C in the area as Saudi health authorities called on hajj participants to use umbrellas and reduce sun exposure to prevent heat exhaustion.

The start of the hajj came as US President Donald Trump continued to send mixed signals over a possible agreement to extend an uneasy ceasefire with Iran and a deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

This year's rites, drawing worshippers from across the world, including Iran, follow waves of Iranian attacks on targets in Saudi Arabia and its Gulf neigh-



Worshippers walk along the Grand Mosque complex under the water-mist fans installed in the holy city of Mecca, ahead of the annual Hajj pilgrimage

bours. Despite the uncertainty triggered by the conflict, Saudi officials noted over the weekend that more pilgrims had travelled from abroad to participate in this year's hajj than in 2025.

A video posted on social media by the Saudi defence ministry showed advanced air defence batteries positioned on the outskirts of Mecca.

"The air defence forces are responsible for protecting the skies over the holy sites and

dealing with all aerial threats, ensuring the safety and peace of mind of the guests," read the post.

Many pilgrims who spoke to AFP expressed their hope that peace would prevail soon.

"The war in Iran has affected the entire world. Nobody wants wars or harm to countries and peoples," said Mohammed Chahada, an Egyptian in his 50s, as he walked through a crowd exiting the Grand Mosque.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



On #AfricaDay, we celebrate the continent's abundant strengths, resilience, potential & growing influence on the world stage. The people of Africa have overcome the destructive consequences of slavery & colonialism & forged unity & purpose out of adversity. The @UN is proud to work with African countries to build a peaceful, prosperous & sustainable future all Africans & our world.

@antoniogetterres

02



#EbolaBundibugyo virus update:

- So far, 101 cases have been confirmed in the #DRC, including 10 confirmed deaths. But we know the epidemic in the DRC is much larger. There are now more than 900 suspected cases and 220 suspected deaths. - #Uganda has reported two additional confirmed cases among health-care workers, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to seven, including one confirmed death. We are continuing to scale up the response with our partners, and we expect more cases to be identified in the coming days and weeks. The sooner we can trace people with infections and identify their contacts, the sooner we can provide the care they need and bring this outbreak under control.

@DrTedros

03



In the era of #ArtificialIntelligence, when human dignity is threatened by new forms of dehumanization, ours is the pressing duty to remain profoundly human. We must lovingly safeguard the grandeur of humanity bestowed upon us and revealed in its fullness in Christ, the splendor of which no machine can ever replace

@Pontifex

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

Taj Mahal, Village People and elephants

Rubio leads US foreign policy as diplomacy on Iran goes down to the wire

AFP | Agra, India

Marco Rubio leads US foreign policy as diplomacy on Iran goes down to the wire, but he is also making time for cultural attractions as divergent as the Taj Mahal and the Village People.

Rubio, who serves as President Donald Trump's secretary of state and national security advisor, took a day for sightseeing in India on Monday, touring the Taj Mahal, the renowned monument to love.

"It's one of the wonders of the world," Rubio said of the imposing mausoleum in Agra.

"I think it's important to show respect to the culture of the countries that you visit."

Rubio travelled to the Taj Mahal with his wife Jeanette, who usually shuns the spotlight. He put his arm gently around her as they posed on a bench that featured the iconic shot of Princess Diana in 1992.

Jeanette was not the only person to take pictures with Rubio at the Taj.

He also posed with members of the Village People, the disco group originally associated



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio poses alongside his wife Jeanette at the Taj Mahal in Agra

with the camp New York gay underground but whose cultural meaning has been transformed entirely by Trump after he adopted their song "YMCA".

They flew in to perform Sun-

day night at a gala party in New Delhi for the 250th anniversary of US independence, where they serenaded Rubio with "Happy Birthday" over a towering four-storey cake. Rubio turns 55

on Thursday.

The party was the brainchild of the US ambassador to India, Sergio Gor, a high-octane former aide to Trump, who eagerly joined the Rubios at the Taj

Mahal.

Crowds were kept 100 metres away, but the Taj Mahal did not go into a full shutdown as it did for Vice President JD Vance.

The Rubios, joined by Gor and senior aides, later flew to the desert city of Jaipur, where they took open-windowed jeeps up a ragged road to tour the imposing Amber Fort, the former residence of the Rajput maharajas that stares down on a lake.

Rubio was welcomed at the fort by twirling dancers in red turbans pounding drums, to which he gave a fist of approval.

After a brief tour, he was welcomed at his hotel, a converted palace, by assembled elephants, white horses and camels as peacocks fluttered in the garden.

Wooing India

The excursion is unusual for Rubio, who in nearly a year and a half on the job has preferred short, business-like trips and rarely done events outside of government meetings.

Rubio said he was taking advantage of a one-day break in his schedule before a meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday of the Quad -- Australia, India, Ja-

pan and the United States. He will also stop in Armenia on Tuesday on his way home.

The hectic pace comes as Rubio comments daily on Iran, predicting chances of an imminent breakthrough.

The Taj Mahal was built in the 17th century on orders of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan as a mausoleum for his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal who died in childbirth.

Rubio is visiting four cities over four days in India as he seeks to revive ties with a country successive US administrations saw as a like-minded partner in a world dominated by China's rise.

Trump has shaken up that approach since returning to office, temporarily imposing high tariffs, warming to both China and India's historic adversary Pakistan, curbing visas used by Indian professionals, and reposting insulting language about Indian immigrants.

In remarks Sunday by speakerphone to the party, Trump insisted he was on board with the relationship, telling the crowd: "We've never been closer to India, and India can count on me 100 percent".

Pope calls for 'disarming' AI in first major manifesto

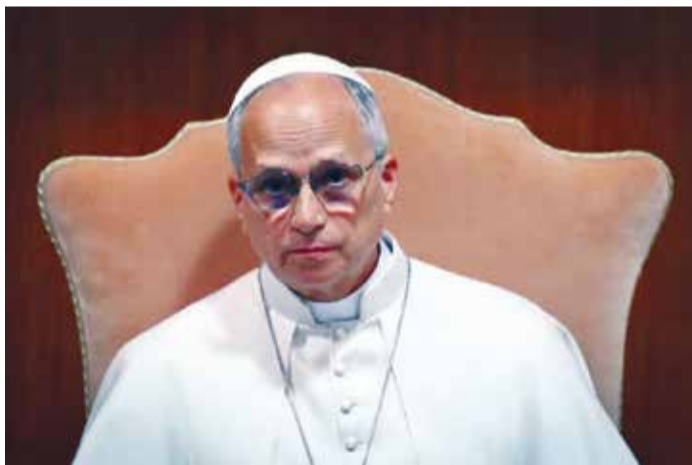
Agencies

Pope Leo XIV yesterday used his first major manifesto to urge governments to "disarm" artificial intelligence and ensure it serves the common good rather than power or profit.

The first US-born pontiff warned that while AI could be a valuable tool, it also posed serious risks to humanity.

"Artificial Intelligence now demands to be disarmed, freed from logics that turn it into an instrument of domination, exclusion and death," the pope said during a special Vatican presentation of the document, known as an encyclical.

Titled Magnifica Humanitas ("Magnificent Humanity"), the encyclical follows years of Vatican study on AI and emerging technologies. Encyclicals are regarded as authoritative teachings addressed to the Catholic Church's 1.4 billion followers.



Pope Leo XIV

Leo was particularly critical of the use of AI in warfare, saying autonomous weapons systems had made conflict "more feasible". He stressed that lethal decisions must never be entrusted to machines and said any military use of AI should face strict ethical limits.

At the same time, the pope

said "disarming" AI did not mean rejecting technology, but preventing it from dominating humanity. He called for AI to remain accessible, transparent and subject to public debate.

Warning against the concentration of power in the hands of a few technology companies, Leo said influential groups

could shape information, consumer behaviour and democratic processes for their own benefit. He urged governments to impose strong legal safeguards and independent oversight on AI systems.

The Vatican presentation was attended by several AI experts, including Anthropic co-founder Chris Olah, who acknowledged that commercial pressures in the AI industry could sometimes conflict with ethical decisions.

The pope also warned that the growth of AI was creating "new forms of slavery", citing exploitative labour conditions faced by content moderators and children mining rare earth minerals for the digital economy.

In a rare move, Leo apologised for the Vatican's historical role in the transatlantic slave trade, calling it "a wound in Christian memory". "For this, in the name of the Church, I sincerely ask for pardon," he wrote.

India orders migrant detention centres



Representative image

AFP | New Delhi, India

India's ruling party has ordered detention centres for undocumented Bangladeshis and Rohingyas in West Bengal state.

The order calls on local authorities to set up "holding centres" for "apprehended foreigners" awaiting deportation, as part of a broader crackdown on illegal migration.

The government has defend-

ed its "detect, delete, deport" principle, saying those targeted are migrants living illegally in the country.

"Illegal migration has security and socio-economic ramifications which are often well beyond law enforcement," read the order, issued last week.

The planned centres in West Bengal have raised concern because of the state's porous border with Bangladesh and its long history of migration.

Jet carrying UK defence secretary had signal jammed near Russia: ministry

● **The incident disabled the plane's GPS for the three-hour journey, forcing pilots to use alternative navigation systems**

AFP | London, United Kingdom

A British Royal Air Force plane carrying UK Defence Secretary John Healey had its signal jammed and GPS disabled when it flew near the Russian border last week, the defence ministry confirmed yesterday.

The Times newspaper first reported that the RAF jet had its signal knocked out as Hea-



Defence Secretary John Healey visited Estonia earlier this week

ley was returning to the UK on Thursday after visiting British soldiers stationed in Estonia.

The UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) confirmed to AFP that the report was accurate, adding:

"This is reckless Russian interference, but the RAF is well prepared to deal with this activity."

It did not confirm who was behind the incident and whether Healey's plane was targeted on purpose.

The incident disabled the plane's GPS for the three-hour journey, forcing pilots to use alternative navigation systems, the newspaper reported.

The Times, whose reporter was accompanying Healey, said electronic devices were unable to connect to the internet and parts of the dashboard malfunctioned. It comes after the MoD last week said two Russian jets "repeatedly and dangerously" intercepted a British surveillance aircraft over the Black Sea

in April.

Healey condemned that incident as "dangerous and unacceptable" behaviour by Russian pilots in international airspace, adding that it would not "deter the UK's commitment to defend NATO, our allies and our interests from Russian aggression".

Officials said the Black Sea encounter was the most serious involving a UK Rivet Joint since 2022, when a Russian aircraft fired a missile near a British plane over the same region.

Relations between Russia and the UK are in deep freeze, with Britain one of the staunchest backers of Ukraine since Moscow's 2022 invasion.

In 2024, an RAF plane carrying then-defence secretary Grant

Shapps had its signal temporarily jammed near Russian territory on its return journey from Poland.



GPS satellites orbit Earth at about 20,200 kilometres (12,550 miles) above the planet and travel at nearly 14,000 km/h, yet can pinpoint a location on Earth with accuracy down to a few metres – or even centimetres with advanced systems.

China launches crewed space flight as part of Moon ambitions

AFP | Beijing, China

China launched its crewed Shenzhou-23 spacecraft and eased it into a successful docking with a space station early yesterday as part of Beijing's ambitions to send humans to the Moon by 2030, state media said.

During this mission, a Chinese astronaut is scheduled to spend a full year in orbit on the Tiangong space station, a crucial first in the Chinese lunar landing programme.

The Long March 2-F rocket blasted off in a cloud of flames and smoke on time at 11:08 pm (1508 GMT) Sunday night from the Jiuquan launch centre in China's northwestern Gobi Desert, video from state broadcaster CCTV showed.

The spacecraft separated from the rocket around 10 minutes later and entered orbit, the Chinese Manned Space Agency (CMSA) said on social media.

"The astronauts are in good condition, and the launch has been a complete success," it added.

The craft docked successfully with the Tiangong space station after a flight of about 3.5 hours, the state news agency Xinhua reported, quoting CMSA.

The mission marks the first spaceflight by an astronaut from Hong Kong: 43-year-old Li Jiaying (Lai Ka-ying in Cantonese), who previously worked for the Hong Kong police.



Astronauts for China's Shenzhou-23 space mission (L-R) Li Jiaying, Zhu Yangzhu, and Zhang Zhiyuan, wave during a departure ceremony



A Long March-2F carrier rocket, carrying the Shenzhou-23 spacecraft and a crew of three astronauts, lifts off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in the Gobi Desert in northwest China

The two other crew members Zhu Yangzhu and 39-year-old are 39-year-old space engineer Zhang Zhiyuan, a former air

force pilot, who is travelling into space for the first time.

Cheering crowds waved Chinese flags at a farewell ceremony ahead of the launch, while a band played and the three astronauts saluted on stage.

The crew is set to carry out numerous scientific projects in life sciences, materials science, fluid physics and medicine.

A key experiment of Shenzhou-23 will be the full-year stay in orbit by one of the crew in order to study the effects of a long stay in microgravity.

Year-long experiment

The experiment is part of China's preparations for future lunar missions, as well as missions to Mars.

The astronaut selected for this one-year mission will be named at a later date, depending on the progress of the Shenzhou-23 mission, a spokesperson for the CMSA said on Saturday.

The main challenges will involve long-term effects on humans, including bone density loss, muscle wasting, radiation exposure, sleep disturbances, behavioural and psychological fatigue, said Richard de Grijps, an astrophysicist and professor at Macquarie University in Australia.

He also underlined the importance of reliable water and air recycling systems, as well as the ability to manage potential medical emergencies far from Earth.

17 dead, 10 injured in Pakistan as van hits parked bus



People gather beside damaged vehicles after an accident on a motorway in Swabi

AFP | Peshawar, Pakistan

At least 17 people were killed and 10 injured in a road accident yesterday in northwest Pakistan, officials said.

The crash occurred when a passenger bus travelling from Swat to Peshawar in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province developed a mechanical fault and stopped on the roadside.

Passengers had stepped out of the vehicle and were waiting nearby when a van lost control and ploughed into the crowd and the parked bus.

"At least 17 people have been

killed and more than 10 injured," Bilal Ahmad Faizi, a rescue official told AFP, adding that three of the injured were in critical condition.

Muhammad Ali, a doctor at a local hospital receiving the victims, also confirmed the death toll.

Many of the passengers were travelling home ahead of Eid, one of the most important religious festivals in the Muslim calendar.

Road accidents remain common in Pakistan due to weak enforcement of traffic laws, speeding, poor road safety standards, and reckless driving.

Russia threatens more strikes on Kyiv, urges foreigners to leave city

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russia has told foreign citizens and diplomats living in Kyiv to leave the city, warning that it plans to launch more strikes on the Ukrainian capital and its "decision-making centres".

The evacuation warning comes a day after Russia launched a massive wave of missile and drone strikes in one of its biggest attacks on Kyiv since 2022, leaving two people dead and more than 90 wounded.

"Under the current circumstances, the Russian Armed Forces are starting to launch systematic strikes against Ukrainian military-industrial facilities in Kyiv," Russia's foreign ministry said in a statement.

"The strikes will target both decision-making centres and command posts... We are

warning foreign citizens, including personnel of diplomatic missions and international organisations, to leave the city as soon as possible."

Russian President Vladimir Putin claims the attack was retaliation for a Ukrainian assault days before on a vocational school which killed 21 people in the Russian-occupied region of Luhansk.



Ukrainian officials say drones now account for more than 80% of Russian battlefield casualties in some sectors, making the conflict one of the first major "drone wars" in history.

Child found dead with towel round neck in France: prosecutors

AFP | Rennes, France

French police launched a murder investigation Sunday after a 12-year-old boy was found dead near a city centre with a towel tied around his neck, prosecutors said.

The child was found on the banks of the Vilaine river in the northwestern city of Rennes, the local prosecutors' office said in a statement.

"The circumstances that led to the death have yet to be established," but "the involvement



Divers search for evidences in the Vilaine river near the site where the body of a 12-year-old boy was found dead the day before in Rennes

of a third party is among the hypotheses", it added.

"A wet bath towel was tied very tightly around his neck."

Police were at the scene on Sunday evening, carrying out examinations near a residential complex close to the river, an AFP journalist saw.

"It's a real shock. It's a quiet neighbourhood, not far from the centre. I've never been bothered," a local resident in her thirties, who declined to give her name, told AFP.

'He's tiny! It's blue!': Scientists find new deep-sea octopus

AFP | Paris, France

On the ocean floor near the Galapagos Islands, a submersible controlled by scientists came across a mysterious octopus as blue as the ocean and no bigger than a golf ball.

"He's tiny! It's blue!" one excited scientist was recorded as saying when she first caught sight of the cerulean cephalopod on footage transmitted from the sub.

The team from the Charles Darwin Foundation had just discovered a new species of octopus nearly 1,800 metres (5,900 feet) below the water's surface, according to research published on Monday.

"Right away, I knew it was something really special," said octopus expert Janet Voight, who was asked to identify the strange species.



A newly discovered blue pygmy octopus off the Galapagos Islands.

At first the curator at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago had to make do with photos of the animal.

Then she received its preserved body in the mail.

"When it arrived, I was like 'Oh! My goodness! It's beautiful!'" Voight told AFP.

She was immediately interested because the closest known octopus of that shape lives off the coast of Uruguay -- in a different ocean on the other side of South America.

Normally to describe a new octopus species, a specimen needs to be cut open so that its

mouth, beak, teeth and other parts can be examined.

"We only had the one specimen, so I didn't want to take it apart," Voight said.

Instead, the team at the Field Museum used CT scans to take thousands of X-ray images, then compiled them to make a 3D model of the octopus, revealing its insides.

"There's nothing like spending the day looking at something no other human has ever seen," the Field Museum's X-ray lab head Stephanie Smith said in a statement.

'Deep purple'

The new species, named *Microleone galapagensis*, stands out for reasons other than its blue hue, which is believed to be the rarest colour in nature. The octopus appears to be the

runt of the Megaleledonidae family, whose members are normally much larger and live in the Southern Ocean surrounding Antarctica.

"Its stubby little arms with only one row of suckers set it apart from most octopus we are familiar with," Voight said.

Even among "other species with short little arms and a single sucker row, its colouration and smooth skin on the back surface separate it", she added.

While the octopus is light blue on its back, underneath it is a "very deep purple", Voight said.

"We think this colour pattern helps keep it safe. If the octopus grabs a prey item that emits light, that light may attract predators that might then eat the octopus," she explained. "So the octopus puts its

dark-coloured web over the prey item, keeping itself safe."

Surprisingly, it is not uncommon to find new species of octopus in the deep sea -- particularly in areas that have not been well explored, which is a massive amount of the ocean floor.

"If you took all the land on Earth and pieced it together, you would not cover the Pacific Ocean," Voight pointed out.

She added that she had last seen a new octopus in 2023, off the coast of Costa Rica.

The first sighting of the new blue octopus was made in 2015 near Darwin Island, named after the English scientist whose visit to the Galapagos helped him form the theory of evolution.

Voight's research on the species was published in the journal *Zootaxa*.

Hajj 2026: Mission Begins

Millions of pilgrims brave extreme heat as Mecca temperature hits 47°C

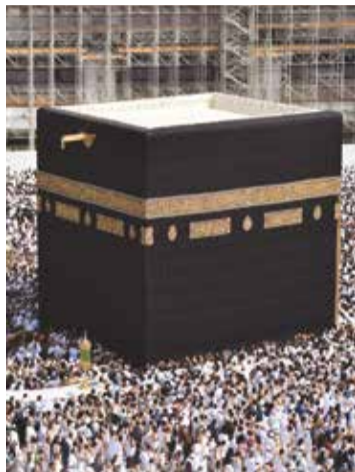
Egyptian pilgrim Inas Gamal had one dream: spend her days praying at Islam's holiest site, the Grand Mosque in Mecca. Reality forced a different plan. With temperatures crossing 40°C, the first-time pilgrim retreated to her air-conditioned hotel room for daytime prayers instead.

"It's very hot, much hotter than I imagined," the mother of four told AFP. "I can't adapt. I had planned to perform all my prayers at the Grand Mosque, but I couldn't go down during the day."

She is not alone. As hajj officially begins Monday, more than a million devotees are gathering in Mecca under punishing desert sun — and the worst may be yet to come.

Temperatures Set to Hit 47°C Saudi Arabia's National Center for Meteorology has forecast daytime temperatures of between 42 and 47°C in Mecca this week. For pilgrims from cooler climates, the shock is immediate. Mohamed Nabil, a professor from the Algerian coastal city of Oran — where it is currently a mild 25°C — said he constantly pours water on his face while clocking 30,000 steps a day exploring the city.

British pilgrim Imad Ahmed



said his survival strategy is simple: "I make sure to drink large amounts of water and beverages rich in salts and minerals, because we sweat constantly and are always on the move."

Fans, Mist and Free Ice Water Saudi authorities have deployed an arsenal of cooling measures to protect worshippers. The Grand Mosque runs one of the most powerful air conditioning systems in the world. Outside, giant fans, mist sprayers, and cooled flooring systems line the surrounding areas. Trucks continuously distribute free bottles of ice-cold water.

Ice cream stands are routinely mobbed. Pilgrims seek shade

in building shadows or rest on carpets inside indoor galleries beneath enormous fans while waiting for prayer times.

A Deadly Risk Every Year

Despite all precautions, the hajj's outdoor rites — where most rituals must be performed

— expose pilgrims to heatstroke, fainting, and cardiac arrest. Last year's hajj saw hundreds of deaths linked to extreme heat.

With hajj 2026 beginning in days, authorities and pilgrims alike are racing to stay one step ahead of the sun.

GCC Secretary-General condemns Hezbollah chief's remarks on Bahrain

The secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council strongly condemned remarks by Naim Qassem concerning Bahrain's internal affairs, accusing the Lebanese group of continued hostile activities against Gulf states.

Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi, secretary general of the GCC, denounced Qassem's statements regarding measures taken by the Bahraini government against individuals convicted of crimes linked to alleged cooperation with Iran's Revolutionary Guards as "irresponsible."

According to a GCC state-



ment, Albudaiwi said those individuals were found coordinating with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to carry out "terrorist and hostile acts" against Bahrain and harm its interests.

Qatar, Oman discuss Iran-US mediation efforts



Qatar's Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani held talks on Monday with Omani Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi on mediation efforts aimed at easing tensions between the United States and Iran, according to a Qatari statement.

During the phone call, the two officials reviewed bilateral cooperation between Qatar and Oman and discussed ongoing Pakistani mediation efforts involving the United States and Iran.

The talks also focused on coordinating efforts to support mediation initiatives aimed at de-escalation and strengthening regional security and stability.

Shaikh Mohammed stressed the importance of all parties engaging positively with the ongoing mediation efforts, the statement said.

He also underlined the need to address the root causes of the crisis through peaceful means and dialogue to secure a lasting agreement and prevent renewed escalation in the region.

UAE set for Eid Al Adha as prayers

Millions across the United Arab Emirates are preparing for Eid Al Adha, expected to begin on Wednesday, May 27, as the country readies for one of the most significant festivals in the Islamic calendar marked by prayers, family reunions and charitable traditions.

Astronomical calculations indicate that the Hajj season for 2026 began on Sunday, May 24, while Arafat Day is expected to fall on Tuesday, May 26, placing the first day of Eid Al Adha on the following day.

Eid prayers are traditionally performed 15 to 20 minutes after sunrise on the first morning of Eid, in accordance with Islamic practice. Preliminary estimates suggest prayer timings across the UAE will range between 5:39am and 5:50am.

Abu Dhabi is expected to hold Eid prayers at around 5:50am,



while Dubai and Al Ain are likely to pray at 5:45am. Sharjah and Umm Al Quwain are expected at 5:43am, Fujairah at 5:41am, Ras Al Khaimah at 5:40am, and Ajman at 5:39am.

Authorities across the country are preparing hundreds of mosques and open-air prayer grounds to accommodate wor-

shippers, with designated sites in residential areas and major city centres expected to host large congregations.

In Abu Dhabi, key prayer locations include Musalla Al Mushrif, Bani Yas Musalla, Mohammed bin Zayed City Musalla and the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque.

Dubai's main Eid prayer sites include Nad Al Hamar Musalla, Al Warqa Musalla, Jumeirah Musalla and Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Mosque in Zabeel.

Sharjah will also host prayers at major venues such as Al Badee Musalla, Al Gharb district Musalla and Al Khan Musalla, along with additional sites on Abu Musa Island.

Eid Al Adha is traditionally observed with a set of Sunnah practices, including bathing before prayers, wearing one's best clothes, and reciting the takbeer while travelling to prayer grounds. Muslims also typically refrain from eating until after the Eid prayer and the ritual sacrifice.

Kuwait, Pakistan discuss strengthening defence cooperation

Kuwait's Defence Minister Shaikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah met Pakistan's ambassador to Kuwait, Dr Zafar Iqbal, on Monday to discuss bilateral relations and ways to expand cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting focused on issues of mutual interest and efforts to strengthen cooperation across various sectors,

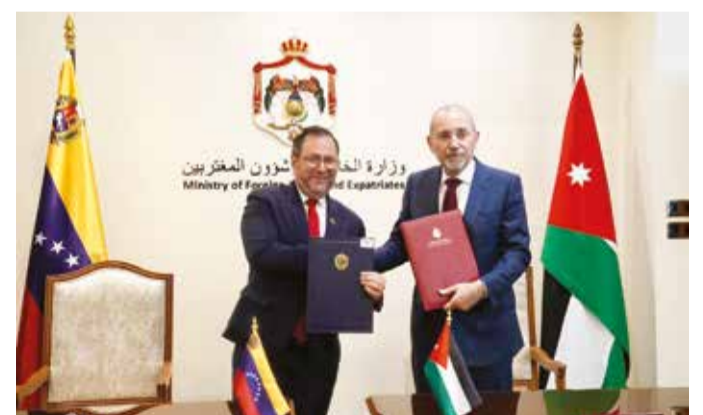
reflecting the close ties shared by Kuwait and Pakistan, according to a statement from Kuwait's Ministry of Defence.

Friendly discussions were exchanged during the talks, the statement said, without providing further details.

Kuwaiti Defence Ministry Undersecretary Sheikh Dr Abdulh Mishal Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah also attended the meeting.



Jordan, Venezuela sign four agreements to boost bilateral ties



Jordan and Venezuela signed four agreements on Monday aimed at boosting bilateral cooperation in politics, agriculture and diplomacy during talks in Amman between the two countries' foreign ministers.

Ayman Safadi, Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, and Yvan Gil signed the agreements at the Jordanian foreign ministry headquarters.

The deals included a framework cooperation agreement establishing a joint committee for bilateral cooperation between the two governments. The two sides also signed a

memorandum of understanding on agricultural cooperation, aimed at strengthening collaboration and exchanging expertise in the sector.

Another memorandum established a mechanism for political consultations between the Jordanian and Venezuelan foreign ministries on issues of common interest.

The fourth agreement focused on academic cooperation between the Jordanian Diplomatic Institute and the Pedro Gual Higher Institute for Diplomatic Studies.

The signing ceremony came as Jordan and Venezuela seek to deepen diplomatic engagement and expand cooperation across several sectors.

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Smartest ball ever

How World Cup 2026 technology is changing football

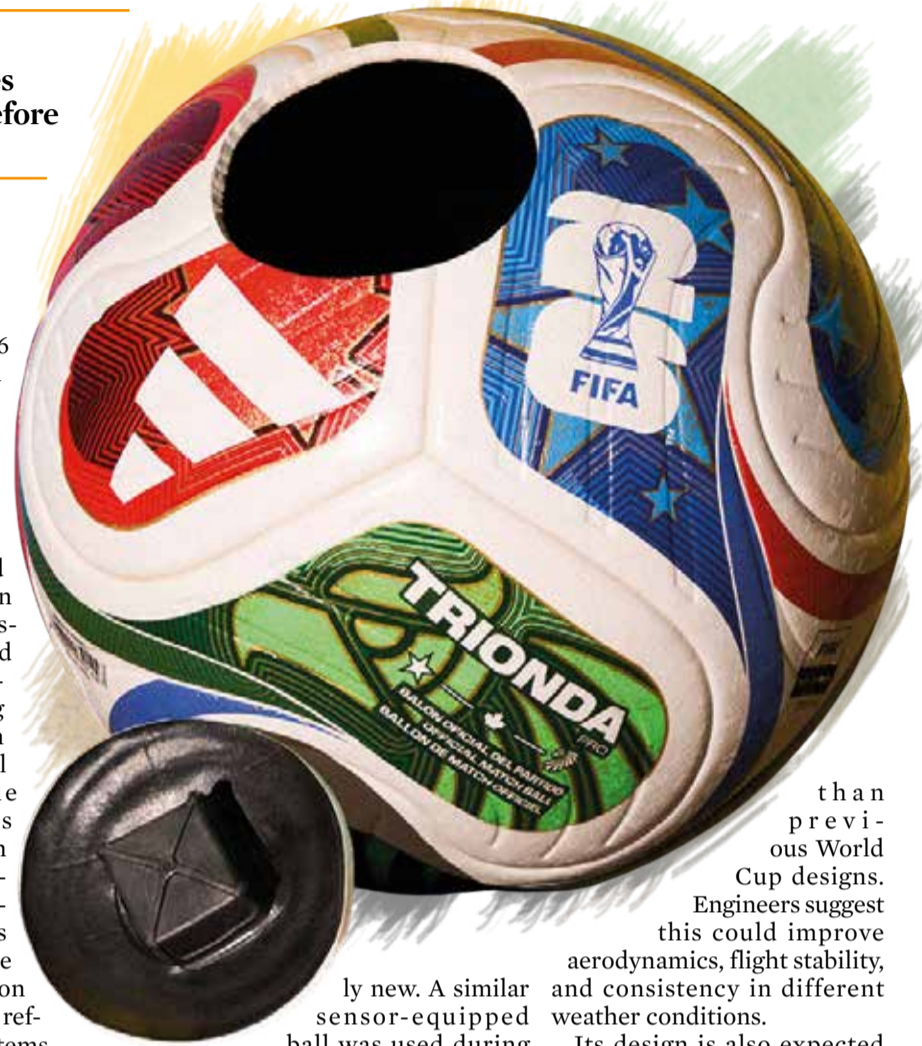
● Match ball requires charging before kickoff

Hussain Al-maskati
TDT | Manama

The 2026 FIFA World Cup is expected to feature one of the most technologically advanced match balls in the sport's history. Designed as part of football's growing integration with digital systems, the official ball is equipped with internal sensor technology that works alongside next-generation video assistant referee (VAR) systems.

The ball, known as "Trionda," contains an embedded motion sensor capable of tracking movement hundreds of times per second. This allows it to capture detailed data including speed, spin, direction, trajectory, and the exact moment of contact with a player. The information is transmitted in real time and combined with stadium camera systems to construct a live 3D model of on-field action. This integrated tracking system is designed to support referees with faster and more precise decision-making, particularly in tight situations such as offside calls. By accurately identifying when the ball is played, it reduces one of the most challenging variables in modern officiating.

The technology is not entirely



than previous World Cup designs. Engineers suggest this could improve aerodynamics, flight stability, and consistency in different weather conditions.

Its design is also expected to reflect the identity of the host nations, Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Colour accents in red, green, and blue are likely to appear, along with symbolic imagery such as stars, maple leaves, and eagles. Not all reactions to this technological direction are positive. Critics argue that increased reliance on digital systems risks slowing the game and reducing its spontaneous human element. Supporters counter that greater accuracy in key decisions is worth the trade-off, especially on football's biggest stage.

Whatever the debate, the match ball is no longer just equipment. At the 2026 World Cup, it may function as one of the most important data tools on the pitch.

In addition to its internal systems, the ball is expected to feature a redesigned outer structure with fewer panels

Manama crowned champions of "Golden Generation" Basketball League

TDT | Manama

Manama were crowned champions of the Khalid bin Hamad Golden Generation Basketball League for Juniors after a dominant victory over Al Ahli in the final held on Sunday at Zain Sports Hall in Umm Al Hassam.

Backed by strong support from His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the final showcased the best young basketball talent in Bahrain, with officials from the General Sports Authority and the Bahrain Basketball Association in attendance.

Manama delivered a commanding performance in the final, defeating Al Ahli 85-52 to secure the title in convincing fashion. Al Ahli finished as runners-up, while Muharraq claimed third place in the competition.

Following the final whistle, the winners were presented with the championship trophy and gold medals by officials from the General Sports



Manama players celebrate after winning the 2025-2026 juniors title

Authority. Al Ahli received the silver medals, while Muharraq were awarded bronze.

The closing ceremony was attended by senior figures from the Bahrain Basketball Association, who praised the success of the tournament and its role

in developing young players and identifying future national team talent.

The league continues to play an important role in supporting youth basketball in Bahrain and strengthening the pipeline of talent for the future.

Kooheji marks PFL debut with statement win for Bahrain



Action from Kooheji's bout against Bendaoud

● **Hamza Kooheji now holds a professional MMA record of 15-4-0**

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Hamza Kooheji emerged as one of the standout performers at PFL MENA: Dubai - Pride of Arabia at the Coca-Cola Arena, earning a unanimous decision victory over Morocco's Taha Bendaoud on Sunday night. All three judges scored it 29-28 as he advanced to the featherweight semi-finals.

The win marked a strong re-

sponse from Kooheji following his last outing, where he suffered a fourth-round TKO defeat on home soil in Bahrain last November against Serbia's Borislav Nikoli. This time, he appeared far more composed over three rounds, showing improved distance control, sharper decision-making, and a disciplined approach under pressure.

After the win, Kooheji was emotional in his post-fight remarks, dedicating the victory to Bahrain and its leadership. "First and foremost, this hard-earned victory belongs to the Kingdom of Bahrain and to His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa."

He also acknowledged Shaikh Khalid's absence from cageside,



Hamza Kooheji during his post-fight interview

emphasizing that his support remains deeply felt.

"I truly wished His Highness could have been here with us tonight, but we completely understand that his demanding schedule and official responsibilities kept him away. He is always with us in spirit, and his unwavering support remains our greatest motivation."

Looking ahead, Kooheji made it clear that his focus remains firmly on the title.

"Our focus is now entirely on

the finals. We will keep pushing forward, and with the right preparation, we look forward to having His Highness by our side to witness the culmination of this journey. The goal remains unchanged: to bring the championship home to Bahrain."

Elsewhere on the card, Bahrain's Hamad Marhoon came up just short in a split-decision loss to Jordan's Saher Qasmieh (3-0), with scorecards of 29-28, 28-29, 29-28 in a flyweight bout that went the distance.



Kooheji performs sujud in gratitude after his victory



Hamza Kooheji reacts during his cage announcement

Guidetech-Indian Club Open Badminton Tournament 2026 concludes after week of elite competition



Pradeep Puravankara
TDT | Manama

The local sports scene witnessed a spectacular showcase of athleticism as the week-long Guidetech-Indian Club Open Badminton Tournament 2026 successfully wrapped up at the Indian Club premises.

The prestigious tournament drew around 300 elite players from across the Kingdom of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. The high-profile event generated over 400 entries across 15

distinct categories—including Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, Mixed Doubles, and Masters Doubles—culminating in more than 250 action-packed matches. The entire week of intense competition was smoothly coordinated under the leadership of Tournament Director Mr. Anil Koliyadan.

Following the final matches, a formal prize distribution ceremony was hosted by the Indian Club Executive Committee and the organizing team to honor the athletes. The closing cer-

emony began with a welcome speech by the Club's General Secretary, Mr. Anil Kumar R., followed by an official presidential address from Club President Mr. Joseph Joy.

The evening concluded with the presentation of trophies to the winners and runners-up of each respective category. Mr. Binu Pappachen, the Club's Badminton Secretary, delivered the official vote of thanks to close out the tournament.

Reflecting on the event's success, the Indian Club Executive

Committee extended its deepest gratitude to all participating players, the organizing team, and the community supporters who made the large-scale tournament possible.

The 2026 open tournament was powered by Title Sponsor Guidetech Trading W.L.L. and Main Sponsor Valueline Trading W.L.L. The event also received significant corporate backing from supporting sponsors, including Silver Star Logistics, Eram Floors W.L.L., Indian Delights, and Al Hilal Hospital.

Omar Solomanov sets sights on undisputed Featherweight Crown at BRAVE CF 105



Manama

Omar Solomanov enters the main event of BRAVE CF 105 on Sunday, May 31, with the kind of clarity only hard-earned experience can bring.

The BRAVE CF Interim Featherweight World Champion now stands at the edge of something far more permanent, a chance to remove all prefixes and finally be recognized as the division's undisputed ruler.

The Baluan Sholak Sports Palace in Almaty, Kazakhstan will host a pivotal clash as Solomanov meets former bantamweight titleholder Nicholas Hwende for the vacant undisputed featherweight crown.

For Solomanov, the occasion represents more than another World Championship appearance. It is a moment of validation, a chance to solidify a standing that has been forged through consistency and dominance rather than temporary distinction.

His defining breakthrough arrived at BRAVE CF 98 in September 2025, where he delivered a commanding five-round performance against Kazakh rival Rauan "Shymyr" Bekbolat in their anticipated rematch.

That night ended in a unanimous decision victory, earning Solomanov the BRAVE CF Interim Featherweight World Title and confirming his ascent as a force at 145 pounds.

"Every fight at this level strips away illusion. I have carried the interim designation long enough. On May 31, I intend to leave no ambiguity and take my place as the true champion of this division," he said.

Now armed with a professional record of 14-3, including eight knockouts and three submission victories, the Ukraini-

an standout has developed into one of the most feared competitors in his weight class.

With five wins from his last six outings, his approach has been defined by calculated aggression, surgical precision, and composure in volatile exchanges.

"This is not a stepping stone or a transitional label for me. I have proven myself repeatedly against elite opposition. I am here to erase any perception that I am anything less than the man who rules this division," he added.

Standing across the cage is a tested and dangerous adversary. Hwende carries a 10-2 standing and has already made six appearances under the BRAVE CF banner, securing four victories along the way.

His featherweight introduction came at BRAVE CF 98 against "The Stalker" Xie Bin, where he neutralized the Chinese spitfire's momentum with disciplined striking and strategic control en route to a unanimous decision win.

In fact, Hwende is no stranger to World Championship pressure.

The Zimbabwean has previously held the BRAVE Bantamweight World Title and has repeatedly demonstrated the ability to perform under the bright lights.

At BRAVE CF 105, Hwende stands on the verge of joining a rare echelon by potentially becoming a two-division World Champion.

Yet Solomanov remains intent on denying that narrative its conclusion.

"I respect what he has achieved, but this moment belongs to me. I am not traveling to Almaty to share history or witness someone else's legacy being written. I am going there to seize it," Solomanov stated.



Al Najma, Manama Secure Top-Flight Spots

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Matchday 2 of the 2025-2026 Bahrain promotion and relegation play-offs confirmed the final composition of next season's Nasser Bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League last night. With all four sides now aware of their fate, Al Najma retained their top-flight status, Manama secured promotion, Budaiya were relegated, and Al Ettihad remained in the First Division.

At Bahrain National Stadium, Al Najma completed a perfect play-off campaign with a convincing 3-0 win over Budaiya. They took the lead just before half-time when Ali Al Doseri reacted quickest after Faisal Bodahoom's corner was cleared and struck a loose ball from around 30 yards, finishing low into the bottom corner.

Coach Mohamed Shamlan's side doubled their lead in the 55th minute through Saleh Al



Al Zubaidi celebrates scoring Al Najma's second goal against Budaiya

Zubaidi, who converted from close range after another dangerous Bodahoom delivery bounced inside the box. Their momentum was briefly disrupted in the 75th minute when Al Doseri was sent off following a VAR review for an accidental stamp on Qassim Saeed, reducing them to ten men

for the closing stages.

Despite the dismissal, Al Najma remained in control and sealed the win in stoppage time. Budaiya captain Nawaf Abdulla played a poor back pass under pressure from Zachary Hadji, who was then brought down by Qassim Saeed inside the area, earning a



Manama's Mustafa Al Salem in action against Al Ettihad

penalty. The Moroccan stepped up and scored down the middle for his third goal of the play-offs to complete the 3-0 victory.

Meanwhile, at Al Ahli Club Stadium, Manama were equally dominant in a 3-0 win over Al Ettihad, confirming their return to the top flight. They opened the scoring in

the 20th minute when Suelinton Thiago Silva de Lima Brito met a Nemanja Nikolic cross with a diving header into the corner.

Shortly after the restart, Al Ettihad were awarded a penalty and sensed a route back into the match. However, after reviewing the incident on the monitor,

referee Mohammed Bunafoor overturned his decision and ruled that Manama goalkeeper Mohamed Hassan had made a clean tackle.

The moment proved crucial as Manama doubled their advantage in the 61st minute through Pablo Augusto Servo de Carvalho, who turned home from close range following a set piece. The goal was initially ruled out for offside before a VAR review overturned the flag and confirmed the strike. Carvalho added his second five minutes later, reacting quickest to a corner to extend the lead and put the result beyond doubt.

With Al Najma and Manama confirmed in the 2026-27 Nasser Bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League, the final round of fixtures on May 30 will not affect promotion or relegation. Al Ettihad will face Budaiya at Al Ahli Club Stadium, while Al Najma meet Manama at Bahrain National Stadium, with both matches kicking off at 7pm.

Swiatek, Rybakina cruise through Roland Garros openers

AFP | Paris

Four-time French Open champion Iga Swiatek and second seed Elena Rybakina both eased into the second round with comfortable wins at a sweltering Roland Garros yesterday, as Stan Wawrinka bade an emotional farewell to the tournament.

Swiatek, playing at a Grand Slam event for the first time since linking up with Rafael Nadal's former coach Francisco Roig, made short work of seeing off Australian teenager Emerson Jones 6-1, 6-2 in just 60 minutes.

The Pole is looking to regain the trophy she won at Roland Garros in three successive years from 2022-24 before losing to Aryna Sabalenka in the semi-finals 12 months ago.

Swiatek will take on Czech



Poland's Iga Swiatek during the match

Sara Bejlek for a place in the last 32 on Wednesday.

The third seed is among the favourites for the title after finding some form by reaching the Italian Open semi-finals earlier this month.

"I'm really happy with the way I played. It was a solid match from the beginning to the end. I technically knew how to play," said Swiatek.

Rybakina also wasted little time in swatting aside Slovenian Veronika Erjavec 6-2, 6-2 on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Like Swiatek, the Kazakh was pleased to not spend too much time on court in the 32C heat.

"It's tough conditions but I'm happy things worked, and I'm looking forward to the next match," she said.

Rybakina, who won the Australian Open earlier this year, plays Ukraine's Yuliia Starodubtseva next.

Elina Svitolina survived a serious scare against Hungary's Anna Bondar on Court Suzanne Lenglen, fighting back from 3-1 down in a deciding set to win 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (10/3).

Yamal leads Spain World Cup squad, Merino recalled

AFP | Madrid

Lamine Yamal is the star name in Spain's squad for the 2026 World Cup named by coach Luis de la Fuente yesterday, which also included Arsenal midfielder Mikel Merino after his recent return from injury.

For the first time at a World Cup, the Spain squad will not feature a Real Madrid player with Dean Huijsen dropped and veteran Dani Carvajal also excluded after struggling through an injury-hit campaign.

Merino, a favourite of coach De la Fuente, appeared as a substitute for the Gunners against Crystal Palace on Sunday in their final Premier League match, for his first appearance since January after a foot fracture.

De La Fuente also called up



Lamine Yamal in action (file photo)

defenders Eric Garcia and Marc Pubill after impressive seasons with Barcelona and Atletico Madrid respectively, deciding to leave out Huijsen and Atletico's Robin Le Normand.

Along with 18-year-old Barca star Yamal, Athletic Bilbao's Nico Williams played a key role as Spain won Euro 2024 and he is in the squad despite a season badly disrupted by fitness issues.

Bahrain handball league semi-finals get underway tonight

TDT | Manama

Barbar will aim to spring an upset when they face defending champions Al Najma in the Golden Square semi-finals of the 2025-26 Khalid Bin Hamad Bahrain Handball League, with the best-of-three series beginning tonight at Khalifa Sports City.

Najma enter the tie as clear favourites after topping the regular season standings with 56 points, finishing ahead of all

challengers and asserting their dominance with two wins over Barbar during the campaign. Their consistency across the season has reinforced their status as the team to beat as they continue their bid to defend the title.

Barbar, meanwhile, finished fourth in the table with 46 points from 13 wins and seven defeats, but head into the semi-finals determined to overturn the odds. Despite losing both league meetings against Najma, Barbar

Khalid bin Hamad Handball League – Golden Square Semi-finals

Venue: Khalifa Sports City Hall

Game	Date	Time	Fixture
Game 1	Tonight	5:30pm	Al Najma vs Barbar
Game 1	Tonight	7:30pm	Al Ahli vs Al Shabab
Game 2	28 May (Thu)	5:30pm	Al Ahli vs Al Shabab
Game 2	28 May (Thu)	7:30pm	Al Najma vs Barbar
Game 3*	30 May (Sat)	5:30pm	Al Najma vs Barbar
Game 3*	30 May (Sat)	7:30pm	Al Shabab vs Al Ahli

will look to reset in a knockout environment where form can often shift under pressure, especially in a short best-of-three series.

The other semi-final promises to be just as competitive, with Al Shabab taking on Al Ahli in a closely matched contest.

Shabab secured second place with 55 points after an impressive campaign featuring 17 wins, one draw, and just two defeats, while Al Ahli finished close behind in third on 54 points with

17 victories and three losses, setting up a near-even clash for a place in the final. The series begins with a double-header today, as Al Najma face Barbar at 5:30pm followed by Al Shabab against Al Ahli at 7:30pm.

The second round of fixtures will be played on Thursday, with a potential decider scheduled for Saturday if required. All matches will take place at Khalifa Sports City in Isa Town, where the race for a place in the final is set to intensify.