

The UK government has announced new legal pathways for asylum seekers, allowing community groups, universities, and later employers to sponsor refugees under expanded schemes.

| P6



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Prisoner Swap Gets Bahrain Backing

The Kingdom welcomed the success of the United Arab Emirates' mediation efforts between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, which led to a new prisoner exchange involving 320 prisoners from both sides.

Bahrain described the exchange as a positive humanitarian step that supports de-escalation efforts and strengthens hopes for a peaceful resolution to the Ukrainian crisis. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs praised the UAE's diplomatic and humanitarian efforts, noting its role in facilitating the release of 7,791 prisoners through 25 mediation operations since the beginning of the crisis.

Survivors Pulled From Rubble



A screengrab taken from a video posted on social media, shows a newborn held by rescuers after being pulled out alive from the rubble of the city of La Guaira, Venezuela, following the twin earthquakes hit the country.

The death toll from twin earthquakes in Venezuela rose more than thousand, with tens of thousands reported missing as international rescue teams boosted a desperate and slow-moving search for survivors. **Read more on page 6-7**

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Breach of Sovereignty

GCC rallies behind Manama as Shura Council chief warns the attack undermines regional peace efforts

TDT | Manama

Iran launched a drone assault on Bahraini territory in the early hours of Saturday, June 27, drawing fierce condemnation from Manama and its Gulf neighbours. Officials described the assault as a direct affront to international law and a betrayal of recently-brokered peace commitments.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued its strongest possible denunciation, declaring the strikes a flagrant violation of national sovereignty and a naked threat to the safety of citizens and residents. The ministry pointedly noted that Iran had signed the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding on June 17—just ten days prior—pledging a permanent halt to military operations and respect for regional sovereignty. "Peace is not built through in-



timidation, and security is not seized through aggression," the ministry said, warning that Tehran bore sole responsibility for undermining regional de-escalation efforts.

The condemnation was swift and unified across the Gulf. Saudi

Arabia issued its strongest denunciation of what it called "brutal Iranian aggression." Qatar condemned the strikes as a flagrant breach of international law, reaffirming full solidarity with Bahrain and urging a return to dialogue. Kuwait called the attacks

a dangerous threat to regional peace, while the UAE added its voice to the chorus of regional rejection.

Meanwhile, Shura Council President Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh described the strikes as a direct threat to security and stability, rallying national unity behind His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Bahrain's foreign ministry invoked UN Security Council Resolution 2817—co-sponsored by GCC states and Jordan and backed by 136 nations—and called on the Security Council to enforce its mandate and hold the aggressor accountable. The kingdom affirmed it retains its full legal right to defend its sovereignty under international law.

Appreciation for national efforts



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa praised the government, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, for successfully organizing this year's Ashura commemorations, highlighting strong coordination and support across all sectors.

HM King commended the efforts of government bodies, especially the Ministry of Interior and religious affairs authorities, along with scholars, Ma'atam organisers, committees, and volunteers, for ensuring smooth security, services, and facilitation of rituals.

He noted that the Ashura commemorations were held in an atmosphere of discipline and organisation, reflecting Bahrain's commitment to religious freedom, social harmony, and respect for diverse traditions.

Arab Unity Ensures Stability

Strong reaffirmation of Bahrain's stance on the Palestinian cause

- **Bahrain Supports Peace Efforts**
- **Palestine Remains Central Issue**
- **Digital Sovereignty Gains Focus**

TDT | Manama

The Chairman of the Shura Council, Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, has reaffirmed the Kingdom of Bahrain's firm commitment—under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa—to safeguarding national sovereignty, upholding international law, and advancing peace, dialogue and peaceful co-existence.

His remarks were delivered during the Eighth Conference of the Arab Parliament and Speakers of Arab Councils and Parliaments, held at the headquarters of the Arab League in Cairo. The high-level gathering, organized in cooperation with the Arab Parliament and the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, brought together Arab parliamentary leaders and delegations, including representatives from Bahrain.

Firm Commitment

Al Saleh emphasized that Bahrain remains steadfast in defending the sovereignty and independence of all states, rejecting any form of external interference, and supporting the sovereign right of nations to choose their own development paths.

He underscored that lasting regional stability requires full adherence to international law,

principles of good neighbourliness, and the rejection of force or coercion in resolving political disputes.

The Shura Council Chairman warned that Arab security is deeply interconnected and indivisible, stressing that any violation of one Arab state's sovereignty directly impacts the stability of the entire region.

He called for a unified and decisive Arab stance in rejecting any aggression or infringement on sovereignty, describing Arab unity as the foundation for regional security, stability, and development.

De-escalation

Al Saleh reiterated Bahrain's consistent support for diplomatic initiatives aimed at achieving comprehensive, just and sustainable peace.

He welcomed recent understandings between the United States and Iran on ceasefire and de-escalation measures, describing them as an important step toward reducing tensions and rebuilding trust in the region.

He also commended mediation efforts led with the involvement of Pakistan, and supported by Saudi Arabia and Qatar, highlighting the importance of continued dialogue and peaceful conflict resolution.



Palestinian Cause Reaffirmed

He reaffirmed that the Palestinian issue remains the central cause of the Arab world.

Al Saleh reiterated Bahrain's firm support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the establishment of an independent state along the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, in line with international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative.

He also stressed the importance of ensuring safe, sustained and unhindered humanitarian assistance to affected civilians.

Digital Sovereignty

Al Saleh highlighted that rapid global technological transformation has made data, knowledge and innovation central to national power, introducing digital sovereignty as a critical component of modern security.

He called for stronger Arab cybersecurity systems, enhanced

protection of critical infrastructure, and the development of updated legislation to govern artificial intelligence and emerging digital technologies.

He further urged Arab parliaments to take a leading role in establishing legal frameworks that protect data sovereignty while encouraging innovation, economic growth and digital transformation.

Al Saleh welcomed the outcomes of the conference, particularly the forthcoming document titled "Strengthening Arab Digital Sovereignty and Protecting National Privacy in the Age of Digital Transformation", describing it as a major step toward unified Arab digital policy.

He praised Egypt's historic role as a centre of Arab culture and a key pillar of joint Arab action, alongside the efforts of the Arab Parliament and its leadership in advancing regional cooperation.

Para-Athletes Arrive in Czech Republic for Grand Prix



The Bahrain Paralympic athletics team has departed from Bahrain International Airport to the Czech Republic to participate in the Czech Paralympic Open Women's Grand Prix 2026.

The championship will take place in Olomouc till July 5, 2026, bringing together leading female para-athletes from various countries.

The Bahrain delegation is headed by Her Highness Shaikha Fatima bint Salman Al Khalifa and includes delegation administrator Noura Al Enezi, technical director Abdulrazzaq Suwaisa, and coaches Mousa Hassan and Hassan Muftah.

Athletes Rouba Al Omari, Maryam Al Humaidi, and Fatima Al Sayed Ahmed will represent Bahrain in the tournament, competing with the ambition of delivering strong performances and achieving positive results.

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MPs Seek After-School Scheme to Cut Screen Time

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Five MPs have proposed a national after-school scheme to cut children's heavy use of smartphones and smart devices, saying the hours after classes have become the emptiest part of many children's day.

The proposal, brought by Dr Munir Seroor, Lulwa Al Rumaihi, Ali Saqr Al Doseri, Hassan BuKhammas and Mohammed Salman Al Ahmed, seeks a state-led programme of sport, culture, life skills and group play.

It says Bahraini families, like others across the Gulf, have seen a clear shift in the way children spend their time, with the after-school period often left to phones and tablets because there are too few other choices.

The MPs said the problem was not technology itself, but the way it had become the default answer to free time, above all when parents and other family



"This proposal offers a direct answer by organising the hours after school through a national programme run by the bodies concerned."

- DR MUNIR SEROOR, MP

members are at work.

They warned that long hours on smart devices after school were linked to early digital addiction, social withdrawal, weaker conversation skills, poor

sleep and strain on the eyes, neck and spine.

Families, they said, were also being left under greater strain because easy-to-reach and low-cost choices were lacking. The problem grows during Ramadan, when children stay up later and fewer activities are made for them.

Dr Seroor said: 'This proposal offers a direct answer by organising the hours after school through a national programme run by the bodies concerned.'

He said the work could bring in the Social Development Ministry, the Education Ministry, the Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Ministry, the Youth Affairs Ministry, the Health Ministry, the General Sports Authority, the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, and the private sector.

The proposal seeks wider schemes at clubs and youth empowerment centres, along with sports and social activities inside schools after lessons.

The proposed programme includes

- Sports activities
- Cultural programmes
- Life skills training
- Group games
- Scout programmes
- Social events

It also calls for school scout programmes to be widened, and for children's events to be held in parks, open spaces and shopping centres.

The MPs also want phone-free family events, the return of old outdoor games and the creation of new group games to draw children away from screens and back into shared play.

Securing Borders, Enabling Trade



Customs President Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa led the Kingdom of Bahrain's delegation to the 147th and 148th sessions of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) Council meetings, held at the organisation's headquarters in Brussels, with participation from customs leaders and representatives of member states.

Shaikh Ahmed affirmed that Bahrain's participation reflects its commitment to strengthening international customs co-operation and maintaining an active role in global customs forums. He noted that this engagement supports discussions on enhancing customs operations, facilitating international trade, protecting society, and securing global supply chains.

He highlighted that Bahrain continues to advance its customs system in line with international

best practices by adopting quality-driven initiatives and strengthening cooperation with global customs bodies. These efforts aim to improve operational efficiency, facilitate trade flow, support sustainable economic growth, and enhance community security.

The meetings addressed key topics including the use of data as a strategic resource in customs decision-making, the future of customs operations amid rapid digital transformation, and emerging technological developments.

Participants also discussed strengthening efforts to combat drug smuggling and protect societies from risks associated with illicit trade, as well as ensuring the integrity of global supply chains and expanding cooperation with the private sector.

English legal papers rule to save firms translating thousands of files

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Bahrain's move to allow a wider range of legal papers to be notarised in English will cut translation bills, reduce delays and help courts deal with commercial disputes faster, a senior civil court judge has said.

Judge Zain Al Asfoor, of the High Civil Court, said the change would 'eliminate the need for costly certified translation' of commercial documents, particularly in cases involving large volumes of contracts, records and supporting papers.

Her remarks came after Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf Minister Nawaf bin Mohammed Al Maawda issued Decision No. 47 of 2026, allowing notarial papers, attested signatures and dated private documents to be completed in English when the parties ask for it, unless another law requires Arabic.

Judge Al Asfoor said some commercial cases involved 'thousands and thousands of documents' that would otherwise have to be translated into Arabic before they could be used in proceedings.

The use of English, she said, would 'reduce delays' because translation often takes considerable time. It would also 'minimise the risk of translation errors or discrepancies that may affect legal outcomes', since some words can carry different meanings once rendered into another language.

She added that lower translation costs would 'lower the overall litigation costs for the parties and businesses', while helping courts move cases more quickly.

Judge Al Asfoor said the move was in line with Bahrain's judicial vision of faster justice, while still protecting fairness, allowing parties time



"Speedy justice would definitely be achieved, judgments could be issued faster when parties no longer needed to translate large bundles of documents."

- ZAIN AL ASFOOR, JUDGE

Non-Custodial Sentences Cover 10,219

Lawyer: Alternative Sentencing System in Bahrain a "Working Model"

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Non-custodial sentences have covered 10,219 people in Bahrain since the alternative penalties scheme began in 2018, Public Prosecution figures show.

A total of 15,566 penalties and measures were used between 2018 and 2025, meaning some people were given more than one penalty or measure.

Community service made up the largest share, with 5,218 cases, or about 33.5 pc of the total.

Training and rehabilitation covered 3,030 people, while 2,644 were banned from entering certain places and 1,427 were placed under electronic monitoring.

Orders to repair damage caused by crime covered 1,590 people. A further 1,308 gave undertakings not to approach or harass others, 337 were placed under house arrest at a fixed address, and 12 were



Faraed Ghazi, lawyer

ordered to report to a security body at set times.

In 2025 alone, 2,411 people were given non-custodial sentences, including 2,166 men, 213 women and 32 young adults aged over 18 and under 21.

The number of penalties used last year reached 3,214. Orders to repair damage caused by crime were the most-used measure, with 966 cases, followed by community service with 685 and training and rehabilitation with 562.

Faraed Ghazi, a lawyer, said the figures showed Bahrain's use of

Figures for 2025	
People given non-custodial sentences	2,411
Men	2,166
Women	213
Young adults (18-21)	32
Total penalties/measures used	3,214
Most used measure:	
Repairing damage caused by crime (966 cases)	
Other key measures:	
Community service (685 cases)	
Training & rehabilitation (562 cases)	

alternative penalties had grown into a working model for non-custodial sentencing.

He said the effect went beyond those serving the penalties, as families also benefited when relatives stayed within their family and community setting.

Ghazi said electronic monitoring and house arrest allowed offenders to be supervised outside prison while they remained under legal supervision.

He rejected claims that the wider use of such penalties was lenient, saying the measures were

applied under clear legal rules and did not weaken deterrence.

He said the scheme's success should be judged not only by the number of people covered, but also by reoffending rates and the ability of reform and rehabilitation schemes to stop repeat offences.

Public Prosecution figures under the Restorative Justice Law for Children and their Protection from Maltreatment show that 94 children benefited from replaced measures and penalties, including 88 boys and six girls.

The cases included 36 children whose penalties were replaced directly by restorative courts, 31 whose penalties were replaced after judgments, and 27 who received direct measures from the relevant judicial committee.

Ghazi said restorative justice for children gave priority to rehabilitation and allowed each case to be handled while weighing the interests of the child and society.

Hamala Fire Victim Still Unable to Return Home After 100 Days

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Hamala resident remains unable to return to his home more than 100 days after a fire damaged the property, with delays in repair procedures preventing restoration work from beginning.

Northern Municipality Councillor Mohamed Saad Al Doseri said the homeowner has already completed all required administrative and technical procedures, but continues to wait as the case moves through multiple layers of approvals and assessments.

The fire broke out on March 3 in Hamala and was later confirmed in a Civil Defence report



no repair work has yet started, creating continued uncertainty for the affected family.

In a memorandum submitted to the council, he urged urgent intervention, stressing that delays are placing financial and emotional pressure on the homeowner, who is still paying rent while unable to use his damaged property.

He called for the Northern Municipal Council to recommend immediate action to the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture to accelerate the process.

to have been caused by an electrical fault in a lighting fixture. One room and its contents were destroyed, with smoke and heat damage extending to the first floor and affecting the ground floor as well. The blaze was extinguished on the same day.

Despite the incident being

resolved at the scene, the homeowner has since been living in alternative accommodation at personal expense while awaiting repair works.

Al Doseri said the case has passed through inspections, engineering evaluations, site visits and budgeting procedures, but

to exchange memoranda and defences, and ensuring judgments remain of high quality.

Decision No. 47 of 2026 applies to documents that fall within Decree Law No. 14 of 1971 on notarisation. That law regulates the work of the notary office, including the notarisation of documents required by law or requested by parties, attesting signatures, proving the date of private papers and keeping notarial records.

The new order replaces Decision No. 78 of 2017, which dealt with documents that could be notarised in a foreign language, namely English. The 2017 decision had been amended in 2019.

Under the new decision, English may be used only when the document falls within the scope of the notarisation law and the parties choose that language. The exception remains any case in which another law requires notarisation in Arabic.

MPs Praise Smooth Ashura Season

TDI | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

MPs have praised the running of this year's Ashura season in Bahrain, saying it showed the Kingdom's care for religious freedoms, public order and the safe practice of rituals under His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

MP Ahmed Al Salloom, chairman of Parliament's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee, said the season's smooth running stemmed from royal care for freedom of worship and Bahrain's long-held way of coexistence, tolerance and respect for religious occasions under the rule of law.

He said the safe and well-organised atmosphere showed Bahrain's ability to manage large religious events while preserving their religious and social place.

Mr Al Salloom praised the Interior Ministry, led by Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, for maintaining security, managing traf-



Hassan Ebrahim, MP



Ahmed Al Salloom, MP



Maryam Al Sayegh, MP

fic, easing procession movement and serving participants. He also thanked the General Directorate of Jaafari Affairs, maatam administrations, procession organisers, volunteers and young people for their work.

MP Hassan Ebrahim also thanked His Majesty the King, saying royal care for religious occasions showed Bahrain's approach to protecting religious freedoms and strengthening co-existence, tolerance and national

unity. Mr Ebrahim said the season showed the value of partnership between State bodies and the public, citing the role of maatam administrations, organising committees, charity funds and volunteers.

MP Maryam Al Sayegh said His Majesty the King was the first guarantor of freedom to practise religious rituals and the patron of Bahrain's path of coexistence and tolerance.

She thanked His Royal High-

ness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, saying his directives had been carried out through field plans that provided the needed services and organisation.

Ms Al Sayegh praised the Interior Ministry and its personnel for securing participants and managing processions, adding that broad compliance with the law and instructions showed public awareness and care to present the occasion in a manner worthy of Bahrain and its people.

ICAI Bahrain Concludes AI Masterclass with Hackathon Finale

New leadership elected for ICAI Bahrain Chapter 2026-27



The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India - Bahrain Chapter successfully concluded its three-day Artificial Intelligence Masterclass with a grand finale at Crowne Plaza Bahrain, featuring the AI Hackathon 2026, a keynote address by ICAI's AI leadership, and the Chapter's Election Meeting for the 2026-27 term.

The Masterclass, conducted by AI experts CA Prabhaw Agarwalla and CA Harpreet Singh, equipped participants with a practical knowledge of artificial intelligence and its application in the accounting profession.

The concluding Hackathon enabled participants to translate their learning into action, with ten teams presenting AI-driven solutions to real-world challenges.

The evening also witnessed the announcement of the Chapter's new leadership.

CA Viinod Rathi was elected as the Chairperson for the 2026-27 term, with CA Abhishek Gupta as Vice-Chairperson and CA Pankaj Jain as Secretary. In his address, the newly elected Chairperson reflected on his association with the ICAI Bahrain Chapter since

2014 and reaffirmed his commitment to advancing the Chapter's professional and technological initiatives.

The event concluded with an inspiring keynote from CA Charanjot Singh Nanda, Immediate Past President of ICAI and Chairman of the ICAI AI Committee.

Highlighting AI's remarkable evolution from Alan Turing's seminal question in 1950—"Can machines think?" to today's transformative technologies, he urged Chartered Accountants to become creators, not merely users of AI solutions, while emphasising ethical adoption, human oversight, and professional judgement.

Chairman CA Viniit Maroo felicitated Chief Guest, CA Charanjot Singh Nanda, and Masterclass faculty CA Prabhaw Agarwalla and CA Harpreet Singh, in recognition of their invaluable contribution to the success of the three-day programme.

The successful conclusion of the Masterclass reaffirmed the ICAI Bahrain Chapter's commitment to preparing finance professionals for the AI era through continuous learning, innovation, and visionary leadership.



Attendees of the 2026-27 term meeting participated in an AI Masterclass led by CA Prabhaw Agarwalla and CA Harpreet Singh, gaining practical knowledge of artificial intelligence.

Imam Hussain Blood Drive Collects 741 Units

Strong turnout reflects community spirit and humanitarian values in Bahrain

TDI | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

The Imam Hussain (AS) Blood Donation Campaign collected a total of 741 units of blood during its 28th edition, continuing its long-standing humanitarian contribution to Bahrain's Central Blood Bank.

Held under the slogan "Hussain is a Refuge," the two-day campaign was organized in partnership with Al Hilal Healthcare Group at its Manama Central Branch on June 24-25, 2026.

Officials said the initiative reflects growing public awareness about the importance of blood donation and its life-saving impact on patients across the Kingdom.

Dr. Fadhel Al-Nasheet, Chairman of the Supreme Organizing Committee, said the strong participation from both men and women reflects a deeply rooted culture of social responsibility in Bahrain.

He noted that the campaign is



inspired by the values of sacrifice, generosity, and humanitarian service associated with the legacy of Imam Hussain (AS), adding that the initiative continues to strengthen the Central Blood Bank's reserves.

Dr. Sharath Chandran, CEO of Al Hilal Healthcare Group, said hosting the campaign for the third consecutive year reflects the group's commitment to supporting community health initiatives.

He described the campaign as a leading example of volunteerism and partnership in Bahrain,

highlighting that a fully equipped medical environment was provided to ensure safe and efficient donations aligned with international standards.

The campaign, first launched in April 2000 in cooperation with the Bahrain Ministry of Health, has grown into one of the Kingdom's most sustained humanitarian efforts.

Over more than two decades, it has contributed 17,913 units of blood to the Central Blood Bank, reinforcing its role in supporting patients and emergency medical needs across Bahrain.

Arab Leaders Address External Threats

TDI | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

His Excellency Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Speaker of the Shura Council, participated in a closed-door meeting of speakers and representatives of Arab parliaments held on Saturday at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo.

The meeting took place as part of the 8th Conference of the Arab Parliament and Speakers of Arab Councils and Parliaments, organized by the Arab Parliament in cooperation with the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The closed session brought together Arab parliamentary leaders to discuss external attacks on Arab states and to formulate a unified parliamentary position reaffirming the protection of Arab countries' security, stability, and sovereignty against any external aggression. The discussions aimed to strengthen Arab



national security and safeguard the safety and stability of their populations.

The leaders also reviewed developments in the occupied Palestinian territories and ongoing violations against the Palestinian people. A parliamentary resolution is expected to be adopted reaffirming strong Arab parliamentary support for the Palestinian cause and rejecting all practices that undermine the legitimate rights of the

Palestinian people.

In addition, the meeting discussed a draft Arab parliamentary vision titled "Enhancing Arab Digital Sovereignty and Protecting National Privacy in the Era of Digital Transformation." The initiative aims to support Arab parliaments in keeping pace with rapid technological advancements, strengthening cybersecurity, and protecting national interests as a key pillar of Arab national security.

Air-Con Repairs Surge as Heat Rises

TDI | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Air-conditioning maintenance firms are seeing a rise in demand as higher temperatures push households, offices and businesses to rely more heavily on cooling systems.

Workshops specialising in air-conditioner cleaning, servicing and repairs have become more active on social media in recent days, offering cut-price deals starting at BD4 for a single unit. Some are advertising packages covering five air-conditioners for BD20.

The offers often include a full inspection, washing, sanitising and chemical cleaning of internal and external parts, as well as the removal of dust, bacteria and odours. Firms say the work helps improve indoor air quality, raise cooling efficiency and extend the life of the unit.

Technicians have urged regular maintenance during the summer months to keep air-conditioners working well, cut the risk of sudden faults and reduce electricity

use.

Recommended checks include cleaning filters, internal and external fans, testing refrigerant levels, checking electrical connections and examining the compressor. Engineers also advise dealing early with faults that could weaken performance or drive up power bills.

Some households may choose to replace older air-conditioners with newer, more energy-efficient models, particularly as cooling technology improves and newer units offer better output with lower power use.

Shops selling spare parts and cooling-system supplies are also reporting stronger trade, as more customers replace worn or damaged parts after long periods of use.

Bookings for maintenance are also rising, prompting companies in the sector to ready extra teams to meet summer demand.



- Multi-unit AC servicing packages start from BD4 per unit.
- Social media is now a key platform for discounted maintenance offers.
- Some providers offer five-unit cleaning packages for BD20.
- Rising demand is driving competitive pricing among AC service workshops.

Regular air-conditioner servicing is seen as one of the main steps households and businesses can take during the hot season, helping to maintain cooling, protect indoor air quality and keep electricity use under control.

US allows limited access to Anthropic's Mythos AI model

Government says security concerns prompted restrictions on cutting-edge AI models

● Cybersecurity firms regain availability

● Fable 5 remains restricted

● Anthropic seeks broader access

AFP | San Francisco

Anthropic said Friday it had received authorization from the US government to allow a small group of American cybersecurity firms to access its powerful AI model Mythos 5.

Access to Mythos 5 had been blocked by US authorities due to concerns about national security.

Anthropic will continue discussions with the Trump administration to "expand access to Mythos 5 and make Fable 5 available again" to the general public, a company spokesperson said.

The government abruptly forced Anthropic to cut off access to its two cutting-edge artificial intelligence models on June 12 after discovering vul-

2
advanced artificial intelligence models were completely blocked by federal authorities on June 12

nerabilities in the safeguards put in place to prevent misuse of the tool.

The strong action against Anthropic has drawn accusations of government overreach.

Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick said in a letter to the company, cited by Politico and Reuters, that "Anthropic has worked with the US government to address risks associated with the Covered Models."

"These efforts have yielded significant progress," he said.

Commerce department spokesperson Benno Kass said "we have worked diligently to ensure America remains the global leader in AI while safeguarding our security."

Anthropic angered President Donald Trump's team in an earlier clash by refusing to allow its



The Claude by Anthropic app logo appears on the screen of a smartphone

technology to be used for mass surveillance and autonomous weapons, leading the Pentagon to cancel its contracts with the company.

Anthropic's main rival OpenAI launched its new model earlier Friday, GPT-5.6, with restricted access and validated on a client-by-client basis by the gov-

ernment.

OpenAI chief Sam Altman said in a post on X "this isn't quite the process that we think is optimal."



Anthropic had angered the Trump administration earlier by refusing to allow its technology for mass surveillance and autonomous weapons

"I believe the government shares most of our goals, and that they are overall doing a good job in a very difficult situation," he said.

Under pressure over the novelty of their capabilities, Trump earlier this month signed an executive order setting up a voluntary federal review of national security risks in advanced AI models before their release.

The White House has communicated little about how it will enforce its executive order -- in which companies are understood to be participating voluntarily -- and what models would fall under its review rules.

Globalization isn't dead, just 'transformed,' says IMF chief economist

● Trade fragmentation reshaping markets

● Supply chains remain resilient

● Emerging economies face challenges

AFP | Washington

While the global economy has faced shocks and trade turmoil, globalization is not dead -- it is simply being "transformed," the International Monetary Fund's chief economist told AFP Friday in an exclusive interview.

The world's lender of last resort will release an update to its World Economic Outlook on July 8, with all eyes on whether -- or how far -- it revises down growth estimates from its April update due to the economic fallout of the US-Israeli war on Iran.

By then, however, Chief Economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas will have moved on after completing a four-and-a-half year tenure that saw the IMF grapple with the economic fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Washington's upending of global trade through tariffs and the recent



IMF Chief Economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas

war on Iran.

Reflecting on a tumultuous time for the world economy, Gourinchas remains confident that recent upheaval in global trade caused by US President Donald Trump's tariffs are not necessarily ending globalization -- just adjusting certain bilateral relationships.

"Well, it's certainly not dead," he told AFP in his office at the IMF's headquarters in Washington, pointing to solid global trade-to-GDP ratios.

"We haven't experienced de-globalization," he said. "We have experienced (that) it's be-

ing transformed."

Gourinchas, a 57-year-old Frenchman, said the latest movements should be seen mainly as "a desire to reduce the bilateral level of trade between the US and China. I don't think that is something that is a mystery for anyone."

Since returning to office for a second term, Trump has targeted US friends and foes alike with punishing tariffs, saying he intends to rebase manufacturing to the homeland and to address what he terms unfair trade practices.

Treasury Secretary Scott

Bessent and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer have described globalization as having taken economic integration too far, causing economic pain for American households while benefiting those abroad.

For Gourinchas, however, the latest trade turmoil -- which has seen major US trading partners retaliate with tariffs of their own -- has provided opportunities, too.

"Other actors have stepped in," he said. "The supply chains have adapted, the Mexico's, the Vietnam's of the world have stepped in... the connector countries that have been able to grow on the back of this."

Still, it depends on how far Washington and other advanced economies push this fragmentation of the global economy, he said.

"If the strategy is not just to disengage from China, but it's to disengage more globally -- which I don't think it is, by the way -- I don't think it's sustainable," he said.

He is skeptical, too, on whether the drive to move industries to the United States will end up boosting employment, saying it is "very, very hard" to see that happening. New factories in advanced economies are expected to rely heavily on technology and employ fewer workers.



Gourinchas argued that countries such as Mexico and Vietnam have benefited by emerging as "connector countries," adapting supply chains amid shifting US-China trade relations

'Middle-income trap'

For the world's emerging market countries, there is another challenge in a fragmenting world economy: What will drive their own growth, if not demand from larger economies?

The last decade has seen growth in developing countries stall, with the World Bank's Chief Economist Indermit Gill referring to it as a "lost decade" for many.

Gourinchas said that emerging economies had shown remarkable resilience through the shocks of the last five years, mainly due to greater supply-chain integra-

tion -- but that resilience was not infinite.

"There is this concern about potentially having a middle-income trap for many emerging market economies," he said, pointing to limited sources of growth in a world where advanced economies were turning inwards.

Since the 1990s, China has been seen as a shining example to be emulated by developing nations -- an economy that capitalized on cost disparities to create an export-oriented growth model that it rode to vast success.

But in a world where advanced economies are potentially "closing up," while China continues to provide cut-throat competition on manufacturing costs, can any of these emerging economies use the same path Beijing did?

"That leaves a very narrow space for them to actually enter into an export-led growth model, which has been the recipe for development and success for many, many countries," Gourinchas said.

"A country like India, for instance, is very unsure whether it can follow in the footsteps of China," he said.

After the IMF, Gourinchas will be headed back to a career in academia at the University of California, Berkeley.

UK to expand refugee sponsorship schemes

AFP | Washington

The UK interior ministry has announced it will create new legal routes for asylum seekers, including allowing community organisations to sponsor refugees based on a similar system in Canada.

The system will come into place later this year, Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood said late Friday, with organisations and some "trusted" universities able to sponsor refugees and first arrivals expected in autumn 2027.

A route for employers to sponsor refugees is also expected to open next year, the Home Office said in a press release.

Immigration and asylum are thorny issues in the UK, where the hard-right Reform UK party has rapidly grown in popularity, riding a wave of anti-immigrant sentiment.

Keir Starmer, who stepped down as prime minister this week but will remain in power until his successor is chosen, has tried to appear tough on immigration since coming into power two years ago.

Trump foe Bolton pleads guilty in classified files case

AFP | Washington

John Bolton, who served as Donald Trump's national security advisor before becoming an outspoken critic of the US president, pleaded guilty Friday to one count of retaining classified documents.

Asked by federal Judge Theodore Chuang if he was guilty, the 77-year-old veteran diplomat replied: "I am, Your Honor, and I'm sorry for it."

Bolton, who faces a maximum prison sentence of five years, must also pay a \$2.25 million fine and forfeit his federal pension as part of a plea agreement, the Department of Justice said.

Sentencing was set for October 28.

"As Mr Bolton admitted, he shared more than 1,000 pages of information about his day-to-day activities as the National Security Advisor, including information related to national defense with two individuals who neither had the security clearances nor the need to know that information," prosecutor Kelly Hayes said after the hearing.



This aerial view shows collapsed buildings in Catia La Mar, La Guaira state, Venezuela

UN estimates nearly 6.8 mn people affected by Venezuela quakes

Satellite data reveals extensive structural destruction across major towns near the capital city

● Almost one thousand people died

● More than fifty thousand remain missing

● Buildings heavily damaged

AFP | Geneva

Close to seven million people may have been impacted by the twin earthquakes in Venezuela, which have killed nearly 1,000 people and left tens of thousands missing, the United Nations estimated yesterday.

The UN migration agency said it had examined available population and damage data and had determined that "up to 6.76 million people could be affected

by the devastating earthquakes that struck Venezuela on 24th June".

The projections, which include up to two million people in Caracas alone, "highlight the potentially vast humanitarian impact of the disaster", the International Organization for Migration (IOM) warned in a statement.

Entire buildings have crumbled in La Guaira, located to the north of Caracas, following devastating twin tremors of magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 on Wednesday.

The national death toll stands at 920, while people remain trapped under the rubble in the coastal city and elsewhere.

And UN aid chief Tom Fletcher told AFP Friday that more than 50,000 people were missing.

IOM said it had worked with Microsoft AI for Good Lab on initial satellite mapping analysis, which showed that 31.5 percent

Newborn baby rescued from rubble

AFP | Venezuela

A newborn baby has been rescued from a fallen building 32 hours after the twin earthquakes that devastated a Venezuelan coastal city.

Video shared on social media Friday shows rescuers working under a floodlight atop collapsed masonry and bringing the infant out to applause late Friday in the hardest-hit city of La Guaira, north of the capital Caracas.

They carefully pass the baby, wrapped in a quilt, from person to person before cleaning the child gently with tissues, the video shows.

In a follow-up video later on Friday, Quintero showed the mother in a hospital bed, with a medical worker telling her that the baby did not appear to have injuries.



Such assessments, it said, were helping humanitarian responders identify the communities most affected and to prioritise where to deliver life-saving aid, even as ground assessments continue.

"The first hours and days after a disaster are decisive. They shape everything that follows," IOM chief Amy Pope said in the statement.

"IOM is scaling up rapidly: repositioned relief items are already being deployed, and we are working with the Government and partners to deliver emergency shelter, essential supplies, and protection," she added.

Warning that displacement was sure to rise in the country, which was already facing a humanitarian crisis before the quakes hit, Pope stressed that "a swift response is essential as we deliver life-saving assistance and support the people of Venezuela through the difficult days and months ahead".

Trump unveils new US passport -- with picture of himself

AFP | Washington

President Donald Trump on Friday unveiled a rendering of a new limited-edition US passport to mark the country's 250th anniversary of independence -- featuring his stern-faced likeness.

"The U.S.A.'s New Passport, which says, 'Welcome, but be good!'" Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform featuring the passport mock-up.

The image features a glowering Trump leaning on his desk and his signature, with the text of the Declaration of Independence in the background. It appears to be based on a portrait



The new limited-edition US passport to mark the country's 250th anniversary of independence featuring President Donald Trump

taken by White House photographer Daniel Torok.

The opposite page shows a painting depicting the declaration's signing in 1776, with the words "United States of America 250."

The White House posted the same passport rendering, with the words "PATRIOT PASSPORT."

The State Department -- which had previously announced that a commemorative passport with "custom artwork" would be available from July 6 -- did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In April, a department official said the Trump-themed passports would only be available

at in-person appointments in Washington "for as long as there is availability."

Trump has aggressively put his personal stamp on government institutions, with banners of the president flying outside several government buildings, and the Treasury Department saying his signature will soon appear on the one-dollar bill.

Trump also added his name to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts -- until a court ruled that it should be removed.

He will be the first sitting US president featured in Americans' travel documents.

1519

King Carlos I is elected Holy Roman Emperor Charles V

1838

Coronation of Queen Victoria, aged 19, during a five-hour ceremony at Westminster Abbey, London



1914

Franz Ferdinand, Archduke of Austria and his wife Sophie are assassinated by Bosnian-Serb assassin Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo, setting off a chain of alliances and events that lead to World War I

1919

Treaty of Versailles is signed in France, ending World War I and establishing the League of Nations

Gulf strikes shake fragile Iran deal

MIDDLE EAST ON EDGE US-IRAN DEAL COLLAPSES INTO CONFRONTATION

Strikes, counterattacks and fragile truces threaten peace and key shipping route

<p>ESCALATION: TRADING FIRE</p> <p>US STRIKES IRAN US launches strikes on Iranian missile & drone storage sites and radar positions.</p> <p>IRAN HITS BACK Revolutionary Guards strike US sites in the Gulf, warn of broader response if attacks continue.</p> <p>SPARK: SHIP ATTACK ROW Washington accused Tehran of attacking a cargo ship in the Strait of Hormuz.</p> <p>DEAL ACCUSED OF VIOLATION Iran says US strikes are "a blatant violation" of the deal to end the Middle East war.</p>	<p>STRAIT OF HORMUZ: A VOLATILE LIFELINE</p> <p>UKMTD: "Unidentified projectile" damages oil tanker.</p> <p>Iran warns vessels not to enter/leave the Gulf without permission.</p> <p>Despite flare-up, oil prices fall on hopes traffic through Hormuz will resume.</p> <p>ANALYST TAKE</p> <p>US INCENTIVE: MIITEMS Nuclear negotiators in Washington towards a deal agreement.</p> <p>IRAN'S STRATEGY A deal not in negotiation with controlled pressure in the Strait can work to Iran's advantage.</p>	<p>LEBANON FRONT: FRAGILE AGREEMENT</p> <p>Israel strikes south Lebanon first attack since US-backed framework agreement announced.</p> <p>Agreement includes Lebanese army taking control of two areas & process to disarm Hezbollah.</p> <p>Morisi Bulat Jozani: "begins to put in place a framework for lasting peace".</p> <p>Mitraghali: Israel stays in security zone until Hezbollah is disarmed, unless return.</p> <p>Lebanese President Aoun: "first step" towards return of Lebanese territory.</p> <p>Hezbollah Chief Nassef Nasrallah: Deal is a "great transfer" and legitimizes Israeli occupation.</p>
<p>NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS: KEY STICKING POINT</p> <p>IAEA WARNING Any final US-Iran deal needs strong safeguards to ensure Iran does not build nuclear weapons.</p> <p>DISPUTED ACCESS Tehran and Washington disagree on whether inspectors will regain access to Iranian nuclear sites.</p> <p>IAEA CHIEF RAFAEL GROSS "Iran has declared quite clearly it does not intend to develop nuclear weapons. But intentions are not enough. We need a very strong verification system in place -- as soon as is practicable."</p> <p>ENRICHED URANIUM Interim agreement calls for Iran's enriched uranium stockpile to be "frozen" under IAEA supervision.</p>		
<p>WHAT'S AT STAKE</p> <p>Regional stability: Hanging by a thread</p> <p>Global energy flows: Vulnerable to disruption</p> <p>Diplomatic progress: At serious risk</p> <p>Nuclear non-proliferation: Requires strong safeguards</p> <p>Challengers bear the cost of renewed conflict</p>		

- Iran accuses US of breach
 - US cites shipping attack
 - Hormuz tensions intensify
 - Nuclear talks face uncertainty
- AFP | Tehran

YOU KNOW WHAT

Iran warned vessels against entering the Gulf through the strait without permission while ships continue to move using alternate routes

Iran yesterday accused the United States of violating their deal to end the Middle East war, after Washington launched strikes on Iranian territory and Tehran responded with attacks on US targets in the Gulf.

The trading of fire, which came after Washington accused Tehran of attacking a cargo ship in the Strait of Hormuz, raised doubts about efforts to keep the crucial waterway open while both sides negotiate a final deal.

US Central Command (CENTCOM) said the latest American strikes, which targeted Iranian missile and drone storage sites and coastal radar positions, were a response to "unwarranted aggression against commercial shipping by Iranian forces" that "clearly violated the ceasefire".

Iran said "these brutal attacks... are a blatant violation" of the deal to end the war, which began with US-Israeli strikes on Iran in late February.

Its Revolutionary Guards said they had struck US sites in the Gulf region and that "if the aggression is repeated, our response will be broader".

HA Hellyer of London's Royal United Services Institute think tank said "Iran is likely to continue calibrated, low-level coercive activity in and around the Strait of Hormuz... to create persistent pressure on international shipping without triggering a wider conflict".

He said November's US mid-term elections create "incentives for a quicker agreement"

for Washington, while for Iran, "a drawn-out negotiation accompanied by controlled pressure in the strait can work to its advantage".

Also yesterday, British maritime security agency UKMTD said an "unidentified projectile" damaged an oil tanker in the strait.

CENTCOM described the operation as "a powerful response to yesterday's attack on a commercial ship that was transiting the Strait of Hormuz".

US President Donald Trump had earlier denounced what he described as an Iranian drone strike on the vessel as "a foolish violation of our ceasefire agreement".

Vice President JD Vance said "violence will be met with violence" if Iran carries out any further attacks.

Iran has warned vessels not to

enter or leave the Gulf through the strait without permission, but ships have continued to move, some using a route not authorised by Tehran.

Despite the latest flare-up, oil prices have fallen sharply on hopes that traffic through Hormuz -- through which around a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas travels -- would keep recovering.

Lebanon

In Lebanon, Israel's military said it carried out an airstrike yesterday targeting suspected militants in the south -- the first such attack since Washington announced a framework agreement between the two countries.

Hezbollah drew Lebanon into the Middle East war in March with rocket fire aimed at Israel to avenge the killing of Iran's supreme leader in US-Israeli strikes, and Israel responded with heavy airstrikes and a ground invasion.

Friday's agreement includes a pilot effort in which Lebanese soldiers take control of two areas occupied by Israel, and a process aimed at disarming Hezbollah.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the accord "begins to put in place a framework for lasting peace".

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun welcomed the unpublished framework as a "first step" towards civilians returning home "under the sovereignty of the Lebanese state".



Hezbollah supporters block the old airport road in the southern suburbs of Beirut, with burning tires to protest against the trilateral agreement

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Gulf Priorities in the Gulf-U.S. Ministerial Meeting



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

X

TOP 4 TWEETS

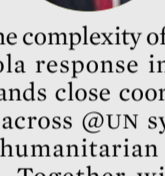
01



The first 72 hours are critical. As rescue teams work to find survivors, @WFP teams are pre-positioning food and lending our logistics capacity to support a full response for the people of #Venezuela. I spoke to @BBCWorld on the situation and need for fast action.

@WFPChief

02



The complexity of #Ebola response in DRC demands close coordination across @UN system and humanitarian partners. Together with @DrTedros, I signed a joint letter to endorse the appointment of Julien Harneis (@julienmh) as a Senior Ebola Coordinator.

@UNReliefChief

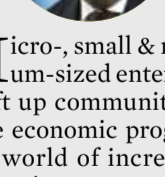
03



In March, Canada forged a new Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with Japan -- and we're already seeing results.

@MarkJCarney

04



Micro-, small & medium-sized enterprises lift up communities & drive economic progress. In a world of increasing uncertainty, we must ensure efficient, safe markets & transportation systems, so these businesses remain engines of prosperity & opportunity.

@antoniogetterres

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

The Gulf-U.S. ministerial meeting in Bahrain should be assessed for its strategic purpose, not for symbolism alone. In diplomacy, timing and venue are part of the message, especially when the agenda is closely tied to ongoing U.S.-Iran negotiations and to wider regional consequences.

The meeting confirmed the Gulf states' role as active partners in shaping the outcome of the negotiations. If the objective is a result that can be verified and monitored, then regional security concerns are not secondary—they are essential to credibility. Gulf states face immediate exposure to regional risk, and their security priorities must therefore inform any framework built around enforcement. Equally important, Gulf security was treated as a specific agenda item rather than a general aspiration. That distinction matters because negotiations that are not tied to clear regional security measures can produce agreements that look complete on paper but remain vulnerable in practice. If verification and monitoring are meant to reduce risk, then security assurances, particularly those related to deterrence and enforcement, must be built into the framework from the outset. Holding the ministerial at this stage in the negotiation process increases the likelihood that its guidance will shape what negotiators pursue. At ministerial level, political direction influences what must be verified, how compliance will be assessed, and what enforcement mechanisms should apply. The meeting therefore helps align regional priorities with the negotiating positions being developed. Follow-on consultations are both likely and necessary. As talks continue, coordination between Washington and Gulf capitals can reduce uncertainty and ensure that regional perspectives remain part of the decision-making process. Bahrain's role as host reflects a clear diplomatic purpose: to integrate Gulf priorities into a negotiation framework that depends on verifiability, monitoring, and enforceable security outcomes.

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

Records tumble as European heatwave moves east



A man takes a shower on the beach in Nice, France

Scores of people have died either through heat-related illness or drowning accidents and emergency services in several countries have said their facilities are saturated.

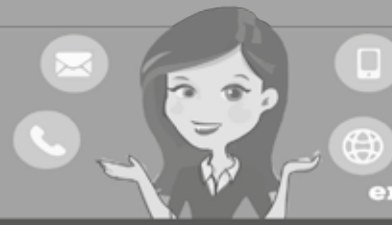
Street parties and music festivals were cancelled in France, Germany and the Netherlands -- though Pride Marches were set to go ahead in Budapest and Munich despite the extreme heat warnings.

And both Switzerland and France had switched off nuclear reactors as the water used for cooling was in danger of overheating nearby rivers.

Tens of millions face a weekend of extreme temperatures in Europe as a deadly heatwave moves eastwards, with German forecasters warning that more records could be broken and eastern countries issuing a slew of red alerts for the coming days.

Almost 200 million were expected to face temperatures of more than 35C yesterday as an unprecedented hot spell that has already seen records tumble in Britain, France, Switzerland drags on.

Classifieds



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CLARUS DECOR W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER(DECOR), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33323007 or ahmedabdulsamad574@gmail.com

CONTINUOUS AUTO SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32117400 or DDD34466@GMAIL.COM

NATIONAL READYMIX CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLERK, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786665 or pro@ncbahrain.com

THE CANADIAN SCHOOL- BAHRAIN COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17322582 or HR@KCBAHRAIN.COM

JABUR HASAN M. ALNOAIMI (MISHEAL ALKHAYR / 7944) has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36999622 or GABR200055@GMAIL.COM

SANA KARAK has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39822984 or E.ALSAEED68@GMAIL.COM

CELESTA EVENTS BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of TRAINER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39740315 or DHIDHIJOY@GMAIL.COM

THE LEGEND SAEED ALSAMMAK TO TRADE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35106381 or saeedalsamak2@gmail.com

LAYLA MOHAMED CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION) GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32332958 or BESTGUIDELINE53@GMAIL.COM

Al Awan Mecanical Work Shop has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17773759 or MO-35MALIK@HOTMAIL.COM

KINGDOM ASPHALT COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17466776 or ABDULLA@KINGDOM.BH

ABU ABDULLA FRAMES CANTRE BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33023151 or dilbarkhan22567@gmail.com

BILAL GOLDSMITH W.L.L has a vacancy for

the occupation of WORKER(JEWELLERY & PRECIOUS METAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37400773 or HAMZA.SHAB-BIR3321@GMAIL.COM

ELITE PARADISE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37400773 or HAMZA.SHABIR3321@GMAIL.COM

M MUZAMMIL SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE) GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35409550 or JIMMY-SHERWANI00@GMAIL.COM

ABDULLA ABDULRAHMAN ALRAYES AND SONS CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELL PULLER (OIL AND GAS WELLS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17252144 or HR@ALRAYESDECOR.COM

AL MAHMOOD PEARLS & JEWELLERY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DESIGNER(JEWELLERY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17225311 or ALMAHMOOD-PEARLS@GMAIL.COM

SANGAM REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33956025 or SELINMATHW08@GMAIL.COM

UNIQUE FACILITY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33306469 or CHIRIVELLAHARIKZ@GMAIL.COM

BAKEMART W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CAKE MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17626183 or hassan.N@almarai.com

BURGER ZOOM W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17004435 or GOURMETBURGERBAH@GMAIL.COM

CONFIDENT MEDICAL CENTER has a vacancy for the occupation of NURSE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33331977 or ALSEANRSAL@GMAIL.COM

MASOOD KHAN INTERIOR DECORATION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34300273 or PRINCEDOHA786@GMAIL.COM

MOHD AKTHAR CONSTRUCTION CO PARTNERSHIP has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34185885 or MOHDAKTHAR2017@GMAIL.COM

CERAMICA WAHAT CITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17410208 or MZAH_80@HOTMAIL.COM

TOP VIEW SECOND HAND GOODS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33643233 or TOPVIEWGROUP@GMAIL.COM

DANALAXMI SUPERMARKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38880916 or NAWALAKHABOURI@GMAIL.COM

ARSLAN BAKER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35437262 or MMFAROOQ130@GMAIL.COM

VIBRANT SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY MAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17008217 or JALALEBRAHIM@GMAIL.COM

BURGER EXPRESS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35414424 or M.MNAWAZ829@GMAIL.COM

Basma Security has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY MAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727676 or aqeel@basma.com.bh

FUTURE EXHIBITIONS & CONFERENCES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION) GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17311212 or futureexhibitions@gmail.com

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INTEGRATED FACILITY MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or proffice@almoayyedcg.com

FAISAL AND BROTHERS INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of

OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33250275 or BBUTTFALSAL@GMAIL.COM

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ALDOOR EXCAVATION & BUILDING CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER/OPERATOR(EARTH MOVING MACHINES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877246 or zainabhr@aldoorbh.com

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AL MOHAMMEDIA AUTO-UPHOLSTERY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of UPHOLSTERER(CAR), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34103333 or Sjbreef5@gmail.com

Bright Trip Garage has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER (CAR MECHANICAL WORKSHOP), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17622653 or BUHUSAYYEN@HOTMAIL.COM

NASIR ELECTRONICS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39322182 or SU7695443@GMAIL.COM

Water Color Interiors (Middle East) W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13699000 or gov@watercolorme.com

MJD CLEANING AND FACILITY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 77087232 or info@mjdgroupbh.com

BEUREX TRADING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36832925 or OPERATIONS@BEUREXTRADING.COM

Shomeli Decor has a vacancy for the occupation of BOOKKEEPER GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39699663 or SHOMELI@BATELCO.COM.BH

ARRAY INNOVATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COMPUTER SOFTWARE SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17344544 or manoj.kk@array.world

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AHMED MANSOOR ALAALI has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17265555 or adeel.hameed@al-aali.com

al enma house for security services W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36633319 or admin@enmabh.com

Secure Me W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17749697 or secure.me@live.com

BIN AL SHAIKH VEGETABLES AND FRUITS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36003956 or THARIQHUSSAINO@GMAIL.COM

JEREH GROUP MIDDLE EAST BAHRAIN Branch of a Foreign Company has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77904677 or ZHONGSHU.GAN@JEREH.COM

AL-SAAD FOR PLASTIC & DETERGENTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33086343 or alsaadplastic123@gmail.com

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

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PASAOUL AND CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33208384 or CMPASAOUL122@GMAIL.COM

FSD SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35386440 or UMARDANISH525@GMAIL.COM

NEWCASTLE CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of GARDENER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17670885 or newcastle51280@gmail.com

Gold medal for sportswear has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33587898 or ALZUBAIDY1967@GMAIL.COM

GURBEJ KANG SING SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34215896 or KANG.BH.786@GMAIL.COM

SHABAZ CARGO HANDLING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34628259 or PDC434@GMAIL.COM

MS COLD STORE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36339023 or MONJURUL3DD@GMAIL.COM

GOURMET BURGER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36020031 or GOURMETBURGERBAH@GMAIL.COM

KHALID TRANSPORT EST. has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17785830 or Khalid@abulfath.com

NASREEN MOHAMED CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39260144 or PONATHSANKARAN@GMAIL.COM

SARGODHA FOOD POINT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34031687 or SADIQKHANNYB@GMAIL.COM

Dream World Construction Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34111999 or sharef.works@gmail.com

ARMONIA SALON & SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39944147 or ZAINAB1986BH@GMAIL.COM

CAFETERIA ALSALAM has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33169704 or WAL-AL-B@HOTMAIL.COM

DGB ADVERTISING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39876905 or accounts@dgbbahrain.com

WALD AHMED CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33376816 or EMANALIJASSIMALAYADHI@GMAIL.COM

CREATIVE STROKE FOR ART W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE), GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34016627 or CREATIVESTROKEFORART@GMAIL.COM

BAHRAIN HEAVEN HOMES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (PROJECT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33910159 or FARHAN.TARIQ7866@GMAIL.COM

NEHAL KHAN FACILITIES SUPPORT BAHRAIN PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36370735 or MAJEEDBH7@GMAIL.COM

INFINITE AUTO SHINE has a vacancy for the occupation of CAR WASHER/CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36656416 or infiniteautoshine1@gmail.com

SUPER FANCY DECORE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34354463 or INFO.TRUEOH@GMAIL.COM

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38080801 or HR@issbh.com

BARISTA SOLUTIONS TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38988575 or yneama@baristasolutions.org

SEVEN STARS SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIR DRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33233083 or YOUNISALEKER@GMAIL.COM

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38080801 or HR@issbh.com

HOUSE OF HAPPINESS FOR MENS MASSAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37777853 or MONAAMIN860@GMAIL.COM

RELAM FASHION HOUSE has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36521868 or FATIMA.ABDULLA@HOTMAIL.COM

WHITE FALCON PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICES Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66626168 or TDAINEH@GMAIL.COM

KEWALRAM & SONS CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17210617 or admin@kewalrams.com

ARGAN DAY SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39818998 or HUS-SAIN1897@GMAIL.COM

AUGUSTO BEAUTY SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36869992 or EMANLOVELY7182@GMAIL.COM

ALDANA ALUMINUM FACTORY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LIGHT VEHICLE DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700911 or lmra@mmtc.com

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R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of SAFETY OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32376386 or ALTRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

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MEGNA COLDSTORE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37152101 or GULFCITY2019@GMAIL.COM

MAKKA RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35148099 or RASHIDJUTT0260@GMAIL.COM

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Wyndham Garden W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66316666 or mannai.hr@mannaitrading.com

DES PERDES RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33371172 or JAMSHIDAKHTAR944@GMAIL.COM

KHAIR MUHAMMAD CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37203404 or SULTANAMIRO97@GMAIL.COM

EVA AERO XPRESS & LOGISTICS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33296996 or MOHAMMEDNESAR78@GMAIL.COM

ELITE CRYSTAL HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17313372 or hrd@dadabhaiconstruction.com

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R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32376386 or ALTRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

Global Lift Services Co W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17280443 or SURESH@GLSBAHRAIN.COM

BAHRAIN PRECAST CONCRETE CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CO-ORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17875600 or JSA@BPC.BH

ALMAHD SCHOOL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TEACHER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17792422 or almahd-school@gmail.com

Seven Energy W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17500791 or hr@seven-energy.com

INSHA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17870077 or Admin@inshacontracting.com

OCEAN SPA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33305676 or ANDY-HOPPE080@GMAIL.COM

NEW GOLDEN RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (RESTAURANTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35953947 or AYANMUHAMMEDKAP-PURATH@GMAIL.COM

YABLAH HUMBERGER CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JUICE & SANDWICHES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33066151 or manafk.k@gmail.com

FEDORA CONTRACTING CO WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39311119 or exp.sev4doc@gmail.com

JUICY LUCY JUICE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JUICE & SANDWICHES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 77904848 or DIVIVEART.BH@GMAIL.COM

JUICY LUCY CAFE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JUICE & SANDWICHES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 77919006 or DIVIVEART.BH@GMAIL.COM

ARMANI MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY ACTIVITIES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLERK, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36677554 or ARMANHADEYA@GMAIL.COM

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Face Mobil Phone Co W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17682892 or HAMAD.SH2050@GMAIL.COM

ALI MOHAMED SALEH ABDALI ABDALI / ALA KAYFIK 6067 has a vacancy for the occupation of FISHERMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39139189 or MABDALI1255@GMAIL.COM

ALREEF ALTAHAMI RESTAURANT AND CAFE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33456807 or nawaf6468413@gmail.com

SHAZY SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34246882 or KHANSHAZY75@GMAIL.COM

ALQAISAR STORES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17293779 or gulfcity2019@gmail.com

ADOLF CLEANING SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34215349 or YASIRBASIRS349@GMAIL.COM

region

Albudaiwi: GCC Supports Bahrain's Security Measures

Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi, strongly condemned the Iranian drone attacks targeting the Kingdom of Bahrain, describing them as a serious violation targeting civilian infrastructure and vital facilities.

Albudaiwi expressed the GCC's firm rejection of the attacks, stressing that targeting



civilian sites and critical infrastructure occurs when regional and international efforts focus on strengthening security, sta-

bility and resolving ongoing crises through dialogue.

He said the continuation of such attacks undermines de-escalation efforts and threatens initiatives seeking to restore peace and security in the region.

The GCC Secretary-General reaffirmed the council's full support for all measures Bahrain takes to enhance its security, protect its sovereignty and safeguard its territorial integrity.

UAE Calls for Immediate Humanitarian Truce in Sudan

The United Arab Emirates called for an immediate and unconditional humanitarian truce in Sudan, urging the international community and the UN Security Council to intensify efforts to end the ongoing conflict that has devastated civilians for more than three years.

Speaking at a Security Council briefing on Sudan, HE Mohamed Abushahab, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the UAE, described the humanitarian situation as catastrophic and warned that continued fighting is deepening civilian suffering across the country.

He said what is urgently needed is an immediate truce between the warring parties to ensure safe, rapid and unhindered humanitarian access throughout Sudan. He noted that such an initiative has been supported by the Quad—Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and the United States—which has also called for a pathway from a humanitarian pause to a permanent ceasefire and a civilian-led political transition.

The UAE diplomat commended the leadership of the United States and acknowledged the efforts of US presi-



dential adviser Massad Boulos, who was present at the meeting.

He urged the Security Council to use all available tools to pressure the conflicting parties into accepting a truce, adding that further measures should be considered if they continue to reject peace efforts.

However, he stressed that a truce alone would not be sufficient, calling instead for a clear, time-bound roadmap toward an independent civilian-led transition in Sudan.

Abushahab welcomed international initiatives involving Sudanese civilian consultations held in Addis Ababa, Berlin, and Oslo. He also praised the African Union's leadership

Sudan's future must be defined by its civilians—including women, youth, civil society, displaced communities, and local leaders—not by armed factions or extremist groups.

HE MOHAMED ABUSHAHAB, AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UAE

and the work of the "Quintet" in supporting an inclusive civilian platform, along with efforts by the UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, Pekka Haavisto.

UAE, Lebanese Presidents discuss regional developments

UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Joseph Aoun, President of the Lebanese Republic, spoke by telephone today to discuss bilateral relations and ways to further strengthen cooperation in support of both countries' interests and the prosperity and wellbeing of their peoples.

The call also covered the latest developments in Lebanon and ongoing efforts to reinforce the country's security, stability, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

President Aoun expressed his appreciation to His Highness for the UAE's support for



Lebanon and its people, and wished the UAE continued progress and prosperity.

The two leaders also reviewed a number of regional issues of mutual interest, particularly developments in the

Middle East. They underscored the importance of continuing efforts to strengthen security and stability and advance peace across the region to support the development and prosperity of its nations and peoples.

Emirati Guard Affiliates Complete Self-Defense Course in Jordan

The self-defense course for personnel from the Emirati Guard and the Special Royal Guard Command concluded at the Special Royal Guard Training School in Jordan.

Assistant Commander of the Emirati Guard, Major General Adel Abdulrahman Al-Kandari, visited the training school and met with Commander of the Special Royal Guard, Brigadier General Khalidoun Abdul Fattah Khalifat.

Major General Al-Kandari attended the graduation cer-



emony and received a briefing on the command's duties, training programmes and

specialised courses. The delegation also observed VIP protection and security exercises and toured the school's training facilities.

At the conclusion of the visit, Major General Al-Kandari commended the high level of preparedness, professionalism and training standards demonstrated by the Special Royal Guard personnel, highlighting the advanced capabilities developed through its training programmes and activities.

Debut delight as Cape Verde reach World Cup last 32



Scenes of celebration after Cape Verde's stalemate with Saudi Arabia

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Cape Verde's fairytale continued in improbable fashion as they reached the knockout stage of the World Cup after a 0-0 draw with Saudi Arabia at Houston Stadium, sealing second place in Group H on their tournament debut.

The African side finished on three points, a total that proved enough to send them through after Uruguay were beaten by European champions Spain, confirming Cape Verde's place in the round of 32. In doing so, they became the smallest country by population, with approximately 525,000 inhabitants, to ever reach the knockout stage of a men's World Cup. They will now face reigning world champions Argentina in their next fixture, scheduled for July 4 at 1am Bahrain time at Miami Stadium.

Their run has been built on resilience from the outset, beginning with a goalless draw against Spain before a dram-

atic 2-2 comeback against Uruguay that kept them in contention heading into the final matchday.

Needing only a point against the Gulf side, Cape Verde produced another defensive masterclass to secure qualification, with clear chances at a pre-match as both sides struggled to break through.

The result completed a remarkable series of milestones. Cape Verde became the first debutant nation to reach the knockout rounds since Slovakia in 2010 and the first African debutants to do so since Ghana in 2006.

They also became the first debutants to go unbeaten in a World Cup group stage since Senegal in 2002 (W1, D2, L0), while Saudi Arabia exited after failing to progress beyond the group stage for the sixth consecutive time.

Veteran goalkeeper Vozinha also wrote his own piece of history, becoming only the third goalkeeper aged over 40 to register multiple World Cup clean sheets.

Russell grabs Austria pole, Antonelli fourth

Russell edges Leclerc and Hamilton after stewards clear controversial final lap

● Verstappen crashes late

AFP | Spielberg

George Russell produced a dramatic late and contentious fastest lap in his Mercedes yesterday to claim pole position ahead of the two Ferraris for Sunday's Austrian Grand Prix.

The 28-year-old Briton, who had struggled to outpace his team-mate championship leader Kimi Antonelli in Friday's practice, swept into the prime grid position with a lap in one minute and 06.113 seconds – including a need to lift through a section of waved yellow flags.

His lap took him 0.236 seconds clear of Charles Leclerc and 0.295 ahead of seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton in a sensational conclusion to a closely-fought qualifying session.

Italian teenager Antonelli qualified fourth after seeing and obeying the double waved yellow flags on his late flying lap by slowing down after four-time champion Max Verstappen crashed in his Red Bull.

"I feel incredible, it was such an amazing lap," said Russell. "I saw the yellow and did a big lift into the corner. It was a single yellow (flag) so it should be okay."

Russell's assessment was con-



Mercedes' British driver George Russell celebrates his Pole position

firmed when the stewards announced no further action was to be taken against Russell.

Despite his crash, Verstappen wound up fifth ahead of defending world champion Lando Norris and his McLaren team-mate Oscar Piastri, Red Bull's Isack Hadjar and the two Racing Bulls

of Liam Lawson and impressive British rookie Arvid Lindblad.

"I'm relatively happy about today," said Leclerc. "The last few weekends have been quite tough so I just wanted a clean weekend and qualifying. Second is a good place to start."

Hamilton said: "To have the



Qualifying took place in extreme conditions, with track temperatures reaching 54°C, prompting Formula One's "heat hazard" protocol allowing drivers to wear cooling vests

two Ferraris in second and third is fantastic and a reflection of the amazing work back at the factory. They've brought small bits here, they've worked hard to upgrade our engine. I'm just really proud of everybody."

The session began with Esteban Ocon leading the way in torrid heat with a track temperature of 54 degrees and the air at 34, conditions that led to the event being declared a 'heat hazard' race that permits drivers to wear cooling vests under their race-suits.

Leclerc congratulated Russell as investigations began and it emerged that Antonelli, who was faster still, had backed off after seeing the signals which, in his case were 'double' waved yellows while Russell had seen single yellows.

Iran stunned as VAR rules out 93rd-minute winner

Egypt Reach World Cup Knockout Stage for the First Time

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Iran were left to rue a dramatic late intervention as Shoja Khalilzadeh's stoppage-time strike was ruled out in a 1-1 draw with Egypt at Seattle Stadium in Group G.

A tense finale erupted into chaos in the 93rd minute when Khalilzadeh bundled the ball home, triggering wild celebrations among Iran supporters who believed they had snatched victory and second place in the group. However, VAR intervened to disallow the goal, ruling the defender marginally offside with part of his boot beyond the last man in the build-up.

The result leaves Iran on three points and still waiting to discover whether they will progress to the round of 32, while Egypt had already secured qualification but missed the chance to top Group G.

The African giants struck first inside five minutes when Mahmoud Saber's low effort squeezed through the grasp of Alireza Beiranvand. Iran responded swiftly and were soon handed a golden opportunity to level when Mohamed Abdel-



Khalilzadeh celebrates a late strike that was later ruled out for offside

monem brought down Mehdi Taremi in the box.

Taremi stepped up, but Egypt

goalkeeper Mostafa Shobeir guessed correctly and produced a strong save to deny the Iran



Iran's goal is chalked off against Egypt at Seattle Stadium

captain.

Iran did not have to wait long for their equaliser. In the 14th

minute, Ramin Rezaeian drilled home from a tight angle after Shobeir had initially kept out

Milad Mohammadi's effort.

Chances flowed at both ends in a lively first half, with Taremi later heading against the post. The Pharaohs, meanwhile, were dealt a blow shortly before the hour mark when Mohamed Salah was withdrawn after appearing to struggle with a knock.

As the game opened up, the Asian side piled forward in search of a winner. Saeid Ezatollahi saw a header crash off the crossbar, while Egypt were forced ever deeper under sustained pressure.

The decisive moment appeared to have arrived in stoppage time when Shobeir misjudged a clearance and Khalilzadeh converted from close range, only for VAR to intervene and rule out what would have been a stunning late turnaround.

There was still time for one final twist, as Ezatollahi again went close with another header against the woodwork, leaving Iran frustrated at the final whistle.

Egypt will now face Australia in the round of 32 on July 3 at 9pm Bahrain time, while Iran's wait continues – unbeaten, but uncertain.

World Cup 2026 knockout stage gets underway



Jonathan David celebrates his hat-trick in Canada's first-ever tournament win

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

South Africa face Canada at Los Angeles Stadium in California tonight at 10pm (Bahrain time) in the first last-32 match of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, with a place in the round of 16 at stake.

Canada finished second in Group B behind Switzerland to book their place in the knockout stage, while South Africa were runners-up in Group A behind Mexico. The winner will face either the Netherlands or Morocco in the round of 16, with a potential quarter-final against favourites France or Germany further down the line.

Bafana Bafana have already created history this summer by reaching the last-32 stage of a World Cup for the first time. Hugo Broos' side began with a 2-0 defeat to Mexico, but responded well with a 1-1 draw against Czechia before sealing qualification with a surprising 1-0 win over South

Korea.

Their return of four points from three matches was enough to finish second in Group A, one point ahead of South Korea. They now prepare to face Canada, having only met once before, a 2-0 friendly win in November 2007. This will be their first competitive meeting, adding another layer of intrigue to the contest.

Canada also progressed to the knockout rounds of a World Cup for the first time, finishing with four points from three matches. They opened with a 1-1 draw against Bosnia and Herzegovina



Teboho Mokoena celebrates South Africa's goal to reach the Round of 32

before producing a dominant 6-0 win over Qatar. However, a 2-1 defeat to Switzerland ultimately denied them top spot in Group B.

Jesse Marsch's side were left to settle for second place, missing out on the advantages that would have come with winning the group. While they will still be viewed as slight favourites on paper, the Canucks must respond after a disappointing final group performance.

It is also confirmed that Canada will not host any further matches in the tournament. After finishing second in Group B,

their remaining games will all be played in the United States. Their Round of 32 clash against South Africa takes place in Los Angeles, with a potential round of 16 tie scheduled for Houston on July 4.

Canadian venues in Vancouver and Toronto hosted group-stage matches only and will not stage any knockout fixtures, with the remainder of the tournament continuing across the United States and Mexico through to the final on July 19.

Team news

South Africa will welcome Teboho Mokoena back from suspension, providing a timely boost in midfield, while Themba Zwane remains unavailable following his red card against Mexico.

For Canada, Ismael Kone is ruled out with a tibia fracture sustained against Qatar, while Alphonso Davies has yet to feature due to a hamstring injury but could return from the bench.

World Cup Schedule (Round of 32)

Today

Time	Match	Venue
10:00 PM	South Africa vs Canada	Los Angeles Stadium

Tomorrow

08:00 PM	Brazil vs. Japan	Houston Stadium
11:30 PM	Germany vs Paraguay	Boston Stadium

(All games in Bahrain time)



Belgium advance with New Zealand rout

● **Trossard nets double for Red Devils**

● **De Bruyne and Lukaku also score**

● **Saelemaekers completes the scoring**

AFP | Vancouver

Belgium defeated New Zealand 5-1 to book their place in the knockout rounds of the World Cup, securing their first win of the tournament to finish on top of Group G in Vancouver.

A double strike from Arsenal's Leandro Trossard and goals from Kevin De Bruyne, Romelu Lukaku and Alexis Saelemaekers carried the Red Devils into the last 32 in first place ahead of Egypt on goal difference.

Egypt claimed the runners-up spot after a 1-1 draw with Iran in Seattle. The Iranians finished third in the group.

Belgium dominated a lopsided first half and had alarm bells ringing in the New Zealand defence early on when Trossard's angled shot cannoned off the inside of the upright only to

be cleared off the line by Tyler Binden.

The Red Devils looked poised to take the lead moments later when Jordanian referee Adham Mohammad pointed to the penalty spot after Trossard's shot hit the arm of covering defender Finn Surman.

But VAR sent Mohammad to the monitor to take another look at the decision, which was subsequently overturned and New Zealand breathed again.

Yet Belgium did not have long to wait before the breakthrough and again it was Trossard who proved to be in the right place at the right time, bundling home from close range after De Bruyne's corner sowed panic in the six-yard box.

Trossard effectively made the game safe five minutes into the second half, controlling a rebound in

a crowded area to volley home past New Zealand goalkeeper Max Cro-

combe at the near post.

De Bruyne then stroked home an elegant low finish in the 66th minute to



Leandro Trossard #10 of Belgium celebrates scoring his team's first goal

Favorites Spain see off 10-man Uruguay



Baena celebrates Spain's winning goal

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Alex Baena scored the only goal as Spain secured top spot in Group H and advanced to the knockout stages of the World Cup with a 1-0 win over 10-man Uruguay at Estadio Gadalajara.

The result confirmed La Roja as group winners and eliminated Uruguay, with Cape Verde's goalless draw against Saudi Arabia sealing second place for the tournament debutants.

Spain will now face the Group J runners-up on July 2 in the last 32 as they continue their pursuit of a third World Cup crown, having last lifted the trophy in 2010.

Baena's decisive strike came three minutes before half-time after an error from Fernando Muslera. Marcos Llorente's delivery picked out Baena,

who took a touch before seeing his shot squirm through the Uruguay goalkeeper's grasp and into the net.

The Uruguay goalkeeper was replaced at the break by Sergio Rochet in a rare World Cup substitution, but Marcelo Bielsa's side were unable to recover.

The European champions controlled the contest with composure, limiting Uruguay's attacking threat while dominating possession. Lamine Yamal again provided a creative spark, while Spain's defensive structure ensured another controlled performance.

The game ended on a sour note for Uruguay, with Agustin Canobbio shown a straight red card in stoppage time for a high challenge on Pau Cubarsi, compounding a difficult evening for the South Americans.

Injured Australian pair Leckie, Italiano out of World Cup

AFP | Oakland

Injured Australian pair Mathew Leckie and Jacob Italiano were ruled out of the World Cup Friday ahead of their last-32 clash with Egypt, leaving the Socceroos to complete the tournament with 24 players.

Striker Leckie, at a fourth World Cup, hurt his hamstring in the Socceroos' 2-0 Group D loss to the United States and did not feature in their 0-0 draw with Paraguay on Thursday.

Right-back Italiano played against Turkey and the United States but injured his groin in training and also missed the Paraguay clash.

"Jacob Italiano and Mathew Leckie will unfortunately miss the remainder of the World Cup through injury," the Socceroos said in a statement.

"Everyone at Football Australia and the Socceroos would like to wish Jacob and Mathew all the best in their recovery and thank them for their contributions during the campaign."



Lukaku's goal made him Belgium's all-time leading World Cup scorer with six goals

make it 3-0, a crucial goal which saw the Belgians leapfrog over Egypt into first place on goal difference.

Yet there was to be a dramatic end when New Zealand's Elijah Just volleyed home a consolation strike from the edge of the area to make it 3-1.

That could have been potentially costly, with the goal suddenly bumping Belgium down into second place.

But Lukaku nodded home his team's fourth in the 86th minute with his first touch just a minute after coming on as a substitute to return Belgium to the top of the table.

Saelemaekers completed the scoring with a shot from the edge of the area.

Winning start for Bahrain at Arab Youth Basketball Championship

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's youth national basketball team opened their 23rd Arab Youth Men's Basketball Championship 2026 campaign with a 60-51 win over Algeria on Saturday in Sfax, Tunisia.

The result gave the Kingdom a strong start to the tournament, which runs until July 6 and features six teams: Bahrain, Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Egypt and hosts Tunisia.

Led by veteran coach Salman Ramadhan, Bahrain edged a fluctuating contest in their opening fixture before pulling away in the final quarter to secure victory.

The game began with a fast start from the Gulf side, who raced into an 11-1 lead in the first quarter through the sharp shooting of Mujtaba Rayyan, including two three-pointers and driving finishes that forced an early Algerian timeout. The North African side responded by tightening up inside and



Onondueni powers in a dunk against Algeria yesterday

capitalising on missed opportunities to cut the gap, though Bahrain still held a 15-12 lead after the opening period.

The second quarter developed into a more physical battle in the paint, with both teams struggling for consistency from range. Algeria gradually took control through turnovers and fast breaks, overturning the deficit to lead 34-27 at half-time.

Ramadhan's side responded strongly after the break, producing a much-improved defensive display in the third quarter. The Bahrainis restricted Algeria's scoring and improved their offensive execution to edge the period 44-43 and regain control heading into the final frame.

In the fourth quarter, Bahrain pulled away decisively, stretching the lead to 11 points behind improved three-point shooting from Hassan Abdulkadir and Mujtaba Rayyan. The Algerians called another timeout, but the Bahraini side held firm to close out a nine-point victory.

Mujtaba Rayyan led all scorers with

16 points, while Somto Patrick added 15 and Hassan Abdulkadir contributed nine in a balanced team performance.

Bahrain's participation in Sfax forms part of their wider development programme ahead of the Gulf Basketball Association (GBA) U18 Championship 2026 in Doha, Qatar from July 17 to 22. The competition will serve as a qualifier for the FIBA U18 Asia Cup 2026 in Ahmedabad, India from August 13 to 23, with the top three teams securing qualification.

The national team now faces a quick turnaround, taking on hosts Tunisia today at 5:30pm (Bahrain time), before meeting Libya on Monday at 1pm. They then have a rest day on Tuesday.

Bahrain resumes action against Morocco on Wednesday at 1pm before concluding the preliminary round against Egypt on Thursday at 3:15pm.

The tournament follows a round-robin format, with the top two teams advancing to the gold medal match and the third- and fourth-placed sides competing for bronze.

Djokovic inspired by Serena as he targets history at Wimbledon



Serbia's Novak Djokovic practices at Wimbledon

AFP | London

Novak Djokovic is taking inspiration from Serena Williams' sensational comeback as he sets his sights on a record-breaking triumph at Wimbledon.

Williams has returned to tennis at the age of 44 and will play her first singles match in four years when she faces Maya Joint in the Wimbledon first round next week.

The American legend has won 23 Grand Slam singles titles in her remarkable career, just behind Djokovic's men's record tally of 24.

Djokovic, 39, is chasing an all-time record of 25 Grand Slam singles titles and Williams' astonishing return -- motivated by a desire to play in front of her two young daughters -- prompted him to seek out the American to discuss her comeback.

"Look, first and foremost, what she's doing is inspirational and it's epic. That's what I told her. I always admired her career, her journey, her

For her to come back after years of being absent from the tour, two children later, and to give so much effort to, not just for her own satisfaction is remarkable

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

story," Djokovic told reporters yesterday.

"For her to come back after years of being absent from the tour, two children later, and to give so much effort to, not just for her own satisfaction is remarkable.

"I told her that whatever happens, what she's doing is truly inspirational for me personally, I'm sure for millions around the world."

Djokovic set the Open Era record for the oldest men's Grand Slam singles finalist when he was beaten by Carlos Alcaraz in the Australian Open showpiece in January.

South Korea edge Bahrain to end reign as AVC champions

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Defending champions Bahrain fell just short of a second successive AVC Men's Cup final yesterday, losing 3-1 to South Korea in the semi-finals in Ahmedabad, India.

After pushing the Koreans all the way in a tightly contested encounter, the Kingdom's national men's volleyball team went down 25-23, 25-22, 23-25, 25-20 at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, ending their title defence but keeping alive hopes of a podium finish.

Opposite hitter Abdulla Ebrahim led Bahrain's scoring with 15 points, while outside hitter Mahmood Abdulwahed added 14, including two service aces. Sayed Hashem Ali contributed 11 points, and middle blocker Hasan Al Warqaa finished with eight points, including four blocks.



Action from the match

South Korea were led by opposite Hojin Shin, who produced a match-high 26 points, while outside hitter Hanyong Jeong added 20 and Jaeyoung Lim chipped in with 12 as the Koreans reached the AVC Men's Cup final for the first time.

Under head coach Ivan Joksimovic, Bahrain battled throughout the contest, narrowly losing

the opening two sets before responding to take the third 25-23. South Korea, however, regained control in the fourth set, pulling away late to seal victory and a place in the final.

The defeat brought an end to another strong campaign for Bahrain, who reached the semi-finals after winning four of their five group-stage matches,

defeating Chinese Taipei, New Zealand, Kazakhstan and Australia to finish second in Pool A behind hosts India.

Joksimovic's side will now face India in today's bronze medal match at the same venue, with first serve scheduled for 1pm (Bahrain time). The national team will be looking to respond after a straight-sets defeat to India in the preliminary round.

Indonesia and South Korea will contest the final later today at 4:30pm (Bahrain time), with Indonesia advancing after a 3-2 semi-final victory over the hosts.

Bahrain remain the reigning AVC Men's Cup champions after lifting their maiden continental title on home soil last year. That historic triumph also secured qualification for the AVC Men's Continental Championship, which will be held in Fukuoka, Japan, from September 4 to 13.

Junior handball team held by UAE in friendly opener

Bahrain's junior men's national handball team began their preparations for the 19th Asian Men's Junior Championship with a 35-35 draw against the hosts United Arab Emirates in a five-nation friendly tournament on Saturday.

The competition, which also features Qatar, Oman and Morocco alongside the hosts, is Bahrain's final build-up ahead of next month's continental championship in Chuzhou, China. A single round-robin format will

see the top two teams advance to the final.

Bahrain trailed 21-17 at half-time after the UAE made the stronger start, capitalising on early attacking opportunities. Coach Hussam Madan's side responded after the break, tightening their defence and improving their finishing to gradually close the gap and secure a draw in a

tense finish.

The team, which travelled to the UAE on Friday, is using the tournament to fine-tune a 20-player squad that includes several members with senior national team experience.

They next face Oman before meeting Qatar in their final group-stage match.

The Asian Cham-

pionship, scheduled for July 15 to 26, features 13 teams and doubles as a qualifier for the 2027 IHF Men's U21 World Championship in North Macedonia. Bahrain has been drawn in Group A alongside China, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Chinese Taipei and Hong Kong.

Bahrain enter the tournament with a strong recent record, reaching the podium in each of the last three editions, including silver in 2022 and bronze in 2018 and 2024.



Action from the match