

# Saudi Gazette

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## Historic Jeddah waterfront project enters 2nd phase to restore its connection to the sea

JEDDAH — The Historic Jeddah Waterfront Rehabilitation Project has entered its second phase, with construction of a 972-meter marine quay currently underway. As a part of the Historic Jeddah Development Program, the project is one of a series of landmark initiatives focused on rehabilitating Al-Arbaeen Lagoon and the surrounding waterfront. It is aimed at enhancing the area's cultural and heritage value while reconnecting it with the sea. The current phase includes dredging and reshaping the Al-Arbaeen Lagoon basin, constructing 490 meters of retaining seawalls, and developing supporting infrastructure in preparation for subsequent operational phases. Other works include environmental remediation and upgrades to marine infrastructure to improve water quality and support the long-term sustainability of the marine environment, while also enhancing the area's tourism and recreational appeal.

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# GCC CHALLENGES IRAN

## How can future ties be built while attacks continue?

■ **Trump says Iran is taking 'too long to negotiate a deal' and 'now will pay the price'**

■ **Saudi Arabia reiterates full solidarity with Bahrain, Kuwait, and Jordan against Iranian attacks**



Iran to be held fully accountable for consequences of attacks for regional security

MANAMA — Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries renewed their commitment to peace, good neighborliness and diplomatic solutions while questioning how future relations with Iran can be built amid continued attacks against regional states. In a statement issued at the end of its 167th Ministerial Council meeting in Manama on Wednesday, the GCC said: "How can future relations be built amid the continuation of these attacks and the insistence on pursuing them?" It warned that continued aggression would only lead to further isolation while the door to dialogue remains open to those who choose wisdom and good neighborliness. The statement was issued as GCC foreign ministers met in Bahrain on a day marked by what the bloc described as a new Iranian attack involving drones and ballistic missiles targeting Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan.

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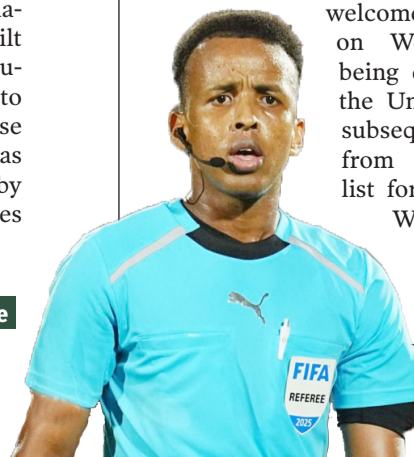
## Manslaughter charges laid over deadly Hong Kong fire

HONG KONG — Authorities in Hong Kong have charged two companies and seven people with offenses including manslaughter, conspiracy to defraud and attempt to pervert the course of justice over the city's deadliest fire in seven decades. The massive blaze engulfed seven apartment buildings and killed 168 people on Nov. 26, 2025. Former residents and relatives of the dead have been waiting for answers for months after the fire shattered the close-knit community of Wang Fuk Court, which housed thousands of people in the suburban district of Tai Po.

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Somali World Cup referee receives hero's welcome after US entry denial

MOGADISHU — Somali referee Omar Artan received a hero's welcome in Mogadishu on Wednesday after being denied entry to the United States and subsequently removed from FIFA's referee list for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.



Investment and communications ministries explore private investment opportunities in AI data centers

RIYADH — The Ministry of Investment, in collaboration with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, organized a specialized workshop on Wednesday to explore investment opportunities in artificial intelligence (AI) data centers.

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