

1595

Nomenclator of Leiden University Library appears, the first printed catalog of an institutional library

1738

John Wesley is converted, launching the Methodist movement, celebrated annually by Methodists as Aldersgate Day



1844

Samuel Morse taps out "What hath God wrought" in the world's first telegraph message

1883

Brooklyn Bridge is opened by President Chester A. Arthur and NY Governor Grover Cleveland

France bans Israeli security minister Ben Gvir

AFP | Paris, France

France announced yesterday it has banned Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir from entry for mocking bound activists seized by Israeli soldiers on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla.

"From today, Itamar Ben Gvir is banned from entering French territory" after "his reprehensible actions towards French and European citizens" who were part of the humanitarian flotilla, French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said on X.

He added that, with Italy, he was also calling for European Union-level sanctions against the far-right Israeli minister.

The ban follows a global outcry after Ben Gvir published a video on Wednesday showing the heavy-handed treatment in Israeli custody of foreign activists from the flotilla.



Ben Gvir (C) caused international outcry by publishing a video of aid activists from the Global Sumud Flotilla being mistreated

ists from the flotilla.

They were detained by Israel after its soldiers seized them in international waters.

In the video, dozens of activists are seen forced to kneel with their foreheads to the ground and their hands tied.

The clip, which was captioned "Welcome to Israel", showed Ben Gvir heckling the activists while waving an Israeli flag.

After the outcry, Israel said it was deporting the activists.

'Intimidated, brutalised'

Thirty-six French nationals were on board the flotilla, the latest attempt by activists to breach Israel's blockade of Gaza after Israeli forces intercepted a previous convoy last month.

While Barrot said France disapproved of the flotilla's actions, arguing they served "no useful purpose", he added that "we cannot tolerate French nationals being threatened, intimidated or brutalised in this way, especially by a public official."

Spain has also urged the EU to sanction Ben Gvir while the United Kingdom summoned Israel's most senior diplomat in Britain following "the inflammatory video".

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Ben Gvir's treatment of the activists was "not in line with Israel's values and norms", but he kept the security minister in his post.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

A call for collective survival

CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD



Shura Council Deputy Chairman, Jamal Fakhro has proposed a "beehive" national economic forum to shift Bahrain from state dependency to collective survival, crucial amid supply chain crises. While the Shura is rightfully the place where the most intellectually awakened minds of Bahrain will discuss and come up with solutions for matters of national import, it is only the beginning of the corrective action. This requires a dedicated steering committee to convert collaboration into actionable emergency directives.

While this model offers immediate risk mitigation, shared responsibility, and creative problem-solving by breaking down institutional silos, it faces risks of bureaucratic paralysis, enforcement challenges, and a misalignment between long-term academic planning and the urgent liquidity needs of businesses. The proposed model calls for a partnership involving key, but unlinked, entities like the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry to manage these trade-offs effectively.

The proposed "Beehive" economic forum seeks to pivot Bahrain from state handouts to a resilient, collaborative model driven by a steering committee of public and private stakeholders. To ensure long-term sustainability, this initiative must focus on equipping youth with specialized skills for a fast-changing workplace, including logistics analytics, digital supply chain management, and agile financial technologies, in partnership with local universities and Tamkeen. On that note, I was surprised during the recent business crisis due to the conflict with Iran, when business owners immediately chose to compare their condition with the pandemic days and ask for Tamkeen handouts for rent, utilities and staff salary but not one request to enable skills upgrade for their Bahraini team members.

When the going gets tough...the tough pick up a new skill-set. That is what makes them stronger for a changing marketplace.

(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)

The proposed "Beehive" economic forum seeks to pivot Bahrain from state handouts to a resilient, collaborative model driven by a steering committee of public and private stakeholders.

But **gaps** remain

Framework omits details on Iran's nuclear programme

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Despite signs of progress, Iran acknowledged that major disagreements with Washington remain unresolved, warning that a breakthrough is far from guaranteed.

"It does not necessarily mean that we and the United States will reach an agreement on the

important issues," foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said.

He said the draft framework did not include details on Iran's nuclear programme — one of the key sticking points in negotiations with Washington — adding that the matter would be "subject to separate discussions" at a later stage.

Baqaei also said Iran's longstanding demand for sanctions relief was included in the framework text, but stressed that the issue had not yet been discussed in detail because nuclear matters were still outside the current negotiations.

"It is also one of the points that we will need to examine in detail in the near future," he

said. He added that arrangements concerning the strategic Strait of Hormuz were also part of the proposed framework, without elaborating.

"The Strait of Hormuz has nothing to do with the United States. A mechanism for the strait should be defined between Iran and Oman as coastal states," Baqaei said.

Before becoming bitter rivals, the United States actually helped launch Iran's nuclear programme in the 1950s under President Dwight Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" initiative. Washington supplied Iran with its first nuclear reactor and enriched uranium decades before the 1979 Islamic Revolution transformed the relationship into one of the world's fiercest



SpaceX carries out mostly successful Starship test flight

AFP | South Padre Island, United States

SpaceX's Starship spacecraft splashed down into the Indian Ocean on Friday after the company performed a mostly successful test flight of the latest version of its enormous rocket.

The voyage was not without a few glitches, but SpaceX employees shown on a livestream roared in delight following the trial flight that comes as the firm owned by Elon Musk prepares a potentially record initial public offering.

The mammoth rocket blasted off into space at just after 5:30pm local time (2230 GMT).

The company did not intend to recover the booster or the upper stage, and the final splashdown was fiery but controlled, as planned.

"Splashdown confirmed!" the company wrote on X.

SpaceX primarily aimed to demonstrate its redesigns in flight.



SpaceX's Starship 39 rocket launches from Starbase during the 12th test flight as seen from South Padre Island, Texas

The third-generation Starship spacecraft carried out a maneuver that saw it flip upright and reignite its engines for control, despite one being out of commission.

It also deployed its 22 mock satellites, including two that attempted to photograph the spacecraft's heat shield for anal-

ysis. The vehicle had coasted through space but was not in exactly the correct orbit after one of its engines malfunctioned during an initial burn.

"I wouldn't call it nominal orbital insertion," company spokesperson Dan Huot said, adding however, that it was

"within bounds" of a previously analyzed trajectory.

After the Super Heavy booster separated from the upper stage as expected, Huot said on the livestream that the booster failed to complete its so-called boost-back burn.

The booster fell swiftly back to Earth, uncontrolled, into the Gulf of Mexico. SpaceX wasn't planning to retrieve the booster anyway, but was still hoping for a precision return.

Musk applauded his team on X, calling the flight "epic".

"You scored a goal for humanity," he said.

Friday's flight followed an aborted trial one day prior.

The countdown clock stopped and started until it was determined that the last-minute red flags could not be addressed in time.

Musk quickly posted on X that "the hydraulic pin holding the tower arm in place did not retract". SpaceX said that issue was corrected overnight.

Measles outbreak kills more than 500 children in Bangladesh

AFP | Dhaka, Bangladesh

A measles outbreak in Bangladesh has killed more than 500 children, government data showed yesterday, marking the country's deadliest surge in decades of the preventable disease.

Hospitals in the capital Dhaka have been overwhelmed with cases and set up dedicated wards to take patients, but are scrambling with a shortage of intensive care beds.

Deaths are still rising, with 13 children dying in the past 24 hours alone, taking the toll from the disaster to 512, according to health department figures since March 15.

The South Asian nation has rolled out a mass vaccination drive to combat the outbreak, and Unicef country chief Rana Flowers said this week that the campaign has now reached 18

million children.

But the health department said the full impact of the vaccinations would take months to be felt.

Unicef said on Wednesday that gaps in immunisation worsened during and after the chaos of a 2024 uprising that toppled the country's autocratic government, leaving large numbers of children unprotected.

Measles is highly contagious, spreading through coughs and sneezes, and has no specific treatment once caught.

Complications can include brain swelling and severe breathing problems. While the disease can affect anyone, it is most common among children.

Health workers say the worst-hit children are often malnourished and from low-income families.