

Kingdom outlines deep concern over Iranian attacks

TDT | Manama

The Permanent Mission of Bahrain to the United Nations has transmitted identical letters to the UN Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council regarding continued Iranian attacks against the Kingdom.

The letter is the fifth official communication submitted by Bahrain in response to the ongoing escalation.

The communication outlines the Kingdom's deep concern over the blatant Iranian aggression against Bahrain's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Mission warned that these attacks represent a serious escalation that threatens regional stability and international peace and security, despite calls by the international community to halt such actions following the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2817.

The letter provides updated information and statistics on the attacks that the Kingdom of Bahrain has been facing since 28 February 2026.

328 projectiles destroyed by BDF air defence systems

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A total of 125 missiles and 203 drones aimed at Bahrain have been intercepted and destroyed since the Iranian attacks began, according to the National Communication Centre.

Nine missiles and 12 drones were brought down yesterday.

The kingdom's military and security bodies are carrying out their work round the clock through Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) air defence systems, as the authorities used a televised briefing to update the public on security and health services.

HM King strengthens security, stability and unity

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The leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, reinforces the foundations of security, stability and national unity in the Kingdom.

This was emphasised by His Excellency General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior, yesterday.

HM King Hamad received a

letter of thanks from H.E. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah, expressing sincere appreciation for His Majesty's visit to the Ministry of Interior.

Visit

The Interior Minister said HM the King's visit to the ministry at this critical time once again reflects the continued support for police officers, in appreciation of their dedication and sacrifices in safeguarding the security and



HM the King

stability of the nation.

He added that the visit strengthened their determination to continue carrying out their national duty and to bear the responsibility entrusted to them, regardless of the sacrifices and challenges.

H.E. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah also said the close ties between the leadership, the people and the security institutions are well established among Bahrainis, who value their coun-

try and His Majesty's leadership.

The Minister noted that the ministry draws guidance from HM King's approach and vision, which emphasise responsibility and determination.

He affirmed the ministry's continued commitment to carrying out its national duties, protecting the country and maintaining its security and stability, in support of the leadership's vision for further progress and development in the Kingdom.

Call of duty

Interior Minister commends Civil Defense for readiness and efficiency amid Iranian aggression

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His Excellency Lieutenant General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior, praised the high readiness, efficiency, professionalism and dedication of Civil Defense personnel during a visit to the General Directorate of Civil Defense yesterday.

The visit was part of ongoing monitoring of the Kingdom of Bahrain's preparedness to deal with the repercussions of the blatant Iranian aggression, which has targeted civilian infrastructure and residents.

Addressing the personnel, H.E. Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah said: "The high response of our Civil Defense teams reflects their commitment to their



national duty and the exceptional skill and efficiency they demonstrate in handling diverse incidents."

He also highlighted the importance of their role in protecting the homeland: "Our responsibilities are a national

he high response of our Civil Defense teams reflects their commitment to their national duty and the exceptional skill and efficiency they demonstrate in handling diverse incidents

H.E. LIEUTENANT GENERAL SHAIKH RASHID BIN ABDULLAH AL KHALIFA, MINISTER OF INTERIOR

trust we are proud to bear, and a humanitarian message we are honored to perform.

"All thanks and appreciation are due to them for their pres-

ence from the first day to repel the aggression and preserve lives and property."

During the visit, H.E. Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah conveyed the greetings and appreciation of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for the personnel's professional and courageous efforts in responding to fires and other incidents caused by Iranian attacks.

Efforts

He emphasised that the Civil Defense's coordinated efforts with the General Directorate of Traffic, the National Ambulance, and volunteers reflect the effectiveness of national institutions working together to safeguard citizens and residents.

H.E. Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah also thanked the Chief of Police, the Director General of Civil Defense, and all police officers for their dedication across various locations, noting that community volunteers play a pivotal role in strengthening public safety.

The Minister offered his prayer for the continued security, stability, and protection of the Kingdom, reaffirming the Ministry's commitment to maintain vigilance and readiness in the face of any emergency or hostile threat.



H.E. Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah holds a meeting with senior members of the General Directorate of Civil Defense

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Food supplies stable

Government authorities and private sectors discuss measures to maintain smooth shipments of essential goods

Neethu V
TDT | Manama

Despite ongoing regional uncertainties, Bahrain's food supply chains continue to remain largely stable, according to officials and market vendors.

To ensure the uninterrupted availability of essential goods, the Food Sector Committee held a comprehensive virtual coordination meeting, bringing together government authorities and private sector stakeholders to review the situation and discuss measures to maintain smooth supply chains.

The meeting highlighted that close coordination with shipping companies helps direct shipments to the most suitable ports, minimizing delays and ensuring a steady flow of supplies.

Khalid Al Ameen, Head of the Food Sector Committee at the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the committee is working closely with government entities and industry partners to safeguard the steady flow of food supplies across the Kingdom.

"We are taking all necessary measures to ensure the smooth flow of food supplies and to prevent market disruptions or ex-



Vendors at Manama's Central Market fresh vegetables

ploitation of current conditions," he said.

Al-Amin highlighted that visits by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to local markets, echoing His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's approach to national stability, motivate continued coordination between public and private sectors.



Bahrain maintains relatively stable prices, with most essential food items remaining affordable compared to other GCC countries.

Additionally, LuLu Group's initiative to facilitate the arrival of over 100 tonnes of essential food items to Bahrain via special



The Food Sector Committee at the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry holds a virtual discussion

repatriation flights operated by the national carrier, Gulf Air, from Dammam is reassuring, underscoring its steadfast commitment to supporting food security in the Kingdom.

Price

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, a vendor at Manama's Central Market said fresh vegetables like tomatoes, cabbage, and lettuce continue to arrive regularly from Saudi Arabia and Yemen, and the initial wave of panic buying has eased.

However, some items that are usually imported directly by air, including tomatoes, onions, and chillies from India, fruits like

blueberries, are currently being routed through Oman or Saudi Arabia before reaching Bahrain.

While this logistical adjustment has led to minor price variations, the overall supply remains steady.

Increase

Lemons have also recorded a modest increase. Tomatoes are currently priced between 350 and 400 fils, while coconut price fluctuates from 300 to 400 fils.

Compared to other GCC countries, Bahrain continues to maintain relatively stable prices, with most essential food items remaining affordable for consumers.

Gold buyers choose 'caution over purchasing'

Regional tensions slow Bahrain's jewellery markets

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

The gold is still shining under the lights of Bahrain's jewellery shops, but the usual buzz of customers has faded.

Traders say footfall in several markets has dropped sharply.

With rising regional tensions and already high prices, many residents appear to be holding back, choosing caution over purchasing.

Globally, gold has recorded its second consecutive weekly decline.

Spot gold fell by 1.2 per cent to 5019.25 dollars per ounce, marking a weekly drop of more than 2.9 per cent. US gold futures for April delivery also slipped 1.25 per cent to \$5,061, extending their weekly losses to about 1.9



per cent.

Outlook

Despite the dip, analysts say the longer term outlook for gold remains supported by its reputation as a store of value.

But the strength of the US dollar and inflation concerns linked to the ongoing war have weighed on expectations that interest rates may be reduced soon, according to Reuters.

In Bahrain, the mood inside the markets reflects this uncertainty.

Prices

In a special interview with The Daily Tribune, traders said prices remain high compared with previous months.

The price of 21K gold approached BD54.500 during the past week, while 24K gold moved beyond BD62. The global

price per ounce has been hovering around \$5096.59.

Traders also say the bullion market is facing a relative shortage. Some shipments of gold and silver bars have been delayed due to airspace disruptions in the region, while shipping and insurance costs have risen.

Hesitation

For one regular visitor to the gold market, the hesitation this month felt unusual.

He told The Daily Tribune that he normally buys a gold bar every month and keeps it as savings for the future. This time, however, he decided to wait.

"I usually buy regularly," he said. "But right now everything feels uncertain. I would rather wait and see what happens."

Metal

Across Bahrain's gold markets, the metal still glows behind the glass counters. But for now, many buyers are simply watching, hoping the days ahead will bring a little more clarity.

45 vehicles seized for public disturbance

Ghadeer Alkumaish
TDT | Manama

Forty-five vehicles have been impounded since the start of the Iranian attack, according to the General Directorate of Media and Security Culture.

The action followed incidents in which drivers caused loud disturbances that spread fear among citizens and residents and disrupted public order.

A number of drivers were arrested, and their vehicles were seized for 60 days.

The directorate made the announcement via its official X account, noting that all necessary legal measures have been implemented.

"In these temporary circumstances, your true character must be revealed through actions," it says.

Speaking on the Ministry of Interior's Al Aman programme, Colonel Dr. Osama Bahar urged residents to show compassion and responsibility toward their families and neighbours during sensitive times.

Col. Bahar stressed that people should be a source of comfort for their families, offering kind and positive words to ease fear and anxiety.

Support

Genuine support within the home, he noted, can help people cope better during periods of uncertainty.

He also highlighted the im-



Colonel Dr. Osama Bahar

portance of being considerate toward neighbours.

Many residents, including children, the elderly, and those who are ill, may already feel anxious, making calm and supportive behaviour within neighbourhoods even more important.

Commenting on the role of neighbours, one citizen told The Daily Tribune that the recent attack in Sitra showed the true spirit of the community.

Comfort

"Since the first day after what happened in Sitra, neighbours have not held back in supporting each other. These moments reveal the true character of a good neighbour. Sometimes kind words from people can heal wounds and bring comfort," she said.

Residents were also urged to avoid unnecessary noise in residential areas.

Crab disappears from kitchens as seasonal ban begins

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

The familiar taste of Bahraini crab will quietly disappear from many Bahraini kitchens over the coming weeks because the Supreme Council for Environment announced the start of the annual ban on catching crab in the Kingdom's territorial waters.

The decision will take effect from today until 15 May 2026 as part of efforts to protect marine wealth and ensure the sustainability of Bahrain's fragile marine environment.

Officials said the measure intends to protect crab stocks during their breeding season, allowing populations to recover and maintaining the ecological balance of the sea.

The council also stressed that fishermen must comply with the ban, warning that illegal crab catching during the period could lead to legal action.

Fishermen who accidentally catch crabs in their equipment during the ban are urged to return them to the sea immediately and handle them carefully to ensure their survival.

For many Bahrainis, crab is

more than just seafood. It often appears on the table grilled, fried, mixed into fresh salads or even served inside sushi rolls, making it a familiar flavour in homes and restaurants alike.

A seafood trader said that during previous ban periods he usually imported crab from Oman or India, sometimes even at slightly lower prices than local supply.

Worker wins BD1,000 in unlawful dismissal case

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Claims that a worker leaked clients and kept company property were thrown out by the High Civil Court, which awarded him BD1,000 after ruling that a logistics firm had ended his job without lawful cause.

The court ordered the company to pay BD500 in notice pay and a further BD500 in compensation for wrongful termination. It also ordered it to pay costs and BD100 in legal fees.

Lawyer Taqi Hussain brought the case for the worker, who had joined the company in 2024 under an open-ended contract as a work supervisor on a monthly wage of BD500.

He told the court his job was ended in June 2025 without lawful cause, without proper notice and without payment of his labour dues.

The company said the dismissal was justified.



Taqi Hussain, lawyer

It told the court the worker had broken his duties, disclosed company secrets and passed current clients to a rival business.

It also said a criminal complaint had been filed over a Galaxy S24 Ultra handset which it said had been handed to him during his employment and not returned.

To make its case, the company filed an internal inquiry report said to contain the worker's admission, papers showing he had been suspended from work, a copy of the criminal complaint, and records which it said showed he had been told of his dismissal and of a salary deduction linked to the missing phone.

Evidence

Two witnesses also gave evidence for the company. One told the court the worker had passed clients to another company and had admitted the breaches during an internal inquiry.

The second gave evidence to much the same effect. The court was not persuaded.

It said the employer had failed to prove that the dismissal was lawful, and found that the contract had been ended by the company alone, without lawful cause and without the required notice period.

Revenue debate

Proposals to move additional public income into state budget face opposition

● Shura Council faces vote on nursery law changes today

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Three draft laws due before the Shura Council today would force more state-linked income into Bahrain's general budget and add new nursery-related offences under the Child Law.

However, two Shura committees have urged members to vote down the proposals.

One of the budget bills would place within the general budget all revenues of public bodies and institutions, along with the state's returns from funds managed and invested by Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company.

The other would require the government to transfer at least 50 per cent of the state's net profits from Mumtalakat and Bapco Energies into the budget.

A third bill would amend parts of the Child Law of 2012 to spell out nursery breaches in sharper terms and make it a criminal offence to open, run, move or alter a nursery without the approval of the Ministry of Education.

Rejection

The Financial and Economic Affairs Committee recommended rejection of the two budget bills, while the Women and Child Affairs Committee urged rejection of the Child Law amendment.

In its report, the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee



said the proposed budget changes run against Decree-Law No. 39 of 2002 on the general budget, which already keeps some funds outside budget transfer rules under other laws.

It also said the move could cut into the financial and administrative independence granted to public bodies and institutions under Article 50(a) of the Constitution, taking the law in a direction that does not sit with Bahrain's current financial system.

Aim

The committee said the stated aim of keeping watch over the money of state-owned firms is already met under the law as it stands.

Companies wholly owned by the state already fall under Article 4(e) of the Financial and Administrative Audit Office law (National Audit Office), while Article 55 of the General Budget Law requires them to submit



The third bill amendment would make it a criminal offence to open, run, move or alter a nursery without the approval of the Ministry of Education.

their budgets and final accounts to the Finance Minister.

On that view, the draft laws add no new means of scrutiny and instead repeat rules already in force.

It also warned that the plan could bring the reverse of what it seeks.

Once these firms are drawn into the budget in the proposed way, the state could also end up carrying their spending and losses.

Gap

That would push up public spending and, in turn, widen the fiscal gap.

The committee said the financial effect would need to be studied in full before any such step is taken.

Its report said bodies granted separate legal personality under their founding laws, and run under special financial systems, were given that standing because of the nature of their work and the need for room to manage it.

The point of separate budgets, it said, is to let such bodies run their own resources and support the sectors under their care without loading the state budget with the cost of their activities.



The worker was dismissed in June 2025 without lawful cause, without proper notice and without payment of his labour dues.

Medicine price caps 'already in place'

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Patients travelling to Saudi Arabia for cheaper medicine prices have driven a proposal in Parliament that the government says is already covered by caps on profit margins and routine checks on pharmacies.

In a written reply, the government said the aim of keeping medicine prices within reach was already dealt with under Bahrain's existing rules on pricing, labelling and inspection.

It said the current system was meant to ease the strain on patients, keep medicine on shelves and preserve fair trade in the market.

The government said Legislative Decree No. 18 of 1997 gives



MP Bader Al Tamimi

the Supreme Council of Health the power to fix the highest profit allowed in the trade of medicines and pharmaceutical products.



Rate

That margin is worked out from the true cost shown in official invoices, with the rate

falling as the price of the medicine rises.

It added that it remained committed to easing costs for citizens and making medicine

easier to obtain, while keeping "balance in the pharmaceutical market" and ensuring a continued supply of high-quality drugs.

It said the rules were later reinforced by Decision No. 32 of 2020, which governs how medicines are registered, priced and displayed for sale.

Profit

Under that system, the highest profit margin for imported medicines is 35 per cent for drugs priced below BD20 and 25 per cent for those priced at BD20 or more. The import price is based on official CIF invoices.

Pharmacies must also display the approved retail price on each medicine or pharmaceutical item in Arabic and English.

Six arrested for glorifying Iranian hostile attacks

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Interior announced that the Cybercrime Directorate of the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption, Economic and Electronic Security has arrested six individuals for publishing video clips that glorified the effects of Iranian aggression.

The clips, circulated via social media, allegedly sympathized with hostile acts, spread false information, and incited attacks on sites in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Authorities said the videos had the potential to mislead public opinion, create fear among citizens and residents, and threaten security and public order.

Legal procedures have been completed, and the six individuals have been referred to the Public Prosecution.

The Ministry of Interior urged the public to rely on official sources for information and warned against circulating or republishing unreliable videos or news, emphasizing that doing so could lead to legal problem.

Karzakan Grand Mosque rebuilding on track

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The rebuilding of Karzakan Grand Mosque has moved well beyond the early paperwork stage, with the govern-

ment saying the last building permit is now being sought before work on site begins.

In its written reply to an urgent proposal from Parliament calling for the mosque to be demolished and rebuilt without

delay, the government said all key engineering and legal steps had already been dealt with.

These include registering the scheme, drawing up plans and technical details, and securing the demolition licence.

It said work is still being done to obtain the final construction permit so that building can start, with the aim of getting the project done quickly and to a good standard.

The government added that

the Sunni and Jaafari Waqf Directorates are acting within the powers given to them under Decree No. 6 of 1985, which governs the Sunni and Jaafari Waqf Councils and their administrations.

Remittance relief

Government rejects calls for 48-hour hold on overseas money transfers amid anti-fraud push

● **Authorities support proposal to tighten cybercrime safeguards**

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A 48-hour delay on money transfers abroad has been ruled out by the government, even as it gave its support to a proposal aimed at stepping up the fight against cyber fraud.

In a written reply to Parliament, the government said it agreed with the wider aim of shielding citizens and residents from online scams through stronger public awareness, closer work between state bodies, banks and telecom firms, and added layers of protection across the digital sphere.

It described public awareness as a key part of dealing with cyber fraud, which it said had grown more varied and harder to spot.

Awareness

The reply said awareness drives had already been carried out through websites, social media, television, radio and state platforms, in several languages, so the message could reach all parts of society.

These campaigns focused on explaining newer scam methods, how people can avoid be-



Public awareness is a key part of dealing with cyber fraud, which has grown more varied and harder to spot

GOVERNMENT'S WRITTEN REPLY TO PARLIAMENT

ing caught out, and how such crimes can be reported.

Officers from the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security have also taken part in media programmes meant to spread what the government called a culture of digital caution.

It said work was also under way with academic bodies and research centres to build aware-

ness plans based on sound data and newer digital tools, including advanced analysis, so messages reach the right groups more effectively.

Lectures and workshops have also been held for different sections of the public to help people spot cyber fraud and protect themselves.

Coordination

The government said the Ministry of Interior had joined coordination meetings with bodies including the Consumer Protection Directorate, commercial banks, financial audit firms and exchange companies to share expertise and study stronger joint action against cybercrime.

It added that a committee bringing together the Ministry of Interior, the Central Bank of Bahrain and the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority had been formed to draw up



shared plans covering awareness, technical measures and regulation.

It also pointed to steps already taken in the telecoms field. Operators, it said, have been required to verify users' identities before activating SIM cards through biometric checks such as fingerprints or facial recognition, in a move aimed at curbing forgery and impersonation.

System

The reply also referred to a unified system to tackle fraudulent calls reaching landlines, along with shared technical fixes between telecom firms to cut fake calls made to mobile phones from outside Bahrain.

In another move, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority prepared a guidance paper laying down technical and regulatory rules to curb fraudulent text messages.

Eid countdown sparks surge in henna bookings

Ghadeer Alkumaish
TDT | Manama

With Eid just around the corner, the countdown has begun and finding a henna appointment can be stressful.

Most henna artists are fully booked, and even salons have clients waiting for hours.

Traditionally, henna is applied no more than three days before Eid to ensure the color lasts, while some types like black and white henna need to be done just one day before for the perfect result.

Henna, also known as Mehndi, has a history spanning over 5,000 years.



Traditional henna

Cooling

Different countries have also developed unique styles: India and Pakistan are known for intricate floral and paisley patterns, Morocco for bold geometric designs, and Gulf countries for delicate, flowing lines that highlight elegance.

Over time, it became an essential part of weddings, religious celebrations, and festivals like Eid, symbolizing joy, luck, and prosperity.

Henna comes in different colors and styles.

Designs

Brown henna gives a natural reddish-brown stain, black henna creates a bold look (though often with additives), and white henna has become a modern favorite, offering striking temporary designs.

Decoration

If you want your hands Eid-ready and beautifully decorated, don't wait until the last minute.

Book your appointment now to secure your spot, and celebrate the festival with hands that reflect tradition, art, and style.

Henna is not just decoration it's a timeless story of beauty and culture.

Push for 'lasting fix' to Wadi Al Buhair mosquito problem

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Stagnant water in Wadi Al Buhair, long blamed for swarms of mosquitoes and insect bites, is to be tackled through drainage works, waste removal and pest control after the government backed a parliamentary call for a lasting fix.

In its reply to Parliament, the government said it agreed with the aim of the proposal and said work was already under way to deal with water pooling in the area.

It linked the issue to a wider plan to treat parts of Wadi Al Buhair as protected natural ground, saying efforts were being made both to cut standing water and to curb the spread of insects.

Among the steps listed were drying stagnant pools, clearing waste, spraying insecticides with environmentally friendly materials and stepping up checks on disease-carrying pests.

Pond

The government also said a water storage pond, around 200 metres in diameter, was being built in the first phase of the Wadi Al Buhair scheme to collect rainwater and groundwater, with the pond tied to a main



drain leading to Tubli Bay.

It said floating aeration devices were being added to keep gathered water moving, while drains and outlets feeding the storage pond were being maintained, along with rainwater channels meant to carry overflow towards the outfall in Sanad.

Public awareness drives are also being carried out to cut water build-up and household waste and to advise people on mosquito breeding spots, bites and means of prevention.

The government said it was 'not sparing any effort' to solve the problem of water pooling in Wadi Al Buhair and to secure 'a safe and sustainable environment' for residents while

protecting the area's natural diversity.

Support

The proposal had already won support from Parliament's Public Utilities and Environment Committee, which in October 2024 urged approval of the request for what it called a radical solution to the gathering of water in the area.

The committee said the problem had led to the spread of mosquitoes and insects, causing distress to residents and leaving them exposed to repeated bites.

The proposal was put forward by MPs Khalid Buanaq, Zainab AbdulAmeer, Mohammed Al Rifai, Mohammed Al Maarefi and Waleed Al Doseri.

The gathering of water in the area had led to the spread of mosquitoes and insects, causing distress to residents and leaving them exposed to repeated bites.

It called on the government either to fill in the area or turn it into a nature reserve in a way that keeps water moving and stops it from stagnating and drawing insects.

Orbit of achievement

Bahrain marks first anniversary of Al-Mundhir satellite launch today

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Space Agency (BSA) is celebrating the first anniversary of the launch of the Bahraini satellite Al-Mundhir, which entered orbit on March 15, 2025.

The satellite continues to operate successfully, marking a milestone in the Kingdom's growing space program.

His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Asiri, CEO of BSA, said the launch was a historic achievement by Bahraini engineers and young professionals, adding Bahrain to the list of nations with space capabilities.

"Al-Mundhir is more than a satellite; it symbolizes the ambition, innovation, and determination of Bahraini youth," he said.

Expertise

Dr. Al-Asiri highlighted that the project aimed to develop national expertise in satellite design, assembly, testing, and operation, forming the foundation of a promising space industry in Bahrain.

Aisha Al-Haram, Head of the Satellite Design and Construction Department and Project Manager of Al-Mundhir, shared key statistics: the satellite passed over Bahrain more than 1,083 times and completed over 5,840 orbits around Earth at speeds of about 7.5 kilometers per second, main-



Al-Mundhir is more than a satellite; it symbolizes the ambition, innovation, and determination of Bahraini youth.

H.E. DR. MOHAMMED IBRAHIM AL-ASIRI,
CEO OF BAHRAIN SPACE AGENCY (BSA)

taining stability while capturing images and collecting data.

Al-Haram emphasized that the first year of Al-Mundhir is just the beginning of a more ambitious phase.

Forward

"Bahrain's space program is moving forward, driven by national talent, clear strategy, and a focus on sustainable development and national security," she said.

Dr. Al-Asiri concluded by expressing gratitude to the Kingdom's leadership and all BSA staff, saying: "The sky of Bahrain knows no limits. With determination and God's help, we will achieve even greater accomplishments in space."

LuLu brings over 100 tonnes of food essentials via Gulf Air Repatriation Flights



TDT | Manama

Reaffirming its ongoing commitment to supporting food security in the Kingdom, LuLu Group has facilitated the arrival of more than 100 tonnes of food essentials into Bahrain through special repatriation flights

The supplies have been sourced from multiple international markets including Kochi, Mumbai, London and Thailand - and will be distributed across LuLu stores in Bahrain.

operated by the Kingdom's national carrier, Gulf Air, from Dammam. So far, nine flights have ar-

rived carrying a range of food items, including fresh fruits and vegetables, meat, juices, coconut water, grocery items, pulses

and bottled water. The supplies have been sourced from multiple international markets including

Kochi, Mumbai, London and Thailand - and will be distributed across LuLu stores in Bahrain.

Similar LuLu-led cargo initiatives helped transport 160 tonnes of food essentials from India to the UAE through special cargo operations by Emirates, and 82 tonnes of food essentials to Kuwait via Kuwait Airways

- reflecting the group's coordinated efforts to support stable food supplies across the GCC.

Yusuffali M. A., Chairman of Lulu Group reaffirmed that, Lulu has taken comprehensive measures to maintain adequate food stocks and ensure price stability across its stores, emphasizing that there is no cause for panic.

Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Co. and Takaful International offer frontliners up to 30% discount on personal insurance

In Appreciation of Their Service during exceptional circumstances

Manama

Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company (BKIC) and Takaful International Company have announced a special offer to recognize and appreciate the dedication and service of frontliners working with the Bahrain Defence Force, National Guard, Ministry of Interior, and Ministry of Health in the King-

dom of Bahrain. Mr. Yousif Al Hamar, Director of Personal lines & Quality Control at Takaful International Company

dom of Bahrain.

Under this offer, eligible frontliners will receive up to 30% discount on Comprehensive Motor Insurance and Home Insurance policies, applicable to both new policies and renewals, with terms and conditions applicable. The offer will be available until June



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TAKAFUL INTERNATIONAL CO.

2026, in recognition of the vital role these personnel play in protecting the Kingdom and safeguarding the community. This gesture reflects the companies' strong sense of national pride and appreciation for the men and women who continue to serve on the front lines to ensure safety, security, and wellbeing across the Kingdom of Bahrain. Commenting on the an-

nouncement, Mr. Abdulrahman Al Musalli, Chief Marketing Officer at Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company, said: "We are proud to extend this offer as a gesture of appreciation to the Kingdom's frontliners who dedicate themselves to protecting our nation and its people. Their commitment, courage and sense of duty play a vital role in maintaining the safety and stability of the Kingdom of Bahrain. Through this initiative, we aim to recognise their invaluable service and express our sincere gratitude for their continued efforts in safeguarding our community."

Mr. Yousif Al Hamar, Director of Personal lines & Quality Control at Takaful International Company, added: "Frontliners represent the spirit of dedication

and responsibility that contributes to the safety and wellbeing of our society. This offer reflects our appreciation for their service and our commitment to supporting those who work tirelessly to protect the Kingdom and its people. We are honoured to rec-

Mr. Abdulrahman Al Musalli, Chief Marketing Officer at Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company

ognise their efforts and remain committed to initiatives that serve the community and support the nation."

Through such efforts, Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company and Takaful International continue to reinforce their commitment to supporting the community and contributing to national efforts that recognize the individuals who serve and protect the Kingdom of Bahrain.



Ithmaar Bank continues to provide banking services to corporate clients

Manama



Ithmaar Bank has the capability and capacity to continue providing banking services to its clients under any circumstances

ITHMAAR BANK CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MAYSAN ALMASKATI

Ithmaar Bank, a Bahrain-based Islamic retail bank, continues to provide all banking services to its corporate clients with the same level of efficiency and effectiveness, ensuring to meet their needs with flexibility and security during the recent development in the region.

"Ithmaar Bank has the capability and capacity to continue providing banking services to its clients under any circum-

stances," said Ithmaar Bank Chief Executive Officer, Maysan Almaskati. "This is a result of our continuous investment to build a strong, advanced and secure digital infrastructure that enables corporate clients to complete almost all their banking transactions online," he said.

"Ithmaar Bank continues to work as per the Central Bank

of Bahrain's guidance to ensure providing its banking services to corporate clients and the safety of its operations," said Almaskati. "This reflects the Bank's commitment to maintaining the highest levels of efficiency and best practices. We also confirm the Bank's readiness to support all its clients and provide them with a full range of banking and financial services," he

said. "We would like also to express our sincere appreciation to the leadership of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the CBB and all relevant authorities for their continuous guidance and support," said Almaskati. "We are confident in the measures and actions taken by the government to ensure Bahrain's security and stability."

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

A "Breathalyser" for this war!



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

The roar of modern warfare is often measured in casualties and territorial shifts, but its most insidious toll is written in the atmosphere. Beyond the immediate devastation of infrastructure, present-day conflicts are environmental catastrophes that choke the planet long after the guns go silent.

When missiles strike fuel depots and industrial hubs, they release a toxic cocktail of particulate matter, heavy metals, and carcinogens. Military hardware itself—massive, carbon-intensive machines—contributes to a staggering carbon footprint that remains largely exempt from international climate tallies.

In active war zones, the air becomes a thick shroud of "war dust," a mixture of pulverized concrete, chemicals, and explosives that settles into the lungs of those trapped in the crossfire.

Yet, atmospheric data reveals a startling paradox in regional air quality. Despite the proximity to regional volatilities, recent studies indicate that the air quality in major Gulf cities remains significantly better than that of some large cities in Asia during its "peacetime." While the Gulf faces seasonal dust storms, other large cities air is frequently saturated with a lethal density of crop-burning smoke and industrial smog that exceeds World Health Organization limits by twentyfold. It is a sobering reminder that systemic, everyday pollution in a peaceful metropolis can, at times, rival the atmospheric toxicity of a combat zone.

The ultimate victims of this environmental degradation—whether from the smoke of war or the smog of industry—are children. Their smaller bodies and faster breathing rates make them uniquely vulnerable. In conflict zones, children are innocent bystanders inhaling the remnants of destroyed cities; in polluted capitals, they inherit stunted lung development and chronic asthma. They are the silent stakeholders of a world they did not break, forced to breathe the consequences of adult failures.

Protecting the environment is not a secondary concern to be addressed after "more urgent" geopolitical issues; it is a fundamental human right. Until we recognize that clean air is a prerequisite for life, we will continue to sacrifice the health of the next generation at the altar of conflict and unchecked industrialization.

(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 Counterterrorism)

UAE says consulate in Iraqi Kurdistan targeted

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The UAE slammed the targeting of its consulate in Iraqi Kurdistan for the second time in a week, the foreign affairs ministry said in a statement yesterday. "The United Arab Emirates expressed its strong condemnation and denunciation of the treacherous terrorist attack by a drone, which targeted the UAE Consulate General in Iraqi Kurdistan, for the second time in a week, and resulted in the injury of two security personnel and caused damage to the consulate building," it said.

Reza Pahlavi, the US-based son of Iran's last shah, said on social media that he was ready to lead a transition "as soon as the Islamic Republic falls"



Smoke rises from the direction of an energy installation in the Gulf emirate of Fujairah

'Decisive phase', says Israel

Turkey says fears Netanyahu might commit 'new genocide' in Lebanon

Istanbul, Turkey

Turkey expressed deep concern Saturday over Israel's ongoing strikes on Lebanon over concerns it would commit "a new genocide" under the guise of fighting Hezbollah.

"We are frankly concerned (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu is moving toward a new genocide under the pretext of fighting Hezbollah," Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said, urging the international community to "take immediate action".

Iranian envoy says Ukraine support to US and Gulf states is a 'joke'

Kyiv, Ukraine

Iran's envoy to Ukraine, Shahriar Amouzegar, dismissed the support Kyiv has offered to the United States and its Gulf allies, advertising its expertise in destroying Iranian-designed drones launched by Russia.

"As for the actions Ukraine is taking in the Middle East against drones, we essentially consider them nothing more than a joke and a showy gesture," Amouzegar told AFP in an exclusive interview.



US forces struck Kharg Island on Friday, from which nearly all of Iran's oil is exported, with Trump saying they had "obliterated every MILITARY target", though sparing its energy facilities. Iran had threatened that US-linked oil and energy firms would be "turned into a pile of ashes" if they were hit.

Iran urges UAE residents to stay away from ports

Tehran, Iran

Iran's military warned Saturday that it considers ports in the United Arab Emirates to be legitimate targets and urged residents to avoid them, in a statement carried by state TV.

Tehran "considers it its legitimate right to defend its national sovereignty and territory by striking American enemy missiles located in ports, docks and US military hide-outs" in the UAE, the military's central operational command, Khatam Al-Anbiya, said.

The statement urged civilians to "evacuate" port areas.



The Malta-flagged cruise ships Aroya Manara and MSC Euribia are anchored at the port of Dubai

US media raised the possibility of American troops on the ground in Iran, with the New York Times and Wall Street Journal reporting the Pentagon had dispatched the Japan-based amphibious assault ship USS Tripoli to the region along with around 2,500 Marines.

Iran says museums and historic sites damaged in war

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran's cultural heritage and tourism ministry said Saturday at least 56 museums and historic sites across the country have been damaged, as the Middle East war entered its 15th day.

In Tehran, US-Israeli strikes damaged the UNESCO-listed Golestan Palace in the early days of the conflict, local media reported.

The palace complex is one of the oldest sites in the Iranian capital and once served as the residence of the Qajar dynasty.

The ministry said Tehran has recorded the highest number of damaged monuments,

with 19 suffering varying levels of harm.

The vast Naghsh-e Jahan Square, a 17th-century architectural jewel in the heart of the central Iranian city of Isfahan, has also been damaged.

In the port of Siraf, in Bushehr province, several houses were hit in the historic quarter, home to many century-old buildings.

UNESCO, the UN's culture agency, told AFP on Friday it was concerned about hundreds of historic sites in Iran, Israel and Lebanon that have been damaged or threatened by the war.

Kharg exports 'normal'



Oil export operations from Iran's Kharg island in the Gulf were "continuing as normal" after US strikes on the crude export hub which caused no casualties, said regional official Ehsan Jahaniyan, quoted by the IRNA news agency.

The Fars news agency, citing sources on the island, earlier reported there had been no damage to oil facilities after Trump said US strikes had destroyed only military targets.



Smoke rises from the direction of an energy installation in the Gulf emirate of Fujairah as M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) conducting live-fire missions during "Operation Epic Fury" at an undisclosed location.

399 BC 590

Philosopher Socrates is sentenced to death by the city of Athens for corrupting the minds of the youth of the city and for impiety

Khosrau II, the last great Sasanian king, is crowned King of Persia

Soviet Union Leaves Afghanistan

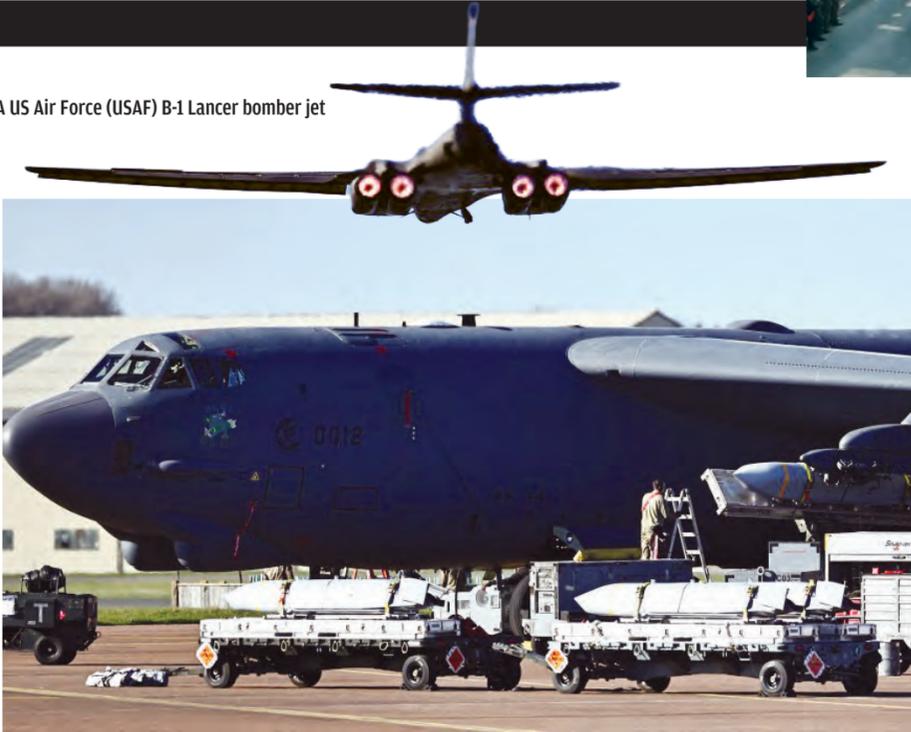


Soviet military occupation of Afghanistan ends as the last Soviet troops cross the Soviet-Afghan border

1989 2001

First draft of the complete human genome is published in the journal "Nature"

A US Air Force (USAF) B-1 Lancer bomber jet



USAF military personnel load AGM-158 joint air-to-surface standoff cruise missiles onto a US Air Force B-52 Stratofortress bomber, affixing them under the wing, at RAF Fairford in south-west England

US embassy attacked in Baghdad, strikes hit Iran-backed fighters

Baghdad, Iraq

The US embassy in Baghdad was hit by an attack on Saturday following strikes that killed three members of a powerful Iran-backed group in the capital, security sources said.

A cloud of black smoke rose above the US diplomatic mission shortly after the sound of explosions on Saturday morning, an AFP journalist said.

Two security officials told AFP the embassy complex was struck by a drone.

It is the second time the US embassy has come under attack in Baghdad since the

start of the war.

The attack on the embassy took place shortly after two strikes targeted the powerful Iran-backed group Kataeb Hezbollah in Baghdad and killed three of its members, including a commander.

The first strike hit a house in the Arasat neighbourhood, where several Iran-backed groups have a presence. Two hours later, a second attack struck a vehicle in the Nahrawan district.

Security sources initially said two group members had been killed, including "a key figure" in the house, and another in the attack on the vehicle.

Traffic still halted in Hormuz

Drones cause damage, injuries near US base in Kuwait: ministry

Kuwait City, Kuwait

Two drones targeted an air-base in Kuwait housing US military staff, injuring Kuwaiti personnel and causing dam-

age, the defence ministry said on Saturday.

"Three members of the armed forces sustained minor injuries" after the attack on Ahmed Al-Jaber Air Base,

spokesperson Brigadier General Saud Al-Otaibi said in a statement. The base is near Camp Arifjan, a major US facility.

Hamas appeal to Iran: The Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas urged Iran to refrain from targeting Gulf neighbours, many of which have supported its cause. It was a rare breach between the allies, though Hamas affirmed Tehran's right to defend itself.

On a visit to Beirut, UN chief Antonio Guterres said "diplomatic avenues are available" to end hostilities.

US President Donald Trump urged other nations to help secure a vital shipping lane choked off by the war with Iran that showed no signs of slowing yesterday as strikes hit the US embassy in Baghdad and a major Emirati energy facility.

The war has also spilled into Lebanon, where the health ministry says Israeli strikes have killed hundreds, as Israel fought the Tehran-backed Hezbollah once again.

Oil prices have surged by 40% as Iran has choked off the vital Strait of Hormuz and attacked Gulf energy facilities.

Clouds of black smoke rose on Saturday over Fujairah, home to a major Emirati oil storage and export terminal, AFP journalists saw, shortly after Iran's military warned UAE civilians to avoid

port areas.

Having earlier vowed that the US Navy would "very soon" start escorting tankers through the Strait of Hormuz, Trump appeared to call for reinforcements on Saturday.

"Many countries... will be sending War Ships, in conjunction with the United States of America, to keep the Strait open and safe," he wrote on Truth Social, saying China, France, Japan, South Korea, the UK would "hopefully" be among them.

Blasts were heard by AFP journalists over Jerusalem after the military detected missiles launched from Iran on Saturday.

Qatar evacuated downtown areas and intercepted two missiles, with

blasts heard by AFP journalists.

Iran continued to face heavy bombardment with local media reporting strikes in several provinces through Saturday.

Israel's military, meanwhile, warned people in an industrial zone of Tabriz in northern Iran to evacuate, signalling an imminent attack.

Iran's health ministry says more than 1,200 people have been killed by US and Israeli attacks, numbers that could not be independently verified, while up to 3.2 million people have been displaced, according to the UN refugee agency.

Trump described Iran as "totally defeated" and in search of a deal he was unwilling to consider.

More than 15,000 targets in Iran have been hit by the US and Israel, the Pentagon said. A report this week said the first six days alone cost the US \$11.3 billion, while 13 military personnel

have died in the war.

An F-15E Strike Eagle aircraft taking off for a mission during Operation Epic Fury at an undisclosed location



Iran threatens US companies in region if energy facilities hit: FM

Tehran, Iran

Iran will target the facilities of American companies in the region if its energy facilities are attacked in the US-Israeli war against the Islamic republic, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Saturday.

"Iran will respond to any attack on its energy facilities," state television quoted him as saying after US attacks

on military infrastructure on Iran's crude oil export hub of Kharg Island.

"If Iranian facilities are targeted, our forces will target American companies' facilities in the region, or companies in which the US holds shares," he warned, while vowing that Tehran would "act cautiously to ensure that densely populated areas are not targeted".



Demonstrators burn a poster depicting Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and US president Trump while taking part in a rally organized by the "Social No" committee to denounce the war in Iran, to oppose the Meloni government and to also mobilise support for a "No" vote in the justice referendum in Rome

Iran top diplomat says 'no problem' with supreme leader after reported injuries

Washington, United States

Iran's foreign minister said yesterday that there was "no problem" with the Islamic republic's new supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei, who US officials say was wounded.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told MS NOW's Ayman Mohyeldin "there is no problem with the new supreme leader. He sent his message yesterday, and he will perform his duties." Iranian officials have

previously confirmed reports that the new leader is wounded but have given no further detail. Khamenei, 56, has not been seen in public since the airstrike that killed his

father and predecessor as supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, and several key family members. But on Thursday, he issued a written statement, in which he said his wife, sister, her child and his brother-in-law were killed.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Global military expenditure just hit \$2.7 trillion - in a single year. According to @UN estimates, ending world hunger by 2030 would require \$93 billion annually. That means we spend almost 30 times more every year on killing each other than on making sure everyone eats. Numbers don't lie. Our priorities do.

@DrTedros

02



#ServingForPeace in Lebanon, @UNIFIL peacekeepers remain in position. They are maintaining an impartial international @UN-Peacekeeping presence to fulfill the mandate entrusted to them by the Security Council. I pay tribute to their courage & reiterate: Attacks against peacekeepers are completely unacceptable. They are in breach of international law & may constitute war crimes.

@antonioguterres

03



Thank you @EmmanuelMacron for organising a call with G7 partners to discuss a coordinated response to the concerning situation in Iran and the Middle East. We are focused on minimising the impact on security and the global energy market.

@vonderleyen

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

M. P. Ahammad, Chairman of Malabar Group, conferred Business Bhushan Award 2026 by Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis

Manama

Mr. M.P. Ahammad, Chairman, Malabar Group, has been honoured with the prestigious Business Bhushan Award at the Lokmat Maharashtra of the Year Awards 2026, in recognition of his visionary leadership and pivotal role in transforming the global jewellery retail landscape and society at large.

Held at the iconic Gateway of India, the awards ceremony brought together leading policymakers, industry leaders, and prominent personalities from business and entertainment. The event was attended by the Chief Minister, Sri. Devendra Fadnavis, and Deputy Chief Minister, Sri. Eknath Shinde of Maharashtra, alongside Mr. Asher O, MD-India Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, other ministers, bureaucrats, and distinguished figures from across sectors.

The awards celebrate individuals whose vision, leadership, and achievements have significantly shaped industries while contributing meaningfully to society. Mr. Ahammad's recognition highlights his remarkable entrepreneurial journey and the role he has played in building Malabar Gold & Diamonds to



become the 5th largest global jewellery retailer and the largest jewellery retailer of Indian origin.

Expressing his gratitude on receiving the honour, Mr. M.P. Ahammad, Chairman, Malabar Group, said, "I am deeply honoured to receive the Business Bhushan award at the Lokmat Maharashtra of the

Year Awards. This recognition reflects the collective dedication of the entire Malabar family and the trust our customers have placed in us over the years. Our journey is founded on the principle of collective growth of all our stakeholders guided by responsibility, integrity, and a commitment to creating lasting value for society while

continuing to pursue excellence in everything we do."

Founded in 1993, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has been a pioneer in fostering responsible and transparent jewellery retail, contributing significantly to employment generation, strengthening the organised retail ecosystem, and enhancing customer experience through

access to world-class designs and services.

425 showrooms across 14 countries

Today, the brand stands as a true flag bearer of India, showcasing the nation's craft and soul to the world through its 425 showrooms across 14 countries. The brand has reimagined

the jewellery industry by integrating the entire value chain, from design and manufacturing to retail and beyond.

Maharashtra remains a key market for Malabar Gold & Diamonds, now with 34 showrooms across major cities. This growth has boosted employment, strengthened the organised jewellery ecosystem, and improved access to quality designs. His substantial contribution to the state earned him this honour, and the Group is committed to further expansion, targeting 64 stores in Maharashtra by 2029.

Beyond business growth, Mr. Ahammad advanced a purpose-driven model by embedding CSR/ESG commitments into the company since inception, consistently contributing 5% of profits to education, healthcare, housing support and women's empowerment programmes, benefiting the society across regions of operations.

His recognition with the Business Bhushan Award further reinforces his stature as one of India's most respected business leaders whose entrepreneurial vision and values-driven leadership serve as an inspiration and a blueprint for collective progress for future global enterprises.

Two India-bound tankers cross Strait of Hormuz: shipping ministry

● The tankers "Shivalik" and "Nanda Devi", carrying around 92,700 metric tonnes of LPG, are expected to arrive in the next couple of days and are bound for the western ports of Mundra and Kandla.

AFP | New Delhi, India

Two Indian-flagged tankers carrying liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) have safely passed through the Strait of Hormuz, India's shipping ministry said Saturday, marking a rare exception in the critical naval chokepoint disrupted by the Mideast war.

"They crossed the Strait of Hormuz early morning safely and are en route to India," Rakesh Kumar Sinha, India's special secretary of the ministry of ports, shipping and waterways



A cargo ship is pictured off coast city of Fujairah, in the Strait of Hormuz in the northern Emirate

told reporters at a news briefing in New Delhi on Saturday.

The tankers "Shivalik" and "Nanda Devi", carrying around 92,700 metric tonnes of LPG, are

expected to arrive in the next couple of days and are bound for the western ports of Mundra and Kandla.

As supplies dwindle, New Del-

hi ordered tighter controls Tuesday over natural and cooking gas following import disruptions.

India's Ministry of Petroleum said the new rules would "ensure equitable distribution and continued availability for priority sectors".

The ministry ordered that LNG supplies be prioritised to supply households, transport sectors and the production of LPG.

Indian industries including several ceramics and tile firms have already said they are facing a cutback in gas supplies that could impact production.

While restaurants and hotels across India have also warned of disruptions to operations, after a separate ministry order on Monday prioritised the domestic LPG supplies to households.

The safe passage of the two Indian vessels follows talks between New Delhi and Tehran in recent days.

Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar made two posts to X this week confirming talks with his Iranian counterpart, Abbas

Araghchi.

He said the pair had "agreed to remain in touch" after having a "detailed conversation... on the latest developments regarding the ongoing conflict" in the Middle East.

In a later post Jaishankar said the pair discussed "bilateral matters" and "BRICS related issues".

On Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he spoke with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and discussed the transit of goods and energy from the Gulf.

Safe harbour

India has also given safe harbour to 183 sailors from Iranian vessel, IRIS Lavan, that docked in the southern port of Kochi after the war broke out.

On Friday, India's Foreign Ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal told reporters that the non-essential crew of IRIS Lavan, boarded a chartered flight in Kochi in southwest India that had flown from Sri Lanka.

The Iranian-chartered flight was carrying the remains of 84 sailors from Iranian frigate IRIS Dena which was sunk by a US submarine earlier this month just off the coast of Sri Lanka.

The flight arrived in Armenia early Saturday local time, flight-tracking app FlightRadar24 showed.



India is the world's fourth largest buyer of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and second-largest buyer of LPG, which is used for cooking and predominantly sourced from the Middle East.

US, Ecuador sign trade deal cutting tariff rates

AFP | Quito, Ecuador

The United States and Ecuador have agreed to reduce tariff rates between the two nations, officials said, as countries seek to navigate US President Donald Trump's sweeping tariff campaign.

The agreement was signed on Friday in Washington by US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and Ecuador's Minister

of Production, Foreign Trade and Investment Luis Alberto Jaramillo following 10 months of negotiations.

The two countries had unveiled a framework in November to slash tariffs on a number of goods after Trump imposed a range of global reciprocal tariffs last year.

The United States is Ecuador's leading trade partner. Ec-

cuadoran exports to the United States totaled \$6.8 billion in 2025, while imports amounted to \$9.1 billion, according to the Central Bank of Ecuador.

Ecuador has pledged to "reduce or eliminate tariffs in key sectors" for the United States, including health products, motor vehicles and some agricultural products, according to the White House.

US says can provide 'reliable' energy supply to Asia-Pacific

AFP | Tokyo, Japan

The United States can provide "reliable" energy supplies to Asia-Pacific, US Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said Saturday, as the Middle East war cripples the region's oil and gas flow. Oil and gas prices have surged since US-Israeli strikes on Iran killed its supreme leader and plunged the Middle East into war. The conflict has virtu-



ally halted traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, a key transit point for oil and gas -- the vast majority of which is destined for Asia.

US President Donald Trump's

"energy dominance" policy aims to ensure that "we have energy to allow for prosperity at home, and we have the ability to sell energy to our friends and allies," Burgum told an event in Tokyo bringing together 17 countries from the region.

That ensures the region has a "reliable, affordable and secure" energy supply that "can't be interrupted by a terrorist regime," he said.

Classifieds



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Iran 'not taking responsibility' for missile fire on Turkey: FM

AFP | Istanbul, Turkey

Turkey's top diplomat said Saturday that Iran was denying responsibility for firing ballistic missiles towards Turkey despite evidence from technical data.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said he had spoken with his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi after NATO defence systems on Friday shot down another ballistic missile from Iran -- the third in nine days.

"Once again, they are not taking responsibility for this incident. They claim they did not order any such attack, nor are they linked to it," Fidan said.

"Of course, there is technical data available... and we are discussing the discrepancy between their statements and the reality with them," he said, adding it was being discussed at a diplomatic and military level.

Turkey would resist all provocations, but as a nation its deterrence capacities were "extremely strong", he warned,

saying: "We always know exactly where and when to use our strength."

NATO shot down a first ballistic missile from Iran on March 4, with a second intercepted on Monday, March 9. Iran denied involvement in both.

US troops are stationed at two Turkish bases which are key NATO facilities: Incirlik near the southern city of Adana, and Kurecik in central Turkey where they man an early-warning radar system that can detect Iranian missile launches.



A photograph shows the site of an overnight Israeli airstrike that targeted the Haret Hreik neighbourhood of Beirut's southern suburbs

UN chief urges international community to 'step up' support for Lebanon

Kharg Island: Vital Iran oil hub in Trump's crosshairs

AFP | Paris, France

Kharg Island, targeted in US air strikes on Saturday, is a scrubby stretch of land in the Gulf that handles almost all of Iran's crude exports.

Announcing the strikes, US President Donald Trump described Kharg as a "crown jewel" for Iran and maintained that every military target on the island had been "totally obliterated".

The island, located around 30 kilometres (19 miles) off the Iranian mainland, is a hub for roughly 90 percent of Iran's crude exports, according to a JP Morgan note released earlier this month.

Analysts had warned an attack could have major repercussions for the now fortnight-long conflict between the US and Israel and Iran, which began with air strikes that killed supreme leader Ali Khamenei on February 28.

Iranian strikes have all but halted maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz -- through which a fifth of global crude oil and liquefied natural gas normally pass -- and have also impacted oil infrastructure in other Gulf states.

Trump wrote on Truth Social that for "reasons of decency, I have chosen NOT to wipe

out the Oil Infrastructure on the Island."

But he warned: "However, should Iran, or anyone else, do anything to interfere with the Free and Safe Passage of Ships through the Strait of Hormuz, I will immediately reconsider this decision."

Ehsan Jahaniyan, deputy governor of Iran's southern Bushehr province, quoted by the IRNA news agency, said Saturday oil companies "at this export terminal are continuing as normal" and there were no casualties.

Kharg underwent key developments during Iran's oil expansion in the 1960s and 1970s, with much of the country's coast too shallow for supertankers.

Iran has looked to diversify its export capabilities by opening the Jask terminal outside the Strait of Hormuz chokepoint in the Gulf of Oman in 2021, but Kharg remains "a critical vulnerability" for Iran, JP Morgan said.

"It is a cornerstone of Iran's economy and a major source of revenue for the Iranian Revolutionary Guards," JP Morgan added, referring to Iran's well-resourced ideological army which has major economic interests.

"Very difficult"

There had also been speculation among observers that were US ground forces to look to deploy inside Iran then Kharg would be an obvious first staging post.

Trump has given no indication that such a move could be forthcoming.

Farzin Nadimi, senior fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said Washington could move to seize the island when hostilities end, but that it was "not a wise move" during combat when Kharg is "almost an entire island of oil facilities and pipelines and tank farms".

"It is very difficult to wage a military operation on that particular island," he told AFP last week.

But other oil infrastructure could be in the crosshairs, with Trump repeatedly referencing his operation to topple Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro and gain access to the country's oil reserves in January as a blueprint.

Iran -- the fourth-biggest crude producer within the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) -- vowed not one litre of oil would be exported from the Gulf while the war continues.

Nine-man Bayern fight to draw at Leverkusen

AFP | Leverkusen, Germany

Leaders Bayern Munich held on for a 1-1 draw at Bayer Leverkusen despite finishing with nine men in an eventful Bundesliga clash on Saturday.

Second-placed Borussia Dortmund's comfortable home win at Augsburg drew them nine points behind reigning champions Bayern with eight games to play.

Alex Garcia's goal gave Leverkusen the lead and Bayern striker Nicolas Jackson saw red before half-time.

Luis Diaz levelled things up but picked up a second yellow card for diving in the box.

Bayern held firm to grab a point, even as Leverkusen had two efforts chalked off in stoppage time.

Bayern also had strikes from Jonathan Tah and substitute Harry Kane ruled out by VAR for handball in a sometimes manic match at the BayArena.

"It was a poor performance from the referee," Bayern coach Vincent Kompany told DAZN.

"Why he (Diaz) gets a red card, nobody in the stadium knows anymore, it's insane..."

"Someone needs to explain to me why that's a yellow card at that stage of the game."

"It's a huge blow and he'll be out for the next game."

Garcia finished off a fluid team move to put Leverkusen ahead six minutes in, the Spain midfielder collecting a Patrik Schick pass and chipping the ball over third-choice Bayern goalkeeper Sven Ulreich, playing with Manuel Neuer and Jonas Urbig out injured.

Former Leverkusen centre-back Tah looked to have levelled things up midway through the first half when he found the net from a corner, but VAR intervened.



Bayern Leverkusen's Cameroonian forward #35 Christian Kofane, Bayern Munich's German defender #04 Jonathan Tah and Bayern Munich's French defender #02 Dayot Upamecano vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match between Bayer 04 Leverkusen and FC Bayern Munich in Leverkusen, western Germany

elled things up midway through the first half when he found the net from a corner, but VAR intervened.

Bayern's hopes took a further hit when Jackson saw red for sinking his studs into Martin Terrier's ankle just before the break.

With 30 minutes left, Bayern brought Kane on as a substitute after his recent absence with a calf knock and the England captain thought he had scored in just 47 seconds later, but again VAR spotted a handball.

Diaz finally grabbed Bayern a leveller when he guided a pinpoint Michael Olise pass in with 69 minutes gone.

Chasing a winner, the Colombian went down in the box under light contact from Leverkusen

keeper Janis Blaswich and was shown a second yellow for diving.

Down to nine men for the first time since 2001, Bayern dug deep despite their numerical disadvantage in the dying stages to cling on for a point.

Dortmund inch closer

Dortmund moved two points closer to Bayern with Karim Adeyemi and Luca Reggiani both getting on the scoresheet in a 2-0 home win over Augsburg.

"We really enjoyed it today. We controlled the game," Dortmund's Felix Nmecha told DAZN.

Adeyemi gave Dortmund the lead in the 13th minute, turning in a Maximilian Beier pass from close range.

Stodgy and uninspired in beating a 10-man Cologne last week, Dortmund showed fluency in attack, although Adeyemi and Beier took turns in hitting the crossbar before the break as Augsburg stayed in the game.

But just before the hour mark, 18-year-old centre-back Reggiani headed in a Julian Ryerson corner for his first Bundesliga goal.

The victory took Dortmund to 58 points, one more than their final total last season.

Elsewhere, Arnaud Kalimuenzo scored as Eintracht Frankfurt beat lowly Heidenheim 1-0.

Wolfsburg's bid to beat the drop took a hit in a 1-1 draw at Hoffenheim which left them stranded in the relegation zone.

Atletico beat Getafe as Abqar sent off for touching Sorloth's crotch

AFP | Madrid, Spain

Atletico Madrid scraped a 1-0 win over Getafe in La Liga on Saturday, with the visitors reduced to 10 men when Abdel Abqar was sent off for touching Alexander Sorloth in a sensitive area.

Nahuel Molina's thunderbolt from distance helped third-place Atletico cut the gap to the top two, but the bizarre incident early in the second half involving Getafe defender Abqar was the biggest talking point.

The Moroccan, who insisted he did not mean to touch the Atletico striker's crotch, appeared to pinch the Norwegian, who threw him

to the floor angrily.

"It was not my intention to touch the player in this area," Abqar, who was dismissed after a VAR review, told Movistar.

"You see it in every game, and in football, we're touching, clashing and everything, but I never thought about touching him in that area..."



don't know what the referee saw but you can see it clearly and I swear that I never thought about touching him there."

Abqar explained he was trying to touch Sorloth's stomach, "as you do sometimes to know where your opponent is".

Atletico coach Diego Simeone rotated his line-up ahead of Wednesday's Champions League last 16 second leg trip to Tottenham, but was still able to secure a sixth win in the last seven matches across all competitions.

The Rojiblancos, third, moved within six points of second-place Real Madrid, who host Elche later on. League leaders Barca, fourth points clear of Los Blancos, host Sevilla Sunday.

Defender Molina's superb strike, lashed into the top corner from over 25 yards out at Getafe's Argentine defender #24 Zaid Romero (L) vies for the ball with Atletico Madrid's Spanish midfielder #14 Marcos Llorente during the Spanish league football match between Club Atletico de Madrid and Getafe CF at Metropolitano Stadium in Madrid

ter eight minutes, was enough to split the teams at Atletico's Metropolitano stadium.

It was a more taxing clash than their rollicking 5-2 victory over Tottenham in midweek.

Sorloth could have doubled Atletico's lead but nodded Alex Baena's cross against the post at the end of a razor-sharp counter-attack.

Getafe's afternoon took a turn for the worse 10 minutes into the second half when Abqar was dismissed for seeming to grab at Sorloth's groin.

"These are things that happened 30 years ago, the referee was right to sent him off," said Atletico goalkeeper Juan Musso.

"Before you could do this (in football), now there is no place for these things."

Despite Atletico's numerical advantage the visitors had the better of the second half and created good chances to equalise.

Bahraini Volleyball Feud Ends in Reconciliation



Nasser Anan and referee Jaafar Al Muallem unite in the presence of BVA President Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

A heated confrontation that rocked Bahraini volleyball earlier this year has finally been resolved, as referee Jaafar Al Muallem and national team captain Nasser Anan reconciled after months of tension following a controversial clash in the 2025-26 Isa Bin Rashid League. The incident, which occurred during a senior men's match between Muharrag Club and Dar Kulaib on January 30, led the Bahrain Volleyball Association (BVA) to issue two-season suspensions and fines, reflecting the league's strict stance on misconduct.

The breakthrough came during the final days of Ramadan, a time emphasizing reflection and goodwill, when the BVA hosted a mediation session at its headquarters. Federation officials guided a conversation in which grievances were aired and perspectives exchanged, allowing both parties to see the situation through each other's eyes. By the end, a mutual understanding cleared the path for their return to professional duties.

For Anan, the session offered a chance to acknowledge

past mistakes and recommit to his team and the sport he loves. Al Muallem viewed it as an opportunity to rebuild trust within the volleyball community and resume refereeing with renewed authority. Following the meeting, Al Muallem will return to officiating and the referees' committee, while Anan will rejoin Muharrag for the remainder of the league's second round.

BVA officials called the reconciliation a turning point, highlighting that discipline remains essential but that dialogue and understanding are vital in resolving conflicts. The session repaired the professional relationship between referee and player and sent a broader message about sportsmanship, respect, and unity in the game.

Both Al Muallem and Anan expressed gratitude for the opportunity to reconcile, and the BVA hailed the session as proof that dialogue can bridge even the deepest divides in competitive sports. For fans, players, and officials, it reaffirmed that the spirit of the game extends beyond the court, where professionalism and humanity can coexist even in high-stakes moments.

Russian sports minister defends return of flag, anthem to Paralympics

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russian sports minister Mikhail Degtyarev on Saturday defended the return of the Russian flag and anthem to the Paralympics for the first time since 2014, amid a backlash from Ukraine and some European countries.

A decision to allow six athletes from Russia to compete under their national flag and anthem in Milan-Cortina despite the ongoing four-year war on Ukraine sparked outcry in Kyiv and several European capitals.

According to the Russian minister, the athletes felt no pressure at the Winter Games. "The masses have always supported Russia, and we can feel that at every international competition," Degtyarev said in a written statement to AFP.

"When the Russian flag is raised and the Russian national anthem is played, no one feels allergic (to them)," added the official, who also heads the Russian Olympic committee. Commenting on an inci-

dent at the Paralympics when German athletes turned their backs on the Russians on the podium during an awarding ceremony, he said it was "appalling" and "unsportsmanlike".

Still, Degtyarev said it was an "isolated incident" and those who try to boycott Russia are a "minority".

Russian athletes have so far won nine medals, including five golds, climbing to the fifth place in the medal table.

The Milan-Cortina Paralympics closing ceremony will take place on Sunday.

At the opening ceremony last week, the Russian team were booed by some spectators and Ukraine, along with a handful of European countries, have boycotted the event.

Ukraine had condemned the International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) decision to reinstate several Russian and Belarusian athletes under their national flags for the 2026 Games as "disappointing and outrageous".

Kimi Antonelli takes Chinese GP pole, youngest in F1 history

AFP | Shanghai, China

The 19-year-old Italian Kimi Antonelli took pole position for the Chinese Grand Prix on Saturday, becoming the youngest driver to achieve the feat in Formula One history.

Antonelli led a Mercedes front-row lockout along with George Russell and erased the record of Sebastian Vettel, who was 21 when he took pole for the Italian Grand Prix in 2008.

The Mercedes duo, as in Australia last weekend, have been dominant in Shanghai.

Antonelli blasted round in 1min 32.064sec on his final qualifying lap, 0.222sec ahead of championship leader Russell, who had won the sprint race earlier in the day.

"It was a pretty clean session," said Antonelli. "No mistakes and looking forward to the race tomorrow."

The Ferrari pair of Lewis Hamilton and Charles Leclerc will fill the second row of the grid for Sunday's race after qualifying third and fourth.

Then, on a two-by-two grid, came the McLarens of Oscar Piastri and world champion Lando



Mercedes' British driver George Russell (front L) leads at the start of the sprint race ahead of the Formula One Chinese Grand Prix at the Shanghai International Circuit in Shanghai

Norris.

Max Verstappen was only eighth fastest, continuing a very unhappy weekend in a clearly struggling Red Bull.

'Damage limitation'

Pierre Gasly was seventh in the Alpine with the second Red

Bull of Isack Hadjar ninth and Oliver Bearman's Haas rounding out the top 10.

Russell had got stuck in gear on his opening out lap in Q3 and had to return to the pits.

After the problem had been fixed it left him time for just one

flying lap and he was unable to eclipse his teammate.

"Really happy for George who had an issue there," said Antonelli of his teammate.

Russell said he was relieved to have set a lap time right at the end of the session.

1st row

Kimi Antonelli (ITA/Mercedes), George Russell (GBR/Mercedes)

2nd row

Lewis Hamilton (GBR/Ferrari), Charles Leclerc (MON/Ferrari)

3rd row

Oscar Piastri (AUS/McLaren), Lando Norris (GBR/McLaren)

4th row

Pierre Gasly (FRA/Alpine), Max Verstappen (NED/Red Bull)

5th row

Isack Hadjar (FRA/Red Bull), Oliver Bearman (GBR/Haas)

6th row

Nico Hulkenberg (GER/Audi)

"Definitely damage limitation," said Russell.

"In Q2 the front wing broke, and then in Q3 I stopped out on track and then couldn't change gear," he said.

"On the last lap I had no battery, no tyre temp or anything. The team did a really good job. Just really happy to be standing here. It could've been much worse."

Ferrari have been quick out of the blocks at the start of races so

far and Hamilton said he would be eyeing up the two Mercedes in front of him on Sunday.

"I'm sure we'll have some fun, I'm looking forward to it," said the seven-time world champion.

The six failing to make it into the top-10 shootout for pole position were Nico Hulkenberg in an Audi, Franco Colapinto's Alpine, Esteban Ocon (Haas), Liam Lawson and Arvid Lindblad of Racing Bulls, and Gabriel Bortoletto (Audi)

Eliminated in Q1 were the Williams pair of Carlos Sainz and Alex Albon, both Aston Martins, driven by Fernando Alonso and Lance Stroll, and the two Cadillacs, in the hands of Valtteri Bottas and Sergio Perez.

Russell earlier won a thrilling sprint race after a back-and-forth scrap in the opening laps with Hamilton, who eventually finished third behind Leclerc.

It enabled the Mercedes driver, who won the opening race in Australia, to extend his championship lead to 11 points over teammate Antonelli and Leclerc. Hamilton is a further four points back.

Sunday's grand prix will be raced over 56 laps of the 5.451km Shanghai International Circuit.

Manama Stun Najma in Epic Comeback to Reach Final

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Manama club completed a stunning comeback to defeat Al Najma 77-75 last night and sweep their best-of-three semi-final series in the 2025-26 Khalifa Bin Salman Cup.

The victory sends Manama through to the tournament final after they recovered from as many as 17 points down and produced a dramatic late surge at Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town.

After taking game one last Friday, Manama needed another big effort to finish off their opponents, but Najma looked in control early on.

They took a 26-19 lead at the end of the first quarter and extended their advantage in the second period while holding Manama to just 10 points in

the frame, going into the break ahead 42-29.

Najma continued their strong play after the interval and pushed their lead to as many as 17 points in the third quarter. Manama, however, slowly chipped away at the deficit heading into the final period.

The turnaround came midway through the fourth. Three-pointers from Hasan Nowrooz sparked the rally, while Ali Jaber and Ahmed Salman added key baskets as Manama edged ahead.

Najma stayed within a single possession late, but Manama held on through a tense finish.

Manama's Ali Jaber was named the game's most valuable player after finishing with 15 points, nine rebounds, five assists and a steal, playing a crucial role down the stretch. Alex Young and Salman also made



Manama's Hassan Nowrooz celebrates after taking the lead in KBS semifinal

timely contributions.

Donovan Smith led Najma's charge but their early advantage ultimately slipped away.

With the win, Manama advance to the championship series where they will face the winners of the other semi-final between Al Muharraq and Al Ahli.

The result of their game two clash, also played last night at Khalifa Sports City, could not be included in this report as it concluded after TDT's print deadline. If Muharraq secured a second win, they would advance directly to the final to face Manama. However, if Ahli managed to level the series, the two teams would meet in a decisive third game on March 18 to determine Manama's opponents in the title clash.

Manama are aiming to claim the Khalifa Bin Salman Cup for a fourth time, which would give them the outright record for most titles in the competition's history.

Aali Snatch Win Over Al Malkiya



Aali players celebrate taking the lead after Cardoso's strike

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Aali secured a narrow 1-0 win over Al Malkiya at Khalifa Sports City Stadium, while Al Ahli were held to a 0-0 draw by Al Shabab at Bahrain National Stadium, as Matchweek 16 of the 2025-26 Nasser Bin Hamad Premier League concluded last night.

Brazilian Diego Cardoso broke the deadlock for Aali in the 37th minute. Al Malkiya's Qassim Habib slipped in a dangerous area, allowing Cardoso to intercept and calmly slot the ball past goalkeeper Sayed Abbas Jaffar into the bottom corner.

Al Malkiya controlled much of the second half and earned a golden opportunity in the 79th minute. Talal AlSherooq's shirt was held as he attempted a header from a dead-ball cross, earning a penalty. Captain Isa

Al Bari's spot-kick, however, was expertly saved by Aali goalkeeper Omar Salem, preserving the lead.

Aali's head coach, Vinicius Eutropio, oversaw the hard-fought victory that moved his side to fifth on 22 points, just one behind Al Malkiya, who remain fourth on 23 points.

At Bahrain National Stadium, Al Ahli struggled to create clear chances, with Abdulla Al Hashash hitting the post in the 49th minute. Al Shabab were reduced to ten men in the 85th minute when fullback Ahmed Kamil was sent off for a studs-up challenge on Hamza Buighamet. Despite the numerical advantage, Al Ahli could not break the deadlock, leaving both sides to share the spoils. The result leaves Al Ahli seventh on 19 points, while Al Shabab sit second from bottom with 10 points.

Brighton win at Sunderland, Bournemouth held by Burnley

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Brighton beat Sunderland 1-0 to climb into the top half of the Premier League, while Burnley held Bournemouth before Arsenal and Manchester City reignite their battle for the title yesterday.

The Gunners can open up a 10-point lead at the top of the table for a few hours at least when Everton visit the Emirates Stadium in a 1730 GMT kick-off. City must bounce back



Brighton's English midfielder #13 Jack Hinshelwood (C) heads over under pressure from Arsenal's Ecuadorian defender #05 Piero Hincapie (L) during the English Premier League football match between Brighton and Hove Albion and Arsenal at the American Express Community Stadium in Brighton, southern England

from their Champions League trouncing by Real Madrid when they visit West Ham later in a match of significance at both ends of the table.

West Ham sit in the relegation zone but can leapfrog Nottingham Forest and Tottenham with victory over Pep Guardiola's men. Sunderland were unbeaten in their first 11 home games back in the top flight but have now lost their last three at the Stadium of Light to slip to 12th.