

News in brief

Tourists, residents evacuated from Grand Canyon due to wildfires



Fast-spreading wildfires have forced the evacuation of part of the Grand Canyon, with the US National Park Service ordering visitors and residents away from its northern rim. "Due to the advancing Dragon Bravo Fire within Grand Canyon National Park, all North Rim residents are now in 'GO' status and should evacuate the North Rim immediately," the National Park Service said in an X post on Friday afternoon. The Dragon Bravo Fire, which was sparked by lightning and has been burning since July 4, was 150 acres (61 hectares) in size Friday evening and zero percent contained, a US government incident report said.

Four migrants died and about 20 were missing after their boat capsized off the coast of the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean, authorities said.

Seventeen migrants were rescued from the boat, which was carrying about 40 people and headed for Puerto Rico, a US territory, according to the Dominican civil defence authority. The Caribbean nation's navy said it had rescued 10 Dominicans and seven Haitians. A child was among the survivors.



4 migrants dead, 20 missing after boat capsizes off Dominican Republic

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Bahrain's youth must dream global!



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

George Bernard Shaw famously said, "Youth is wasted on the young" which implies young people don't fully appreciate or utilize the opportunities and vitality of their youth. As we emerge from the thought-provoking and energetic celebrations of Arab Youth Day on July 5, I want to say that Bahrain's leadership certainly does not subscribe to this idea. Consider these significant indicators:

There is a designated Bahraini Youth Day on March 25 every year.

Such is His Majesty King Hamad's keen interest in youth, that he has instituted the much-prized King Hamad Award for Youth Empowerment. The award, which is given under the umbrella of the United Nations, recognizes the efforts of youth around the world to be active and productive citizens contributing to the well-being of their communities and the environment. It also acknowledges organizations that work to improve the environment and infrastructure for youth to make an impact, across all U.N. member states.

Since 1999, the Crown Princes International Scholarship Programme instituted by Crown Prince & PM, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, has given the brightest and best young minds in Bahrain the opportunity to study at some of the finest educational institutions in the world, thus building a corps of talented, trained and highly educated youth to serve the Kingdom and the world.

Bahraini youth icon, HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, leads many initiatives and projects that have created many opportunities for young people, strengthening their roles in innovation, leadership, and humanitarian work, and allowing them to actively contribute to both current progress and future growth.

We have an active and dedicated Minister for Youth Affairs, H.E. Rawan bint Najib Tawfiqi, whose Ministry works closely with different arms of government to place the aspirations of our youth front and centre of our development.

The successful launch of the "Al Munther" satellite, led by Bahraini youth, highlights their ambition and determination.

The launch and implementation of "The Hope Network" earlier this year, which is a platform for decision-makers in youth empowerment and a commitment to further developing global youth collaboration.

Now, with so many opportunities and initiatives, our Bahraini youth must take their rightful place on the world stage as movers and shakers of the global community. I urge our young people to think global, dream big and put their hearts and souls into making their world and their future meaningful and bright, thus bringing pride to Bahrain.

(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)

Engine fuel switches cut off before Air India crash

Cockpit recording captures pilots' confusion over engine cutoff in final moments

- Fuel switches moved to "cutoff" before crash
- Pilots disputed who moved the switches
- Plane lost altitude quickly after switch

AFP | New Delhi

Fuel control switches to the engines of an Air India flight that crashed shortly after takeoff, killing 260 people, were moved from the "run" to the "cutoff" position moments before impact, a preliminary investigation report said yesterday.

The report, issued by India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), did not offer any conclusions or apportion blame for the June 12 disaster, but indicated that one pilot asked the other why he cut off fuel, and the second pilot responded that he had not.

The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner was headed from Ahmedabad in western India to London when it crashed, killing all but one of the 242 people on board as well as 19 people on the ground.

In its 15-page report, the investigation bureau said that once the aircraft achieved its top recorded speed, "the Engine 1 and Engine 2 fuel cutoff switches transitioned from RUN to CUTOFF position one after another with a time gap of 01 sec".

"In the cockpit voice recording, one of the pilots is heard asking the other why did he cutoff. The other pilot responded that he did not do so," it said.

The aircraft quickly began to lose altitude.

The switches then returned to the "RUN" position and the engines appeared to be gathering power, but "one of the pilots transmitted 'MAYDAY MAYDAY MAYDAY'", the report said.

Air traffic controllers asked the pilots what was wrong, but then saw the plane crashing and called emergency personnel to the scene.

Investigation ongoing

Civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu told reporters that investigators probed in a "mature, transparent" way.

"This is a preliminary report. We want the final report to come in, so let us wait for it," he said.



The back of Air India flight 171 is pictured at the site after it crashed in a residential area near the airport in Ahmedabad

Earlier this week, specialist website The Air Current, citing multiple sources familiar with the probe, reported it had "narrowed its focus to the movement of the engine fuel switches", while noting that full analysis will "take months -- if not longer".

It added that "the focus of the investigators could change during that time".

The Indian agency's report said the US Federal Aviation Administration had issued an information bulletin in 2018 about "the potential disengagement of the fuel control switch locking feature".

Though the concern was not considered an "unsafe condition" that would warrant a more serious directive, Air India told investigators it did not carry out suggested inspections as they were "advisory and not mandatory".

Air India was compliant with all airworthiness directives and alert service bulletins on the aircraft, the report said.

The investigations bureau said there were "no recommended actions to B787-8 and/or GE GENx-1B engine operators and manufacturers", suggesting no technical issues with the engines (GE) or the aircraft (Boeing).

The bureau said the investigation was ongoing, and that additional evidence and information had been "sought from the stake-

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The cockpit voice recorder captured one pilot asking, "Why did you cut off the fuel?"—to which the other replied, "I didn't." The cause of the simultaneous dual-engine shutdown remains unexplained

holders".

'Working closely'

Boeing said in a statement it would "continue to support the investigation and our customer", adding "our thoughts remain" with those affected by the disaster.

Air India said it was "working closely with stakeholders, including regulators."

"We continue to fully cooperate with the AAIB and other authorities as their investigation progresses," it said in a statement on X.

The UN's International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) stipulates that states heading an investigation must submit a preliminary report within 30 days of

an accident.

US and British air accident investigators have taken part in the probe.

Suresh Mistry, who lost his daughter Kinal in the crash, told AFP his family was still coming to terms with the loss.

"How is possible that there is an internal issue with the flight and nobody knew? Even cars these days indicate when there is a problem. How does it not happen on flights?" he said.

Imtiyaz Ali, whose brother was killed along with his wife and two children, said the preliminary report took "nothing forward" for him.

"And (it) is not even close to a closure," he said. "It feels like we are at the same spot, where we were a month ago when the crash happened."

The plane was carrying 230 passengers -- 169 Indians, 53 British, seven Portuguese and a Canadian -- and 12 crew.

Dozens of people on the ground were injured.

One passenger miraculously survived, a British citizen who was seen walking out of the wreckage of the crash, and who has since been discharged from hospital.

Health officials in the Indian state of Gujarat initially said at least 279 people were killed, but forensic scientists reduced the figure after multiple scattered and badly burnt remains were identified.

Pope Leo's Illinois childhood home to become tourist site

AFP | London

Pope Leo XIV's childhood home has been sold to the village where he grew up, which intends to make it a historical site, local media reported Friday.

The modest brick home in the Chicago suburb of Dolton, pop-



Pope Leo XIV

ulation 21,000, was sold by its current owner for \$375,000, WGN television said.

It said the owner had bought the house for \$66,000 last year -- prior to Pope Leo's election as the first American pontiff -- and done extensive renovations.

The Dolton village board of

trustees voted earlier this month to purchase the three-bedroom house and turn it into an attraction open to the public.

According to WBEZ Chicago radio, the parents of Pope Leo -- born Robert Prevost -- bought the house in 1949 and sold it in 1996.