

## Flamengo floor Chelsea, Bayern edge out Boca

Flamengo staged a strong second-half comeback to beat Chelsea 3-1 at the Club World Cup on Friday, securing a last-16 spot. | **P12**

## People in Gaza 'desperately need more aid'

AFP | Jerusalem

A privately run aid organisation brought in to distribute food rations in war-hit Gaza last month with US and Israeli backing said yesterday that people in the Palestinian territory "desperately need more aid".

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) began operations at the end of May when Israel eased a two-month blockade on Gaza that the United Nations said had produced famine-like conditions.

The foundation's operations have been marred by chaotic scenes and neutrality concerns, while many Gazans have been left with few other options to obtain food.

In a statement yesterday, GHF interim executive director John Acree said that the organisation was "delivering aid at scale, securely and effectively... But we cannot meet the full scale of need while large parts of Gaza remain closed."

### Help

He added: "The people of Gaza desperately need more aid and we are ready to partner with other humanitarian groups to expand our reach to those who need help the most."

"We are working with the government of Israel to honour its commitment and open additional sites in northern Gaza."

## Mob kills eight wedding guests

AFP | Jos, Nigeria

A mob stormed a bus carrying mostly Muslim wedding guests in central Nigeria's volatile Plateau state, killing eight people in the latest attack to hit the region, local sources said yesterday.

Residents in the area had been on edge after a series of bloody attacks in recent days, with ethnic Fulani nomadic Muslim herders suspected of killing dozens of people in Plateau's Mangu local government area.

Fulani herders in the state have long clashed with settled farmers, many of whom are Christian, over access to land and resources.

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# Bahrain, Egypt seek talks to end Israel-Iran crisis

TDT | Manama

Bahrain and Egypt have expressed deep concern over the escalating conflict between Israel and Iran, calling for dialogue and peaceful solutions to prevent further destabilization in the region.

The joint stance came during a telephone conversation between His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi, during which the two leaders discussed the latest regional developments.

Both leaders warned that any further expansion of the conflict could have far-reaching and dangerous consequences for the broader Middle East.

They stressed the urgent need for all parties to exercise restraint, act responsibly, and pursue peaceful avenues for resolving the crisis.

The discussion also touched on the situation in the Gaza Strip, with HM King Hamad and President El Sisi emphasizing the critical importance of an immediate ceasefire and the unim-



HM the King



President El Sisi

peded delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians in the enclave.

His Majesty expressed appreciation to President El Sisi for the phone call and for Egypt's continued efforts to de-escalate tensions and support regional peace and stability.

The leaders reaffirmed the strength of Bahraini-Egyptian relations and their mutual commitment to enhancing cooperation across various sectors, in support of the development and prosperity aspirations of both nations and their peoples.

# Citizens Flown Home

Emergency response rescues Bahrainis

● Number of citizens returned is 667 in total. 504 by land and 163 by air

● Royal directives ensured repatriation

● Foreign Ministry played key role

Mahir Haneef  
TDT | Manama

Stranded Bahraini citizens have been flown back to the Kingdom as authorities carried out emergency repatriation efforts following the sudden closure of regional airspaces due to heightened geopolitical tensions.

The return operation was launched under royal directives issued by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and implemented by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown

Prince and Prime Minister.

Working through Bahraini embassies and diplomatic channels, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs led efforts to identify and assist citizens who had been left stranded after flights were disrupted in multiple countries.

Officials coordinated with foreign missions and airport authorities to fast-track documentation and arrange flights back to Bahrain. Among those brought home were citizens stuck in Türkiye, where Bahrain's diplomatic staff, including the Ambassador, received wide praise for their support.

"We were waiting for this effort from our leadership. It felt like the end of a nightmare," said one of

the returnees. Another added, "This wasn't just a flight back. It was proof that Bahrain never forgets its people."

### Emotional return

In emotional scenes captured at Bahrain International Airport and shared on social media platforms, returning



Bahrainis return home from conflict zones to reunite with their families

passengers were seen thanking the leadership for what many described as a 'life-saving' intervention.

Some kissed the ground on arrival, while others praised the professionalism of Foreign Ministry officials who reportedly stayed on duty without rest until the last flight

had taken off.

"We're just so grateful someone thought of us," said a returnee. "The embassy stayed with us all the way to the boarding gate."

Authorities confirmed that repatriation efforts would continue in phases, depending on developments in the region. The Foreign Ministry reiterated its commitment to ensuring the safety of Bahrainis abroad, saying the Kingdom will respond rapidly to protect its citizens in any crisis.

Trump mulls Iran strikes

# US stealth bombers fly over Pacific Ocean

AFP | Washington

US stealth bombers were flying yesterday across the Pacific Ocean, according to tracking data and media reports, fueling speculation over their intended mission as President Donald Trump considers joining Israel's attack on Iranian nuclear sites.

Multiple B-2 bomber aircraft left a base in the central United States overnight and were later tracked flying off the California coast along with aerial refueling jets, The New York Times and specialist plane tracking sites reported.



Israeli soldiers and first responders check the damage caused to a building from an Iranian strike in Beit She'an. (AFP)

The B-2 is capable of carrying America's heaviest payloads,

including the bunker-busting GBU-57, a 30,000-pound (13,607 kg) warhead capable of penetrating 200 feet (61 meters) underground before exploding.

Such a bomb, which Israel is not known to possess, is the only weapon capable of destroying Iran's deeply buried nuclear facilities.

When reached for comment, the Pentagon referred AFP to the White House, which did not immediately respond.

Trump, who rarely spends weekends in Washington, is due to return to the White House yesterday evening to hold an



unspecified "National Security Meeting."

The president said on Friday that Iran had a "maximum" of two weeks to avoid possible US air strikes, indicating he could take a decision before the fortnight deadline he had announced a day earlier.