



Palestinians react as they gather at the site of an explosion

## Israeli strikes kill 9 in Gaza

Reuters | Gaza

Israeli airstrikes hit targets across Gaza yesterday, killing a senior commander of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement and prompting vows of retaliation from the group, which said it could hit Tel Aviv in response.

Local health officials said at least nine people, including a five-year-old child, had been killed and 44 wounded in the strikes, which came after days of escalating tensions following the arrest of a Palestinian leader during the week.

An Israeli spokesperson said the military estimated it had killed around 15 "terrorists" but said it did not have a final casualty total.

## Exercise extreme caution

TDT | Manama

The Embassy of Bahrain in Tel Aviv, Israel, yesterday called on Bahraini citizens residing in Israel to exercise extreme caution.

The Embassy asked citizens to abide strictly to security measures announced.

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The Community Police officers in Bahrain yesterday held awareness campaigns and offered their services to mourners and visitors at the mourning areas during the Ashura commemoration. Officers worked to ensure security and community services to contribute to the success of the Ashura Commemoration and promote general safety.

## HM King HRH Prince Salman condole with Philippines President

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday sent condolences to the President of the Republic of the Philippines Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on the demise of former President Fidel Valdez Ramos.

HM King Hamad and His Royal Highness Prince Salman wished President Marcos and the people of the Philippines fortitude to bear the loss.

# China sanctions Pelosi

Beijing halts climate, military ties with US over Taiwan visit

● China staging unprecedented military drills around Taiwan

● 68 planes and 13 warships crossed Taiwan's median line yesterday

● China says it will sanction Pelosi over 'vicious' actions

● Pelosi, in Japan, joins PM Kishida in condemning China

● More than 100 warplanes and 10 warships took part in live-fire military drills



China has decided to sanction US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her immediate family in response to her "vicious" and "provocative" actions. Despite China's serious concerns and firm opposition, Pelosi insisted on visiting Taiwan, seriously interfering in China's internal affairs, undermining China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, trampling on the one-China policy, and threatening the peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait

CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY

TDT | Manama

Tensions over Taiwan with the US found new highs yesterday, with China declaring sanctions on House of

Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi for visiting the island.

Diplomatic relations spiralled further downward, as China's foreign ministry followed up by saying it would cancel dialogues

between the US and Chinese military leaders and suspend bilateral talks on climate and maritime safety.

The US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington

has made it repeatedly clear to Beijing that it does not seek a crisis.

"There is no justification for this extreme, disproportionate and escalatory military response," Blinken said, speaking at a news conference on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum in Cambodia. He added, "now, they've taken dangerous acts to a new level".

China launched its largest ever military drills in the

seas and skies around Taiwan on Thursday, a day after Pelosi enraged Beijing by making a solidarity trip to the island, the highest-level US visitor to Taiwan in 25 years. The live-fire drills are to continue until noon on Sunday.

On Friday, China's military conducted air and sea drills to the north, southwest and east of Taiwan "to test the troops' joint combat capabilities", the Eastern Theatre Command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) said in a statement on its official Weibo account.

Blinken emphasised that the United States would not take action to provoke a crisis, but it would continue to support regional allies and conduct standard air and the maritime transit through the Taiwan Strait. "We will fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows," he said. The White House summoned Chinese ambassador Qin Gang on Thursday to condemn escalating actions against Taiwan, the Washington Post reported.



## Scam alert

## UAE police arrest 5 over knifepoint robberies, fake message parlours

TDT | Manama

UAE police arrested a gang of five Asians for allegedly running a fake message parlour, luring and robbing unwitting customers at knifepoint.

Officers of the Sharjah emirate said the gang advertised the salon as a spa for massages and natural therapy sessions.

However, victims who went to the location advertised on message cards distributed across the



city fell prey to men armed with knives and lost all valuables.

Colonel Omar Al Zoud, the Director of Criminal Investigation at Sharjah Police, said officers opened an investigation based on a tip-off, saying men are distributing message cards in the Rolla area.

Police in the Sharjah emirate of the UAE have arrested a gang of five Asians who allegedly ran a fake message parlor to lure unwitting customers and rob them at knifepoint.

Police then arrested the suspect and raided his accommodation to find boxes of message cards and multiple types of knives.

Police also arrested the rest of the gang members during the investigation.

The suspects, police said, admitted to threatening and robbing victims. Police also released an image of the suspects standing in front of boxes filled with fake message cards.

## BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL TESTED

10188954

ACTIVE CASES

3780

DEATHS

1511

DISCHARGED

656683

NEW CASES

404

CRITICAL

3

220 fils (includes VAT)



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