

White House correspondents' dinner shooting suspect has been charged with attempting to assassinate the president – what happened next? | P10



ZERO TOLERANCE



69 lose Bahraini citizenship, Authorities cite links to hostile foreign activities

TDT | Manama

Bahrain revoked the citizenship of 69 individuals, including dependants, after authorities accused them of actions deemed harmful to national security and interests, the Interior Ministry said on Monday.

The decision, taken under Article 10 (3) of Bahrain's Nationality Law, was issued following a submission by the Minister of Interior to the cabinet and in line with legal procedures, the ministry said.

Authorities said the individuals allegedly supported "hostile acts linked to Iran" and were accused of collusion with foreign entities. No further details were provided.

Royal directives

The ministry said the move was carried out under directives from HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and aligned with instructions from HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa to maintain security and stability in the kingdom.

Officials said all of those affected are of non-Bahraini origin. Relevant authorities will implement the decision in accordance with national laws, the statement added.

The Interior Ministry said it would continue to ensure that Bahraini citizenship is granted and retained only by those who "uphold loyalty to the Kingdom".

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Safe Sea Routes

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HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq reaffirmed the importance of maritime security and regional stability during a phone call on Sunday.

The two leaders reviewed the strong bilateral relations between the two Gulf nations and discussed developments across regional and international arenas.



HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa



Sultan Haitham bin Tariq

A key outcome of the call was their joint emphasis on safeguarding freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and other international waterways. Both sides described secure maritime routes as essential for the uninterrupted flow of global trade and for supporting wider economic stability.

The leaders also exchanged views on shared regional concerns, underscoring continued coordination on issues of mutual interest.

Debate over BD500 fee for teachers

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A proposal to spare private school teachers from a BD500 training fee, or have the government pay it in full, was put forward by MP Hanan Fardan and four other MPs.

The move targets the cost of the teacher professionalization programme, which private school teachers must pass to secure a professional teaching licence. Teachers working for the Ministry of Education take the same course free of charge at public expense.

Ms Fardan said the fee placed a heavy strain on private school teachers, many of whom earn little more than the cost of the programme itself.

"This proposal comes in view of the circumstances faced by private school teachers in Bahrain, and in order to preserve the professional stability of this important group of educational staff," she said.

"These teachers are required to pass the teacher professionalisation programme, which is partly supported by the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), as a condition for obtaining a professional licence, while teachers at the Ministry of Education receive this programme free of charge at government expense."

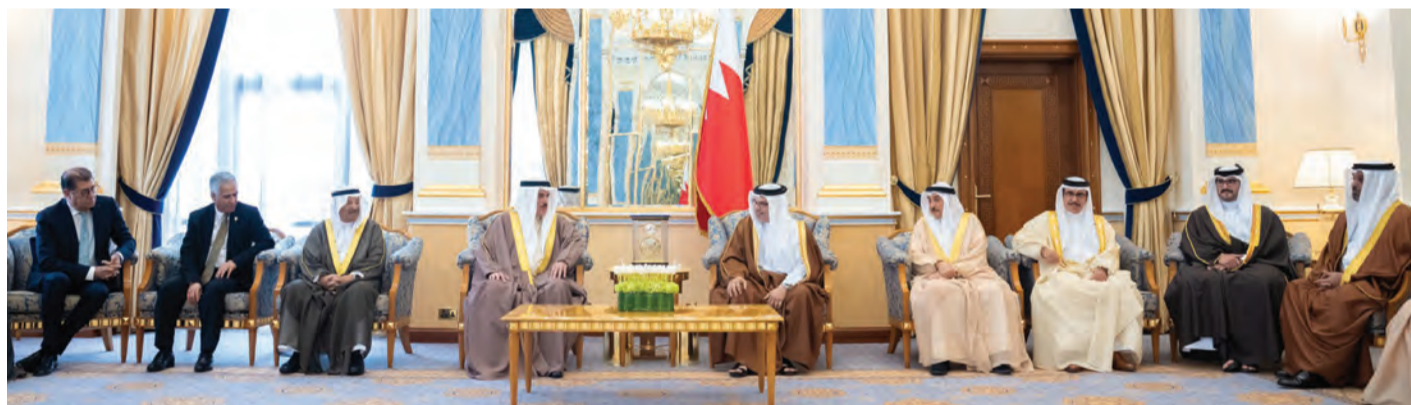
The programme costs around BD500, according to the proposal.

Ms Fardan said some teachers had only a short period to pay and join, straining both their money and time.

The proposal also calls for private school teachers to receive help with training and career growth on the same footing as their counterparts in public schools.

Unified National Direction

Strategic vision aims to reinforce Bahrain's security and prosperity



HRH Prince Salman with Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh and senior officials

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa held talks with the heads of the kingdom's two parliamentary chambers, reaffirming national unity and the importance of continued cooperation between the executive and legislative branches.

The Crown Prince met at Gudaibiya Palace with Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, Speaker of the Council of Representatives, and Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh,

Chairman of the Shura Council. Deputies, bureau members and legislators from both chambers joined them.

During the meeting, HRH Prince Salman stressed the Bahraini people's commitment to national development and preserving stability, stating this reflected a broad sense of belonging and solidarity across the kingdom under the leadership of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

He said national unity and shared responsibility are essential at the current stage, calling

for closer cohesion to address regional challenges and their repercussions while continuing to advance Bahrain's development and prosperity.

The Crown Prince noted that the King's directives provided a "clear roadmap" for the country's future, focused on safeguarding security and stability, protecting national capabilities, strengthening social cohesion and reinforcing unity.

HRH Prince Salman also praised members of the legislative branch for their role in

supporting development plans and national objectives, underlining the importance of continued coordination between the government and parliament to implement initiatives and programmes aimed at economic and social progress.

The Speaker of the Council of Representatives and the Chairman of the Shura Council appreciated the Crown Prince's support for closer institutional cooperation, saying it served shared national goals and the aspirations of Bahraini citizens.

Public Health Action

TDT | Manama



HRH Prince Salman chairs the Cabinet meeting

The Cabinet ordered urgent measures to strengthen mosquito control efforts across the kingdom as part of enhanced public health protection, focusing on preventing mosquito-borne diseases including dengue.

The weekly meeting, chaired by HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa at Gudaibiya Palace, directed the Ministry

of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture and the Ministry of Health to intensify field monitoring, containment operations and response capacity amid a rise in mosquito populations.

The move was presented as part of a broader national approach to safeguarding public health and reducing the risk of vector-borne diseases, including dengue fever, particularly during seasonal spikes.

Alongside health measures, the Cabinet reviewed regional

and domestic developments, including the outcomes of Jordanian Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II's recent visit to Bahrain, which ministers said underscored the "strength of longstanding" bilateral ties.

The government also marked upcoming Labour Day by praising the "competence, skill and creativity" of Bahrain's workforce, and commended journalists and media professionals ahead of World Press Freedom Day for their role in supporting national priorities.

Cabinet decisions

- Approved MoU on agricultural entrepreneurship training
- Approved MoU between University of Bahrain and RCSI Bahrain
- Endorsed replies to parliamentary proposals
- Reviewed FAO participation report and ministerial foreign engagement



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Over 80 nations join UN maritime security talks

TDT | Manama
Ashen Tharaka

Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Foreign Minister warned that escalating threats to maritime security endanger global trade, economic stability and international peace, during an open debate at the UN Security Council on maritime security.

Speaking in his capacity as Foreign Minister while heading the Council Presidency, Al Zayani said the discussion – attended by more than 80 countries – came at a “pivotal moment” marked by rising geopolitical tensions and increasing risks to freedom of navigation.

He said more than 90,000 vessels traverse global sea routes daily, underpinning trillions of dollars in international trade. He added that “deliberate actions” targeting international waterways were disrupting shipping and threatening global supply chains.

“These threats are characterized by actions aimed at obstructing freedom of navigation through international waterways,” he said, warning of consequences for energy security, food supply, medicine and humanitarian assistance.



The minister called for stronger international cooperation and a reaffirmation of international maritime law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, stressing that freedom of navigation and innocent passage through straits must be fully protected.

He warned that the global economic cost could run into hundreds of billions of dollars,

saying the world “cannot afford further losses” and calling for a coordinated international response.

“Complacency and inaction will have grave consequences,” he said, urging collective action to prevent maritime disruptions from becoming a “new normal”.

Global spillover

Addressing the Council, UN

Secretary-General António Guterres said geopolitical tensions were “spilling into the waters” and that merchant shipping was being used as a tool of pressure, undermining core principles of international law.

He cautioned that prolonged instability risked deepening food insecurity, particularly in vulnerable regions, and further destabilising global supply chains.



“We call on all states to join the statement condemning Iran’s actions and rejecting attempts to close the Strait of Hormuz or exploit it as a political and economic tool.”

DR. ABDULLATIF BIN RASHID AL ZAYANI, FOREIGN MINISTER



“Geopolitical tensions are spilling into the waters.”

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTONIO GUTERRES



Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani asked UN member states:

- Can any country close an international shipping route at any time?
- What financial losses has your country faced because of such disruptions?
- How have these disruptions affected people’s daily lives?
- What steps can be taken to solve this problem?
- Can economies continue to handle ongoing losses from shipping restrictions or fees?

Rising Delivery Driver Concerns

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Five Bahraini lawmakers have called for a comprehensive government study into the country’s fast-growing delivery rider sector, warning that a surge in driver numbers could destabilize the market.

In an urgent proposal submitted to parliament, MPs Khalid Buanaq, Hisham Al Awadhi, Zainab AbdulAmeer, Mohammed Al Maarifi and Ahmed Al Salloom urged authorities to assess how many delivery drivers the market can sustain and to review regulations governing the sector.

The proposal calls for an in-depth analysis of driver numbers, licensing frameworks, employment models and actual consumer demand across the kingdom.

The MPs cautioned that without accurate data on market demand, the labour market could become imbalanced, affecting job distribution between Bahraini nationals and expatriate workers, as well as the quality of services provided to consumers.

They stressed that the proposed study should rely on up-to-date data to determine the actual number of drivers required, evaluate market conditions, and identify challenges related to licensing, operational systems and demand.



“Rapid growth in delivery riders risks oversupply, lowering incomes and destabilising the market if left unregulated,”

KHALID BUANAQ, MP

According to Buanaq, the findings would help authorities establish clearer licensing rules, monitor workforce levels and improve regulation of the sector.



Safer Workplaces

Expanded workplace monitoring and enforcement

Bahrain is stepping up efforts to strengthen workplace safety, with authorities pledging tighter regulations, enhanced oversight and stronger partnerships to reduce occupational risks and protect workers.

Marking the World Day for Safety and Health at Work on April 28, Labour and Legal Affairs Minister Yousif bin Abdulhussain Khalaf said the kingdom is advancing a comprehensive approach aimed at building safer and more sustainable working environments.

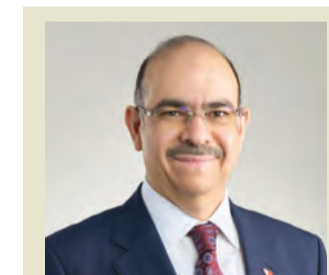
The Ministry of Labour is prioritising the reduction of workplace hazards and the reinforcement of preventive systems across sectors, while continuing to update labour legislation in line with international best practices, Khalaf said.

He highlighted growing efforts to raise worker awareness about occupational accidents and diseases, noting that stronger awareness has improved compliance with safety regulations and better workforce protection.

The minister also pointed to

Key measures

- Risk prevention focus
- Mandatory safety compliance
- More inspections
- Expanded safety oversight
- Updated regulations



“Embedding a culture of safety and risk awareness is fundamental to sustaining development”

MINISTER YOUSIF BIN ABDULHUSSAIN KHALAF

the role of employers in maintaining workforce stability and implementing precautionary measures to safeguard employees, particularly during recent regional tensions. He said such steps reflected a broader commitment to safety standards and national responsibility.

Khalaf praised security and military authorities for maintaining stability, which he said underpins safe operating conditions for businesses and workers alike.

He underscored the role of the Occupational Safety and Health Council in shaping national policies and coordinating efforts to strengthen safety standards, calling it central to advancing prevention-focused strategies.

Report on expat driving licence rules submitted

Licences may be tied to residency permit validity



TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat



“Shura Council reviews reforms to boost disability employment and update foreign driving licence rules.”

The Shura Council’s committees advanced discussions on draft legislation covering employment quotas for persons with disabilities and proposed amendments to Bahrain’s traffic law regulating driving licences for foreigners.

The committee chaired by Dr. Jameela Mohammed Redha Al Salman, continued examining a supplementary report on a draft amendment to Law No. 74 of 2006 concerning the care, rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities.

The proposed changes seek to raise the minimum employment quota for persons with disabilities in workplaces, while ensuring roles are com-

patible with individual disabilities and job requirements. Lawmakers also reviewed provisions that would require the Labour Minister, in coordination with the Social Development Ministry and the Civil Service Bureau, to issue decisions identifying government posts suitable for qualified persons with disabilities. Under the current framework, such decisions are optional.

Strait of Hormuz Concerns Raised

TDT | Manama

Bahrain and France reaffirmed their strategic partnership, stressed closer coordination at the United Nations Security Council, and exchanged views on regional security challenges, including maritime stability in the Strait of Hormuz, during talks between their foreign ministers in New York on Sunday.

The meeting took place between Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani and France's Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Noël Barrot at UN headquarters on the sidelines of Security Council sessions. They exchanged perspectives

on recent regional developments and their impact on international peace and security, with particular attention to concerns over potential disruptions to maritime navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and their implications for global trade and economic stability.

Bahrain's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Jamal Fares Al Rowaihi, Ambassador Saeed Abdulkhaleq Saeed, Head of Coordination and Follow-up at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hatem Abdulhamid Hatem, Head of the International Organisations Sector, and accompanying officials attended the meeting.



H.E. Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani with Jean-Noel Barrot

Moves to Update Industry Law

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

A Shura Council committee referred a draft law amending Bahrain's 1985 industrial protection legislation to the bureau for further review after discussing its objectives and legal framework.

The Financial and Economic Affairs Committee, chaired by Khalid Hussain Al Maskati, reviewed the proposal in the presence of its proponents, focusing on its aim to modernise support for national industries and strengthen links between public procurement and industrial development.

Economic competitiveness

The draft seeks to enhance economic competitiveness, attract investment, support local production, and expand employment opportunities for Bahraini talent, aligning with the Industrial Sector Strategy (2022-2026).

Key provisions include establishing a committee to oversee industrial support policies, updating official terminology in the law, introducing a national products list for government procurement, and setting requirements for local content requirements in public tenders.

Local content is defined as total domestic spending on Bahraini labour, goods, services, and assets.

Council backs warning stickers on bins

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

The Northern Municipal Council unanimously approved a proposal to place warning stickers on garbage bins across residential areas to reduce littering and improve cleanliness.

The initiative, submitted by Council Member Abdulla Ashoor, targets the growing problem of waste left outside bins, which contributes to poor sanitation and the spread of stray animals and rodents.

The stickers will include clear instructions against improper



Stickers on garbage bins for proper waste disposal

waste disposal, moving bins from designated locations, and feeding animals, along with references to

potential fines for violations.

Buri walkway project approved

Residents in Buri are set to benefit from a new 1.5-kilometre pedestrian walkway after the council approved plans to upgrade an informal path commonly used along Isa bin Salman Street near archaeological burial mounds.

Council member Zainab Al-Durazi said the route is already widely used despite lacking safety infrastructure, highlighting the need for a proper and secure walkway.

The project will include light-

ing and other safety features, and technical authorities have confirmed no objections to its implementation.

Debate over garage drainage system

A proposal to introduce drainage systems in residential garages sparked debate over enforcement, water use, and practicality.

The plan aims to manage water discharge from activities such as car washing by directing runoff through small drainage channels instead of allowing it to flow into streets.



Basim Abudrees

However, council members raised concerns over the absence of practical solutions for residents currently fined for water discharge violations.

Dumistan mosque plan paused

Ghadeer Alkumaish
TDT | Manama

Plans to build a mosque on part of a public park in Dumistan have been put on hold after the Northern Municipal Council moved to seek a reconsideration of the decision.

The council reviewed a response from the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture rejecting a proposal to allocate part of the park for a



We respect efforts to protect green spaces, but the needs of residents must also be considered

ZAINAB AL-DURAZI

mosque under the Jaafari Endowments Directorate.

The proposal had been submitted following residents'

requests and was previously approved unanimously by the council. The ministry cited a national policy prioritising the

preservation of green spaces and the expansion of public parks.

Council member Zainab Al-Durazi said members would formally request a review backed by a detailed report on the area's growing need for a mosque.

Eight-year delay for dialysis centre plan

A proposed kidney dialysis centre in Al-Hajar remains stalled nearly eight years after it

was first raised, as the Northern Municipal Council renews calls for its implementation.

The council reviewed the Ministry of Health's response regarding a proposal to allocate two health-designated plots for the facility, this request, first submitted in 2018, is still pending despite available land.

Council member Abdullah Mubarak Bilal Al Qubaisi criticised the lack of action, stating that repeated discussions had



Abdulla Mubarak Bilal Al Qubaisi

failed to produce tangible results, with progress limited to correspondence. The council said it would continue coordinating with relevant authorities, describing the project as urgent to improve access to treatment.

Indian School Junior Campus



Young learners from the Indian School Junior Campus celebrate Earth Day with seed planting, posters and online activities aimed at promoting environmental awareness and sustainability. (Pradeep Puravankara)

Humanitarian Praise



Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Prof. Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayeb, receives RHF Acting Secretary-General Eng. Ebrahim Dallal Al Dossary in Cairo, praising Bahrain's humanitarian leadership under HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the Royal Humanitarian Foundation's global relief and development efforts.

Citizenship Rulings Set to Bypass Courts

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama



Mahmood Fardan, Chairman of Parliament's Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee

A decree-law classifying citizenship decisions in Bahrain as sovereign acts beyond judicial review is set to be presented to parliament today, according to official statements.

Decree-Law No. 13 of 2024 proposes amendments to Article 7 of the Judicial Authority Law, originally issued under Decree-Law No. 42 of 2002, to exclude nationality-related matters from the courts'

jurisdiction. It also provides for repealing Article 11 bis of the Bahraini Nationality Law of 1963, along with any provisions conflicting with the new framework.

In an explanatory memorandum, the Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission said the decree-law was issued urgently to safeguard state security and higher national interests. It added that recent violations of nationality regulations highlighted a legal gap requiring swift action. The commission described

nationality as a core pillar of the state, closely tied to its population, and stressed the need to ensure citizenship is acquired lawfully and remains consistent with the country's security and international standing.

It noted that the constitution leaves nationality matters to be regulated by law and pointed out that other Gulf states adopt similar approaches, treating such decisions as sovereign acts.

The Interior Ministry expressed full support for the decree-law.

Calls to Curb Post-Subsidy Firings

TDT | Manama

Five Bahraini MPs have proposed stricter monitoring of companies that receive government wage support for hiring nationals, warning that some firms may dismiss workers once subsidies end.

The urgent proposal, submitted by Ahmed Al Salloom, Hisham Al Awadhi, Mohammed Al Maarfi, Zainab AbdulAmeer and Khalid Buanaq, calls for enhanced oversight of employers benefiting from funding provided by the Labour Fund, Tamkeen.

Lawmakers say some companies hire Bahrainis during the wage support period, benefit from public funding, and then terminate employment when the financial assistance expires.

They argue this undermines the purpose of the schemes, which are designed to boost Bahraini participation in the labour market, reduce unem-



Ahmed Al Salloom, MP

ployment and improve workforce skills.

According to the proposal, such practices can turn long-term employment initiatives into short-term cost-saving measures for employers, leaving workers vulnerable once support ends.

The MPs are calling for post-subsidy monitoring to be strengthened and extended, alongside tougher penalties for non-compliant firms.

They also propose referring serious violations to the Public Prosecution.

Bahrainis Form 60% of GPIC Outsourced Workforce

TDT | Manama

Bahrainis account for 60 percent of outsourced workers at the Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC), while they represent a smaller share of externally hired staff at Bapco Energies, according to official figures released to parliament.

In a written reply to MP Mohsen Al Asbool, Oil and Environment Minister Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Bin Daina said that Bapco Energies and GPIC together employ 385 workers through external employment firms.

At Bapco Energies, 266 workers are supplied through third-party firms, including 51 Bahrainis and 215 non-Bahrainis. The company said such hiring is limited to temporary roles, short-term operational needs, and positions requiring specialised expertise not readily available in the local labour market.

Bapco Energies added that these roles are largely technical



H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak bin Daina, Minister of Oil and Environment



Mohsen Al Asbool, MP

and tied to fixed-term projects, particularly in refining and major energy developments. It said all external hiring is managed through licensed agencies un-



der human resources oversight, with contractors remaining legally responsible for their employees.

The company said requests for outsourced staff must be justified in writing, with clear details on scope, duration, and purpose, and must comply with Tender Board regulations. Contracts also include provisions

to promote Bahrainisation and require contractors to train local staff.

GPIC, meanwhile, employs 119 outsourced workers, 60 percent of whom are Bahrainis. The company said its operations rely on advanced petrochemical technologies requiring highly skilled engineers, operators and technicians.

Land Deduction Dispute

TDT | Manama

Landowners in Buri affected by compulsory purchase orders under detailed planning schemes should be granted an urgent complaints mechanism and fair compensation that accounts for previous land deductions, a Bahraini lawmaker has said.

MP Dr Muneer Seroor said grievances have increased in recent months, particularly in Block 758 in Buri, where residents have raised concerns over



Development must be fair, with no repeated deductions or harm to existing interests

DR MUNEEB SEROOR, MP

deduction rates, the failure to account for earlier land cuts, and the impact on existing commercial activity.

He called for a clearer and

more structured process to handle disputes linked to state land acquisition, rather than leaving affected owners to pursue individual complaints.

"Recent months have seen a rise in grievances from some citizens affected by compulsory purchase decisions under detailed plans in a number of areas, including Buri, Block 758," Seroor said. "Residents have voiced concern over the deduction rates being applied, the failure to account for earlier deductions, and the damage caused to existing activities."

The lawmaker stressed support for development projects but said implementation must be fair and transparent.

Emergency Fund For Small Firms

TDT | Manama

MP Mohammed Al Olaiwi has urged the creation of an emergency and risk fund to help Bahrain shield workers, families and businesses from future shocks.

He said the idea had become

harder to ignore after Bahrain and other Gulf states faced a run of crises that hit citizens and weighed on the economy.

Mr Al Olaiwi also called for companies that laid off Bahraini workers during the downturn to be monitored and held to account, saying some dismissals

had left staff without a month of wage aid from the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

He said some firms had cut Bahraini staff, delayed wages or pushed employees into using paid leave, adding that such conduct should not pass without review.

The MP said help should go

first to businesses that had borne the brunt of the strain, above all small and medium-sized firms, micro-businesses and shop owners in malls.

Rent aid, he added, should be part of the answer for traders and smaller businesses struggling to keep their doors open.

'Fill Government Job Vacancies'

TDT | Manama

The urgent proposal, submitted by MPs Hisham Al Awadhi, Khalid Buanaq, Zainab AbdulAmeer, Ahmed Al Salloom and Mohammed Al Maarifi, urges authorities to fill existing vacancies with local talent and expand manpower in government bodies where workloads have increased.

Lawmakers said the efficiency of the public sector depends on faster hiring of trained national cadres to ensure the continuity of government operations.

They argued that several key institutions are experiencing staffing gaps that are affecting workflow, particularly in departments under heavier operational pressure.

In an explanatory note, the MPs said Bahrain has a



Hisham Al Awadhi, MP

"large pool of qualified nationals" capable of taking on such roles, adding that the National Volunteering Platform could also be used as a supplementary source of candidates during exceptional circumstances.

They noted that volunteers have previously demonstrated their ability to serve in national duties under varying conditions, making them a potential resource for recruitment where appropriate.

MPs Push Tighter Credit Card Rules

TDT | Manama

Members of the Parliament Zainab AbdulAmeer, Khalid Buanaq, Hisham Al Awadhi, Ahmed Al Salloom and Mohammed Al Maarfi submitted an urgent proposal calling for stricter oversight of credit card issuers to protect consumers from high interest rates, excessive fees and aggressive debt collection practices.

The proposal urges the Central Bank of Bahrain to impose tighter regulations on banks and financial institutions offering credit cards, including clearer rules governing transactions, fees, repayment terms and collection procedures.

The MPs behind the initiative said the rapid growth in credit card usage has been



Zainab AbdulAmeer

accompanied by a rise in complaints from both citizens and residents regarding account management, fee structures and enforcement measures taken by some lenders.

They warned that such practices risk increasing personal debt burdens, straining household finances and undermining trust in the financial system.

ONE App launches new digital financing features with up to 6-Month grace period

Manama

ONE App, powered by Al Salam Bank, has announced the launch of a new suite of digital features aimed to enhance the users experience and offer more flexible and accessible financing solutions. This initiative introduces a grace period of up to six months across a range of financing services, including Instant Finance, Per-



The introduction of the new grace period feature, along with the additional services within the financing menu, reflects our commitment to providing flexible solutions that empower users to manage their financial obligations with greater ease and transparency, while benefiting from instant services available around the clock.

HAITHAM AL HADDAD, GENERAL MANAGER OF ONE APP

sonal Finance, Finance Transfer and Auto Finance, alongside the rollout of a newly integrated financing menu within the app that provides a more streamlined approach to manage the financial needs.

Through these new features, users can apply for financing with the benefit of a flexible grace period of up to six months, helping to ease financial commitments during the initial phase. Additionally, users can instantly view their repayment schedules, track payment statuses, and request outstanding and release letters directly through the app, eliminating the need for traditional

processes.

This step reflects the ongoing commitment to advancing digital services and strengthening user engagement by delivering innovative solutions that align with evolving needs, while ensuring a seamless and efficient digital experience supported by the latest technologies.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Haitham Al Haddad, General Manager of ONE App, said: "At ONE App, we continuously strive to enhance our digital offerings to deliver a seamless and fully integrated experience that meets the diverse needs of our users. The introduction of the new grace period fea-

ture, along with the additional services within the financing menu, reflects our commitment to providing flexible solutions that empower users to manage their financial obligations with greater ease and transparency, while benefiting from instant services available around the clock."

Download app

The ONE App invites users to download the application, link their salary accounts, and apply for the available financing services to enjoy a comprehensive and advanced digital financial experience that caters to their evolving needs.

Bahrain Bourse to host "The Market 2.0: Bahrain 2026" conference

● The conference is expected to attract over 500 participants

Manama

Bahrain Bourse (BHB), a licensed exchange regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain, has announced that it will host "The Market 2.0: Bahrain 2026" conference in collaboration with the Arab Federation of Capital Markets (AFCM). The conference will take place on 3 December 2026 in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Bringing together leading voices from across the capital markets ecosystem, the conference will explore how technology, data, and evolving market infrastructure are reshaping the future of global financial markets. Discussions will focus on key industry priorities, including the modernization of trading platforms, evolving execution strategies, enhanced access to liquidity, advancements in market surveillance, and improvements in post-trade efficiency.

The event will also examine how technology continues to play an expanding role in strengthening competitiveness, supporting market integrity, and enabling sustainable long-term market development. Through a series of discussions and ex-



From left, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al-Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Bourse and Rami El-Dokany, Secretary General of the Arab Federation of Capital Markets

pert insights, the conference will highlight the strategic pathways required to build more resilient, innovative, and inclusive marketplaces.

The conference is expected to attract over 500 participants, including representatives from regional and international exchanges, financial market regulators, brokerage firms, industry experts, technology providers, and other key stakeholders involved in the global trading technology landscape.

Shaikh Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al-Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Bourse, said: "Building on the success of last year's event, the 2026 edition of The Market 2.0 comes at a crucial time, as regional markets navigate uncertainty while continuing to advance efforts that strengthen market resilience.

We anticipate conversations that will not only support today's stability but also contribute to shaping well-connected markets and a future-ready financial ecosystem.

"This year's agenda will delve into some of the industry's most pressing themes, including the accelerating role of automation, artificial intelligence, and real-time market infrastructure—key drivers of stability, continuity, and long-term sustainability," Shaikh Khalifa added.

Rami El-Dokany, Secretary General of the Arab Federation of Capital Markets, added: "It is with great pride that we announce the second consecutive edition of the Market 2.0, returning again to the Kingdom of Bahrain, hosted by Bahrain Bourse. The acceleration of technological change across

global capital markets is no longer incremental, it is structural. Exchanges and market infrastructure institutions are rethinking their operating models, governance frameworks, and strategic priorities in response to rapid advancements in automation, artificial intelligence, digital connectivity, and evolving investor behavior."

By convening industry leaders and technology innovators, The Market 2.0: Bahrain 2026 conference aims to foster dialogue on the next phase of capital market development while reinforcing Bahrain's position as a regional hub for financial innovation and collaboration.

For more information and to view the agenda and latest developments, please visit the conference page: <https://market2026.arab-exchanges.org>

India and New Zealand sign 'Once-in-a-generation agreement'



The deal signing

● Marks a landmark moment in the India-New Zealand partnership: Modi

● Allows greater visa access for skilled Indians

AFP | New Delhi, India

India and New Zealand signed a free trade deal yesterday as they seek to boost exports amid global economic uncertainty made worse by the war in the Middle East.

Negotiations over the agreement concluded in December 2025, and will see India gain greater access for a range of products, including engineering goods, machinery and textiles, while also protecting its sensitive dairy sector.

"This forward-looking agreement will also facilitate \$20 billion of investment into India," New Delhi's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said after signing the agreement alongside his New Zealand counterpart, Todd McClay.

New Delhi, in return, has offered to reduce tariff barriers in sectors such as forestry, lamb and wool, while granting quota-based access for fruits such as apples. Trade between

New Delhi and Wellington is small, with merchandise trade growing from \$873 million in 2023-24 to nearly \$1.3 billion in 2024-25.

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon said on Monday the "once-in-a-generation agreement" will give local exporters "unprecedented access" to the world's most populous nation.

"It means more jobs on farms and orchards, it means more money coming into local communities, and it means more opportunities for your family to get ahead," Luxon said in a social media post.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it "marks a landmark moment in the India-New Zealand partnership" and that it would "strengthen our cooperation in agriculture, manufacturing, innovation and technology".

However, parts of the agreement have sparked criticism in Wellington.

These include greater visa access for skilled Indians, with New Zealand officials telling AFP that the deal could see more than 20,000 Indian migrants entering the country.

The right-wing populist NZ First party has also pointed to concerns about a NZ\$34 billion (US \$20 billion) investment New Zealand is bound by the deal to make in India over a 15-year period.

Tesla advances huge payout to Musk after litigation delays

AFP | New York, United States

Tesla yesterday filed to register nearly 304 million shares tied to CEO Elon Musk's massive 2018 pay package, which has been cleared after lengthy litigation.

Musk "entered into an implementation agreement with the company" related to the package, a securities filing said.

The package is worth more than \$110 billion at Monday's stock price.

Delaware's Court of Chancery had twice blocked the package, determining that Tesla's process for compensating Musk "deeply flawed." The 2018 award had originally been estimated at \$56 billion, but Tesla shares have risen since then.

But in December, the Dela-

\$1trn

The 2025 package is worth as much as \$1 trillion if Musk hits a series of targets on market capitalization and operations.

ware Supreme Court threw out the earlier judgments, concluding "that Musk fully performed under the 2018 grant, and Tesla and its stockholders were rewarded for his work."

The 2018 package at the time had been seen as enormous but has since been dwarfed by Musk's 2025 package, which was overwhelmingly approved by shareholders in November.

Beyon Cyber Recognised by Deloitte

Ranked as Region's Fastest-Growing Cybersecurity Company for Fourth Consecutive Year

● **Fastest-growing cybersecurity company in the region, as part of the 5th edition of the Middle East & Cyprus Technology Fast 50**

Manama

Beyon Cyber, part of the Beyon Group, has been recognised by Deloitte for the fourth consecutive year as the fastest-growing cybersecurity company in the region, as part of the 5th edition of the Middle East & Cyprus Technology Fast 50.

The Deloitte Middle East Technology Fast 50 programme recognises the region's fastest-growing technology companies based on verified multi-year revenue growth, placing Beyon Cyber among the region's top-performing technology firms.



The Region's Fastest-Growing Cybersecurity Company for the Fourth Consecutive Year

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Shaikh Khalid bin Daij Al Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer of Beyon Cyber, said: "To achieve this recognition from Deloitte for the fourth consecutive year

“This is not a one-year growth story, it is four years of disciplined execution, customer trust, and focused investment in cyber innovation. As one of the region's leading cybersecurity companies, we are proud to be building from Bahrain a platform that is scaling across the GCC and beyond.”

DR. SHAIKH KHALID BIN DAJ AL KHALIFA,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF BEYON
CYBER

is a clear testament of Beyon Cyber's sustained momentum and market leadership. This is not a one-year growth story, it is four years of disciplined execution, customer trust, and

focused investment in cyber innovation. As one of the region's leading cybersecurity companies, we are proud to be building from Bahrain a platform that is scaling across the GCC and beyond.”

Beyon Cyber's growth has been supported by continued investment in advanced cybersecurity capabilities, including Orryx AI, its flagship AI-powered security operations platform. Orryx AI reflects Beyon Cyber's vision for the future of security operations: one where AI and automation augment human expertise, reduce the burden of manual investigations, and help organisations respond to threats with greater speed, precision, and confidence.

Looking ahead, Beyon Cyber remains focused on expanding across the region, deepening its investment in AI-enabled cybersecurity, and helping organisations build faster, more intelligent security operations.

Zain Bahrain launches new Zain Youth plan “May5ali9”

Reinforcing “Zain #1” Network Leadership

Manama

Zain Bahrain, has officially launched its all-new “May5ali9” Youth Plan, a tailored mobile package designed specifically for young customers aged 16 – 24 across the Kingdom seeking powerful connectivity, lifestyle value, and digital convenience at an accessible price of BD 9,500 per month.

The youth plan is available on both prepaid and postpaid, offering unlimited data, en-



tering uninterrupted access for streaming, gaming, social media, and everyday digital needs.

Subscribers also enjoy 500 local minutes, unlimited Zain-to-Zain calls, and a BD 2 monthly discount on ChatGPT subscription.

Furthermore, customers can enjoy exclusive offers and discounts across more than 220 outlets through the Zain Delights Premium program, covering a wide range of dining and

entertainment options.

The new youth plan builds on the momentum of Zain Bahrain's #1, which celebrates the company's position as the Kingdom's most awarded network experience, as recognized by Opensignal. The campaign reinforces Zain's leadership in coverage, quality, speed, and gaming performance.

The plan is now available for instant online activation, via Zain App, and at all Zain Bahrain branches.

China vows countermeasures if EU enacts 'Made in Europe' plan

Beijing, China

Beijing slammed yesterday an EU plan aimed to bolster the bloc's industries against fierce competition from China, vowing countermeasures if it is enacted. Beijing's commerce ministry said that it had submitted comments to the European Commission on Friday, expressing China's “serious concerns”.

“If the EU... presses ahead with the legislation, and thereby harms the interests of Chinese companies, China will have no choice but to take countermeasures to firmly safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of its enterprises,” the commerce ministry warned.

Oil rises, stocks slip as US-Iran peace talk hopes dim

● **Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi's visit to Islamabad had fanned hopes for fresh negotiations**

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Oil prices rose and stock markets mostly retreated yesterday as peace talks between the United States and Iran stalled, ahead of a week full of central bank decisions and corporate earnings.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi's visit to Islamabad had fanned hopes for fresh negotiations with Washington at the weekend until US President Donald Trump scrapped a planned trip by envoys on Saturday.

After calling off his emissaries'

Key figures at 1530 GMT

West Texas Intermediate:	▲ 2.9% at \$97.11 a barrel
Brent North Sea Crude:	▲ 3.4% at \$108.88 a barrel
New York - Dow:	▼ 0.3% at 49,077.50 points
New York - S&P 500:	▼ 0.2% at 7,153.75
Nasdaq Composite:	▼ 0.3% at 24,756.38
London - FTSE 100:	▼ 0.6% at 10,321.09 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.2% at 8,141.92 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX:	▼ 0.2% at 24,083.53 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 1.4% at 60,537.36 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▼ 0.2% at 25,925.65 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 0.2% at 4,086.34 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1736 from \$1.1717 on Friday
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.3551 from \$1.3530
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 159.25 yen from 159.42 yen
Euro/pound:	▼ at 86.59 pence from 86.60 pence

trip, Trump told Fox News that, if Iran wanted talks, “they can come to us, or they can call us.”

Both main international oil contracts were up around 3%, with Brent crude rising to near \$109 a barrel as the crucial Strait of Hormuz waterway remained largely closed, though lingering hopes that a deal could eventu-

ally be reached tempered gains. Equity investors were cautious, with Wall Street's main indices down in late morning trading.

Europe's main markets also ended the day lower, while Asian stocks were mixed.

“It may be that hopes of a diplomatic breakthrough were pretty faint to start with, and markets are now in wait-and-see territory ahead of a heavy week of earnings and economic touchpoints,” said Derren Nathan, head of equity research at Hargreaves Lansdown.

With energy prices remaining high, the US Federal Reserve is expected to keep interest rates unchanged on Wednesday, followed by similar decisions from the European Central Bank and Bank of England.

“There's no expectations of rate cuts from any of these central banks,” said Trade Nation analyst David Morrison.

“But analysts will be paying very close attention to comments made, particularly those to do with inflation,” he added.

Investors were also looking ahead to earnings this week from US tech titans Alphabet, Meta, Microsoft, Amazon and Apple.

“Investors have been encouraged by corporate news flow over the past few weeks, leading to higher equity prices,” said Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell.

He added, however, that “higher oil for longer spells trouble for inflation, which in turn could act as a headwind for the economy”.

Trade Nation's Morrison noted that companies which have reported first-quarter results are showing on average 15.1% growth in profits and the market is heading for a sixth successive quarter of double-digit profit growth. “This is shaping up to

be a blow-out season and this is what investors are responding to,” he said.

“The US-Iran war is viewed as a distraction which will end at some point.”

Tehran's top diplomat blamed Washington on Monday for the failure of talks in Pakistan this month -- the first and only round of negotiations in a bid to strike a deal to end the conflict.

Araghchi blamed the United States for its “excessive demands”, adding that “safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz is an important global issue”.

Citing a US official and two other sources with knowledge of the matter, US media outlet Axios reported on Sunday that Iran had sent a new proposal to end the war centred on reopening the Strait of Hormuz and ending a US naval blockade there, with nuclear negotiations postponed for a later stage.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

NO GREAT MIND HAS EVER EXISTED WITHOUT A TOUCH OF MADNESS
ARISTOTLE



Melania Trump slams Kimmel joke likening her to an 'expectant widow'

AFP | Washington, United States

US First Lady Melania Trump lashed out Monday at comedian Jimmy Kimmel over a joke likening her to an "expectant widow," a jibe with eerie resonance after a shooting at a dinner attended by Donald Trump.

Even though Kimmel made the remark in a monologue days ago, right-wing commentators who support Trump have resurrected it to call for the head of the talk show host.

In his monologue last Thursday, Kimmel portrayed himself as the MC of that upcoming banquet, a glitzy yearly event called the White House Correspondents' Dinner.

Kimmel's jokes included one in which he addressed the

first lady in the audience and said, "Mrs Trump, you have a glow like an expectant widow."

Trump turns 80 in June and is the oldest president ever to take office in the United States. His wife, a former model who was born in Slovenia, is 56.

Hitting out at Kimmel Monday on X, the first lady said Kimmel's "monologue about my family isn't comedy -- his words

80

Trump turns 80 in June and is the oldest president ever to take office in the United States.

sickness within America."

"A coward, Kimmel hides behind ABC because he knows the network will keep running cover to protect him," the first lady added on Monday.

"Enough is enough. It is time for ABC to take a stand. How many times will ABC's leadership enable Kimmel's atrocious behavior at the expense of our community?"

are corrosive and deepens the political

Who owns Hormuz?

A chokepoint under strain



Roughly one-fifth of global oil consumption passes through this narrow corridor every day

33 km

The strait is about 33 km wide, but actual shipping lanes in each direction are only about 3 km wide, separated by a buffer zone.

Two-lane sea highway

Traffic is organised like a road: one inbound, one outbound lane, each just a few kilometres wide.

- * 20% global oil flow
- * 33 km narrowest width
- * 3 km lane per direction
- * Daily dozens of tankers
- * Global price impact

Unlike many sea routes, disruption here is mostly geopolitical—not natural.

Hezbollah rejects talks

Her Naim Qassem rejected Lebanon's planned direct talks with Israel, calling them a "grave sin" that will destabilise Lebanon.

"We categorically reject direct negotiations with Israel, and those in power should know that their actions will not benefit Lebanon or themselves," Qassem said in a statement, calling on authorities to "back down from their grave sin that is putting Lebanon in a spiral of instability".

Israeli security forces point their guns during a military raid in the neighbourhood of Kafr Aqab, some 16 kilometres south of the city of Ramallah, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Qalandia refugee camp, Kufr Aqab and other areas around Jerusalem have seen increased Israeli raids since the beginning of 2026 after Israel launched operation "Capital Shield". The military has arrested dozens of Palestinians and destroyed several buildings it said had been illegally built in these areas.



Israel strikes Lebanon

The Israeli military said it had begun hitting Hezbollah positions in Lebanon's Bekaa region, despite a ceasefire that began this month.

Lebanon's President Joseph Aoun said meanwhile that direct negotiations with Israel were aimed at ending the conflict, while accusing those who drew Lebanon into the war of "treason", in an implicit rebuke to the Iran-backed Hezbollah.

If Iran wanted talks, "they can come to us, or they can call us."

Trump to hold talks on Iran with security team

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump will hold talks on the Iran war on Monday with his top security advisors, US media reported, as negotiations between the rival parties seemed to reach an impasse.

Tehran's top diplomat blamed Washington on Monday for the failure of talks in Pakistan this month -- the first and only round of negotiations in a bid to strike a deal to end the conflict that has engulfed the Middle East and strangled the global economy.

Barak Ravid, global affairs correspondent for US media outlet Axios, reported that Trump was expected to hold a meeting with his top national security and foreign policy

team on Monday to discuss the next steps.

ABC News quoted two unidentified US officials as saying that Trump would meet with his key security advisors on Iran, adding that a new deal proposed by Tehran to resolve the conflict fell short of Washington's red lines.

That deal centred on reopening the Strait of Hormuz and ending a US naval blockade of the vital waterway, with nuclear negotiations postponed for a

later stage, Axios reported.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi's visit to Islamabad had fanned hopes for fresh negotiations with Washington at the weekend until Trump scrapped a planned trip by envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner.

Trump told Fox News after calling off his emissaries' trip that, if Iran wanted talks, "they can come to us, or they can call us."



1770

British Captain James Cook, aboard HMS Endeavour, first lands in Australia at Botany Bay

1789

Fletcher Christian leads a mutiny on HMS Bounty against its captain William Bligh in the South Pacific



1910 1937

First night air flight by Claude Grahame-White takes place in England

First commercial flight across the Pacific is operated by Pan Am

'Looming' risk of nuclear arms race, UN proliferation meeting hears

AFP | United Nations, United States

Signatories of the landmark nuclear non-proliferation treaty began a meeting at the UN yesterday as fears of a renewed arms race escalate, with atomic powers once again at loggerheads over safeguards.

In 2022, during the last review of the treaty considered the cornerstone of non-proliferation, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned

The nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT), signed by almost all the countries on the planet -- with notable exceptions including Israel, India, and Pakistan -- aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, to promote complete disarmament, and to encourage cooperation on civilian nuclear projects.

humanity was "one misunderstanding, one miscalculation away from nuclear annihilation."

On Monday he warned "the drivers" of nuclear weapons proliferation were accelerating.

"For too long, the Treaty has been eroding. Commitments remain unfulfilled. Trust and credibility are wearing thin. The drivers

of proliferation are accelerating. We need to breathe life into the Treaty once more," Guterres said in opening remarks.

With global geopolitical friction only heightened since the last meeting, it was unclear what the two-week gathering at UN headquarters in New York could achieve. "We should not expect this conference to resolve the underlying

strategic tensions of our time... but a balanced outcome that reaffirms core commitments and set out practical steps forward would strengthen the integrity of the NPT," said Do Hung Viet, Vietnam's UN ambassador and president of the conference. "The success or failure of this conference will have implications way beyond these halls and way beyond these next five years, the prospects of a new nuclear arms race are looming over us," he said.



No one, by law

But Iran claims control



A top Iranian official said his country's armed forces would be the authority responsible for the Strait of Hormuz under a proposed

Iran blames US

Iran's foreign minister blamed Washington for the failure of talks after landing in Russia as part of a whirlwind diplomatic tour, with direct negotiations between the warring parties seemingly at an

impasse. "The US approaches caused the previous round of negotiations, despite progress, to fail to reach its goals because of the excessive demands," Araghchi said.

New law also proposes that money generated from ships' passage through the strait should be paid in Iran's rial currency.

national law for managing the waterway.

Ebrahim Azizi, head of the national security commission

in Iran's parliament, told state television the armed forces were already in control of the strait and were seeking to prohibit the passage of "hostile vessels".

Azizi said the law also proposes that money generated from ships' passage through the strait should be paid in Iran's rial currency.

Lebanon president hits back at Hezbollah over talks criticism

Lebanon and Israel's US ambassadors met twice in Washington over the past weeks

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanon's president said Monday direct negotiations with Israel aimed to end the Israel-Hezbollah war, adding that those who dragged Lebanon to war were the ones committing "treason" -- a jab at Hezbollah, whose leader called the talks a "sin".

Lebanon and Israel's US ambassadors met twice in Washington over the past weeks, the

first meetings of their kind in decades, for discussions that were categorically rejected by Hezbollah.

After the first round of talks, US

Was the armistice agreement a humiliation? I assure you that I will not accept reaching a humiliating agreement



President Donald Trump announced a 10-day ceasefire that came into effect on April 17, later announcing a three-week extension after the second

round of talks. "My goal is to reach an end to the state of war with Israel, similar to the armistice agreement" of 1949, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun said in a statement Monday.

Lebanon and Israel, officially at war for decades, signed an armistice agreement ending combat between the two states in 1949, after the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

"Was the armistice agreement a humiliation? I assure you that I will not accept reaching a humiliating agreement."

Aoun's statement came shortly after Hezbollah chief Naim Qassem sharply criticised the government, issuing a statement describing direct negotiations with Israel as a "grave sin".

"We categorically reject direct negotiations with Israel, and those in power should know that their actions will not benefit Lebanon or themselves," Qassem said in a statement, aired by the group's TV channel Al-Manar.

He called on authorities to "back down from their grave sin that is putting Lebanon in a spiral of instability".

He added that the Lebanese government "cannot continue while it is neglecting Lebanon's rights, giving up land, and confronting its resistant people".

"We will not give up our weapons... and the Israeli enemy will not remain on a single inch of our occupied land."

Putin tells Moscow will do 'everything' to help secure peace

AFP | Saint Petersburg, Russia

Russian President Vladimir Putin told Iran's top diplomat that Moscow would do everything it could to help secure peace in the Middle East, during a meeting in Saint Petersburg on Monday.

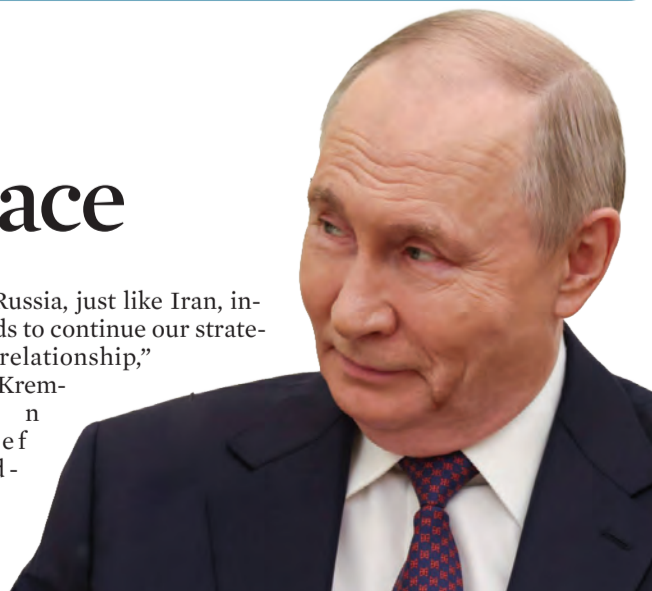
Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, speaking on arrival in Russia, had blamed Washington

For our part, we will do everything that serves your interests, the interests of all the people of the region, so that peace can be achieved as soon as possible

for the failure of talks on brokering a deal to end the fighting, with a ceasefire between the sides still holding.

"For our part, we will do everything that serves your interests, the interests of all the people of the region, so that peace can be achieved as soon as possible," Russian state media quoted Putin as telling Araghchi.

"Russia, just like Iran, intends to continue our strategic relationship," the Kremlin chief added.



TOP
3
TWEETS

01



Chornobyl was a lesson that the consequences of nuclear accidents are shared by the international community. In memory of those who suffered the effects of that horrifying disaster, let's build a safer, more peaceful & resilient future for all.

@antonioguterres

02



When sovereign states come together to find shared solutions to shared problems, we create a shared future.

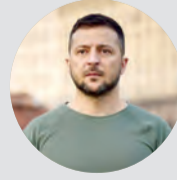
We are so close to creating that future in which pathogen samples and information are shared in a timely manner and the benefits that derive from them are also shared equitably with those who need them most.

As the Sixth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) on the WHO Pandemic Agreement resumes this week, we are closer than ever to a fair and functional Agreement.

I encouraged Member States to use this week to ensure we walk out as winners -- not by getting everything we wanted, but by coming together, standing up for multilateralism and global health, and proving what the world can achieve when we stand together.

@DrTedros

03



Over the past week, the Russian Federation has launched approximately 1,900 attack drones, nearly 1,400 guided aerial bombs, and around 60 missiles of various types against Ukraine

@ZelenskyyUA

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

UN maritime agency rejects Hormuz tolls

AFP | London, United Kingdom

The head of the UN's maritime agency said yesterday there was "no legal basis" for imposing any fees for ships to pass through the Strait of Hormuz.

"There's no legal basis for the introduction of any tax, any customs, or any fees for on straits for international navigation," IMO Secretary-General

Arsenio Dominguez said at a press conference.

Speaking on the sidelines of an IMO maritime protection committee meeting, Dominguez said he was in contact with "all the countries of the region", including Iran.

He firmly rejected the idea that reopening the waterway could involve payment of any fees.

Dominguez also said a planned evacuation operation for around 20,000 seafarers currently stranded on vessels in the Gulf could only go ahead once the strait was fully secure.

The shipping lane remains a key sticking point in negotiations between Washington and Tehran, even as a fragile April 8 ceasefire continues to hold.

Meanwhile, talks among

IMO members this week are focused on a different issue: efforts to revive negotiations on an ambitious plan to decarbonise the global shipping industry.

That measure was due to be adopted last October, but the United States -- backed by Saudi Arabia, Russia, and other oil-producing countries -- blocked the agreement, delaying it by a year.

German tourist dies after Egypt snake bite: police

AFP | Berlin, Germany

A German tourist has died after a snake crawled into his trousers and bit him as he watched a show in Egypt on a family holiday, German police said yesterday.

The 57-year-old man was watching the snake- charming show at a hotel in Hurghada, a popular beach holiday destination on the Red Sea, in early April.

The two reptiles involved, thought to be cobras, were draped over the necks of audience members, police in southern Bavaria state said.

"The 'snake charmer' then let one of the snakes crawl into

the trousers" of the German man and it bit him in the leg, they said in a statement.

The victim showed "clear signs of poisoning" and had to be resuscitated before being taken to hospital, but he later died, it said.

The man -- who was not named in the statement -- came from the Unterallgäu district in Bavaria and was on holiday with two relatives.

German police and prosecutors are investigating his death and are awaiting the results of a toxicology test.

When contacted by AFP, Egyptian authorities said they were not aware of the incident.

Suspect due in court over shooting at Trump gala

● Administration officials said the suspect in Saturday night's attack aimed to kill Trump and senior officials

● Cole Allen, 31, is set to make his first appearance in Washington federal court at about 1:00 pm (1700 GMT)

● Proceedings will be brief, with Allen expected to be charged with assault on a federal officer and using a firearm during a crime of violence

AFP | Washington, United States

A California man accused of storming a gala dinner attended by President Donald Trump was to appear in court Monday over a shooting that marked the latest spasm of political violence in deeply divided America.

Administration officials said the suspect in Saturday night's attack aimed to kill Trump and senior officials at the media dinner in a Washington hotel, in the third attempt on the president's life in two years.

Trump, who was rushed out of the venue by Secret Service agents, posted camera footage of the gunman sprinting past a checkpoint one floor above the ballroom where the dinner



A view of a home associated with the suspected White House Correspondents' Dinner shooter in Torrance, California

Cole Allen, 31

was held.

After a brief exchange of gunfire with agents, the suspect was detained at the scene. No one was killed.

In a CBS interview on Sunday evening, Trump was asked if he feared there would be casualties as Washington's government and media elite ducked for cover at the black-tie dinner.

"I wasn't worried. I understand life. We live in a crazy world," Trump said.

Cole Allen, 31, is set to make his first appearance in Washington federal court at about 1:00 pm (1700 GMT).

Proceedings will be brief, with Allen expected to be charged with assault on a federal officer and using a firearm during a crime of violence. Additional charges are likely in future.

The suspect -- who was armed with a shotgun, handgun and knives -- was staying at the Washington Hilton hotel where the annual White House Correspondents' Dinner was held.

The New York Post said Allen had written in a message shared with his family shortly before the attack that his targets would be "prioritized from highest-ranking to lowest."

In the seconds after the shooting erupted a floor above, Secret Service agents swarmed into the ballroom, prompting chaotic scenes as attendees dove under tables.

Crowded into the venue were Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, Vice President JD Vance, several cabinet mem-

bers and top lawmakers, and hundreds of guests.

Trump said at a hastily arranged late-night news conference at the White House that he first thought the noise was a tray being dropped, before realizing it was gunfire.

He said he hoped the gala would be rescheduled within a month, adding that the hotel venue was "not a particularly secure" facility, as questions swirled about the president's safety protocols.

The hotel has hosted gala dinners for the White House Correspondents Association for decades without incident. The WHCA routinely invites sitting presidents to attend, but Saturday was the first time Trump had accepted.

Israel PM says Hezbollah rockets, drones need further military action

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday said rockets and drones possessed by Hezbollah remained a key threat that demanded further military action by Isra-

el's military in Lebanon.

"There are still two central threats from Hezbollah: the 122mm rockets and the drones.

This demands a combination of operational and technological activity," he said in a statement issued by his office.

Trains collide outside Jakarta, killing two: rail company

AFP | Jakarta, Indonesia

Two trains collided outside the Indonesian capital Jakarta late on Monday, the state-owned KAI rail company said, killing at least two people and prompting a mass evacuation effort.

"Hospital records show that two victims have died," KAI spokesman Franoto Wibowo told Kompas TV at the scene, adding victims were still being evacuated from the wreckage with assistance from the military, fire brigade, the national search and rescue agency and the Red Cross.

Indonesian broadcaster Kompas TV showed footage

of ambulances and paramedics placing passengers on gurneys at the scene of the crash near the Bekasi Timur Station, some 25 kilometres (15 miles) from Jakarta.

Kompas said the crash involved a long-distance train and a commuter train.

Franoto could not say how many people were injured.

"As for the victims, we have made every effort to evacuate them as quickly as possible to the nearest hospitals," he said.

"We are still in the process of collecting data and evidence...

The detailed chronology of the cause will be delivered later by the authorised authorities."

Ships seized as Somali pirate attacks surge: monitors

AFP | Nairobi, Kenya

A merchant vessel was hijacked off the coast of Somalia over the weekend, a maritime security monitor said yesterday, as piracy incidents surge in the region.

Piracy was rampant off the coast of Somalia in the 2000s, peaking in 2011 with hundreds of attacks that cost the shipping industry billions of dollars.

The Horn of Africa nation lies near the opening of the Red Sea, one of the world's

busiest shipping lanes, and has been highly unstable since the state collapsed in 1991.

The Maritime Security Organisation Indian Ocean, linked to the European Union naval force, said a merchant vessel was seized on Sunday and a dhow on Saturday.

"Vessels operating in the area are strongly advised to maintain a heightened level of vigilance... particularly within 150 nautical miles of the Somali coast between Mogadishu and Hafun," it said in a statement.

UN watchdog rebukes Sweden for deporting disabled child

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

The UN Human Rights Committee on Monday said Sweden had violated the right to life of a child with severe disabilities by deporting him twice to Albania.

The committee reviewed a complaint referring to E. B., an

Albanian now aged 21, who was diagnosed with autism, grave mental developmental disorder, spastic diplegic cerebral palsy, hydrocephalus and epilepsy.

He and his family arrived in Sweden in 2012 seeking protection and medical care, but after years of unsuccessful asy-

lum applications and appeals, they were deported to Albania in 2016, when he was 10.

The family had quickly returned to Sweden without legal status to ensure E.B.'s treatment, and saw repeated applications for residency permits rejected before being expelled again in

2019, when he was 14, the committee decision showed.

"Before deporting a child with severe and complex disabilities, and life-threatening health conditions, states must carry out a rigorous, individualised assessment and ensure that essential treatment and medication will in

fact be accessible and available in the receiving country," Wafaa Bassim, the committee's vice chair, said in a statement.

In its decision, dated March 30, the committee said countries must not "extradite, deport, expel or otherwise remove a person from their territo-

ry when there were substantial grounds for believing that there was a real risk of irreparable harm" in the destination country.

E. B. told the committee he had returned to Sweden yet again, but was facing a new removal order.

UK's King Charles arrives in US to shore up Trump ties

● Trump and his wife Melania will greet the British royals at the White House

● Trump has said King Charles's visit could help repair transatlantic relations

● The US visit represents a personal test for Charles, 77, who has been battling cancer in recent years

AFP | Washington, United States



Britain's King Charles III and Queen Camilla are greeted by US Protocol Chief Monica Crowley as they arrive at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland

Britain's King Charles III arrived in Washington Monday for a high-stakes state visit aimed at salvaging frayed ties with Donald Trump, amid extra-tight security following an attack on a gala dinner attended by the US president.

Tensions over the Iran war have rocked the so-called "special relationship" ahead of a trip that was meant to mark the United States' 250th anniversary of independence from the British monarch's ancestors.

Charles and Queen Camilla will now be using their four-day visit -- their first time on American soil since he became king in 2022 -- to mount a diplomatic charm offensive targeting the royalty-obsessed Trump.

The royal couple arrived at

Joint Base Andrews near Washington on a plane with the Union Jack painted on the tail.

Charles and Camilla then descended red-carpeted steps to be greeted by Britain's ambassador Christian Turner and White House protocol chief Monica Crowley on the tarmac.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said Monday the visit would "honor the long-standing and special relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom."

Trump and his wife Melania will greet the British royals at

the White House on Monday before hosting them for tea and a tour of a new beehive installed by the First Lady.

On Tuesday, the Trumps will meet Charles and Camilla in the Oval Office and hold a state dinner. Charles will also become the first British monarch to address Congress since his mother, the late queen Elizabeth II, in 1991.

The royals will visit New York on Wednesday, touring the 9/11 memorial, before departing Thursday for Bermuda for his first visit to a British overseas territory as monarch.

'No Churchill'

Buckingham Palace said the US visit would take place despite the shooting at the annual White House Correspondents Dinner attended by Trump in Washington on Saturday.

Charles was "greatly relieved" that Trump and other guests were unharmed, the palace added.

Christian Turner, Britain's ambassador to the US, told a briefing in Washington late Sunday that after extensive discussions, "we are all very confident that all

appropriate security measures are in place" for the state visit.

But as the US leader's war with Iran drives a rare wedge between London and Washington, the visit has generated considerable controversy.

Trump has repeatedly lambasted British Prime Minister Keir Starmer over his war opposition, alongside his government's immigration and energy policies.

The US president has branded Starmer "no Churchill" -- referring to wartime premier Winston Churchill, who coined the phrase the "special relationship."

The pair however spoke by phone Sunday, with Labour leader Starmer extending "his best wishes" following "shocking scenes" at the gala the night before.

Starmer has publicly criticized the war, but defended the state visit. An early April YouGov poll found 48 percent of Britons support cancelling it.

'Elephant in room'

Trump has said King Charles's visit could help repair transatlantic relations.

"He's a friend of mine for a long time, so he's coming, and we're going to have a great time, and he represents his nation like nobody else can do it," Trump told Fox News on Sunday.

The US visit represents a personal test for Charles, 77, who has been battling cancer in recent years.

But the king showcased his

diplomatic skills during 79-year-old Trump's state visit to Britain last September, with Royal Holloway University of London monarchy expert Craig Prescott noting he is "generally very good" at navigating such occasions.

Prescott added that Charles would likely address the war -- the "very big elephant in the room" -- in a coded way in his speech Tuesday to the US Congress.

Meanwhile, the scandal around late US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein threatens to encroach on the highly choreographed tour.

Charles has faced a major crisis over the friendship his brother, the former prince Andrew, had with the late billionaire, who died in prison in 2019.



King Charles III's 2026 visit to the United States is his first as king—and notably the first state visit by a British monarch to the US in nearly 20 years, since Queen Elizabeth II's trip in 2007.

Israel army chief issues sharp warning against looting

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel's military chief of staff Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir issued a sharp warning to troops about looting yesterday, and said using social media to spread "questionable" messages was crossing "a red line".

"The phenomenon of looting, if it exists, is disgraceful and risks tarnishing the IDF as a whole. If such incidents occurred, we will investigate them," he said in a statement, using the acronym for the Israeli army.

His remarks came after Israel's left-leaning Haaretz newspaper reported that troops in south Lebanon had been looting significant amounts of civilian property, citing testimonies from troops and commanders in the field.

Footage has also emerged on social media of Israeli soldiers filming each other joking around as they damaged property inside people's homes in what appeared to be south Lebanon.

Another image on social media showed a soldier using a



This combination of screen grab images from Israeli army footage of what it says is the destruction of Hezbollah infrastructure in Lebanon, where a ceasefire has been in place since mid-April.

sledgehammer to smash a figure of Jesus that had fallen off a cross in southern Lebanon.

The Israeli military last week said two soldiers would receive

30 days of military detention and be removed from combat duty over the incident.

"IDF conscripts and reservists must not use social networks as

a tool for spreading controversial messages and for self-promotion. This is a red line that must not be crossed," Zamir warned.

Taylor Swift files to trademark her voice amid AI clone boom

New York, United States

Taylor Swift has filed applications with the US intellectual property office to trademark her voice, a move similar to one made by actor Matthew McConaughey, as AI-generated content surges.

The singer submitted two sound recordings to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Each begins with "Hey, it's Taylor" and announces the release of her latest album, "The Life of a Showgirl," which was released in early October.

Another document submitted to the USPTO on Friday was a photo of the artist on stage. The submissions were first spotted by intellectual property attorney Josh Gerben.

The filings give no further details about the submission. Contacted by AFP, Taylor Swift's publicist did not immediately respond.

McConaughey has in recent years pursued an application with the USPTO, framed as protection against the unauthorized use of his voice by AI models.

They include audio of him saying "Alright, alright, alright!" -- his memorable line from the 1993 film "Dazed and Confused" -- along with audio



US singer Taylor Swift

of him saying "Just keep livin', right?" followed by additional short phrases.

Advances in AI models now make it possible to synthesize a voice in seconds from a short clip, whereas just a few years ago the process required lengthy recordings and several days.

Many artists are increasingly concerned about the unchecked use of their image and voice by AI platforms.

Several US states have passed laws prohibiting such use, though many apply primarily to malicious or commercial exploitation.

Only a few -- notably the ELVIS Act passed by Tennessee's state legislature in 2024 -- offer broader protections.

Few performers have turned to the courts to assert their rights.

UAE heat season begins



The United Arab Emirates is set to experience a sharp rise in temperatures as the Kanat Al Thurayya season begins on Wednesday, marking the transition from spring warmth to the peak of summer, according to local meteorological observers.

The season, which runs from April 29 to June 7, is characterised by steadily increasing temperatures, lower humidity and predominantly dry winds, signalling the end of cooler conditions and the onset of intense

summer heat.

Ibrahim Al Jarwan, Chairman of the Emirates Astronomical Association, said the period represents a key transitional phase in the region's climate cycle, during which summer weather patterns become firmly established.

He noted that the season is named after the disappearance of the Pleiades star cluster, known in Arabic as Al Thurayya, from the night sky — a phenomenon historically used by Arab astronomers to

track seasonal change.

According to Al Jarwan, the star cluster is expected to reappear on June 7, 2026, coinciding with the approach of the summer solstice, when the sun reaches its highest position over the Tropic of Cancer, marking the official start of summer.

The period is also viewed as an early natural indicator of the hotter months ahead, with vegetation typically beginning to dry following the end of the rainfall season.

Qatar deepens UN human rights engagement

- Human rights standards in social work
- Reviewed reporting processes
- Emphasis is placed on capacity building



The Qatar Social Work Foundation convened a high-level roundtable in Lusail on Monday focused on strengthening engagement with the United Nations human rights system and enhancing the capacity of social institutions to align with international mechanisms.

Held at the UN House in collaboration with the UN Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region, the meeting brought together senior officials from the foundation, directors of its affiliated centres, and representatives of UN agencies in Qatar.

The discussions centred on how social work institutions can better integrate UN human rights frameworks into their operations, particularly through reporting mechanisms, treaty body engagement, and policy implementation.

Officials said the roundtable aimed to translate international human rights commitments into practical institutional practices

within Qatar's social development sector.

Rashid Mohammed Al Nuaimi, Executive Director of the Qatar Social Work Foundation, described the engagement as a strategic shift in institutional thinking.

"Working within the UN human rights system is now an extension of our national and developmental responsibility," he said, adding that the foundation is seeking to build a knowledge-based model of social work with stronger international participation.

He said affiliated centres are being encouraged to play a more active role in national reporting processes and global monitoring frameworks, reflecting Qatar's social development efforts within international standards.

Abeer Al Khreisha, Director of the UN Training and Documentation Centre, said the initiative builds on years of cooperation aimed at strengthening technical

capacity and improving engagement with UN treaty bodies.

She said the programme supports Qatar's efforts to implement its international obligations in the field of human rights.

UNDP Resident Representative in Qatar Biplov Choudhary welcomed the dialogue, calling it an important step in improving coordination across UN agencies and supporting sustainable development goals through stronger institutional capacity.

The session included an overview of the UN human rights architecture, including the roles of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council, where the foundation holds consultative status.

Participants also reviewed key international conventions, including those on women's rights, child rights, and persons with disabilities, alongside mechanisms for national reporting and engagement with treaty bodies.

First Military History Forum



Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Defence, in cooperation with the King Abdulaziz Foundation and Taif University's Taif History Centre, will organise the first Saudi Military History Forum in September, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

The initiative aims to document the Kingdom's military heritage and highlight the historical development of its armed forces.

The forum will address four main themes: the establishment of the military in Saudi Arabia, the role of Taif governorate in shaping the national army, the historical evolution of the armed forces, and academic sources used in documenting Saudi military history. Organisers said the event is intended to present a comprehensive overview of the Kingdom's military devel-

opment from its foundation to the present day.

It targets academics, researchers and postgraduate students in history and military studies to support specialised research, strengthen academic exchange, and enhance cooperation between educational, documentary and military institutions.

The programme will include peer-reviewed research presentations, panel discussions, an accompanying historical exhibition, and field visits to military facilities and sites of historical significance.

Researchers wishing to participate are invited to submit abstracts and full papers via the King Abdulaziz Foundation's digital platform. The deadline for abstracts is May 15, while full papers must be submitted by June 30.

Kuwait Cancels Citizenship of 1,266

Kuwait issued a series of decrees revoking the citizenship of 1,266 individuals, along with dependents who acquired nationality through them, according to official notices published.

The largest measure, Decree No. 60 of 2026, strips citizenship from 1,242 people and their dependents. Additional decrees target smaller groups and individuals, including Decree No. 61, which affects one person and associated dependents, and Decree No. 62, which concerns a woman and those linked to her status.

Under Decree No. 65 of 2026, issued in line with Article 21 bis (A) of Kuwait's nationality law addressing forgery, authorities revoked citizenship from 20 individuals and their dependents. The decree includes a former member of parliament, whose national-



ity was rescinded following the earlier withdrawal of his father's citizenship.

Two further measures, Decrees No. 66 and No. 67, each revoke citizenship from one individual and those who obtained nationality through them.

The decisions are part of an ongoing government review of citizenship records, particularly in cases involving alleged fraud or irregular acquisition of nationality.

Qatar Pledges Continued Support for Lebanon



Qatar's ambassador to Lebanon, Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, met with Maronite Patriarch Cardinal Mar Bechara Boutros Al-Rahi to discuss bilateral cooperation between Doha and Beirut.

The meeting took place in Bkerke, the seat of the Maronite

Church.

According to Lebanon's state-run National News Agency, the Qatari envoy reaffirmed his country's long-standing support for Lebanon, saying Doha "has historically been and continues to be the largest supporter of Lebanon."

Sheikh Saud noted that Qatar is currently implementing several projects across the country and expressed hope for stability, adding that he wishes to see peace restored and normal life return to Lebanon.

Oman, Somalia Explore Investment Opportunities



Oman and Somalia have discussed potential investment opportunities aimed at broadening bilateral cooperation and advancing shared economic interests, officials said during high-level talks in Muscat.

The discussions took place during a meeting between Oman's Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, Dr. Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, and Somalia's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation,

Abdusalam Abdi Ali, who is currently on an official visit to the sultanate.

Both sides reviewed a range of issues of mutual interest and explored ways to strengthen collaboration, with a particular focus on enhancing food security and facilitating the exchange of expertise.

The talks form part of ongoing efforts by the two countries to deepen ties and promote sustainable development through closer economic and technical cooperation.

US Blockade Continues



A U.S. Sailor signals to an MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter on the flight deck of guided-missile destroyer USS Mitscher (DDG 57). U.S. forces remain focused and ready across the Middle East.

Classifieds



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Ten-Man Khaldiya Strike Late to Boost Title Charge

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Matchweek 19 of the Nasser bin Hamad Premier League opened with fireworks yesterday, as Al Khaldiya came from behind to defeat Al Hidd 2-1 at Khalifa Sports City, while Sitra claimed a 2-0 victory over Aali at Bahrain National Stadium.

Al Khaldiya 2-1 Al Hidd

Al Hidd stunned the league leaders early, taking the lead in just the 4th minute when Bara' Marei powered a header from Issa Mussa's corner. The centre-back slipped away from his marker after a lapse in concentration from Al Khaldiya captain Dominique Mendy. Although goalkeeper Ricardo Silva got a hand to the effort, he couldn't keep it out.

Al Khaldiya, coached by Lassad Al Chabbi, struggled to create clear openings before the break, while Al Hidd, under coach Shukri Al Bajawi, took a surprise half-time lead.

Al Khaldiya's task became



Joel Beya celebrates stoppage-time winner vs Al Hidd

significantly harder just minutes after the restart when Mendy was shown a red card for an elbow on Ebrahim AlOuali.

Despite being reduced to ten men, Al Khaldiya gradually pushed forward. Joel Beya had a penalty appeal waved away in the 58th minute after a handball claim, before the breakthrough finally came in the 75th minute. Substitute Mohammed Al Romaihi met Saiffedine Bouhra's corner with a deft header to level the match.

Stoppage time brought further controversy when Bouhra was brought down by goalkeeper Mohamed El Gharybly, sparking confrontation between both benches. Joel Beya then calmly converted the penalty with a deceptive run-up to seal a 2-1 comeback win, his 11th goal of the season.

The result leaves Al Khaldiya five points clear at the top on 48 points with three games left, strengthening their title push, while Al Hidd remain sixth on 24 points.

Aali 0-2 Sitra

Under coach Ali Abdulmajeed, Sitra earned a valuable 2-0 away win over Aali at Bahrain National Stadium to lift themselves out of the relegation play-off zone.

Sitra broke through in the 68th minute when Maicon Douglas headed home Omran Elias' cross from the left after a well-worked move, with the goal standing following a VAR offside check.

Aali's hopes faded further in the 80th minute when Bekaye Wade produced a brilliant curling finish into the corner to double Sitra's lead and secure all three points.

The win lifts Sitra to 8th place on 21 points, while Aali remain fifth on 25.

Matchweek 19 continues today, with Al Shabab facing Bahrain Club at Bahrain National Stadium at 7pm, while Al Malkiya take on Al Najma at Khalifa Sports City. The round concludes tomorrow, with Al Ahli meeting Riffa at Khalifa Sports City, before Muharraq face Budaiya at Bahrain National Stadium.

Joshua signs deal to fight Fury, says Hearn



Tyson Fury calls out Anthony Joshua following his recent fight
TDT | Manama

Anthony Joshua and Tyson Fury have signed an agreement to face each other in a long-anticipated heavyweight showdown set for November, promoter Eddie Hearn has confirmed.

Joshua is scheduled to return to the ring on July 25 in Riyadh against Kristian Prenga, in what will serve as a key step toward preparing for the high-profile clash later in the year.

The confirmation finalises what is being described as the biggest deal in the history of British boxing. The November bout between the two heavyweight stars is expected to be broadcast on Netflix, underscoring its global commercial significance.

"Signed, sealed, delivered! AJ v Fury is on!" said promoter Eddie Hearn, who described the agreement as the most significant deal of his career.

He added: "The biggest piece of business we've ever done, but more importantly the one we've always wanted. Biggest year of AJ's career coming up, the comeback is on!"

Joshua, 36, enters this

schedule following a period of recovery and rebuilding after a turbulent spell outside the ring. His upcoming July fight will be his first bout since a December car accident in Nigeria that tragically claimed the lives of two of his close friends.

Reflecting on his return, Joshua said: "It's no secret I've taken some time to consolidate and rebuild to be ready for stepping back into the ring, and this is the next step on that journey."

His July opponent, Kristian Prenga, holds a record of 20 knockout victories but has yet to face an opponent at Joshua's elite level.

Saudi boxing official Turki Alalshikh previously indicated on social media that the fight agreement had been finalised, writing: "To my friends in Great Britain - it's happening. It's signed."

Joshua, a former world champion, is also continuing his comeback after previous injuries, including surgery on his elbow and shoulder following a 2024 defeat to Daniel Dubois. He has now committed to a multi-fight arrangement in Saudi Arabia, beginning with the July bout.

Bahrain Competes in 100th Table Tennis Championship



Bahrain's men's table tennis team

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior national table tennis team has arrived in London for the World Table Tennis Championships, the sport's centenary edition returning to the British capital for the first time since 1926.

The tournament runs from today until 10 May and marks 100 years since the inaugural world championships. This year's competition features 128 national teams across both men's and women's categories, with matches taking place at the OVO Arena in Wembley.

Bahrain's squad comprises Rashid Khalid Sanad, Mohammed Abbas Abdulwahab, Salman Abu Hamda, Sayed Muradha Hussain, and Mohammed Nader Al Ali.

Drawn into Group E, Bah-

rain faces a demanding preliminary stage against Slovenia, the Czech Republic, and Spain. While the group presents a significant challenge, it also offers the team a valuable opportunity to test itself against established European opposition on one of the sport's biggest stages.

The championships begin with a group stage, which is followed by a knockout phase. During the group stage, teams are divided into seeded and preliminary groups, where they compete in round-robin matches within their respective pools. From there, the top teams in the seeded groups advance directly to the knockout rounds, while the remaining spots are filled based on overall performance rankings. The competition then moves into the knockout stage, starting from the round of 32 and progressing all the way to

the final, with each tie decided over a best-of-five series. Bahrain's delegation is led by Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Table Tennis Association, alongside Vice President Ali Abdul Ali Al Madah and Secretary-General Jaafar Hadi. In addition to supporting the national team, the delegation will attend the International Table Tennis Federation General Assembly and World Table Tennis Council meetings, where key discussions on the sport's future are expected.

Ahead of the tournament, the team completed a training camp in Serbia aimed at sharpening performance ahead of global competition. The squad, overseen by board member Salman Yousif, arrived in London yesterday to finalize preparations.

Bahrain storm into beach handball semi-finals



Bahrain's beach handball team celebrate victory at Tianya Haijiao Beach, Sanya

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's men's beach handball team powered into the semi-finals of the Asian Beach Games in Sanya, China, after a 2-0 (16-6, 16-10) win over Hong Kong in their final Group A match yesterday.

The result secured second place in the group for Bahrain with eight points, behind table-toppers Iran on 10 points. Iran maintained their perfect record by defeating China in their final group fixture.

Bahrain began their campaign strongly, registering three consecutive wins against China, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka

before losing to an unbeaten Iranian side. They responded in style against Hong Kong, delivering a clinical performance under coach Hussain Al Qaidoom to reach the last four.

From the outset, the nationals controlled the contest. Bilal Askani opened the scoring with a sharp spin finish, setting the tone for a dominant first period. Adam Alnasheet and Komail Mahfoodh quickly added to the pressure, with Alnasheet particularly effective as Bahrain surged to a decisive 16-6 lead.

The second period followed a similar pattern. Askani struck early again, while Mahdi Ali and Mahfoodh kept Hong Kong

on the back foot through quick transitions, penalties, and efficient finishing. Bahrain maintained their intensity throughout, with Askani, Mahfoodh, and Alnasheet consistently breaching the defence to close out a controlled 16-10 win.

All three key attackers finished with eight goals each, highlighting Bahrain's balanced offensive threat. Ali Alhayki and Mahdi Ali added two goals apiece as the team rounded off a complete and disciplined performance.

Speaking after the match, Ali Mahdi said Bahrain had achieved their initial target despite the earlier setback against

Iran.

"It is well known that when Bahrain's handball teams compete, we don't just participate, we aim to win," he said. "Our first objective was to reach the semi-finals and we have achieved that. Now we will prepare properly for what comes next."

The Kingdom's representatives will now face Qatar in the semi-finals under the crossover format between the two groups.

The bronze and gold medal matches have been rescheduled, with the bronze medal game set for 3pm Bahrain time tomorrow and the gold medal match taking place at 4pm on Thursday.

Dragovic stars as Bahrain 3x3 reach play-offs



Bogdan Dragovic shoots a jump shot over Kazakhstan's Yesset Zharkyllov

TDT | Manama

Bahrain kept their hopes alive at the sixth Asian Beach Games in Sanya, China, with a 21-14 win over Kazakhstan in their final Pool C clash yesterday.

The victory secured third place in the group and a spot in the play-off round, bouncing back from earlier defeats to Qatar and India. Qatar finished top with a perfect record, followed by India, while Kazakhstan ended bottom.

Bogdan Dragovic delivered a standout performance, scoring 17 of Bahrain's 21 points in a dominant display. He capped his effort with a decisive jump shot with 1:40 remaining to put the result beyond doubt.

Austin Ajukwa added four points, while Nasser Al Musawi and Mohammed Kowayed also featured.

Speaking after the match, Al Musawi said the team is beginning to find its rhythm despite a slow start.

"We were dealt a tough start in the tournament and weren't at the level required," he said. "Maybe we didn't have the right chemistry yet as the players are still getting used to each other, but the best is yet to come. We believe we can compete against anyone in this tournament."

Bahrain now turn their focus to the play-offs, where they will face Mongolia, the runners-up from Pool B, at 7:15am Bahrain time for a place in the quarter-finals.

Bahrain Volleyball Team Named for 4th Gulf Games

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain have announced their men's volleyball squad for the 4th Gulf Games in Doha, Qatar (May 11-22), marking the beginning of a new cycle for the team.

The 17-player squad will be led by Montenegrin head coach Ivan Joksimovic, who arrives on the back of a dominant domestic campaign with Dar Kulaib, guiding them to the 2025-26 Isa Bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League title without a single defeat. He replaces French coach Arnaud Josserand, who oversaw one of the Kingdom's most successful periods in recent years, including gold at the 2025 AVC Men's Volleyball Nations Cup, bronze at the 6th Islamic Solidarity Games, and the Arab Men's Championship title in 2024. The squad features Ali Habib, Mahmood Abdulwahid, Hassan Ali Al Warqaa, Abbas Abdullah Sultan, Mahmood Al Affia, Sayed Hashim Isa, Mohammed Jassim, Hussain Mansoor, Mahmood Abdulhussain, Hani Al Alawi, Hassan Al Shak-



Bahrain men's volleyball team at the Islamic Solidarity Games last November

hour, Hussain Abdullah Sultan, Ayman Haroona, Ali Ibrahim, Ahmed Sadiq, Mohammed Al Khabbaz, and Abdullah Mohammed Jaafar.

Bahrain will begin their Gulf Games campaign against Oman on May 16. They will then face the United Arab Emirates on

May 17, Kuwait on May 19, hosts Qatar on May 20, and Saudi Arabia on May 22.

Beyond regional competition, the nationals are also set to compete in the 2026 AVC Men's Volleyball Cup in Ahmedabad, India (June 20-28). They have been drawn into a demanding

group alongside India, Australia, Chinese Taipei, Kazakhstan, and New Zealand.

With a new coach at the helm and a squad built on recent regional success, Bahrain face a key test of whether they can maintain their upward trajectory on both Gulf and Asian stages.

'Heartbroken' Xavi Simons out of World Cup and Spurs relegation fight

AFP | London

Xavi Simons is out of Tottenham's Premier League relegation fight and this summer's World Cup with a knee injury, the Dutch star said, describing himself as "heartbroken".

The 23-year-old midfielder was left clutching his right knee and was stretchered off in distress in Tottenham's crucial 1-0 win at already relegated Wolves on Saturday.

In an emotional post on social media late Sunday, Simons said his season was over, with

reports suggesting he may have sustained a serious ACL injury that could keep him out for several months.

"They say life can be cruel and today it feels that way," Simons, who has played 34 times for his country, wrote on Instagram. "My season has come to an abrupt end and I'm just trying to process it."

"Honestly, I'm heartbroken. None of it makes sense."

"All I've wanted to do is fight for my team and now the ability to do that has been snatched away from me, along with the World Cup."

Bahrain beach wrestlers begin Asian Beach Games campaign in Sanya

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's beach wrestling team begins competition today at the sixth Asian Beach Games in Sanya, China, aiming for strong performances and

potential medals.

The Kingdom is represented by Shamil Sharipov, Magomed Sharipov, Magomedrasul Asluev, and Alibeg Alibegov across multiple weight categories.

The squad completed a training camp in Russia before arriving in Sanya, with preparations focused on improving technique and readiness for the continental event. Officials also attended the final technical meeting

ahead of the start of competition, which confirmed regulations and bout procedures.

Bahrain will look to make an impact as beach wrestling action gets underway against a strong field of Asian competitors.

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Almansoori shines at BIC race night

Ali Almansoori dominates latest round of BTCC as National Race Day lights up BIC track



● Almansoori continues perfect season with two more wins in Bahrain Touring Car Challenge's sixth round

● Saeed Al Sulaiti and Mohamed Alzaidan claim victories in class in round four of Bahrain Motorcycle Championship



Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', hosted over the weekend round six of National Race Day (NRD) in the 2025/2026 season, featuring an exciting double-header with the Bahrain Touring Car Challenge (BTCC) and the Bahrain Motorcycle Championship (BMC).

Ali Almansoori was the star of the night, winning both races in the BTCC's penultimate event of this campaign and thus extending his perfect record so far to 12 wins from as many outings.

Saeed Al Sulaiti and Mohamed Alzaidan also had reason to celebrate, as they each emerged victorious in their respective classes in round four of the BMC.

Action in the latest edition of NRD was held along BIC's 2.55-kilometre Inner Track under the circuit's bright, state-of-the-art floodlights. The meeting was organised by BIC in cooperation with the Bahrain Motor Federation, the Circuit Racing Commission, and the Bahrain Motorcycle Commission.

In the BTCC, Moaz Elzahawi set the early pace in practice but then Almansoori took control in

qualifying, bagging pole position for the weekend's first of two races with a dominant fastest lap of 1min 15.218secs. He was more than three seconds quicker than the rest of the pack in his Honda Civic contender.

Almansoori then maintained his impressive form in the opening 15-lap sprint, going from pole to flag in a total winning time of 20mins 13.076secs.

He finished a commanding 19.337secs from runner-up Elzahawi, who was also behind the wheel of a Honda Civic, while James Taylor in an Acura RSX DC5 joined them on the

podium 59.061secs from first place.

Race two delivered a similar pattern, with Almansoori charging to a big lead en route to taking the chequered flag in 20mins 20.606secs after 15 laps. He led the same drivers in the top three, with Elzahawi going second 15.106secs adrift and Taylor classified third two laps back.

In the BMC, Al Sulaiti and Alzaidan were the pace-setters in their categories from the opening session, with Al Sulaiti leading the 1,000cc field on his BMW 1000RR motorbike and Alzaidan at the front amongst

the 600cc runners on his Kawasaki ZX6.

Al Sulaiti powered to overall victory in the night's sole 14-lap race in a total time of 15mins 48.778secs. He enjoyed a comfortable 26.726secs gap from Fahad Al Gharabally, who was the runner-up both overall and in the 1,000cc class on his Suzuki GSXR.

Alzaidan claimed third place overall while winning the 600cc category after crossing the line 29.535secs behind Al Sulaiti.

Also stepping onto the podium amongst the 1,000cc riders was Fahad Alghosaibi on his BMW

1000RR in third, while joining Alzaidan in the 600cc's top three were Faisal Bader on his Honda CBR600RR and Nasser Alkhadra on his Yamaha R6.

Following the round's exciting action, the winners in both the BTCC and the BMC were presented their awards in their respective podium ceremonies.

NRD returns with this season's final meeting scheduled for 8 May at BIC. For more information, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000, or follow the circuit's official social media channels.

Sabalenka downs Osaka to reach Madrid Open quarter-finals

AFP | Madrid

World number one Aryna Sabalenka overcame Naomi Osaka 6-7 (1/7), 6-3, 6-2 in a gripping battle on Monday to reach the Madrid Open quarter-finals.

Sabalenka, who has claimed titles at Miami, Indian Wells and Brisbane this year, was tested by her Japanese opponent in the fourth-round clash but came back from a set and a break down to triumph.

"I was just trying to take one ball at a time and my team was there for me, they really (pushed) me to keep fighting, and I'm really happy that I didn't give up and I was pushing until the very last point," said Sabalenka.

The first set between the



Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka returns the ball to Japan's Naomi Osaka

two four-time Grand Slam winners was tight, with only one break point forced, by Sabalenka, which Osaka saved to hold for 2-1.

Osaka dominated in the tie-break, ripping into a 5-0 lead and then triumphing when Sabalenka lashed a return wide.

Sawe Makes London Marathon History

Sebastian Sawe produced one of the most astonishing performances in marathon history by breaking the iconic sub-two-hour barrier in at the London Marathon, stopping the clock at 1:59:30.

The Kenyan's rise has been marked by surprise breakthroughs, from winning a half marathon debut as a pacemaker to running the second-fastest marathon debut ever in Valencia in 2024.

Yet even those performances offered little warning of what would unfold in London.

Despite injury setbacks in the build-up, Sawe delivered a perfectly paced race on a fast April morning, surging late to shatter Kelvin Kiptum's previous world



Sebastian Sawe crosses the line in landmark win

record by 65 seconds. Remarkably, he was not even targeting the record, later admitting it "was not in my mind" before adding that even 1:58 could be possible.

Born in Kenya's Rift Valley and guided by coach Claudio Berardelli, Sawe's development has been rapid since switching focus from track to marathon running. His success has also highlighted advances in training, nutrition and footwear technology.

His achievement was part of a historic race, with multiple athletes going under two hours for the first time. As legends like Eliud Kipchoge acknowledged, it marks a new era in what is possible in marathon running.